



Annual Report 2023-24





Cover photos by Rocci Wilkinson

Contents

Introduction from the Director and Deputy Director	1
Selected Highlights: Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics	2
The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics: 2003-2023	5
Key Uehiro-Funded Staff Highlights	7
New Staff	8
Hosted Fellowships	9
Books	11
Hosted Research Projects	14
Uehiro Lectures and Uehiro Series in Practical Ethics	16
Policy and Practice	17
Teaching	19
Public Engagement Highlights	23
Selected Media Outlets this Year	28
Translations	29
Presentations	30
Service and Committees	31
Team	32

Introduction from the Director and Deputy Director



OUC Director Professor Roger Crisp

I was appointed as Director of the Centre in August 2022, and so this is my first report covering a full year. And what a year it has been – eventful in many ways, and hugely fulfilling and enjoyable. Progress in understanding humanity’s deepest problems has been made on many fronts, and for making that possible I must thank the Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education for its continuing support, interest, and encouragement, and also my academic and non-academic colleagues at the Centre for their unstinting hard work and support.

There can be little doubt that the most significant event of this year for the Centre was the signing in Tokyo in February of the gift agreement between Mr Tetsuji Uehiro, Chairman of the Foundation, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Professor Irene Tracey, an agreement which will establish, from 1 October of this year, the Uehiro Oxford Institute. The scale of the Institute will be such that it can be situated within the Humanities Division, independently of any faculty. The Centre was of course founded by and within the Faculty of Philosophy, and I must record here not only our gratitude for the support of the Faculty and its Board over the last two decades, but the fact that we are looking forward to continuing our mutually beneficial relationship into the future. The questions we seek to answer are ultimately philosophical, though answering them properly requires insights from many other disciplines, within humanities and beyond.

The year has been full of many other events, including in particular a wonderful joint celebration in June to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Centre and the fifth of our remarkably successful MSt. in Practical Ethics, and the visit in November to the

Centre by Dr Noboru Maruyama, General Secretary of the Foundation. And also: in March, a fascinating conference on consciousness, involving Anil Seth and others, organized by Mette Høeg; in April, an event significant for me if no one else, my first speech at the Oxford Union, in a debate on the trolley problem (I believe I defeated my opponent, Sam Rickless, though some suggested that the audience might not have realized that leaving the chamber through the doors marked ‘yes’ and ‘no’ constituted voting); in May, the launch of the Merging Minds project, which included some philosophically suggestive and hugely fun video gaming, as well as a workshop held in Bucharest with the Centre for Applied Ethics at the university, a highlight of which was a demonstration by the previous Director of the philosophical capacities of ChatGPT; our inaugural Lockwood Lecture, on ‘lookism’, was brilliantly presented by Prof. Heather Widdows in June, and in July an important Uehiro conference on cell and gene therapy was held in Singapore jointly with NUS; August involved a remarkable conference on the Ethics of Psychedelics, in which Brian Earp played a major role with other local and international colleagues;

in October, I attended the retirement conference at Rutgers of Distinguished Research Fellow Larry Temkin, as well as a fascinating conference on public health organized by Alberto Giubilini; in January, I participated in a highly interdisciplinary workshop on museum repatriations led by Jonathan Pugh, and was proud to chair the panel of judges at our tenth annual Uehiro Essay Prize Competition.

The year has also included many fascinating work-in-progress seminars, New St Cross Ethics seminars, BioXPhi meetings, UPELLs, Tom Hurka’s fascinating series of Uehiro Lectures on knowledge and achievement, and much else, including innumerable philosophical conversations on a huge variety of topics. With all this behind us, it is obvious that all of us have much to look forward to over the coming year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Crisp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger Crisp



Professor Dominic Wilkinson

Practical ethics requires us, Janus-like, to look both to the past and to the future. The discipline draws on the wisdom and learning of the past, while simultaneously anticipating the future problems that potentially lie ahead for society. Some of the centre's active research projects discussed in this report are examining how we should respond to historical injustice and whether to retain or return artefacts and items in our museums. Other projects are actively engaging with cutting edge developments in large language models and AI in medicine. This is mirrored in the life of the centre. In the last year, the Uehiro Centre has celebrated several important anniversaries, but also, thanks to the generous ongoing support of the Uehiro Foundation, has made exciting plans for the future.

It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome members of the Foundation back to Oxford for the first time since the pandemic in 2023. On a personal note, in September I had the opportunity to make my first visit to Japan for thirty years and to visit the Foundation for the first time. During that trip, I gave lectures in Sapporo, Kyoto and Tokyo, and took part in a very stimulating international Uehiro conference on controversies in applied ethics, and in the young scholars teaching program at Tokyo University. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Japanese doctors and philosophers, to share some of my research, and to learn from colleagues about their work. We had rich conversations about the shared problems that we face with advances in medical science and technology. It was also fascinating to reflect on the unique perspectives and approaches to these problems in Japan. In separate work, I have enjoyed working recently on a paper with one of our Uehiro scholars on a potentially unique virtue in Japanese medicine

In the coming year, I am looking forward to the next steps, to a new era for practical ethics in Oxford, and to building on the great friendship and partnership between England and Japan that was started by the Foundation over 20 years ago.

Selected Highlights: Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics



Professor Julian Savulescu

As the Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics at Oxford, and the Chen Su Lan Centennial of Medicine and Director of the Centre of Biomedical Ethics at the National University of Singapore, Professor Savulescu has worked to develop strong links between the Universities, furthering opportunities for collaboration and promoting world-class research in both Centres.

Wellcome Trust Platform Grant

'ANTITHESES: A Discovery Platform for Transformative Inclusivity in Ethics and Humanities Research' is a newly established Platform Grant awarded to a consortium of Centres and is the most prestigious of the Wellcome Trust research awards.

The Platform addresses an urgent need for research able to engage meaningfully with the radical value disagreements, polarisation, and informational uncertainty characteristic of contemporary medical science, practice, and policy. Available approaches to ethics and humanities research lack the concepts, methods, and tools to do this work. They have insufficient diversity of voices, are overly safe and

conservative, and overwhelmingly Western. They have tended to exclude some problems and values as not ‘worthy’ of investigation or ‘too difficult’. New approaches are needed.

The Platform will develop and test tools and methods for achieving this, bringing together expertise from history, philosophy, the fine arts, design bioethics, sociology, and global bioethics. Work is underway in a number of areas, including the funding of a new collaborative art project exploring the ethics of using medical and psychotherapeutic interventions in order to rehabilitate criminal offenders entitled ‘Empathising with the monster?’, led by Lisa Forsberg in collaboration with sculptor Donna Han.

Prof Savulescu is the NUS Principal Investigator. The full value of this collaborative award is £5.5 million, and this was the only Wellcome Trust Discovery Platform awarded to the University of Oxford.

Australian Research Council – Discovery Grant

This project aims to analyse core concepts that play key roles in emerging debates about the ethics of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) in Australia. The project expects to make constructive contributions to these debates, promoting respectful dialogue and reducing polarization. The project will promote the dignity and autonomy of all and ensure that

issues about the conscientious refusal of healthcare professionals to participate in the provision of VAD are handled in an ethically appropriate and effective manner.

The polygenic revolution, future generations and the need for ethical modelling

Collaborating with Prof Peter Visscher and Assoc Prof Loic Yengo (University of Queensland) and Dr Chris Gyngell (Murdoch Children’s Research Institute) Prof Savulescu was awarded \$200,000 from the Survival and Future Flourishing Fund, Jan Tallin Foundation.

In 2018, He Jiankui announced the births of two babies, Lulu and Nana, who had their genomes edited in an attempt to make them immune to HIV. This led to international outrage, the imprisonment of He Jiankui and numerous calls for a moratorium on reproductive gene editing. The scandal highlighted the relatively advanced (though

still error-prone) status of gene editing technologies, and the need to consider how the technology is to be used in humans.

Two years later in May 2020, the first child to have undergone embryonic screening for polygenic conditions was born. “Aurea” was one of four embryos produced via in-vitro fertilization (IVF), by Dr Rafal Smigrodzki and his partner. Aurea was picked for implantation because a test performed by a consumer genomics company, Genomic Prediction, indicated that she had the lowest odds of developing a range of adult-onset conditions.

The congruence of the technologies that resulted in the births of Lulu, Nana, and Aurea, could have profound implications for the lives of countless future children, and the human species as a whole.

The diseases which have the greatest global disease burden (cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes) are polygenic. The character traits that we care most deeply about in

ourselves, and our loved ones (personality type, moral disposition, intelligence), are all under polygenic influence. Until very recently, these conditions were outside the purview of human control.

