

Edited by James M. McLachlan, James Beauregard, Richard Prust

# Persons, Institutions, and Trust

*Essays in Honor of Thomas O. Buford*

PHILOSOPHY OF PERSONALISM

## About the editor

**James McLachlan** is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Western Carolina University. He is the author of several books and articles on Personalism and the problem of evil including: "The Desire to be God: Freedom and the Other in Sartre and Berdyaev"; and most recently, the articles: "Mormonism and the Problem of Evil"; "Mystic Terror and Metaphysical Rebels: Active Evil and Active Love in Schelling and Dostoevsky"; "Satan: Romantic Hero or Just Another Asshole: The Desire to be God, The Devil, and the Demonic"; "Hell Is Others and Paradise Is Others: Hell in the Existential Paris of Sartre and Berdyaev"; and, "The *ilya* and the *Ungrund*: Levinas and the Russian Existentialists Berdyaev and Shestov." He is co-director of the Levinas Summer Seminar and co-founder and co-organizer of the Personalist Seminar. He has known Thomas Buford since 1990. Tom has mentored him since then and helped him discover he was a personalist.

**James Beauregard** is a Lecturer and Faculty in the Psy.D. program at Rivier University, Nashua, New Hampshire, where he teaches Neuropsychology, Biological Bases of Behavior, Educational Neuroscience, and Aging. His research interests are in the fields of neuroethics and personalist philosophy including the intersection of these two areas as they impact our understandings of personhood. He is a member of the British Personalist Forum and the International Neuroethics Society.

**Richard C. Prust** lives in Chapel Hill, NC, where he works on a book on personal identity in moral and legal reasoning and teaches part-time

in Duke's continuing education program. He is active in the International Forum on Persons. Before retiring from full-time teaching, he taught philosophy at St. Andrews University in North Carolina. His book, *Wholeness: the Character Logic of Christian Belief*, is published by Rodopi Press.

## Summary

The papers presented in this volume honor Thomas O. Buford. Buford is Professor Emeritus in Philosophy at Furman University where he taught for more than forty years. Several of the papers in this volume are from former students. But Professor Buford is also a pre-eminent voice of fourth generation Personalism, and Boston Personalism in particular. Personalism is a school of philosophical and theological thought which holds that the ideas of "person" and "personality" are indispensable to an adequate understanding of all metaphysical and epistemological problems, as well as are keys to an adequate theory of ethical and political human interaction. Most personalists assert that personality is an irreducible fact found in all existence, as well as in all interpretation of the meaning of existence and the truth about experience. Anything that seems to exist impersonally, such as inanimate matter, nevertheless can exist and have meaning only as related to some personal being. The Boston Personalist tradition was inaugurated by Borden Parker Bowne and continued by Edgar S. Brightman, Peter Bertocci, John Lavelly, Carol Robb, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

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with an autobiography by Thomas O. Buford

 VERNON PRESS  
PHILOSOPHY OF PERSONALISM

January 2018 | Hardback 236x160mm | 290 Pages | ISBN: 978-1-62273-093-3  
Also in Paperback (\$55/€44/£39) | ISBN: 978-1-62273-094-0

SUBJECTS Philosophy, Ethics & Moral Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

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