Twenty years ago, Rossouw (1994) wrote an article entitled “Business Ethics: Where Have All the Christians Gone?” noticing that few Christian proposals for business ethics existed, and arguing that postmodern culture offers theology an opportunity to get re-involved in the world of business. Since then things are changing and religious approaches, including Christians, are more involved in business ethics.

Christian faith and reason intertwined bring about perspectives and guidelines for business and its management. In fact, Christian thinkers have made significant contributions reflecting on ethics in business centuries before the current movement of Business Ethics (De George, 2006). Topics such as fairness in contracts, business transactions and ethics in decision-making were developed by Christian thinkers from the 13th to 17th centuries (Melé, 2013; Wren, 2000, Schlag, 2013, Alves and Moreira, 2013). Aspects of financial ethics can be found from the 14th century (Schlag, 2013). In the 16th century, the theologian Francisco de Vitoria was pioneer in international law (Scott 1934) and along with Bartolome de las Casas made a strong defense of universal human rights. Labor rights have been defended by Catholic Church at least from the 19th century (Leo XIII, 1891). In the 20th and 21st centuries Roman Catholic Church has published several encyclical and other documents on economic and business ethics (Vatican Council, 1965, John Paul II, 1981, 1991; Benedict, XVI 2009, and others), as well as a Compendium (PCJP 2004). Evangelicals have also remarkable documents (Hawtrey 1990; Solomon, 2004). Other Christian denominations have presented documents or articles on particular economic and business issues. In addition, Christian sources on economic and business ethics are also available (Stackhouse, 1995).

Christian thinkers have introduced new perspectives and topics in business ethics, for instance, business as a community (Naughton 2006), the common good as criterion for legitimization of business and the market (Abela 2001; Cortright and Naughton 2002; Schlag and Mercado 2012), the role of virtues in entrepreneurship (Cornwall and Naughton 2003), management as service (Guittán 2014), centrality of human development (Melé and Dierksmeier 2012), ethics aspects in marketing practices (Murphy and Sherry 2014), conciliating work and family (Melé 1989; Guittán 2009) and stewardship for environment (Hoffman and Sandelands 2005), among others topics and authors. In addition, we have now a better theological understanding of some aspects of business, including topics such as human work, nature of business, respect for integrity of creation, human ecology, and the vocation of the business leader (PCJP 2012, on this latter).

Christian spirituality is inherent to being a Christian, although there are several approaches. In fact, throughout history many schools of spirituality have been developed. However, spirituality in the work and business context has only emerged from the middle of the last century, and academic research is still scarce.
Apart from normative aspects, empirical research has paid attention to the influence of religiosity, including Christianity, in several aspects of business. This includes making comparative studies between behaviors of Christians and other people, as well as the influence of Christian spirituality in managing and leading business (e.g., Nur and Ahmed, 2006). However, academic developments in Christian ethics and spirituality in leading organizations, in close dialogue with current organizational and management approaches, are still quite limited.

The aim of this special issue, connected with a conference on Christian Humanism in Economic and Business (Barcelona, April 20-21, 2015), is to promote research in any innovative topic related to “Christian ethics and spirituality in leading organizations”. Both conceptual and empirical papers will be welcomed. Only papers presented to this conference and selected by the Scientific Committee will be considered for the final blind review process through the Journal of Business Ethics System.

Possible topics
1. Christian Vision of Business
2. Christian Ethics in Managing People
3. Christian Ethics in Corporate Governance
4. Christian-Catholic Values and Principles in Managing Organizations
5. Christian Spirituality and Virtues in Leadership
6. Influence of Christian Faith in entrepreneurship and management
7. Ethical Issues in Business from a Christian Perspective
8. Christian Work Ethics
9. Christian Spirituality at the workplace
10. Christian Business Ethics vs Other Business Ethics Theories
11. Christian Approaches on Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability
12. Christian Ethics in Business Education
13. Christian Spirituality and Organizational Behavior

Deadlines
November 30th, 2014: Paper proposal for the conference of about 1000 words, explaining the aim, methodology, possible findings, and relevant references.
December 20th, 2014: Response of acceptance of the proposals to the authors.
March 31st, 2015: Full paper for the conference. An abstract of about 250 words should be included. Length suggested for papers is about 7000 words. Authors interested in submitting their paper for the special issue of the Journal of Business Ethics should make this explicit in the cover page.

Please, upload proposals and conference full paper to www.iese.edu/4Colloquium
April 15th 2015 Response of acceptance of the paper pre-selected for the special issue
June 1st, 2015 Submission of pre-selected papers to the Journal of Business Ethics

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