



Foreword

Philosophy is often criticized for not confronting reality. However, I do not think that this criticism applies to the papers published in the present issue which is devoted to the problems raised by sexual and gender-based violence. From feminist inquiries into wartime sexual violence (“The Imperative of Brutality over Morality” and “A Foucauldian-Feminist Understanding of Patterns of Sexual Violence in Conflict”), to phenomenological investigations into the traumatic experiences of sexual abuse (“Natality and Exposure”) and street harassment (“Recognition and the Harms of “Cheer Up””), to ethical discussions on violent sexual imagery (“Dirty Pleasures”), each contribution aims to address the problems at stake in their most actual form. Even a paper such as “A Theoretical Approach to the concept of femi(n)icide” deeply resonates with recent tragic events – of course, I have in mind Alek Minassian’s van attack of April 2017 in Toronto – and is certainly less theoretical than its title suggests. Whether through the exploration of the formation and perpetuation of oppressive power structures as pictured by American television series (“Sex and Death in True Detective”), through hermeneutic research on the way in which graphic novels represent the punishment of French women accused of collaboration with Nazi Germany (“The Repression of Collaboration Horizontale during the Libération and its depiction in French Graphic Novels”), or through an anthropological study of the harms and traumas inflicted on Australia’s Stolen Generations in Alexis’s Wright debut novel (“Women: the Victims of their People”), the last contributions to the thematic dossier show how works of fiction can powerfully enlighten us about sexual violence in our present and past history.

Eventually, we see that each paper pursues intellectual efforts which correspond to the *Philosophical Journal of Conflict and Violence*’s main ambitions. It is indeed worth insisting that *PJCVC*’s purpose is not to use philosophy to create always newer and subtler conceptual categories of violence and conflicts. Rather, *PJCVC* encourages debates within philosophical traditions, and supports philosophical research on past and current forms of violence and conflict.

Andreas Wilmes
CERLIS, University Paris-Descartes



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