



The INF-FNI Ethics Council (ETC)
To all members of the Federations

Vacancy

January 15th, 2018

"The power of a function lies in the modesty of its holder."

We cordially invite a Lady Member
of any federation to join our team as a Fellow.

An academic degree is useful, still not mandatory.
We appreciate you as a serious, emotionally mature naturist
with fact-related ambitions to support
Ethics in Naturism
and help solving issues by teamwork.

Simply provide us with your CV and a brief letter of interest.
Kindly contact Volkmar (BECM)
for further information.

Dr. Arnold GROH, Prof., TU Berlin
DFK member

Berlin
Federal Republic of Germany

Mag. Dr. Volkmar ELLMAUTHALER, Lecturer, Vienna
CC member for ethics, science and conflict management
BECM, Chairman – ETC

Contact for appeals, ideas or feedback:
ethics-conflictmanagement@inf-fni.org

Wien
Republic of Austria

Kindly read the terms, agreed in 2017:

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Monday to Friday: 9 - 11 / Montag bis Freitag: 9 - 11 Uhr / du lundi au vendredi: de 9 à 11

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1st Constitution of the Team on December 19th, 2017:

- 1.1. Official nomination of new Fellows by Volkmar,
following his CC mandate of November 3rd, 2017
- 1.2. Exchange of information on individual skills and priorities, both, orally and by papers
- 1.3. Agreement on details
 - 1.3.1. English declared the official language
 - 1.3.2. Informal co-operation, based on the exchange of E-Mails (official mail-accounts to be provided by the CC) or (if essential) by personal meetings, in either BER, VIE or BEG
 - 1.3.3. The “Six-eye-principle”: One Fellow – one vote: the principle of full accord – in cases of dissent following Thomas Gordon’s model of conflict solution. – For any scientific clarification beyond own expertise, external scientists may be involved, in order to achieve a fundamental orientation prior to a finding.

2nd Order of official reactions on appeals:

- 2.1. Appeals to be collected by the Bureau for Ethics, Science and Conflict Management
- 2.2. Translation, if necessary, and distribution of the contents to the Fellows – by Volkmar
- 2.3. Evaluation of contents by the respective Fellows
- 2.4. Exchange of papers between all Fellows in order to be studied and annotated
- 2.5. Discussion on a possible reaction:
 - Comment (e.g. on the competence of the ETC, regarding the content of issue risen)
 - Networking in order to enable suitable solutions on the respective level,
local, regional / within a federation, or global
 - Finding (either binding or as a recommendation)
- 2.6. Agreement on the final paper
- 2.7. Distribution of the finalized reaction by Volkmar – to:
 - 2.7.1. the appellant(s), if other than an ETC’s initiative
 - 2.7.2. the INF-FNI Central Committee
 - 2.7.3. the ETC Fellows for documentation
 - 2.7.4. the biannual INF-FNI Congress, in an adequate summary

3rd The ETC’s initiatives:

Without an appellation issued, it is the ETC’s competence to rise issues and find normative solutions to fundamental questions concerning the ethical, scientific, philosophical, medical, psychological or intercultural (semantic/semiotic, behavioral, religious, environmental) aspects of naturism. **On focus will be the preservation and defence of Naturism in any environment, be it physical (like on beaches or inside facilities) or mental – that is, as a certain attitude towards life and nature.** The team came to the conclusion, *ETHICS* – seen as a fundamentally *philosophical position* and *argumentative tool* – can become relevant in certain political, moral, scientific, or legislative discussions. Taking in consideration that naturism, as an organized movement, is being considered more or less obsolete in times of hedonism, egocentrism and “laissez-faire”, at the same time being contradicted, ignored or restricted by political and mental dictatorship of self-defined potentates, “leaders”, pseudomorph–democratic or religious movements, ***all of us have to take wise action.***

These surroundings and some conflicts given, the Ethics Council will offer fundamental references and findings, and is ready to offer mediation to all members and INF-FNI institutions, on demand.

4th General matter for a common consent:

The Ethics Council ETC is not interfering with situations given, but can offer sound, and fundamental, arguments – or official findings on demand.

The ETC is an independent unit. It will, on appeal or on its own, offer acceptable information and even solutions for specific problems based on experts opinions. In its independency lies its power. In critical situations, that may become valuable.

Arnold (oral remarks at the constitutional meeting, Dec. 19th, 2017):

Naturism is not a lifestyle, it has been the origin of organized life in groups, even in historic times. People in Northern and Central Europe, were not dressed, except for carpets of fur, but rather used fire to fight the cold climate and survive. This could be seen e.g. in Terra del Fuego (South America).

As Arnold has been studying indigenous peoples for nearly two centuries, his findings are remarkable: Not only could he detect tendencies of urbanized people, to follow the market’s principles by engaging others in their “buying-and-selling” resp. “growth” philosophy.

