

Words from the Editor

Tetsuhiko Shinagawa¹

Today we, the Kansai University Society for Ethical Studies (KUSES), launch an electronic magazine, *Journal for Ethical Studies*. As a rule, this journal includes articles, comments on them and replies, reviews, and results of study that are presented in the meetings of KUSES.

KUSES does not belong to the education foundation Kansai University², but is a private organization. Its core members are scholars, graduate and undergraduate students studying at Kansai University, but scholars and graduate students from other universities and laypersons who are interested in ethics or moral philosophy also participate in its activities. Its forerunner was Kansai University Bioethical Society, which was founded in 1998. Its activities are reported in pp.47-51 of this volume. Considering the development in the future, it is renamed in 2014 upon launching the *Journal for Ethical Studies*.

Ethics (moral philosophy) consists of three subdivisions: normative ethics (the study of the guidelines for action and their foundation), history of ethics or descriptive ethics (the study of the ethical theories established by philosophers and the ethical thoughts dominant in a specific society in specific times), and metaethics (analysis of ethical concepts). The normative ethical investigation tackling the ethical problems that appears newly in our social life is named applied ethics or practical ethics, which has made tremendous progress since 1960s.

¹ Tetsuhiko Shinagawa is Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at Kansai University.
E-Mail: t990019@kansai-u.ac.jp
URL: <http://www2.itc.kansai-u.ac.jp/~tsina/engindex.htm>

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² Kansai University is a private university in Osaka, Japan. It was founded as Kansai Law School in 1886 and raised to a university in 1922. Currently it has 13 faculties, 12 graduate schools and 3 professional graduate schools.

Due to the history of this society, its activities have focused upon applied ethics, but we do not intend to limit our subject. We hope that various ethical themes will be discussed in this journal.