

# Social Philosophy & Policy

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# Social Philosophy & Policy

ISSN 0265-0525

**Editorial Office:** Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, University of Arizona, 1145 E. South Campus Drive, Room 213, Tucson, AZ 85721-0027, USA.

**Publishing, Subscription, and Advertising Offices:** Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, Floor 20, New York, NY 10006, USA; or (outside the USA and Canada) Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK.

**Subscription Information:** *Social Philosophy & Policy* is published biannually, in Summer and Winter. Annual subscription rates for Volume 39 (2022): Institutional print and electronic versions, US \$467.00 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £279.00 + VAT elsewhere. Institutional electronic only, US \$366.00 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £220.00 + VAT elsewhere. Institutional print only, US \$451.00 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £270.00 + VAT elsewhere. Individual electronic only, US \$100.00 in USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £59.00 + VAT elsewhere. Individual print only, US \$123.00 in the USA, Canada, and Mexico; UK £76.00 + VAT elsewhere. Prices include postage and insurance.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes in the USA, Canada, and Mexico to: *Social Philosophy & Policy*, Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006. Send address changes elsewhere to: *Social Philosophy & Policy*, Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006.

**Back Issues:** For information on purchase of back issues, contact Cambridge University Press.

**Issues on Microfilm:** An arrangement for the supply of microfilm copies of *Social Philosophy & Policy* from Volume 1 onward has been made with Bell & Howell Information and Learning, Dept. P.R., 30-32 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RA, England; and 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA.

**Indexing and Abstracting:** *Social Philosophy & Policy* is indexed and abstracted in Applied Social Science Index and Abstracts, Automatic Subject Citation Alert, International Political Science Abstracts, Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts, Philosopher's Index, and the Ethics Index.

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## Theme

Poverty can be an ephemeral life stage of a young person whose skill sets will become more valuable with training and experience, a personal setback such as losing a job, or a systemic affliction that puts a whole community in danger of widespread famine. A common theme of this volume's essays is that we cannot understand poverty and famine unless we acknowledge that poor people are not mouths to be fed but agents. Amartya Sen got this right, crediting Adam Smith for the seeds of his insight. What has been enabling people by the billions since Smith's time to work their way out of poverty?

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