

I have resigned as editor-in-chief of *Philosophical Studies* and would like to give a brief public explanation of my reasons.

Recently, PS accepted a paper containing unprofessional personal attacks on another philosopher. The editors of PS, to a large extent, act independently and I was not involved in the handling of this paper. Accepting such a paper without removing the personal attacks violates longstanding PS policies I have worked hard to enforce. It also runs contrary to the policies of our publisher—Springer. I was embarrassed and dismayed when I discovered this had happened. As editor-in-chief, I decided we needed to do two things. First, I thought PS should make a public announcement owning up to the mistake. And to prevent this from happening again, I wanted to remind prospective authors that we will not publish papers containing personal attacks, and future referees that we consider it their responsibility to alert us when submissions contain such attacks. The referees who recommended acceptance of the paper neglected to do this.

Second, I invited the author who had been attacked to reply. I felt that we owed this to the author given that s/he had been defamed in the pages of PS.

Unfortunately, one of my fellow editors along with Springer opposed these steps. I was instructed by Springer not to make a public statement about the incident. And they rescinded my invitation to the author.

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve the philosophical community as editor-in-chief of *Philosophical Studies* for the past 25 years. It is with great regret that I resign.

Stewart Cohen