

our moral and legal obligations to future generations. It is very comprehensive and clearly structured, and reading the introductory chapter alone will give the reader a very good idea of the research questions and issues at hand. All contributors to this volume agree that the topic of climate change needs to be taken seriously and that the existing generation's actions, our actions, will have an impact on future people. However, the authors disagree in their answers to the central question of this book. While some argue that human rights can be the carrier of long-term ecological responsibility towards future people, a considerable part of this book qualifies this or even takes an opposite point of view. Readers hoping to find a unanimous passionate plea for recognizing our long-term ecological responsibility within the human rights framework may find themselves disenchanted after reading. Be that as it may, the book challenges us to think more thoroughly about our behaviour and its impact on the future. The complexity of the issues surrounding human rights, sustainability and future generations is very well demonstrated here, and the reader is

taken on many excursions to gain a broader understanding of their philosophical roots. Moreover, the book benefits greatly from the interdisciplinary makeup of its contributors in that the reader is introduced to a great variety of approaches and views, making it possible to reflect on the topic from different angles and facilitating a profound understanding of the issue at hand. However, the numerous references to complex concepts and philosophical theories also make this a rather sophisticated and demanding book which it is not always easy to follow. Consequently, this publication is mainly addressed to readers with some previous knowledge of the topics discussed, such as legal scholars, philosophers, political scientists, and other members of the scientific community. The fact that some authors do not define their – sometimes quite differing – understandings of the generously used concepts of “human rights”, “sustainability” or especially “intergenerational justice” also further complicates the reading experience. As a result, the reader is often left to keep up with a constant switch from, for example, human rights in a

legal sense (Pirjatanniemi) to a moral sense (Preda) to a notion which combines both their legal and moral aspects (Riley) – or, alternatively, she is simply left without any definition. Finally, some presented concepts leave open questions due to the fact that most contributions focus on the description but stop before addressing the policy implications, application or feasibility of their concepts.

Nevertheless, this is a highly valuable contribution which lays the groundwork for theorising about environmental concerns from a normative perspective and will be of great benefit to students and scholars from various backgrounds.

Notes

1 Barr, Stewart (2008): *Environment and Society: Sustainability, Policy and the Citizen*. Hampshire: Ashgate.

Bos, Gerhard / Düwell, Marcus (eds.) (2016): Human Rights and Sustainability: Moral Responsibilities for the Future. Oxford / New York, NY: Routledge. 218 pages. ISBN: 978-1-138-95710-7. Price £85.

Call for Papers: Demography Prize for Young Researchers 2016/2017

The Stuttgart-based Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG) and the London-based Intergenerational Foundation (IF) jointly award the biennial Demography Prize, endowed with EUR 10,000 (ten thousand euros) in total prize-money, to essay-writers who address political and demographic issues pertaining to the field of intergenerational justice. The prize was initiated and is funded by the Stiftung Apfelbaum.

Through the prize, the FRFG and IF seek to promote discussion about intergenerational justice in society, and, by providing a scholarly basis to the debate, establish new perspectives for decision-makers. The invitation to enter the competition is extended especially to young academics from all disciplines. Collaborative submissions are also welcome.

For the 2016/2017 prize, the FRFG and IF call for papers on the following topic:

“Measuring Intergenerational Justice”

Submission Requirements

Submissions will be accepted until 1 July 2017. Entries should be 5,000 to 8,000 words in length (excluding figures, tables and bibliography). All documents required for a submission, including the full call for papers and formal entry requirements, are available upon request by email to Antony Mason at [antony\(at\)if.org.uk](mailto:antony(at)if.org.uk). For future reference, and because we may be organising a symposium around the Prize, we kindly ask you to also send us a short biography (one paragraph) when requesting formal entry requirements. Submissions for the essay competition will also be considered for publication in the *Intergenerational Justice Review* (www.igjr.org).

Topic Abstract

In recent years, there has been a rising interest in measuring and comparing inter-

generational justice and the well-being of young people, both across different countries (spatially) as well as over time (temporally). The presumption of this new field of research is that the present demonstrates to imposing increasing burdens on younger and future generations. Evidence for this thesis could be seen in the high sovereign debts, youth unemployment and poverty, and a more and more severe global ecological crisis.

In a 2013 study published by the Bertelsmann Foundation, and led by Pieter Vanhuyse of the UN's European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, a total of 29 OECD states were compared on the basis of four indicators: public debt per child; the ecological footprint created by all generations currently alive; the ratio of child- to elderly-poverty; and the distribution of social spending among generations (“elderly-bias indicator of social spending”, EBiSS). These measures

were then aggregated into the “Intergenerational Justice Index” – the first of its kind. A similar attempt to capture the wellbeing of young people is the “Youthonomics Global Index”. Published in 2015 by a France-based think tank of the same name, it analyses the situation of young people in 64 Western and non-Western countries by means of no less than 59 different social, economic and political indicators.

The most recent in line is the “European Index of Intergenerational Fairness”, launched in early 2016 by the Intergenerational Foundation (IF). Designed as a quantitative measurement of how the position of young people has changed across the EU, its 13 indicators include housing costs, government debt, spending on pensions and education, participation in democracy, and access to tertiary education. The index’s findings indicate that the prospects of young people across the EU have deteriorated to a ten-year low.

Entries to the competition could approach the topic through a broad range of questions, including:

- What are the methodological pitfalls of measuring intergenerational justice, and how can they be avoided? Are the existing models internally valid, and to what extent do they allow for generalisation? What are the potential sources of selection bias and measurement error?
- Are the respective indicators by which they measure intergenerational justice sufficient and appropriate, or should they be supplemented? If so, how exactly? Are they conceptually sound and well operationalised? Do they allow for replication?

- In a cross-sectional or time-series comparison, how well do “ageing societies” such as Germany, Sweden or Finland respond to the challenges of intergenerational justice? In particular, how – if at all – do they succeed in balancing the welfare spending between the young and the old, and what measures ought they be taking in this regard?

- With regard to the country rankings, is intergenerational justice, as measured by the different indices, a function of some other set of variables – i.e., how do they correlate with alternative rankings, socio-economic or other, and what might this teach us?

- What promising policy options are there for reducing existing injustices between the young and the old? How might they be implemented?

- What measures of institutional design could be taken in order to prevent the marginalisation of young people and future generations in political decision-making? For example, should suffrage be extended or even universalised to include the currently disenfranchised, and what would be the prospective effects of such a move?

Note that these are non-binding suggestions: participants are strongly encouraged to come up with their own essay questions or research puzzles, as long as they pertain to the overall topic of this call for papers in a sufficiently clear way. Submissions are welcome from all fields of social science, including (but not limited to) political science, sociology, economics, and legal studies. Philosophers and/or ethicists are invited to contribute applied normative research.

References

Leach, Jeremy / Broeks, Miriam / Østensvik, Kristin S. / Kingman, David (2016): European Intergenerational Fairness Index: A Crisis for the Young. London: Intergenerational Foundation. <http://www.if.org.uk/archives/7658/the-if-european-intergenerational-unfairness-index-2016>.

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Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (Stiftung für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen)

Mannspergerstraße 29

70619 Stuttgart, Germany

Tel.: +49(0)711 - 28052777

Fax: +49(0)3212 - 2805277

Email: editors@igjr.org

Website: www.intergenerationaljustice.org

The Intergenerational Foundation

19 Half Moon Lane

Herne Hill

London SE24 9JU

United Kingdom

Email: antony@if.org.uk

Website: www.if.org.uk