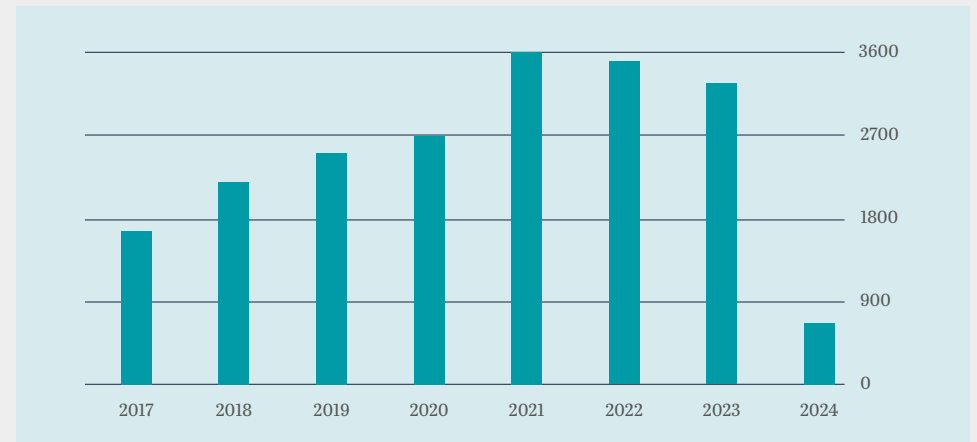
The award enables Prof Savulescu and collaborators to produce empirical data and software applications that can allow predictions of how polygenic technologies can change the human phenome (including both disease and desired traits) for individuals and societies in future generations and explicate



Prof Savulescu and Wilkinson wrote for ‘Ethically Speaking’ – a regular column in MediCine

Julian Savulescu’s current citation data

	All	Since 2019
Citations	31442	16352
h-index	89	63
i10-index	431	317



arguments for the responsible use of these technologies. The aims are to quantify the generational effects of polygenic selection on the prevalence of diseases, disorders and traits, predict multiple generation change in disease prevalence and trait means from polygenic editing of disease and trait loci, highlight ethical trade-offs, and generate expert and public discussion that can guide the ethical development and use of polygenic technologies.

New Paediatrics Ethics Programme

The new Paediatric Ethics programme, leveraging Prof Dominic Wilkinson's Visiting Professorship with NUS, involves research, teaching and continuing education.

A Paediatric Ethics Workshop on Parental Discretion and Conflict in Intensive Care in May 2023 aimed to enhance in participants the knowledge and skills required for ethically engaging this contemporary issue. 40 paediatric and neonatal intensive care and related staff from the public and private sectors attended.

The inaugural Asian Paediatrics Conference on "The Best Interests and the Autonomy of the Child" was held in October 2023 at the Guild House, NUS. It brought together 80 paediatricians and clinical ethicists from Asia and focused on developing a richer understanding of the theme and how to apply this in clinical practice. A secondary aim was to trigger the formation of an Asian Paediatric Bioethics Network

that will serve as a platform for ongoing discourse and building collaborations.

New Clinical Ethics Service

Profs Savulescu and Wilkinson delivered two ICU interactive seminars based on case analysis in NUHS ICU. This is an ongoing monthly activity.

Election to the Fellowship of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (FAHA)

Prof Savulescu was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities on 22 November, 2023. One of Australia's five Learned Academies, the Australian Academy of the Humanities was established in 1969 to advance knowledge of, and the pursuit of excellence in the humanities. The Fellowship of the Academy comprises more than 700 distinguished individuals elected in recognition of the excellence and impact of their scholarship in various humanities fields.

“Professor Savulescu’s election as a Fellow is a significant achievement

and is testament to the outstanding contribution he has made to his discipline, and the exceptionally high regard in which he is held by his peers in the humanities community, both in Australia and abroad.”

Keynote Speaker

Prof Savulescu has given over 40 lectures this year, including as Keynote Speaker at the International Conference on AI in Medicine (iAIM 2023) and the UITM International Conference On Clinical Ethics (UICCE) 2023.



Prof Savulescu and colleagues at the Uehiro-Carnegie-Oxford-NUS joint conference on Cell and Gene Therapy, 29-30 June 2023

Julian Savulescu ranked by scholars:

No1 in the world in bioethics and medical ethics for all time

Top 0.02% of 30 million scholars for all time

Top 0.01% of 15 million scholars in the last 5 years

Top 2% of scholars worldwide by Stanford University-Elsevier

16th most read Oxford University author on The Conversation with 92,897 reads

The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics: 2003-2023

In recognition of the Oxford Uehiro Centre's 20th year, and the 5th anniversary of the MSt in Practical Ethics, the Centre hosted a sunny weekend of events for the public, students, alumni, staff, fellow academics, and associates in the summer of 2023.



Julian Savulescu speaking at the MSt 5th anniversary weekend

The Lockwood Memorial Lecture and Medal Presentation

We were delighted to begin the celebrations with the inaugural Lockwood Memorial Lecture and medal presentation, commemorating the life and work of Oxford philosopher and committed public educator Dr Michael Lockwood, in an event which recognises both senior figures and rising stars in practical ethics.

The 2023 Lockwood Medal was awarded to Prof Heather Widdows of the University of Warwick, who addressed a large public audience on the topic of 'Naming and Shaming: Responding to Lookism'. This was a new area for many, and generated a lot of interest. The event was preceded by a seminar given by Dr Gillian Lockwood, and followed by a dinner accompanied by an address by Dr Noboru Maruyama read by Prof Crisp.

On Saturday students and staff were offered an exciting 'Behind the scenes' tour at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History discussing the ethics of natural history



Prof Crisp and Dr Gillian Lockwood presenting the medal to Prof Widdows

[Click to watch the video](#)
on our Alumni Reflections



collections (and seeing the usually-hidden Oxford Dodo) and a walking tour of central Oxford including college and Bodleian library visits. After lunch, three short talks from Centre members provided a window into current research projects. Prof Crisp then hosted a lively discussion with Julian Savulescu on 'What is the point of practical ethics?'. Pre-dinner drinks in the Rewley House common

room included a wonderful video of 'Alumni Reflections' produced by Katrien Devolder and featuring some of the MSt programme's first alumni.

On the final day participants could choose between the iconic Oxford student activity - punting on the river Cherwell - and a Bodleian tour of the Old Library, a wonderfully evocative visit including the historic Duke Humphrey's Library. The weekend concluded with a closing lunch hosted by Prof Crisp.

The warmth and affection of alumni for their colleagues and the programme staff, and their willingness to discuss their professional ethical development, made the celebration an exceedingly special event, and we are very grateful to the Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education for supporting this programme.

Key Uehiro-Funded Staff Highlights



Mey Bahar Buyukbabani, Brian Earp and Joanna Demaree-Cotton

Oxford BioXPhi Lab

The last year has seen the Oxford BioXPhi Lab continue to flourish in its study of moral psychology and its relationship to ethics. We have continued leading research into a number of topics, such as the moral duty to respect the wishes of the dead, the concept of personhood in bioethics, and the perceived moral agency of AI. During term-time, we continued to run weekly in-person/online hybrid seminars ('lab meetings') where researchers presented works-in-progress on a wide range of topics. These meetings were well-attended by affiliated undergraduates, postgraduates, Uehiro Centre researchers, and international academics. In Autumn 2023, we introduced a new course on Moral Psychology for final-year Oxford undergraduates, co-taught by Brian Earp and Joanna Demaree-Cotton. We were also thrilled to have Jorge Suárez, a visiting PhD researcher from the University of Granada, study with us through Hilary Term 2024.

Prof Tom Douglas is participating in the 2023-2030 Project: ARC Centre of Excellence for the Mathematical Analysis of Cellular Systems funded by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence. The full project value is AUD35m and is led by Prof Michael Stumpf.

Jonathan Pugh was awarded first prize in the 2023 European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare's Young Scholar Awards for his paper on risk-relative standards of capacity. Jonathan also provided the keynote address on "The Ethics of Neurodoping", for The Italian Society of Neuroethics, University of Pisa in May 2023.

Rebecca Brown has focused on developing her work and interests in the philosophy and ethics of childbirth. This included publishing two papers on this topic, as well as attending the launch of the Philosophy of Birth network and speaking at an event on 'Choice and Autonomy in Obstetric Care' organised by Dominic Wilkinson. She has also been working on Neil Levy's AHRC grant on scaffolded autonomy, and recently had a paper accepted on the question of whether or not one can remain autonomous whilst deferring to expertise.

Prof Dominic Wilkinson was appointed as Adjunct Professor, Monash University Department of Paediatrics, Australia.

Uehiro
Centre
staff

published

147
journal
articles

in
81
journals

Dominic Wilkinson

Ranked No2
for medical ethics and

No4
for ethics in the world
in the last 5 years according
to ScholarGPS 2024

40th
most read OU author in
The Conversation with
44,271 reads, 71 comments,
4 articles

Top article in the Journal of Criminal Justice Ethics

Allen JW, Earp BD, Koplin J, et al., (2021), Consent-GPT: is it ethical to delegate procedural consent to conversational AI?

Journal of Medical Ethics, 2024;50:77-83

Most read article in the Journal of Criminal Law and Philosophy

Porsdam Mann, S., Earp, B. D., Møller, N., Vynn, S., & Savulescu, J., (2023), AUTOGEN: A personalized large language model for academic enhancement—ethics and proof of principle.

American Journal of Bioethics, 23(10), 28-41

Top 10 most cited articles in American Journal of Bioethics

Earp, B. D., Lewis, J., & Hart, C. L., (2021). Racial Justice Requires Ending the War on Drugs.

The American Journal of Bioethics, 21(4), 4-19

The Hub at Oxford for Psychedelic Ethics

The Hub at Oxford for Psychedelic Ethics (HOPE) is a new interdisciplinary programme, which aims to develop sustainable frameworks for psychedelic ethics, law, and social policy.

Based within the Oxford-NUS Centre for Neuroethics and Society, the programme is directed by Oxford's **Brian D. Earp**, with associate director David B. Yaden (Johns Hopkins) and in collaboration with Holly Fernandez Lynch (Penn), I. Glenn Cohen (Harvard) and Lori Bruce (Yale). The senior advisory directors are Professors Ilina Singh (Oxford), **Neil Levy** (Oxford), and **Julian Savulescu** (Oxford/NUS). Amongst other aims, HOPE intends to provide an ethics-to-public policy pipeline, providing policy briefs to governments and non-profits to help guide the development of ethical and effective regulatory structures, and monitoring public attitudes through surveys and robust social science research tracking and understanding public responses to (and readiness for) novel uses of psychedelics.

