

Message from the Editors

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Dear *IJEL* Readers,

The Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence at Case Western Reserve University awards an annual prize for the best thesis in military ethics to promote active involvement in the study and application of military ethics. This interdisciplinary field focuses on a wide range of issues including Just War Theory (JWT; also referred to as the Just War Tradition); the conduct of war (*jus in bello*); the pursuit of a just peace (*jus ad pacem*); the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC); International Humanitarian Law (IHL); and other related topics such as the development of new military technologies (example: autonomous weapons systems); what societies owe to those who serve in their militaries; moral injury and dehumanization; and human rights in the context of armed conflict.

The prize winning theses featured in this volume help illustrate the wide range of issues tackled by those who study military ethics. In 2021, first place went to Laura Graham for, “Malum In Se: Starvation Crimes in International Law.” Second place went to Nathan Riehl for “The Virtuous (Human) Soldier: A MacIntyrian Approach to Moral Education in the US Army.” Graham’s work examines the horrific and wide scale harms caused by the use of intentional starvation of civilians as a weapon of war and explains why it must be recognized and prosecuted as a war crime (and the challenges of doing so). Riehl’s thesis makes the case for professional military education (PME) in ethics to be based on a nuanced philosophical understanding of virtue ethics. Our 2022 winner, Sara Gaines, wrote on “Artificial Intelligence as Clinician: An Argument for Ethical Use of Future Technology in a Medical Setting.” This topic cuts across three

key areas of applied ethics: bioethics, ethics of emerging technology, and military ethics—specifically, military medical ethics. Gaines explores the promise, risks, and limits of the potential use of computerized systems to aid human medics in some of the most ethically challenging and emotionally/psychologically fraught situations, such as battlefield triage.

We encourage applications for the Inamori thesis prize in military ethics from any non-European students, either military or civilian, in a graduate or professional-level program (including law or medical students, etc.) studying for their degree at any accredited college or university or military service academy or war college (or similar). We have purposely focused the prize in this way to complement a similar thesis award available to Europeans offered by the esteemed Euro-ISME (International Society for Military Ethics, European Chapter) organization. Israeli scholars are now also eligible for the Euro-ISME prize. Due to our partnership with Euro-ISME, winners of the Inamori thesis prize have the opportunity to present their work at the prestigious annual Euro-ISME conference, which is a unique global gathering of top scholars in the field. Our 2022 winner was able to present her work in person at the 2022 Euro-ISME annual conference, while our 2021 winners presented theirs virtually, due to the pandemic.

In an effort to foster global discussion of pressing issues in military ethics and improve the general accessibility of the field, the Inamori Center is publishing the winning theses, in print and online, in multiple languages. This special volume of *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership* includes our 2021 and 2022 winners in English, Spanish, and French. We are grateful to our multilingual partners who make this kind of publication possible. Translation is a unique skill, and it is exceptionally complicated work when it involves precise legal and ethical arguments and terminology. Without our talented translators and proofreaders, we would never be able to have such a truly global conversation.

Sincerely,

Shannon and Beth