

EDUCATIO

Online international Christian education journal

14th ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS

Standing up for vs nurturing the freedom of speech

«Freedom is one of these dreadful words with more value than meaning ; words that hum pleasantly to the ear rather than speak to the mind ; words that tend to beg questions rather than provide answers ; words of all trades, whose memory is tainted with Theology, Metaphysics, Morals and Politics ; words that perfectly serve Eloquence, Dialectics and Debating, that can equally support fallacies or argumentative subtleties, and, when dropped at the end of a line, have the power to trigger a thunder of wrath », Paul Valéry, Regards sur le monde actuel [Glimpses of the modern world], in Œuvres II, Editions La Pléiade, p. 951.

Freedom of speech is a phrase seemingly laden with values, yet often wanting for specific meaning. It is regularly used to pigeonhole ideas or as a rallying flag when we feel unable to say what we truly think.

Does standing up for freedom of speech and embracing it as a value necessarily lead to a better understanding of what it involves? It is still important to explore what freedom of speech actually is. As stipulated in article 19 of the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights, freedom of speech is one of our fundamental freedoms. As it has been granted to us, are we not obliged to defend it as a right ?

The following questions arise in this context :

What does adequate use of the freedom of speech consist in? Is every individual capable of deciding proper usage of freedom of speech?

It is difficult to answer these questions, highlighting the fact that what we mean by freedom of speech is not as straightforward as it initially seems. Education seems to be a prerequisite for making good use of freedom of speech (if « making use » has any meaning here at all).

Consequently, it might be more effective to nurture freedom of speech than defend it, hence the importance of its place in the educational process.

According to Christian Anthropology, the words of Christ create room for the expression of fundamental freedoms. They encourage us to reflect upon how we engage with the world through our use of language and to cherish the freedom of expression He has entrusted with us : Love your neighbour as yourself and look after both their freedom of expression and yours.



The following questions may serve as guidelines for prospective contributors to address the issue of freedom of speech :

- ⇒ Can freedom of speech be nurtured ?
- ⇒ Does freedom of speech contribute to the education of human beings ?
- ⇒ What are the different ways of experiencing freedom of speech ?
- ⇒ What is the impact of the social and cultural context on freedom of speech?
- ⇒ What are the ethical principles for a Christian approach to freedom of speech?

Prospective papers shall be categorised as follows:

- 1) Presentation of basic analytical principles. This category covers different fields such as History, Theology, Psychology, Anthropology, Educational Doctrines.
- 2) Presentation of tested and current practices.
- 3) Projects, presentation of original approaches or prospective developments contributing to the design of a Christian response to future issues.

Prospective contributors to the 14th issue of EDUCATIO shall delineate a topic addressing one of the aforementioned questions.

Official languages of the journal are: English, Spanish, French, Italian, German.

Submission procedure:

- ① Prospective authors should send the title and the abstract of their contribution to the Secretariat and shall be notified of their acceptance by the Editorial Board.
- ② Upon acceptance by the Board, the authors should send the full paper to the Secretariat.

Please check the guidelines for contributors at

<http://revue-educatio.eu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/FR-CONSIGNES-POUR-LA-PUBLICATION-DES-ARTICLES.pdf>

Submission deadline : **30 September 2023**.

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