

Introduction

## Emotions and conflict

Alessandra Fussi

In recent years the problem of understanding emotions has been at the forefront of philosophical research from different perspectives. A rich literature has developed concerning the cognitive and evaluative aspects of emotions, as well as their embodied and felt nature. From the ethical point of view accounts of character and agency, studies on identification and attachments, and reflections on the retrospective narrative of one's life have attempted to come to grips with the nature and role of emotions. One issue that has not received much attention yet is how different philosophical standpoints account for the relationship between emotions and conflict.

The idea of this section of *Focus* originated in an international workshop on emotions and conflict that took place at the University of Pisa on February 3-5, 2016, as a result of a joint collaboration between the interdisciplinary group Phenomenology and History of Emotions (University of Pisa), the International Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions (EPSSE), and with the organizing support offered by the research group Zetesis (University of Pisa). The response to the call for abstracts was very rich, and we were able to invite speakers from all over Europe and the US. The discussion focused on conflicting emotions, as well as on emotions in situations of conflict.

Emotions can enter into conflict with reason; they can clash with each other (as is the case with friendly feelings and envy, or with love and hatred); they can be viewed as specific responses to the struggle between social conformity and intellectual and moral freedom; they can signal the deep unhappiness resulting from the contradictory demands imposed on us by the people, the things, the activities, the ideals to which we are committed. Finally, forms of conflict between prudence and passion are often inevitable within love itself.

The papers selected for this section of *Philosophical Inquiries*, by Aaron Ben-Ze'ev (University of Haifa), Roberta De Monticelli (Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele), Alessandra Fussi (University of Pisa), Maria Michela Sassi

(University of Pisa), were all presented at the conference as keynote addresses regarding these issues. We are pleased to be able to include also an essay by Raffaele Rodogno (Aarhus University), who had been invited to give an address but at the time was unable to attend.