Dr Campbell Jones

Department of Sociology, University of Auckland

Date: Tuesday 30th August 2011
Time: 11-12:00pm (followed by light lunch)
Venue: N1.22 (tbc), Building N, Caulfield Campus

About the speaker:
Dr Campbell Jones has published a range of works in social theory, philosophy and the relation of business to society. He has published a number of works on continental philosophy and business ethics, and is co-author with Martin Parker and René ten Bos of For Business Ethics (2005, Routledge). Past chair of the European Business Ethics Network UK and a founding member of the recently established Australasian Business Ethics Network, in January 2011 he moved to the Department of Sociology at the University of Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Abstract:
Human beings can do an incredible range of things for others and on behalf of others. It is in the nature of contemporary work that we increasingly act for and through others. In such contexts, in which it is possible to distribute agency widely, what are the consequences of this redistribution for ethical agency? What happens when we seek to take on responsibility for the actions of others, or to ask others to act responsibly on our behalf? This talk will examine the efforts of corporations today to transfer, substitute or outsource ethical responsibilities. Examples from two empirical domains will clarify this. First, we consider the case of recycling, and in particular the generalised injunction for consumers to act responsibly. Second, we consider the attribution of ethical agency to entities such as ‘the market’, in a way that these abstract entities take on not only personhood but embody an implied responsibility. In these practical situations, it will be argued, we face profound questions regarding the nature or personhood, the dispersal of agency and the dislocation of ethical responsibility.

For catering purposes, RSVP by Friday 26th Aug to Liza Binder (Liza.Binder@monash.edu)

Travelling to Caulfield campus: Entry to the campus car park is from Princes Avenue. Ticket machine parking ranging from one to five hours is also available in surrounding streets. For other transport options and a Campus Map go to: http://www.monash.edu.au/campuses/caulfield.html