New Book Information

Critical Theory Ethics for Business and Public Administration

Edited by David M. Boje, New Mexico State University
A volume in Ethics in Practice
Series Editors Robert A. Giacalone, Temple University and Carole L. Jurkiewicz, Louisiana State University

The purpose of this book is to develop those ethical traditions. For example, Horkheimer’s books Eclipse of Reason and Critique of Instrumental Reason (1974a, 1974b), and his early and now classic essay Materialism and Morality (1933) ask for a reformation of Kantian ethics. The reform sought is that categorical imperative in an individualism capitalism serves to worsen the difference between business ethics and moral philosophy. That is, it is not enough to try to be good or ethical as individuals when it is the systemic processes that must be dealt with. Therefore, Horkheimer asks that the maxim that would be made universal be done at the level of people organizing with others to change the social system that is producing the unethical behaviors.

The book is organized into several sections. The first section sets the stages, beginning with a challenge to the field of social responsibility in business and public administration (Jones, Ten bos, & Parker have a new book out that is smashing). Then, we turn to Carr and to Zanetti who each have done critical theory work in public administration. This is followed by Heather Hopfl, who edited an issue on ethics of goodness, and does the kind of writing that makes deep connections. The next set of chapters make topic connections: rhizomatics, dialogics of co-experience, story/narrative, and postmodern. The third set of topics focus on application: technofuturist, international business, economics, university, environment, accounting, spirituality, strategy, and ending with Mills’ work on silence of race/ethnicity in business (and public administration) ethics writing.


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Publication Date: Summer 2008

ISBN’s:
Paperback: 978-1-59311-785-6
Hardcover: 978-1-59311-786-3

Price:
Paperback: $39.99
Hardcover: $73.99

Subject:
Management, Ethics
List Price: $39.99 paperbacks plus s/h and $73.99 hardcover plus s/h
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