

# Foreword

*Shirah Theron*

As we open the pages of the Stellenbosch Socratic Journal's third annual edition, we find ourselves immersed in a rich tapestry of philosophical inquiry, diverse in its perspectives and bold in its explorations. This volume builds upon the foundation laid by its predecessors, exemplifying the depth of intellectual engagement fostered by the Philosophy students at Stellenbosch University.

This third issue's journey begins with an incisive examination in the first paper, "An Examination of the Necessary Adjective: Decolonising 'African' Philosophy". Here, **Joshua May** navigates the intricacies of decolonising African philosophy, challenging the dominance of Western paradigms and dissecting the implications of necessary adjectives on a larger scale. The call for a transformative process is unmistakable, urging us to reevaluate borders, embrace diversity, and envision a more inclusive philosophical discourse.

In the second paper, "I Wan'na Be Like You-ou-ou: Tracing the Deconstruction of Anthropocentrism in Disney's *The Jungle Book* (1967)", the exploration takes an intriguing turn as the deconstruction of anthropocentrism unfolds within the realm of our all-time favourite Disney film. Drawing on the post-structuralist insights of Jacques Derrida, **Hugo Uys** traces the contours of anthropogenic violence, revealing how the ostensibly stable human-animal hierarchy is subject to deconstruction, rendering the term 'animal' nonsensical and reshaping our understanding of interspecies relationships.

Continuing the intellectual journey, the third paper, "Unfree and Unequal: A Butlerian Postulation of the Violence of Homelessness", **Zahlé Eloff** delves into Judith Butler's notions of violence, nonviolence, grievability, and vulnerability to illuminate the intricacies of homelessness as a form of violence. By examining the unequal grievability of lives, the author highlights the urgent need for nonviolent action and institutional changes to address the systemic issues contributing to the plight of the homeless.

The fourth paper, "Deceiving Someone into Having Sex", confronts the complexities of intention, consent, and coercion within the context of deceiving someone into having sex. Through a conceptual analysis, **Shirah Theron** challenges traditional frameworks, arguing that that deceiving someone into having sex can be regarded as a type of rape, expanding our understanding of consent and its implications.

The exploration continues in the fifth paper, "Considering the possibility of African philosophical counselling rooted in African hermeneutics and conversationalism", where **Jaco Louw** addresses the deficiency of African philosophy in contemporary philosophical counselling literature. Drawing on African hermeneutics and conversationalism, the paper seeks to enrich the field by embracing diverse philosophical traditions and fostering a collaborative, rooted, and dynamic environment.

Finally, in the sixth paper, “Death: The Existential Meaning of The Ultimate Phenomenon, Towards an Aesthetics of Consolation”, the contemplation of death takes centre stage. **Thomas Russell** navigates the existential relevance of death, exploring how it shapes our conception of self and proposing a proto-ontological aesthetics that intertwines being-with-others, death, and self-actualisation. The reciprocal relationship between death, love, and art is unveiled, providing a unique lens through which we can reconcile with our mortality.

This collection of papers is a testament to the intellectual vigour of Stellenbosch philosophy students and the commitment of the Stellenbosch Socratic Journal’s editorial board. Each contribution invites us to engage, question, and expand our understanding of the complex philosophical landscape. As we embark on this intellectual journey, we extend our gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and the editorial board for their dedication to fostering a space for creative and critical thinking. A special word of thanks to our Socratic Society and Stellenbosch Socratic Journal convenor, Dr Andrea Palk, for her invaluable guidance and assistance throughout this process. May the Stellenbosch Socratic Journal continue to be a beacon of philosophical exploration, encouraging dialogue and understanding across diverse perspectives.

Happy reading!