Prof Tom Douglas provided the keynote address at the Zagreb Applied Ethics Conference on the topic of 'Self-Ownership and Mental Interference' Zagreb, 20 Sep 2023.

New Staff

Part of the Oxford Uehiro Centre's vision is to act as a provider of a training for talented young scholars in practical ethics. We are delighted to have continued this in 2023-24 by welcoming Dr Joseph Moore to the Centre this year.



Dr Joseph Moore

Joseph Moore is a Senior Research Fellow in the Oxford Centre for Ethics and Humanities and the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics. He specialises in ethical theory, political theory and the history of philosophy. His work primarily concerns the good, flourishing life and the social and political conditions that enable people to live such lives. He is currently collaborating with an interdisciplinary team to define, measure and study interactions between human flourishing and the flourishing of non-human species and ecological collectives.

Hosted Fellowships

The Centre continues to host a number of researchers who are visiting from other institutions. This year, in addition to Viktor Savchenko and Binesh Hass, we are delighted to host new fellows Cristina Voinea and Edmond Awad.



Dr Cristina Voinea

“Throughout my Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, I will investigate how digital technologies shape individual and societal well-being. My research looks at a wide spectrum of digital tools, ranging from social media platforms to Large Language Models. I have already published two papers that lay the groundwork for this exploration. The first one examines the nature of social media platforms, shedding light on how they influence attention, while the second explores the impact of griefbots on individuals experiencing bereavement.”



Hosted researchers Binesh Hass, Cristina Voinea and Viktor Savchenko

Dr Cristina Voinea

**Received the
Ethics of AI award**

*for the best abstract at
the Second International
Conference on Ethics of Artificial
Intelligence. Porto, Portugal (29
November, 2023)*

**Received an
invitation from the
Council of
Europe**

*to serve as an expert for the
Committee on Culture, Science,
Education, and Media in
a consultation discussing
the primary dangers and
challenges to well-being in
digital environments, with a
specific focus on the metaverse*



Dr Edmond Awad

Edmond Awad

Edmond Awad is a Senior Research Fellow at The Oxford Uehiro Centre, on secondment from University of Exeter. Edmond’s research work includes the development of online serious games as a tool to understand the public’s moral views in dilemma situations across cultures. Edmond led the design, development and research of Moral Machine, a website that gathers human decisions on moral dilemmas faced by driverless cars. The website has been visited by over 10 million users, who contributed their judgements on 100 million dilemmas. Another website that Edmond co-created, called MyGoodness, collected judgments over 3 million charity dilemmas. Edmond’s work appeared in

major academic journals, including Nature, PNAS, and Nature Human Behaviour, and it has been covered in major media outlets including The Associated Press, The New York Times, and The Washington Post. At the Uehiro Centre, Edmond is collaborating with colleagues at the Oxford Centre for Ethics and Humanities, and is jointly hosted by the Department of Psychiatry.

Academic visitors

Over the 23-24 academic year the Oxford Uehiro Centre has hosted 24 academics from around the world through its Visiting Academics programme, for research visits lasting from a few days to 12 months. Visitors such as Prof Matthias Braun and Maria Medina have collaborated closely with colleagues in the OUC, others, such as Prof Antonio Diéguez use the time to complete individual projects.



Dr Peng Liu

“I really enjoyed my three-month visiting experience with the OUC. It has the greatest researchers and staff that I have ever met. My visiting is greatly helpful for my career. I have worked with Edmond Awad, Brian Earp, and Thomas Douglas. Our collaborative outputs are expected within these two years. I really thank the OUC. Hope one day that I can return to the OUC and Oxford.”

Peng Liu, Center for Psychological Sciences, Zhejiang University, China



Click to watch the video
on The Face Game

Dr Edmond Awad

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW OXFORD UEHIRO CENTRE FOR PRACTICAL ETHICS
(SECONDMENT FROM UNIVERSITY OF EXETER)

Edmond Awad and The Face Game

Watch the introductions from our other visitors

[Matthias Braun](#)

[Maria Medina](#)

[Antonio Diéguez](#)

Books

Published this year

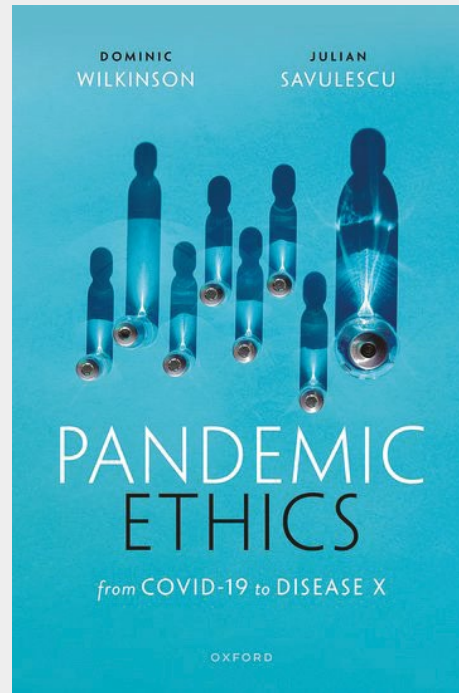
Pandemic Ethics: from COVID-19 to Disease X

Dominic Wilkinson and Julian Savulescu
Oxford University Press, 2023

Pandemic ethics raises unresolved, fundamental, and controversial questions. The defining feature of a pandemic is its scale—the simultaneous threat to millions or even billions of lives. That scale creates and necessitates awful choices since the wellbeing and lives of all cannot be protected. Central to decisions are questions of the value of life, but also core human rights doctrines including the right to health, individual freedom and autonomy. Whether allocating limited supplies of ventilators, novel treatments, and vaccines or making policies that restrict movement and freedom, which values are most important? How should risk and burden be distributed? Should society save the greatest number of lives or accept higher deaths for the sake of other ethical values?

These questions touched the lives of billions during the COVID

[Click to watch the video on Pandemic Ethics](#)



pandemic. However, children who were home-schooled during the coronavirus outbreak will almost certainly face another pandemic in their lifetime – one at least as bad, and potentially much worse than this one.

In this volume, bioethicists Dominic Wilkinson and Julian Savulescu have gathered leading philosophers, lawyers, economists, and bioethicists to address the global response to the pandemic, questions of liberty, how



to balance competing ethical values and considerations of equality and inequality. The book critically reviews the COVID-19 pandemic to identify key lessons for “Disease X”, the currently unknown but serious global threat that lies ahead.

Parfit: A Philosopher and His Mission to Save Morality

Dave Edmonds
Princeton University Press, April 2023

Dave Edmonds’ latest book is a biography of Oxford philosopher Derek Parfit (1942–2017). Widely regarded as one of the greatest moral thinkers of the past hundred years, Parfit was anything but a public intellectual. Yet his ideas have shaped the way philosophers think about things that affect us all: equality, altruism, what we owe to future generations, and even what it means to be a person.

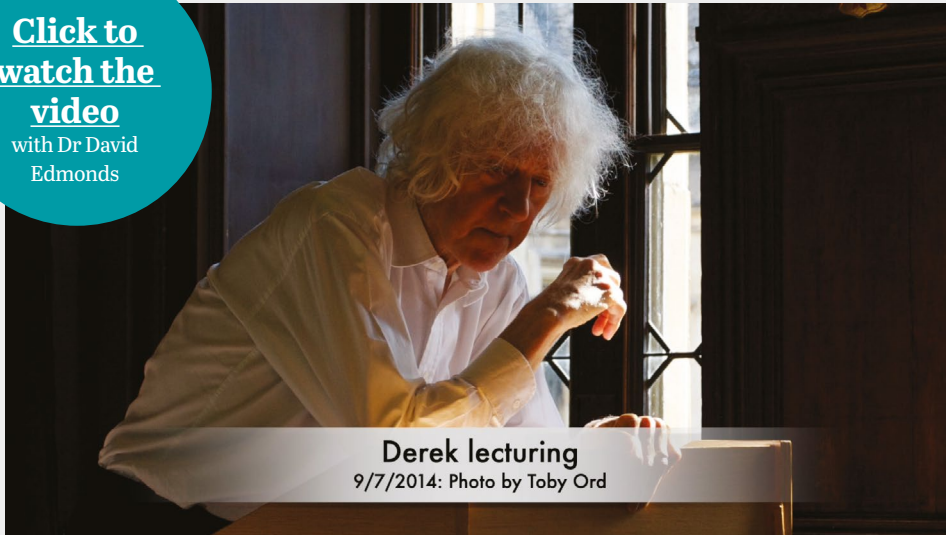
Believing that we should be less concerned with ourselves and more with the common good, Parfit dedicated himself to the pursuit of philosophical progress to an extraordinary degree. In the latter half of his life, he single-mindedly devoted

himself to a desperate attempt to rescue secular morality – morality without God – by arguing that it has an objective, rational basis.

Times ideas book of the year

[Click to watch the video](#)

with Dr David Edmonds



“In his monumental biography of the moral philosopher Derek Parfit, David Edmonds renders the movements of a quicksilver mind, the allure of a charismatic personality, the drama of a cloistered life.”

