CONTENTS

QUESTIONING POWER

5 Question and Answer
Elias Canetti
“On the questioner the effect is an enhanced feeling of power. He enjoys this and consequently asks more and more questions; every answer he receives is an act of submission.”

10 The Puzzle of Power
Hans Sluga
“Social equality is often a fragile achievement teetering on a multitude of relations of inequality.”

14 Tyranny and the Failure of Seduction
Avital Ronell
“What do the analyses of Plato, Freud and Kofman teach us about the return of shamelessness, a tyrannically weaponized disposition, in our era?”

20 Does the U.S. Need a Truth and Reconciliation Commission?
Olufemi Taiwo
“African Americans have never been reconciled because America, led by white America, has never acknowledged the truth of what it did to black people. Apologies are not enough.”

26 A Genealogy for the End of the World
Travis Holloway
“How can philosophy help us respond before catastrophe? Can it help us respond better in catastrophe’s midst?”

32 The Hermeneutic Priority of the Question
Hans-Georg Gadamer
“Every sudden idea has the structure of a question. But the sudden occurrence of the question is already a breach in the smooth front of popular opinion.”

37 What is “We”?
Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan
“All articulations of collectivity are provisional, conditional, unstable, fabricated.”

40 What Should We Do with the Past?
Brooke Holmes
“What would it mean, after all, to imagine the entire past happened to me? Or an ‘us’ on the scale of the planet?”

43 How Should We Punctuate Life, Being, the Inorganic?
Graham Harman
“Philosophy has done too little to explore the difference between radical and gradual change.”

46 Is it Useful to Try to Force People to be Equal?
Thomas Chatterton Williams
“We know gross inequality when we see it (and when we don’t see it we are ever more inclined to mine the past in search of it), but what might genuine equality even look like?”

49 Can Indigenous Values Unlock True Equity?
Souta Calling Last
“Blackfoot concepts of power challenge western ideologies, and efforts to eradicate Blackfoot culture are still alive today.”

52 What is Activism For?
Micah White
“The question that gave birth to Occupy was directed at ourselves as activists, and not power.”

55 What are we Fighting For?
Roger Berkowtiz
“The only way to engage the crisis of values constructively is to confront the reality and talk honestly about it with others.”

43 How Should We Punctuate Life, Being, the Inorganic?
Graham Harman
“Philosophy has done too little to explore the difference between radical and gradual change.”

46 Is it Useful to Try to Force People to be Equal?
Thomas Chatterton Williams
“We know gross inequality when we see it (and when we don’t see it we are ever more inclined to mine the past in search of it), but what might genuine equality even look like?”

49 Can Indigenous Values Unlock True Equity?
Souta Calling Last
“Blackfoot concepts of power challenge western ideologies, and efforts to eradicate Blackfoot culture are still alive today.”

52 What is Activism For?
Micah White
“The question that gave birth to Occupy was directed at ourselves as activists, and not power.”

55 What are we Fighting For?
Roger Berkowtiz
“The only way to engage the crisis of values constructively is to confront the reality and talk honestly about it with others.”

2
GENERAL

59 Beyond Bullshit Jobs
Elizabeth Anderson
“What has come to the fore in contemporary neoliberalism is a reinforced version of the conservative work ethic.”

65 Moral Grandstanding and the Will to Power
Justin Tosi and Brandon Warmke
“Treating public discourse as a vanity project can be the very thing that prevents us from having productive conversations about morality and politics.”

70 A Sceptre of Wooden Iron: Heidegger and the Cognitive Sciences
Jethro Masís
“However much science fiction and singularity enthusiasts may wish otherwise, human existence is not – and will never be – amenable to computational programming.”

REVIEWS

76 The Epistemologist’s Moment
Jeremy Fantl reviews Nathan Ballantyne’s Knowing Our Limits

82 Philosophy after the Crisis
Vafa Ghazavi reviews Katrina Forrester’s In the Shadow of Justice
“Genuine alternatives to the status quo exist. The task of citizens and philosophers alike is to make them salient and to breathe life into them.”

88 Can William James Save Your Life? Maybe.
Rebecca Buxton and Anthony Morgan review John Kaag’s Sick Souls, Healthy Minds
“Perhaps James’ philosophy of freedom works only for those who genuinely can push against the forces that make them feel that life is not worth living.”

REGULARS

94 Philosophy in the Real World
Brian D. Earp
“A view about gender has emerged that shifts the focus from reproductive features and culturally linked social roles to aspects of individual psychology, subjective experience, and self-knowledge.”

100 The Public Philosopher
Ciaran Cummins

“Public philosophy in practice, in the present and the past, has simply not been given much of a look in and this must change. We never know what we might find.”

107 The Anthropo(s)cene
Jonathon Turnbull and Adam Searle
“After technological advancements in the past few decades in the practices of cloning, synthetic biology, and cryopreservation, extinction is evermore becoming a fluid concept.”