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## Paired papers

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## Editorial

# Paired papers

The papers in this issue cover a variety of topics but never the less fall into pairs on each of three themes – unexpected consequences, unusual applications and practical dilemmas.

Being consistent in following through the logic of foundational ethical premises can lead to some surprising consequences. Rodger et al., for example, maintain that the ethical reasoning used to justify infanticide also implies the permissibility of sexual interference with children as well as using them for live experimentation and organ harvesting. The authors suggest that ‘intuitions against the permissibility of these “pre-personal acts” allow us to re-establish a comprehensive and persuasive *reductio* against psychological accounts of persons’.

Playford considers the well-known arguments from the 1970s by Jarvis Thomson and Warren to justify a mother’s right to have an abortion and demonstrates they also imply the justification of what he dubs ‘elective abandonment’ by the putative father as well.

Two much under-publicized practical dilemmas unite the next two papers. The extent of the damage done to young children by untreated dental caries in Nigeria is highlighted by Folayan et al. who discuss the ethical issues involved in screening for this when treatment is not readily available. At the other end of life, Taylor Kelley et al. discuss a case study involving advance care planning for a patient with end-stage renal failure. They conclude, ‘The need for more training and new tools to recognize opportunities for advance care planning in daily practice remains unmet’.

The application of ancient religious traditions to highly contemporary ethical debates unites our two final papers. Qazi et al. suggest that the application of Sunni Islamic tradition about the soul to some of the new findings of neuroscience may help to open up new ways of thinking about the mind-body problem, while Gamble and Pruski apply a Thomist approach to how intersex states and indeed sex determination itself might be understood. They conclude with some Christian considerations of how sex and suffering relate to intersex states.

Our previous themed issue on genomic editing has proved to be our most popular yet online and further themed issues are planned for next year. More of that and further future plans for the journal will be revealed in our next issue.

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