Sylvia Nasar, author of *A Beautiful Mind*

"Offering more than a thinker's life and career, Parfit is a crash

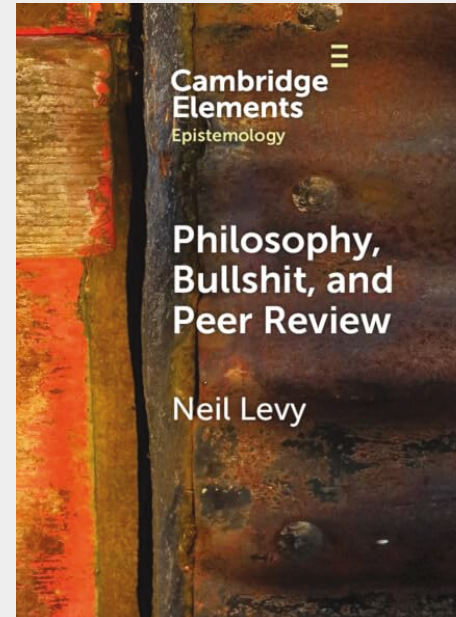
course in the evolution of moral philosophy, and the best account I have read of what “doing philosophy” entails. . . . Superb.”

Heller McAlpin, *Wall Street Journal*

Philosophy, Bullshit, and Peer Review

Neil Levy
Cambridge University Press, December 2023

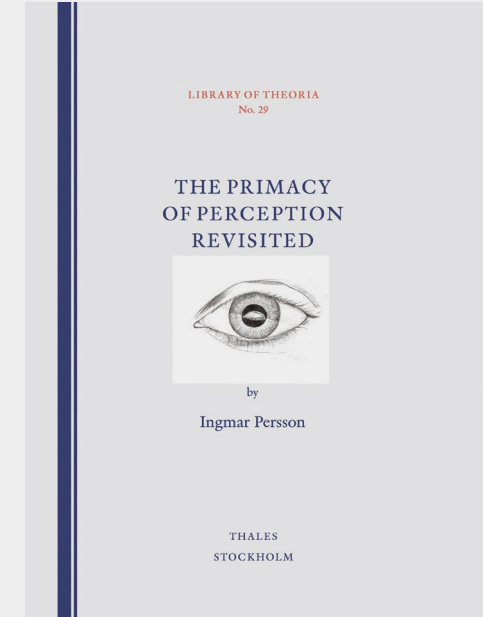
Peer review is supposed to ensure that published work, in philosophy and in other disciplines, meets high standards of rigor and interest. But many people fear



that it no longer is fit to play this role. This book examines some of their concerns. It uses evidence that critics of peer review sometimes cite to show its failures, as well as empirical literature on the reception of bullshit, to advance positive claims about how the assessment of scholarly work is appropriately influenced by features of the context in which it appears: for example, by readers' knowledge of authorship or of publication venue. Reader attitude makes an appropriate and sometimes decisive difference to perceptions of argument quality.

Love Drugs

Brian Earp and Julian Savulescu
Pelckmans Uitgevers, 2023



New translation of Brian Earp and Julian Savulescu's 'Love Drugs' into Dutch, with a substantive new preface: Earp, B. D., & Savulescu, J. (2023). *Liefdesdrugs: De chemische toekomst van relaties*. Kalmthout, Belgium: Pelckmans Uitgevers.

The Primacy of Perception Revisited

Ingmar Persson, *Thales*, 2023

The Primacy of Perception Revisited revises the theory of perception originally presented in Persson's 'The Primacy of Perception' (also published in Library of Theoria).

Основи менеджменту громадської організації : навчально-методичний посібник (Fundamentals of Non-Governmental Organization Management)

Savchenko V., et al.
Madrid Printing House, 2023

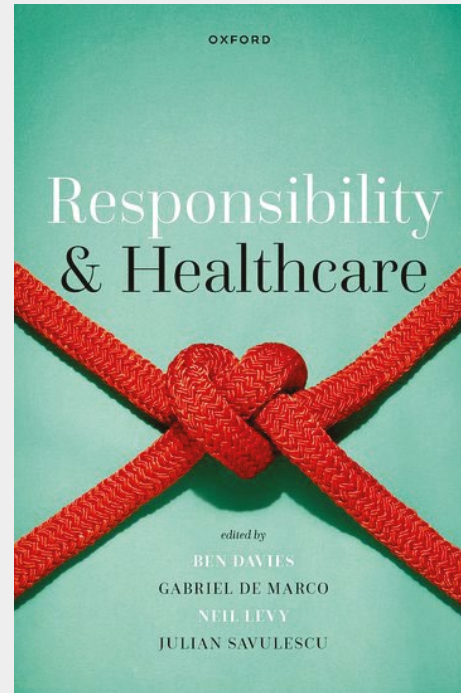
This textbook was developed through the project "Development of digital training modules for members of public organizations in the social sphere and the sphere of health care", part of the project "Strengthening resources for the sustainable development of host communities in the east of Ukraine", carried out by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The textbook is aimed at members of community organizations in the social and health sectors and those planning to start a community organisation.

10

chapters in 9 edited books this year contributed by Uehiro staff

19

book chapters are currently under contract with Uehiro staff



Newly Contracted

Procreative Beneficence: A Defence

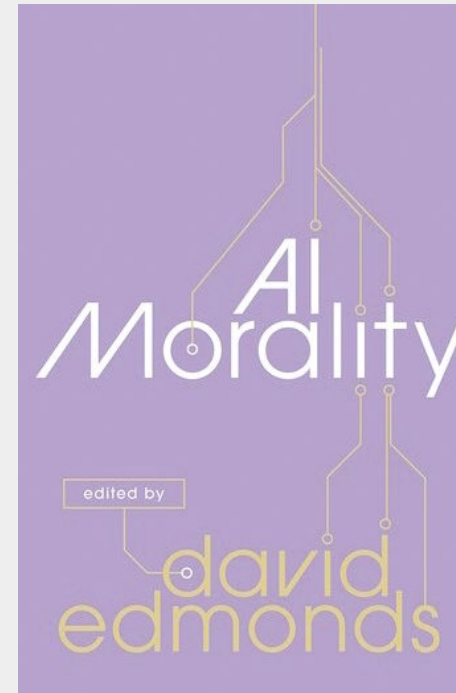
Kahane, G., and Savulescu, J.
Oxford University Press.

Gender Ethics: The New Debates

Earp, B. D. and Jenkins, K.
Cambridge: Polity Press.

Private: The Case for Genital Autonomy

Earp, B. D. University of Chicago Press



Forthcoming books Responsibility and Healthcare

Co-edited with B. Davies, N. Levy, G. de Marco and J. Savulescu
Oxford University Press

This edited collection builds on an international workshop organised as part of Julian Savulescu's Responsibility and Healthcare grant from the Wellcome Trust. The book brings together work by world-renowned experts on responsibility and healthcare, and includes chapters by leading global commentators, as well as Oxford Uehiro Centre researchers

Rebecca Brown, Ben Davies, Gabriel De Marco, Neil Levy, and Julian Savulescu. This will be the first collection to focus on the topic of responsibility in healthcare, and one of the few which brings together such a wealth of philosophical expertise to tackle ethical issues in healthcare policy; including experts in population ethics, moral psychology, and philosophy of action.

AI Morality

Ed. David Edmonds
Oxford University Press

This publicly-accessible book considers the implications of AI for things we all care about: health, work, identity, and politics. Topics covered include the future of work; autonomous weapons; algorithms, adverts, and recommendations.

Rethinking Conscientious Objection in Health Care

Giubilini, A. U. Schuklenk, F. Minerva, J. Savulescu
Oxford University Press

This book explains why arguments for pluralism, tolerance, and diversity that support a right to freedom of conscience in society at large do not support the same right within the healthcare profession, or indeed any profession governed by internal norms of professionalism that someone freely decides to enter.

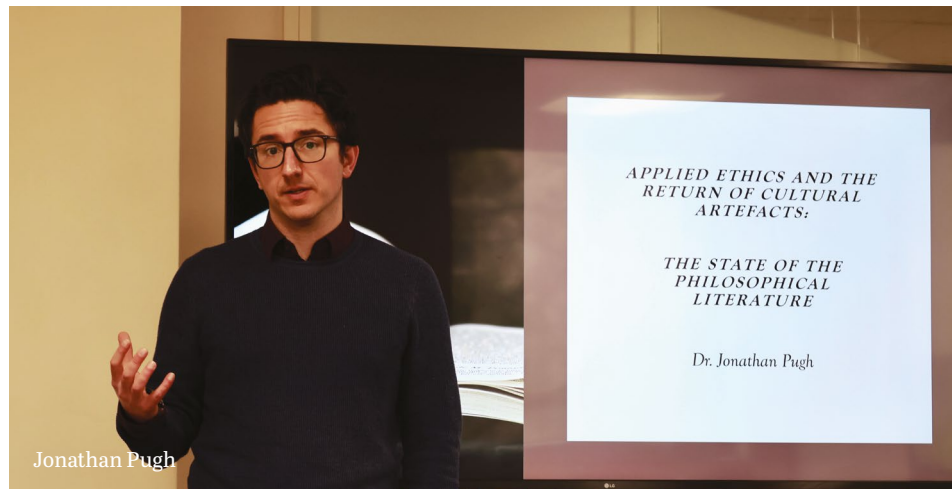
Hosted Research Projects

Internally Funded

Addressing Ethical Challenges in Developing Institutional Policies for the Repatriation of Cultural Artefacts

Jonathan Pugh: OPEN Seed Fund Award (£948)

Jonathan Pugh was awarded a seed grant to co-organise a workshop with the Director of the Institute of Art and Law to investigate the ethics of cultural restitution. The workshop brought academics from the Uehiro Centre into contact with influential policy-makers from the Charities Commission and the



Arts' Council as well as legal experts as a first step towards developing philosophically informed ethical guidance for museum trustees.

