

Ethics in Organizations and in Society: Theoretical-Epistemological Contributions of *Qualis A* Brazilian Periodicals (2003-2006)

*Sérgio Luís Boeira, Dr.*¹
*Lucila Maria de Souza Campos, Dra.*²
*Charles Goudinho Vieira*³

Abstract

Social responsibility as a theme has advanced as much in the technical-operational sense, as evidenced in the case of indicators and certifications, as in the theoretical-epistemological sense, based on traditional reflection on ethics. The general objective of this article is to identify and examine the principle theoretical-epistemological approaches concerning ethics as a theme in organizations and in society. This article is the result of a study about contributions of six of the best Brazilian academic journals in business administration from 2003 to 2006. The bibliographic research had an exploratory, descriptive, and interpretative profile, involving the following periodicals: Revista de Administração de Empresas (RAE), RAE Eletrônica, Revista de Administração da USP (RAUSP), Revista de Administração Contemporânea (RAC), Organizações e Sociedade (O&S) e Revista de Administração Pública (RAP). The theoretical-paradigmatic reference was the approach of critical studies (in the theory of organizations) and the complexity paradigm. This study resulted in outlining six perspectives, thus denominated: 1. paradigm crisis, complexity, and critical studies; 2. cooperativism and solidary economics; 3. socioeconomics and Christian thought; 4. neoliberal thought or stockholders theory capitalism; 5. social-democratic thought or stakeholders theory; 6. organizational networks and social capital (local development, sustainability).

¹ Professor at the University of the Itajaí Valley (UNIVALI; PPGAT and PMGPP: www.univali.br), e-mail: sboeira@univali.br ; The authors are thankful for the support of UNIVALI in financing the research which gave origin to this article (Edital ProBIC 2006-2007).

² Professor at UNIVALI (PPGAT), e-mail: lucila@univali.br

³ Undergraduate student in Business Administration (UNIVALI), e-mail: charlesvieira80@gmail.com .