Other tribes, living naked, would be mentally pressurized by being called “monkeys” by those who had, before, been tempted (seduced) to join the chains of micro-capitalism. So, in an example, he met naked living people extensively dressed up, as long as he and his students were in company of “urbanized” people of their own. As soon as they had been out of sight, the “non-urbanized” people would take off their clothes, with relief, as Arnold and his students offered to be naked, as found and agreed natural. This will rise a methodological issue: Can any behaviour – be it, to arrive dressed, or get undressed in expectation of an undressed society – make the respective society change their habits?

Ethics, in such a case, would reflect the theory of any proper scientific access towards cultures other than the own.

For “industrialized” countries or any other cultures that do not lead or accept a naked living, the mere possibility of individuals and groups who try to find “back” to a “natural” life, might be an obstacle and stressor to the beliefs or traditions of a majority. Like that, naturists in a non-naturist environment will be detected and focussed as a counterpart, if not an enemy.

That would tend towards a situation similarly seen in the relationship towards *indigenous peoples**). How could members of the respective federations act in order to approve their awareness?

The Ethics Council, being created as a commission within the INF-FNI, could become a think-tank for adequate public statements, discussions and movements, in order to protect naturism, in any environment, worldwide.

In a written comment (by December 27th, 2017 – literally quoted):

What we call Naturism today has been normal in ancient times. Public nudity was common in ancient Rome, Greece, Egypt etc. As for Europe, it is known that people like the Celts were naked in everyday life. Even in the harsh climate of Tierra del Fuego (between South America and the Antarctic), the indigenous peoples only used to have some fur on their shoulders occasionally, and to warm up by the open fire. When the Europeans introduced clothes, these peoples were soon extinct. Public nudity was normal in summer in Scandinavia in the 1920s, as I know from my father's child memories.

I have been studying indigenous peoples since the 1980s. In our excursions I found that they often dress up for visitors, but when they are among themselves, they are partly or even fully naked. This can be found out when the research team takes off clothing themselves. When we were body painted, without any clothes on, by the Emberá in Panama, the indigenous artist told us that they always painted each other's whole body.

As representatives of the “global” culture, we can use the existing dominance to bring back the nudity to indigenous peoples, from whom it has been taken away by our culture. This is actually our obligation, as Article 11 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples grants their right to revitalise their culture.

I urgently suggested that naturist organisations of countries with indigenous peoples cooperate with the latter.

Finally, an issue we have in Berlin is that of fully dressed Americans, who sketch naturists at the Wannsee beach. If they would join us as naturists, that would be alright, but otherwise we feel exposed like zoo animals (or like indigenous people watched by fully dressed visitors).

Volkmar (summary, Dec. 19th, 2017):

Comparable matter may be issued in the future. Members are called to find fundamental problems or exemplary situations like the one above, and bring these in.

The Ethics Council, ETC, has been established a few months prior to the 65th anniversary of the INF-FNI as an international organization, 1958 – 2018. As an idea, it has been developed from the basis of a new “Bureau for Ethics, Science and Conflict management”, BECM, aiming to service all members and federations in any questions, topics or issues of fundamental, philosophical, or relational origin.

The “Bureau” is using the existing infra-structure of Volkmar’s office (<http://medpsych.at>, founded in 1989). It may be addressed by letter, phone or e-mail (see below).

Appeals and the discussion of ideas (either scientific, conflict- or event-related) is free of charge to INF-FNI members and member organizations, as long as Volkmar, at the same time, is member of the Central Committee. Only travel expenses have to be re-imbursed, so far.

The Ethics Council had to be designed to complete the “Bureau” with respect to more fundamental tasks, as any standard work has to be achieved by more than one expert.

ETHICS, in a common understanding, is being considered fundamental.

Therefore, individuals could be invited to become Fellows through a democratic process, whereas their findings, on a scientific level, may not be submitted to a majority’s votes.

In the Lisboa CC meeting, November 2017, Volkmar was authorized to – by global invitation – find honourable naturists, in order to form a group of experts who could work on related issues.

The ETC, Ethics Council, has been established as a commission within the INF-FNI, head of the ETC being Volkmar, as a CC member. The new entity will have to be confirmed by the Congress.

Major interest of the ETC is the protection of naturism, and in cooperation with the CC, the federations and all interested INF-FNI members, the development of “naturism” as a fully accepted pattern of living (other than a “life-style”).

Members may appeal to the Ethics Council in any substantial issue concerning endangered benefits of naturism, or the naturistic life, as such. Physical address: The Bureau for Ethics, Science, and Conflict management: ethics-conflictmanagement@inf-fni.org – Web: <http://medpsych.at/ETC.html>

*) As for the indigenous peoples, three links are added for your information:

in German:

1st

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%9Cbereinkommen_%C3%BCber_eingeborene_und_in_St%C3%A4mmen_lebende_V%C3%B6lker_in_unabh%C3%A4ngigen_L%C3%A4ndern

2nd

<http://medpsych.at/Indigene-Vo-27112016.pdf>

in English:

3rd

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

Further information on indigenous peoples and other related matter may be requested via the Bureau. The INF-FNI may be well advised to build up contacts with the respective oprganizations, e.g. in Geneva.