Conference: Fairness and freedom in public health policy

Alberto Giubilini: John Fell Fund (£4,022) and Society for Applied Philosophy (£2,950)

Restrictive public health policies limit individual freedoms in the pursuit of collective health goods. According to a widely endorsed principle of "least restrictive alternative", only the lowest level of restrictiveness necessary to achieve a



public health goal is justified. However, the same restrictions affect different people differently, and the same good benefits different people differently. Arguably, what matters is not only how restrictive a policy is, but also whose freedom is restricted and why.

Across times and places, restrictive policies have often pursued collective goods at the cost of unfairly distributing restrictions. While the problem is not new, it has been brought to the fore during the recent pandemic and will likely emerge as a key challenge in future public health policies. The conference, organised by Alberto Giubilini, analysed from a multidisciplinary, Humanities-focused perspective the issue of fairness in the distribution of freedom restrictions in public health policy, bringing together experts from Philosophy, History, Public Policy, Politics, Anthropology, and the Social Sciences.

Uterus Transplants in the Mexican Context

César Palacios-González: OPEN Workshop award (£1,950)

The workshop brought together Oxford academics and Mexican policymakers in order to discuss two issues:

1. What are the ethical aspects of uterus transplants?
2. What is the current legal status of uterus transplants in Mexico?

The workshop was designed to lead to legislative change in Mexico, by showing that it is ethically permissible to allow for uterus transplants, and by identifying the federal laws that need to be changed in order for this to occur. A white paper in support of uterus transplants has been drafted, and is one of the key outcomes of the workshop.





Thomas Mitchell, Thomas Douglas, Gabriel de Marco and Rachel Gaminiratne

The Public's Health: The Methods, Ethics, and History of Public Health in Moving Images

Alberto Giubilini with Prof Erica Charters (PI) and the British Film Institute: John Fell Fund (£54,312.78)

Externally Funded

The Ethics of Motivational Interviewing

Lisa Forsberg: British Academy Small Research Grant (£9,470)

Motivational interviewing (MI) is a person-centred counselling method aimed at strengthening individuals' own motivation and commitment to change. It is used to promote behaviour change, especially among people

ambivalent about such change. MI has a strong evidence base and as such has significant potential to benefit people in contexts within and beyond healthcare. But MI is also ethically contentious: sometimes accused of being manipulative and sometimes used in ethically dubious or impermissible ways. Lisa Forsberg's project will clarify and critically evaluate ethical concerns about MI, and identify factors relevant to its ethical practice.

Gendered Conceptions of Autonomous Consent: A Philosophical, Psychological and Linguistic Investigation Across Cultures

Joanna Demaree-Cotton: British Academy Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects 2024 (£296,980.57)

Joanna Demaree-Cotton's new two-year project bridges philosophy, social psychology and linguistics to investigate how gender stereotypes in different cultures affect the extent to which women are perceived to be autonomous and capable of making their own decisions.

According to the principle of informed consent, autonomous persons have the right to make their own decisions regarding their bodies, lives and medical treatment. If a person is deemed not to be autonomous, others may make paternalistic decisions on that person's behalf based on what is thought to be in that person's best interests. However, research on gender stereotypes suggest that women are stereotyped as less agentic, less rational, and more emotional - traits that are associated with lower degrees of autonomy. Meanwhile, threats

to women's autonomy in medical domains (e.g. high rates of reported unconsented to interventions during childbirth) and sexual domains (e.g. unconsented sexual touching documented by the #metoo, #SeAcabó movements) are widely reported.

Protecting Minds: The Right to Mental Integrity and The Ethics of Arational Influence

Thomas Douglas: European Research Council (ongoing)

Prof Tom Douglas' ERC grant has been extended until 31st December 2025. The project explores the ethical implications of the increase in the ways people's attitudes, attention and behaviours are influenced by governments and private companies. Such methods include so called 'nudges' and 'persuasive technologies', but include biological forms of influence such as the administration of drugs or nutritional supplements. These nudges are used by online platforms and games, in marketing and health promotion, and in criminal justice and medicine. One big question is about whether and when these influences infringe a right to mental integrity. This EU-funded ProtMind project aims to tackle this question using the methods of analytic philosophy, providing guidance on which types of psychological influence have an acceptable ethical basis.

Uehiro Lectures and Uehiro Series in Practical Ethics



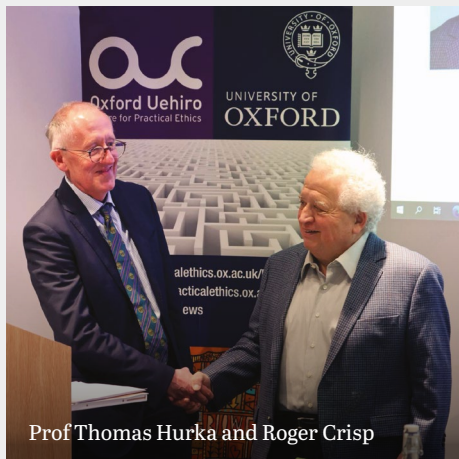
Prof Thomas Hurka

Academic Lead: Julian Savulescu

The annual public Uehiro Lecture Series captures the ethos of the Uehiro Centre, which is to bring the best scholarship in analytic philosophy to bear on the most significant problems of our time, and to make progress in the analysis and resolution of these issues to the highest academic standard, in a manner that is also accessible to the general public. Philosophy should not only create knowledge, it should make people's lives better.

We were honoured to welcome Professor Thomas Hurka (Chancellor Henry N. R. Jackman Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Studies at the University of Toronto) to Oxford to deliver the 2023 Annual Uehiro Lectures in Practical Ethics. All three lectures in the series, "Knowledge and Achievement: Their Value, Nature, and Public Policy Role", were well-attended and followed by insightful discussions.

The lectures took place on Monday 4 March, Wednesday 6 March and Friday 8 March 2024.



Prof Thomas Hurka and Roger Crisp



Prof Elizabeth Harman

Prof Harman focuses on the ethics of procreation, abortion, moral status, what we owe to animals, moral ignorance, moral uncertainty, practical reasoning and the significance of regret, and actions above and beyond what morality requires.

She will speak on 'Love as the Reason We Need Abortion', 'Loving Someone Whose Death Wouldn't Matter' and 'When Does Love Make a Baby?'

Forthcoming Uehiro Lectures

Love and Abortion

Professor Elizabeth Harman
25th April, 2nd and 9th May 2024

The Persistence of Racism in Liberal Societies: Education, Health Care, and Policing

Professor Howard McGary
Dates to be announced

[Click to find out more on](#)

"Knowledge and Achievement" with Thomas Hurka

We were grateful to Jonathan Pugh and Tom Douglas for live tweeting each lecture (which provided a quick, accessible synopsis of the discussion for followers online) and to Joseph Moore for his excellent [blog post](#) providing a more detailed summary.

Love and Abortion

We are looking forward to welcoming Elizabeth Harman, Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Philosophy and Human Values at Princeton University, to give the 2024 Uehiro Lectures in April and May 2024.

Policy and Practice

Academic Lead: Jonathan Pugh

Uehiro Centre academics have continued to respond to the increasing academic inclusion in developing national and global policy. Securing such impact in our academic work requires the careful cultivation of strategic partnerships and working relationships with external partners. This year, we have begun to see the fruits of the work that Uehiro Centre researchers have done to establish such partnerships in previous years. Moreover, our researchers continue to forge new relationships with external partners to ensure that the centre's research will continue to have real world impact in the future.

[Click to watch the video](#)

with Jonathan Pugh



UK Pandemic Accelerator Project

The UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator project reached the end of its grant period in July 2022, but continues to offer a web-based resource library for new and existing materials.

The Ethics of Cultural Restitution

Jonathan Pugh was awarded an Oxford Policy Engagement Network seed grant to co-organise a workshop with the Director of the Institute of Art and Law to investigate the ethics of cultural restitution. The workshop was a first step towards developing philosophically informed ethical guidance for museum trustees. This guidance will help to provide trustees with an ethical decision aid that can be employed to help them navigate complex ethical questions about whether to return certain items within their collections. At the time of writing, Jonathan is working closely with developers to expand

this work into an online resource that museum trustees can use to inform their judgments about whether they may have a moral obligation to return certain cultural items.

Fairness and Freedom in Public Health Policy

In October 2023 Dr Alberto Giubilini convened a public conference, in collaboration with TORCH and the Medical Humanities team at Oxford, to analyse from a multidisciplinary, Humanities-focused perspective the issue of fairness in the distribution of freedom restrictions in public health policy, bringing together experts from Philosophy, History, Public Policy, Politics, Anthropology, and the Social Sciences.

Restrictive policies have often pursued collective goods at the cost of unfairly distributing restrictions. While the problem is not new, it has been brought to the fore during the recent pandemic and will likely emerge as a key challenge in future public health policies. This conference sought to explore ways to consider how restrictive a policy is, and also whose freedom is restricted and why.

Reproductive Ethics in the Mexican Context

In May 2023 Dr César Palacios-González held a joint event with the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, funded by the University's OPEN network, to explore the ethics of, and development of, new legislation around uterus transplants in Mexico. This event came out of the programme developed last year aimed at establishing new relationships with Mexican physicians and researchers working on the development and implementation of assisted reproductive biotechnologies, and developing existing relationships with Mexican academics who work on the ethical and legal issues surrounding assisted reproductive biotechnologies.

