



Intergenerational Justice Review 2012: Call for Papers

‘Ideal Theory and Non-Ideal Politics: The Interdependencies between Justices’

The peer-reviewed journal *Intergenerational Justice Review (IGJR)* aims to improve our understanding of intergenerational justice and sustainable development through pure and applied research. Published annually in English, the *IGJR* (ISSN 2190-6335) seeks articles on the cutting edge of research in politics, law, and philosophy of intergenerational relations. It is published on a professional level with an extensive international readership. The editorial board comprises over 50 international experts from ten countries, representing eight disciplines. The *IGJR* is not only read by the scientific community but also by members of parliaments, decision-makers from the global economy and persons with a general interest in intergenerational justice.

The upcoming 2012 edition will be published by FRFG in cooperation with Intergenerational Foundation UK (IF).

The topic:

Ideal Theory and Non-Ideal Politics: The Interdependencies between Justices

Intergenerational justice deals with justice between generations whilst intragenerational justice is focused on lines of cleavage between contemporaries such as economic disparities, gender issues and differences between states in the international system, and characteristically focuses on resolving conflicts within the time-frame of a single generation. This theoretical dichotomy is often rigidly formulated: that is to say that intra- and intergenerational concerns become independent from each other in the realm of ideal-theory. However, in the sphere of *realpolitik*, claims for both inter- and intragenerational justice must necessarily co-exist.

In political theory the commonly held assumption that each generation has a right to act in a self-determining way has led to intergenerational buck-passing behaviour through which each generation pursues generationally specific objectives, without due concern for temporally distant generations. The philosopher Hans Jonas points out that the logical corollary of mankind's increasing ability to fundamentally transform (and potentially impair

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irreversibly) nature is the need for a new ethics to account for future generations¹. But it is important to stress that this partition is not purely academic in scope: political decisions are often informed by only one type of justice, ignoring the consequences for other justices. On the other hand, proponents of the sustainability concept take all types of justice into account and, by often implicitly assuming that they are complementary, ignore possible trade-offs. Hence one can find, across a range of areas, a lack of intellectual endeavour focused on bridging the theoretical gap between the more traditional demands of social and international justice and the exigencies of intergenerational justice with real implications for *praxis*.

Glotzbach and Baumgärtner² (2009) make a distinction between three hypotheses about the nature of interaction between intra- and intergenerational justice with regard to ecology. This distinction can also be applied more generally to the intra- and intergenerational context: 1) Independent justices hypothesis: *There is no discernible link between the achievement of intragenerational and intergenerational justice and vice versa.* 2) The facilitation hypothesis: *Achieving intragenerational justice will improve our chances of achieving intergenerational justice. Achieving intergenerational justice will also help in securing intragenerational justice.* 3) Rivalry hypothesis: *The exigencies of intergenerational justice clash with those of intragenerational justice; by achieving one the other becomes more elusive.*

The focus of this edition will seek to explore the complex rivalry and complementary aspects of inter- and intragenerational justice, and when trade-offs might exist. Contributors are invited to write an essay relevant to this topic, but are not required to write exclusively about tensions and points of agreement mentioned. We also welcome articles that explore philosophical questions as well as issues of practical politics at regional, national, and supra-national levels. Articles could relate to demography, ecology, pensions, state finance, employment, education and other topics traditionally related to intergenerational justice. Some key questions are:

1. *In different areas, trade-offs between the demands of intragenerational and intergenerational justice might exist. On what grounds can we justify which demands are given priority?*

¹ Jonas, H. (1985): *The Imperative of Responsibility*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

² Glotzbach, S. & Baumgärtner, S. (2009): *The relationship between intragenerational and intergenerational ecological justice*. Working Paper Series in Economics at University of Lüneburg (141), pp1-33.



2. *Does the redistribution of resources between North and South, primarily a goal of intragenerational justice, also further the achievement of intergenerational justice?*
3. *It is often commented that there are trade-offs between development in less developed countries and the ecological requirements of modern scientific understanding on climate change. How do current policies cope with it? How can, if at all, these policies be justified?*
4. *Can we hope to meet the goal of reducing youth unemployment (social justice) without increasing expenditure, in turn creating an intergenerational debt? If so, how can this be achieved?*
5. *What is the interplay between intra- and intergenerational justices when one generation feels obliged to cease funding social benefits (for example, free education) that traditionally have been granted to successive generations?*
6. *What role is played by individual taxes – or the tax system as a whole – in this context? Which tax practices would be at the same time both intra- and intergenerationally just?*
7. *Some philosophers see social justice as mainly achieved: is it time to focus on intergenerational justice? Other authors claim that intergenerational justice is used as a pretext to reduce social or international justice. Are these theses justified with regard to realpolitik?*
8. *Is there any link between gender justice and generational justice? If so, what kind of interaction can be observed?*

Size limit of final manuscript:

Up to 30,000 characters (including spaces, annotation etc.).

Manuscript Submission Deadline

1 November 2011

Date of Appearance of IGJR 2012

March/April 2012

Editors-in-Chief:

Boris Kühn is Managing Director of the Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations. Alongside his work at FRFG he is writing his PhD-thesis concerning intergenerational justice. Previously, he authored publications on international migration and Italian politics. From 2003 to 2008 Boris Kühn studied “Language, Economic, and Cultural Studies” (with a focus on political sciences) at the universities of Passau and Córdoba/Spain.



James Wilhelm has recently attained a degree in International Relations and Sociology (BA) from the University of Sussex, England. He is the author of online articles on geopolitics and Latin American political economy. He has been working at FRFG since May this year and will continue until May 2012. His main focus is the production of the upcoming English-speaking edition of the journal.

Guest Editor

Antony Mason is Senior Editor at the Intergenerational Foundation. With a degree in Modern Languages (French and German) from Oxford, he started his working life as an editor in academic publishing, before turning to freelance writing and editing. As a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund, he was a tutor in writing at Goldsmiths, University of London, from 2008 to 2010.

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