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**13th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON PHILOSOPHICAL PRACTICE:
PHILOSOPHICAL PRACTICE AS A PROFESSION
AND A NEW PARADIGM IN PHILOSOPHY**

15–18 August, Belgrade, 2014

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Aleksandar Fatić

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PRESENTATION

PHILOSOPHICAL COUNSELING AS A TOOL TO ENHANCE SOCIAL WELL-BEING

by

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The perception of moral quality is recognised to exert tremendous influence over the concerns of life. The labeling of human actions as good or evil has the capacity to significantly alter that person's reality. In the contemporary culture of rights and duties, with its emphasis on legality in the articulation of social relationships, the execution of public power typically excludes direct reference to moral issues. This is what allows the so-called 'administrative evil' to occur within an otherwise entirely legal framework of operation of the public administration.

The paper explores the capacity of philosophical counseling to contribute to the transformation of public service into a more effective and humane structure. The paper will present two typical cases of the organisation of the public service, those of Australia and Serbia, and explore the moral controversies in both. The paper will argue that philosophical counseling in the public administration enhances the role and profile of moral labelling, thus both introducing a moral perspective to the otherwise predominantly legalistic normative environment, and at the same time changing the incentives structure of public servants by attaching perceptible moral labels of their actions. In doing so, philosophical counseling has the capacity to enhance the professional ethics of public administration and ultimately positively influence the lives and social well being of individuals in society, who are clients of the public administration.

Biography

Aleksandra Bulatović, MA, is Research Associate at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade. She actively participates in research projects focusing on human rights theory and practice. She is currently working on the relationship between human security and the achievement of optimum quality of life. Her recent publication is a book on the ethics of criminal intelligence.