With the President of the Health Commission of Mexico's Federal Chamber of Deputies César is co-developing a piece of legislation that would, if approved, change the legality of uterus transplants at the federal level in Mexico.



Hannah Maslen with Thames Valley Police

Policing Ethics

This year, the Programme on Policing Ethics – led by Hannah Maslen – has engaged in extensive collaboration with Thames Valley Police, UK, to examine ethical resource allocation in policing. This collaboration has led to a research paper, forthcoming in *Criminal Justice Ethics*, entitled “Ethical resource allocation in policing: Why policing requires a different approach to healthcare”, and has influenced the spending review across the entire Thames Valley Police force. Hannah and colleagues are now building on this to develop a framework that could be adopted nationally. This work is pioneering in being the first thorough examination of ethical resource allocation within policing to-date. Whilst questions of distributive justice and ethical allocation of resources have received considerable academic and practitioner attention in the public health sector, the work produced by the Programme on Policing Ethics is the first to propose and apply ethical principles for resource allocation in policing.

Reproducibility and Research Integrity

Scholars from the Oxford Uehiro Centre contributed to a UK government report on Reproducibility and Research Integrity. ‘As summarised in written evidence from a group of University of Oxford academics led by Dr Aksel Sterri, “many important decisions in politics, business, medicine, and people’s private lives are based on scientific studies”. The potential costs of these decisions being based on inaccurate, overemphasised, or fraudulent evidence are significant. People and animals could suffer from avoidable morbidity or mortality, and harmful mistruths and even conspiracies about solutions to pressing issues could be spread.’

House of Commons Committee report
Sixth Report of Session 2022–23
Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
10 May 2023



DPhil student Esther Braun

WHO European policy scholarship

DPhil student Esther Braun has been accepted onto the Europaeum Scholars Programme, a two-year policy and leadership course for the most talented doctoral candidates from within the Europaeum network. The programme provides funding and resources for developing an EU policy proposal together with an interdisciplinary group of scholars from a network of European universities. It includes 8 intensive weeks in different European cities to work on the policy project and work with European institutions.

Minding Rights

As part of the Minding Rights organisation Prof Tom Douglas and colleagues collaborated in a submission to Australian Parliamentary Joint Commission on Human Rights: Bublitz J.C.,....., Douglas T, et al., ‘Minding Rights Submission to Australian Parliamentary Joint Commission on Human Rights’, 30 June 2023.

Teaching



MSt team: Guy Kahane, Jonathan Pugh, César Palacios-González, Begum Zorlu

MSt in Practical Ethics

Academic Lead: Guy Kahane

Without a doubt the MSt has been a success by any metric. For the first academic cycles (2018-2020 and 2019-2021) our recruitment numbers were capped at 15 students. However, the interest in the programme was so high that we successfully petitioned the University to allow us to double our

yearly intake. From the cycle 2020-2022 onwards we have been able to offer 30 places each time, and we have received more than 120 applications per admissions cycle. The two most recent modules, AI Ethics and Data Ethics, have been well-received. So far, AI Ethics has run twice, and Data Ethics once, and as with previous modules we have been able to secure the participation of world class experts as speakers. A number of our MSt students have been accepted at doctoral programmes here at Oxford and at other highly-

regarded universities, including in the US. Furthermore, the quality of work produced by our students is of such quality that many have already published their work in ethics in peer-reviewed journals. All this speaks to the academic strength of our programme, and the hard work of our administrators, academic supervisors and speakers. Within the next five years we hope to again double our student intake numbers, to around 60, and to be able to add one or two more academic members of staff.

MSt Student Publications

Celie K-B, Auslander A, Kushner S., (2023) Communicating conviction: A pilot study of patient perspectives on guidance during medical decision-making in the United States. *Clinical Ethics*. doi:10.1177/14777509231210770

Cordeiro, J.J., (2023), On the Permissibility of Elective Ectogestation, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 23:5, 116-118, DOI: 10.1080/15265161.2023.2191048

Jennings, K. & Braun, E., (2023) Beyond Suppressing Testosterone: A Categorical System to Achieve a “Level Playing Field” in Sport, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, DOI: 10.1080/15265161.2023.2232750

127
applications
for 30 places

37
offers made

Data Ethics

The inaugural Data Ethics module ran in March 2023. The module was very popular (35 students) and we had an excellent line-up of both internal and external speakers. Internally, we had speakers from the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, the Oxford Institute for Ethics in AI, and the Ethox Centre. The external speakers included Dr Christopher Burr of The Alan Turing Institute (Putting Data Ethics into Practice), Dr Silvia Milano of the University of Exeter (Epistemic Injustice and Algorithmic Profiling), Prof Sylvie Delacroix of the University of Birmingham (Data Infrastructure and Empowerment), Prof Leslie Francis of the University of Utah (Privacy), Prof Mark Alfano of Macquarie University (Natural Language Processing and ChatGPT), Prof Mark Coeckelbergh of the University of Vienna (Data and Democracy) and Dr Beverley Townsend of the University of York (The ethics of data use and data sharing in AI-based applications).

*“I really enjoyed it!
It built nicely on the
AI ethics module”*

*“Very interesting course
– the information was eye
opening and useful”*

*“Overall very stimulating and
glad we have it”*

Quotes from students

BMedSc Elective

Academic Lead: Dominic Wilkinson

Our program offering Australian medical students an opportunity to take part in a research study in medical ethics continues in 2024. This year we have 5 students from Monash university in Melbourne who have joined us. They are in the initial stages of developing their research projects.

Last year's students completed projects on wide ranging topics. One of our students, Jemima Allen, had a paper published in the Journal of Medical Ethics on the use of large language models like Chat GPT for informed consent in medicine. That project explored the potential, but also the important ethical considerations in using generative artificial intelligence for communicating with patients prior to surgery. She has subsequently enrolled in a PhD to continue that research in conjunction with her supervisors in Oxford and Australia.

Four of our previous students also had papers from their BMedSci published in top journals in bioethics last year. That included Max Drezga Kleiminger, who was awarded a prize for the best oral presentation at the International Conference on AI in Medicine in Singapore in August, and whose paper was published in the journal BMC Medical Ethics. His paper examined public views to the use of artificial intelligence in organ allocation.



23-24 BMedSc students



BMedSc student Jemima Allen

[Click to
watch
the video](#)
with Jemima
Allen



Gary O'Brien

"I was a DPhil student at the Uehiro Centre from October 2019 to August 2023 where I was supervised by Guy Kahane and Jeff McMahan. I worked on issues relating to animal ethics, especially the problem of wild animal suffering and how it relates to issues in population ethics and the long-term future. I am now a postdoctoral researcher at Lingnan University, and a fellow of the Hong Kong Catastrophic Risk Centre, where I work on issues relating to population ethics, longtermism, and the ethics of new technology.

Working at the Uehiro Centre was undoubtedly one of the most fruitful, and enjoyable, times of my life. My supervisors were generous with their time, and the quality of my work vastly improved from their feedback and advice. It was not only my supervisors who helped my development, however. There is a very open, friendly, and co-operative atmosphere at the Centre. All the researchers were willing to discuss my work with me. The excellent admin staff made working there very easy and pleasant. I also benefited enormously from informal chats with other DPhils, as well as the many visitors to the centre. Fridays in the Royal Blenheim were also very illuminating."



DPhil students

Completed DPhil Students

Three DPhil students completed their studies in the 2023-24 academic year: Drs Abhishek Mishra, Jonas Sandbrink, and Gary O'Brien.

Undergraduate and graduate teaching

In addition to staffing the MSt in Practical Ethics, the Centre continued to provide teaching in practical ethics across the

Best Book winner

DPhil student Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert of the Prix de l'Animalisme Francophone 2023 for *Que veulent les véganes? La cause animale, de Platon au mouvement antispéciste*

University. Rebecca Brown continued to lead the core graduate programming, supported by other members of the Oxford Uehiro Centre, through the Applied Ethics Graduate Discussion Group which is open to all faculties across the University. Centre members continued to contribute to the undergraduate curriculum in Practical Ethics.

10th Annual Oxford Uehiro Essay Prize in Practical Ethics

For this, the 10th year of the Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics, and the third year as a national competition, we received a total of 44 entries from 13 UK Universities, which were assessed by a team of OUC researchers to decide on the four finalists to present at the hybrid online and in person

presentation which took place at the Faculty of Philosophy. It was an impressive field, with three undergraduate and two graduate essays receiving an honourable mention.

Prof Roger Crisp chaired the event, along with fellow judges Prof Walter Sinnott-Armstrong and Cristina Voinea. The finalists presented their papers to an audience of academics, fellow students, friends and family, before the results were announced during the celebratory drinks reception.



[Click to find out more on the Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics](#)

2024 Essay Prize winners and judges

Essay Prize Winners

Undergraduate Category

Winner: Wyatt Radzin

How to Say Things With Acts: Consumption as Language.

Runner Up: Ayesha Chakravarti

Feminist in the streets, sadomasochist in the sheets: Are you morally aligning yourself with women's subordination if you engage in consensually inegalitarian sexual relationships?

Honourable Mentions: David Logan

When Eating Meat is OK: A Defence of Benign Carnivorism

Gabriel McWilliams

To What Extent Has Aristotle's Conception of a Virtuous Character Remained Relevant in the Face of Situationist Criticism?

