

## From the Editor

*Peter A. French*

This special issue of the *Journal of Social Philosophy* is devoted to social, political, and ethical issues in developing nations. In particular the *Journal* had the opportunity to review for publication a number of papers presented at an international conference on development ethics and policy held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The conference was hosted by the University of Dar Es Salaam, the Tanzanian government, and the Finnish and American embassies in Tanzania. Academics from sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Europe, and the United States were participants. Although I was not an attendee at the conference, I am convinced that the social, political, and ethical issues of development in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa will be among the most important issues of the decade we are just beginning. I welcome those interested in the topics raised by the papers in this issue to submit their work for publication consideration in future issues of the *Journal*. I should note that most of the papers published here have been reduced by their authors to allow as many of the worthy papers from the conference as possible to be included. All of the papers were reviewed, and some that were presented were rejected for publication. Most were revised. Therefore this issue is not to be construed as the proceedings of the conference. Also, many of the papers were not written by philosophers. They are included in the hope that they will stimulate broad philosophical and practical interest in the pressing ethical, social, and political problems of developing nations. Also included are the opening remarks of the wife of the president of Tanzania and the ambassadors of Finland and the United States. The *Journal* has occasionally published issues that focus on a special topic or provocative book. Although this is not our regular practice, I invite suggestions regarding the publication of symposia, colloquia, and other collections around a single important topic that may have occurred at professional meetings such as the one in Dar Es Salaam.