

## Editor's Note

I am particularly excited about this issue of *Reason Papers*. On the personal front, Douglas Rasmussen and Douglas Den Uyl are major influences on my thought and I have learned so much from both their written work and from conversations with each of them. So having the opportunity to work with them on the *Reason Paper's* symposium of their newest book, *The Realist Turn: Repositioning Liberalism* has been a thrill. On top of that, many of the contributors to the symposium have also been important to my intellectual development in countless ways. It was a pleasure in every way to work on this issue.

But I am also excited for this issue because it tackles important philosophical issues. Rasmussen and Den Uyl's work runs the gamut from metaphysics to political philosophy; and *The Realist Turn* takes up some of the deepest metaphysical and epistemological questions we have and connects them to a defense of individual rights and liberty. The contributors take up different parts of these arguments. David Kelley, though sympathetic to their general case for metaphysical realism, challenges Rasmussen and Den Uyl on their discussion of universals and concepts. Aeon Skoble encapsulates Rasmussen and Den Uyl's argument from realism to rights, highlighting the key connections between *The Realist Turn* and their earlier works: *Norms of Liberty: A Perfectionist Basis for Non-Perfectionist Politics* and *The Perfectionist Turn: From Metanorms to Meta-Ethics*. Eric Mack focuses his criticism on Rasmussen and Den Uyl's defense of self-directedness as the basis for their meta-normative account of rights. Timothy Sandefur puts on his Devil's Advocate hat to challenge the perfectionist basis that Rasmussen and Den Uyl offer in defense of individual rights. Paul Gaffney pushes back on the connections Rasmussen and Den Uyl make between metaphysical realism and negative individual rights. Lastly, Lauren Hall raises concerns that Rasmussen and Den Uyl rely too heavily on a theory of human nature that doesn't fit with the reality of human existence, especially in terms of the central roles of community and family in our lives. In their authors' reply, Den Uyl and Rasmussen respond to these criticisms and challenges, offering crucial restatements and elaborations of their arguments.

If that wasn't enough, we have two book reviews. First, Jeffrey Carroll reviews Eric Mack's *Libertarianism*. Carroll describes the book as offering "a systematic treatment of libertarianism that covers its historical antecedents and contemporary incarnations" and praises it as offering a model for doing philosophy well. Second, Sandra Woien reviews Marc Champagne's *Myth, Meaning, and Antifragile Individualism: On the Ideas of Jordan Peterson*. Woien argues that Champagne's book is a great starting point for understanding Jordan Peterson and his ideas. Love him or hate him, it is always better to understand him.

*Reason Papers* is still accepting submissions for its next symposium: Rethinking College. This symposium seeks to examine various normative questions and issues in higher education: from cancelling of debt to free speech to diversity to the very purpose of college. The deadline is July 15, 2021; more information is available on the *Reason Papers* website: <https://reasonpapers.com/>. Lastly, we encourage individuals to propose a symposium or contact us if you are interested in writing a book review.

Shawn E. Klein

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

[www.reasonpapers.com](http://www.reasonpapers.com)