Graduate Category

Winner: Jakob Lohmar

The Moral Importance of Low Welfare Species

Runner Up: Theodore Naylor

Do Living-Wills Have Autonomous Authority When Applied to Patients in Advanced Stages of Dementia?

Honourable Mentions: Alexander (Sasha) Arridge

In Defence of Defensive Prejudice: Why We Should Believe That Men Are Trash

Esther Braun

Should We Prohibit Mitochondrial Replacement Techniques for Treating Infertility?

Beatrice Marchegiani

Undisclosed Conversational AIs: A Threat to Users' Autonomy



Mr Rei Takahashi

“I joined the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics in October 2023, from the University of Tokyo, where I am a master’s student in the philosophy of law.

I currently work on the idea of group well-being. I am particularly interested in how the potential for group well-being might apply to political states. Simply put, my view is that group well-being provides the states with consequentialist reasons to promote it. First, I defend consequentialism as a prudential theory. Combining this line of thought with the view that states are group agents with their own well-being, I ultimately argue that states have prudential consequentialist reasons to promote their own well-being.

During my time at the Uehiro Centre I have received excellent mentorship from my supervisors, Prof. Roger Crisp and Dr. Lisa Forsberg. I have had the chance to present my work at the Internal Work-in-Progress Seminar here and found the conversations with other faculty members extremely valuable and inspiring. I would also emphasize that the DPhil students here are friendly and nice. They create a warm atmosphere that welcomes everyone to the Centre. It is needless to add that Oxford is the best place for pursuing philosophy and ethics. I would come back here again.”

Oxford Uehiro-St Cross Scholars

Academic Lead: Tom Douglas and Jonathan Pugh

This year, the Uehiro Centre welcomed two Uehiro/St Cross scholars, Rei Takahashi and Shinichi Inada. Both scholars highly impressed the selection panel at interviews prior to the award of their scholarships, as they outlined their proposed research plans and answered questions from senior members of the Centre. Since their arrival, both scholars have been heavily involved in the research life of the Centre; indeed, in Hilary term Rei delivered an extremely well-received work-in-progress talk to other members of the Uehiro Centre on his work concerning the nature of group well-being. Members of the Centre are looking forward to enjoying further enriching discussions with both scholars and seeing how their work develops further in the remainder of their time at the Centre under the guidance of their supervisors Lisa Forsberg and Joanna Demaree-Cotton.

Public Engagement Highlights



Katrien Devolder

Academic Lead: Dr Katrien Devolder

Practical Ethics and Responsibility video competition

Academic Lead: Dr Joanna Demaree-Cotton

The Practical Ethics and Responsibility Competition has continued to flourish, with many schools taking part for the third or fourth time this year.

These are the types of questions the competition encourages young people to ask. School students in Year 11, 12 or 13 (or

[Click to find out more on the Practical Ethics and Responsibility Competition](#)

the international equivalent) participate in small teams by making a video to tell us about any ethical problem and how they think responsibility is involved.

"How am I responsible for the environment? Should there be limits on how we can punish people who do wrong? If very ill patients want to die, should doctors be held responsible if they help them? Who is responsible for the global spread of infectious diseases?"

"Good all the way through"

Melanie Clarke, Head of Religion, Ethics

"I have now realised there are many ethical dilemmas in whatever field you decide to go into particularly for medicine as I hadn't realised the vast number of ethical questions that can be looked into"



The 2024 final competition results were as follows:

1st place

*for The Laurels
School*

2nd place

*to the team from
Royal Latin School*

3rd place

*to Westminster
School*



PERC 24 students, teachers and staff

“the deeper we delved into the theory, interestingly, the more it separated from our face-value natural inclinations to assess reality. Responsibility is not just about the tangible effects of hurting someone or helping someone like we often chalk it down to, but is tied to many but just as meaningful floating concept like duty etc.”

“it inspired us to research more into the very basic principles of ethics to come up with a reasonable argument”

32
Teams entered the competition

7
highly commended entries

4
countries participated in the competition

100%
of feedback providers were encouraged to continue studying Philosophy

100%
of responding teachers strongly agreed to encourage students to participate in the competition next year

100%
of responding teachers agreed that 'Participating has helped students to see how ethics can be practical, not just theory and helped them work as a team'

100%
of responding teachers agreed that 'Participating has helped students work as a team'



Bitesize Ethics Summer programme

Following the success of the 8-week programme in 2022, we expanded the course to provide a 10-week programme in 2023, and we're looking forward to running it again in 2024. Bitesize Ethics provides a short, online introduction to practical ethics, looking at some of the issues that concern philosophers and the public alike today, and offering an insight in to the current research of academics at the Oxford Uehiro Centre.

The 2023 topics included ethics in public health policy, extinction, digital persuasion, emerging technologies, consciousness, direct climate action, procreation and neurocorrection, finishing with a wrap-up discussion asking what is next for practical ethics.

Registration is free and no prior experience or study is necessary. Each 45-minute class takes place online via Zoom on Wednesday lunchtimes, and participation in the informal Q&As and discussion sessions following each week's presentations is warmly encouraged.

[Click to find out more on the Bitesize Ethics Summer programme](#)

I wouldn't have encountered, or even heard about, several of the current issues, if not for this course. The course gave me new reasons to continue what I've been doing."

80+
registrations from the UK, Europe, Africa, Asia and North America

50%
of participants were from outside the UK

"Well managed, intelligible, friendly, lively lecturers, good Q and As..."

"I think it's incredible it is offered for free, accessible because it's online and in a lunch hour. and probably most importantly interesting topics delivered articulately with the audience in mind."

Philosophy in Prisons

Led by Joanna Demaree-Cotton, work has begun on a new initiative to provide philosophy classes in local prisons. We have partnered with registered charity 'Philosophy in Prisons' and our first cohort of academics will begin their training shortly.

Empathising with the monster?

Funded through the ANTITHESIS grant, this project led by Lisa Forsberg and sculptor Donna Han will generate an entirely new body of work consisting of drawings, writing and small sculptures

that explore the ethics of using medical and psychotherapeutic interventions in order to rehabilitate criminal offenders. More specifically, the project will look at 'chemical castration' and psychotherapy programmes to treat sex offenders, and interventions to treat violent offenders.

AI podcasting and music

Led by Hazem Zohny and local hip hop musician Rawz this project, funded by the Arts, Health and Collective Ethics public engagement grant, explores the innovative intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the arts to transform how academic knowledge is disseminated and consumed. At its core, it investigates the ethical, practical, and technical implications of AI in healthcare, addressing crucial questions about patient privacy, the role of AI in augmenting or replacing healthcare professionals, and the potential impact on healthcare accessibility across socio-economic groups. The project's unique approach involves creating 'synthetic podcasts' that integrate AI-generated dialogues from academic content with music, particularly hip hop, to provide a multi-sensory learning experience. This blend of informative and narrative aspects with emotive and creative musical expressions aims to make academic discourse more engaging, accessible, and relatable.

Journal of Practical Ethics

Editor in Chief: Tom Douglas

Associate Editors: Katrien Devolder, Rebecca Brown, Jonathan Pugh, Guy Kahane, Maximilian Kiener

This year the Journal of Practical Ethics has issued its eleventh volume, including papers from Prof F. M. Kamm, and Prof Michael Otsuka (based on his 2020 Uehiro Lecture series).

Journal of Practical Ethics, September 2023 (Volume 11, Issue 1)

Participatory Moral Reasons: Their Scope and Strength Prioritising Parents **Garrett Cullity**

Abortion Bans and Cruelty **F. M. Kamm**

Participation, Collective Impact, and Your Instrumental Significance **Julia Nefsky**

Fair Terms of Social Cooperation among Equals **Michael Otsuka**

Forthcoming 2024 (Volume 11, Issue 2)

Why Me? **Sarah Buss**

Why We Should Negatively Discount the Well-Being of Future Generations **Matthew Price (winner of the 2023 Uehiro Essay Prize)**

Lying to our children **Joseph Millum**

Longevity **Douglas MacLean**

The Ethics of Social Media: Why Content Moderation is a Moral Duty **Jeffrey Howard**

60
new Youtube
videos posted
this year

5.5K
Youtube
Subscribers

51K
total views of
video content
last year

Most watched video last year

Jemima Allen on Consent GPT. Posted
November 2023. 531 views

...of all time

Peter Singer on Vegetarianism. Posted
June 2017. 14,050 views

13.1K
X followers

1.9K
Facebook followers

Most liked Instagram post

Oxford Uehiro Prize winners
announcement which reached 267
accounts and had 37 engagements

53 New Blog Posts on topics including

AI

It is not about AI, It's about humans

Climate Change

Climate change, planetary health and the
deep significance of Anthropocene

Governmental Restrictions

Banning cigarettes, paternalism, liberty and harm

Medical Ethics

Expertise and autonomy in medical decision making

Citizen responsibility

Is there a duty to vote?

Selected Media Outlets this Year



Our work has been translated into the following languages to date:

(Uehiro- funded Staff)



Chinese



German



Italian



Japanese



Korean



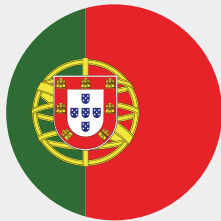
Dutch



Greek



Polish



Portugese



Romanian



Russian



Serbian



Spanish

Presentations

Uehiro Centre members gave 182 presentations last year.

