

Call for Papers for Tetsugaku Vol.6, 2022

Special Issue: “Philosophy of Catastrophe”

Tetsugaku: The International Journal (e-journal) of the Philosophical Association of Japan, calls for papers for the special issue, “Philosophy of Catastrophe” (Vol. 6, 2022).

“Catastrophe” has ceased to be an object of speculative concern about the end of the world, and instead concerns such events that we witness in our ordinary life and on a worldwide scale, from natural disasters such as earthquakes, drought or inundations, to industrial disasters or other types of crises like the pandemic, climate change, etc. What kind of philosophical reflections are possible for, or required by these events? How can we, warn, prevent, or at least understand such risks? Or should we start by asking “what is Catastrophe itself”?

On the other hand, we may say without exaggeration that the history of philosophy is not unrelated to these concerns. Modern western philosophy is said to have begun with the Lisbon Earthquake (1755). From then on, revolutions, exile, world war, extermination camps and nuclear disasters constantly appear throughout the books of philosophers, without even mentioning the “end” inevitable for every one — “death”.

We have already some reflections of a Philosophy of “Auschwitz”, or of “Hiroshima” or of “Fukushima”, but now, with COVID-19, it might be no longer be necessary to specify a location and a time, since catastrophe can come anywhere and anytime, Furthermore, it is probable that technological innovation, especially AI and tele-technology, adds some new aspects to what we used to call Catastrophe.

Based on this recognition, our special issue seeks to bring forward new understandings and new approaches to the topic of catastrophe. How can we evaluate the concept of catastrophe and other related notions, such as disaster, accident, risk? What can we learn from philosophers on these topics? What is the role of human beings in the age of catastrophes? What kind of philosophical reflections is to be made on concrete catastrophic events?

The themes that this special issue covers are as follows (non-exhaustive):

History of the concept of catastrophe / disaster / accident

Philosophical analysis of the concept of catastrophe / disaster / accident

Philosophical reflections on concrete catastrophic events (natural disaster, industrial disaster, pandemic, climate crisis etc.)

Philosophy of the nuclear (weapon or power plants)

Ethics in the age of catastrophes

Precautionary principle

Technology and catastrophe

The End of the world

[Deadline: 30 November 2021]

To submit your paper, please read carefully our Guidelines for Contributors.

Submission guidelines are available at
http://philosophy-japan.org/en/international_journal/guideline/