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Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility – Is there a dividing line?

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Abstract

There is growing research in all areas of ethics and CSR that govern the activities of a firm and the value systems that underlie their business activities. In our paper we have explored the concepts of Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility with a perspective that meaningfully CSR should be seen in the context of an overall paradigm of Business Ethics. We have studied CSR through the framework of the stakeholder theory of the firm and posit that CSR as practiced today is a subset of Business Ethics with other dimensions of an overall ethics framework still uncovered.

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1. Introduction

Business Ethics covers the areas of moral principles and decision making, governance issues and codes of conduct for a business. Beverungen and Case (2011) argue that “ We might find that ethics in business involves a basic dislocation relating to phenomenal experiences arising when things are out of place” (Beverungen and Case, 2011

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