UK

1. Cambridge (2), Cardiff (1), Edinburgh (1), Exeter (1), Glasgow (2), Hawarden (2), Leeds (1), London (5), Nottingham (1), Oxford (35), Reading (1), St. Andrews (1), Sussex (1), UK (1)

Europe

2. Denmark: Copenhagen (1)
 3. Netherlands: Amsterdam (3), Rotterdam (1), Utrecht (1)
 4. Switzerland: Zürich (2)
 5. Norway: Oslo (1), Trondheim(1)
 6. Germany: Cologne (1), Konstanz (1)
 7. Portugal: Porto (1), Braga (1)
 8. Belgium: Leuven (1), Charleroi (1)
 9. Italy (1): Rome (6), Pisa (1), Vercelli (1)
 10. Spain: Barcelona (1), Madrid (1)
 11. Sweden: Stockholm (1)
 12. Online only: (24)
 13. Croatia: Zagreb (2)
 14. France: Paris (1)
 15. Latvia: Riga (1)
 16. Turkey: Antalya (3)
 17. Finland: Helsinki (1)
 18. Poland: Krakow (3)
 19. Ukraine (10)
 20. Austria: Vienna (2)

USA & Canada

21. Canada: Toronto (1)
 22. USA: Boulder (1), Houston (1), New York (1), Durham (1)
 23. Mexico: Mexico City (3)

Australia & New Zealand

24. Australia: Melbourne (1)

Asia

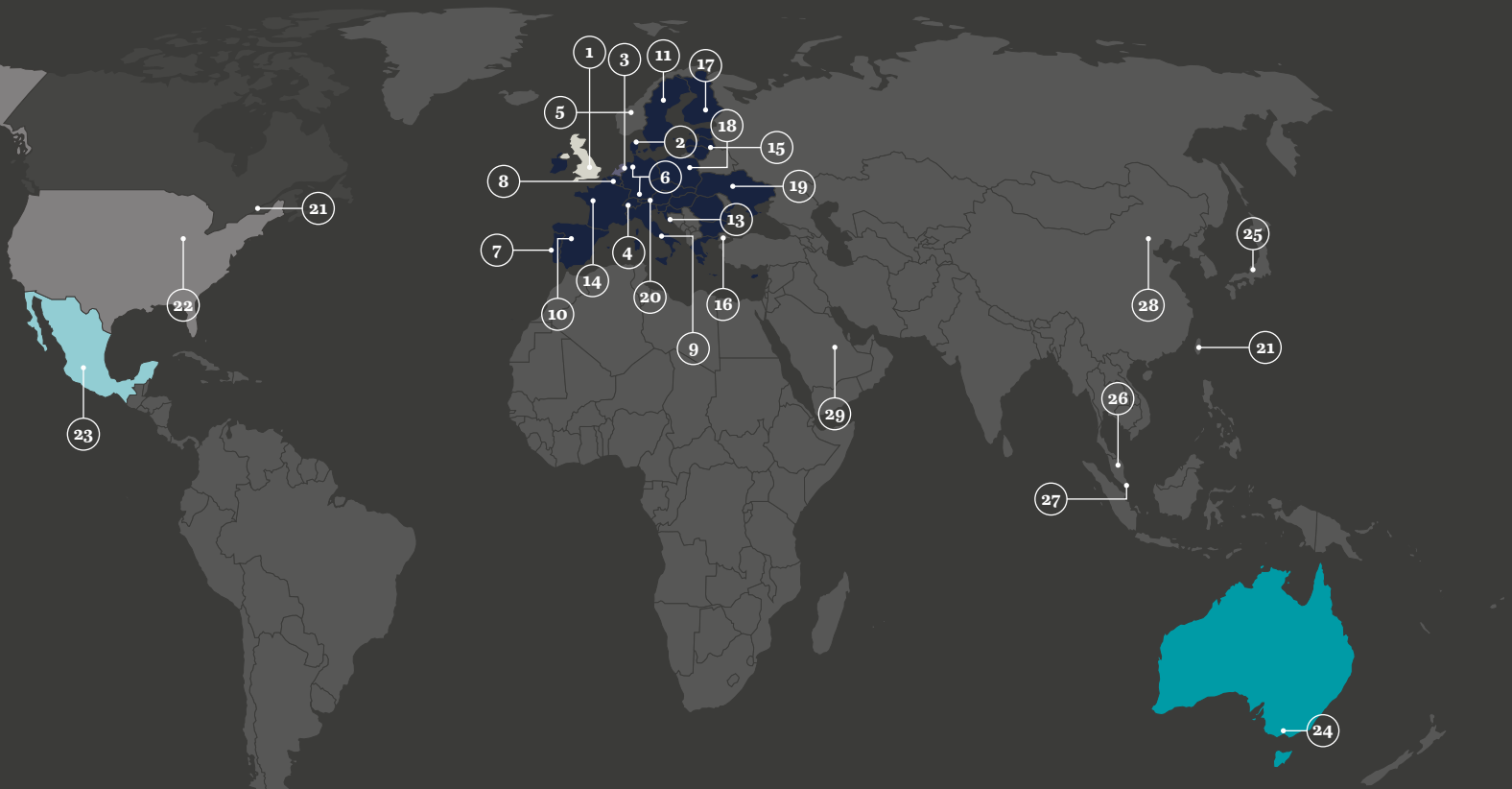
25. Japan (1): Hokkaido (1), Tokyo (5), Kyoto (1)
 26. Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur (1), Selangor (3)
 27. Singapore (25)
 28. China: Beijing (2)

Middle East

29. Saudi Arabia: Riyadh (1)

Policy

● UK	● US
● Mexico	● Canada
● Netherlands	
● Australia	
● EU	



*Some conferences this year took place online only. These are listed by the location of the lead organising body. Where there was a physical location, the city is listed above.

Service and Committees

In addition to ongoing commitments, Uehiro Centre members undertook the following service this year:

University

External Marker for MPhil Dissertations, **Royal Holloway, University of London**, César Palacios-González

Student Representative on the MSc in **Psychological Research Organizing Committee**, Mey Bahar Buyukbabani

Elected Researcher Representative, **Joint Committee on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, University of Oxford**, Lisa Forsberg

Pembroke Fellowship Committee, Guy Kahane

Member of the **Steering Committee of Oxford TORCH Medical Humanities Hub, TORCH, University of Oxford**, Alberto Giubilini

Learned Societies and Journals

Member of **RaR Learning and Development Committee (British Academy/CRAC-Vitae)**, UK, Viktor Savchenko

Editor, **L'Amorce, la revue contre le spécisme**, Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert

Journal co-coordinator and co-prose lead, **Oxford Public Philosophy**, Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert

Elected Committee Member, **International Society for Utilitarian Studies**, Lisa Forsberg

Re-elected as member of the **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, British Academy Early Career Researcher Network**, Lisa Forsberg

Associate editor of **The Monash Bioethics Review**, Rebecca Brown

Editorial board member of **Public Health Ethics**, Rebecca Brown

Membership Selection Committee, **UK Young Academy, Royal Society**, Brian Earp

Associate Editor of **The Monash Bioethics Review, Springer**, Alberto Giubilini

Subject Editor (Applied Ethics), **Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy** Katrien Devolder

Special interest Groups and Working groups

Member of the working group on developing the National Strategy of Education and Science, **Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine**, Viktor Savchenko

International Research

Duke-NUS AI for **Medical Science Initiative (DAISI) Advisory Committee 2023**, Julian Savulescu

Bioethics Advisory Committee (BAC), Singapore, Julian Savulescu

BAC's Human Nuclear Genome Editing (HNGE) Review Group Member,

Singapore, Julian Savulescu

BAC's Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (BDAI) Review Group Member, Singapore, Julian Savulescu

National Medical Ethics Committee (NMEC), Singapore, Julian Savulescu

Healthcare Ethics Capability Committee (HECC), Singapore, Julian Savulescu

Trusted Research/Real World-Data Utilisation and Sharing Tech (TRUST) Data Access Committee (DAC) Committee Member, Singapore, Julian Savulescu

Healthcare

Member of **WHO Guideline Development Group** - Recommendations on use of near-patient G6PD tests to support radical cure of *P. vivax* malaria, Thomas Douglas

Member of the working group on **developing the draft law on medical tourism**, Parliament of Ukraine (Viktor Savchenko)

Team

Director

Professor Roger Crisp

Deputy Director and Director of Medical Ethics

Professor Dominic Wilkinson (0.60 FTE)

Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics

Professor Julian Savulescu

Director of Public Engagement and Researcher Development

Dr Katrien Devolder

Director of Studies

Professor Guy Kahane (0.66 FTE)

Director of Research and Development

Professor Thomas Douglas (0.40 FTE, partly externally funded)

Advisory Support and Consultants

Emeritus Professor Tony Hope
Emeritus Professor Janet Radcliffe Richards
Professor Ingmar Persson
Dr David Edmonds

Funded Research Fellows

Ms Mey Bahar Buyukbabani
Dr Rebecca Brown (0.5 FTE externally funded)
Dr Joanna Demaree-Cotton
Dr Brian D. Earp (0.8 FTE, 0.2 externally funded)

Dr Alberto Giubilini (0.5 FTE externally funded)

Dr Hannah Maslen (0.25 FTE)
Dr Jonathan Pugh (funded through MSt)
Dr César Palacios-González (funded through MSt)

Externally-Funded Research Fellows

Dr Edmond Awad (0.80 FTE, on secondment from the University of Exeter)
Dr Lisa Forsberg
Dr Gabriel De Marco
Dr Maximilian Kiener
Dr David Lyreskog (0.50 FTE) (until 30/06/2023)
Dr Joseph Moore
Dr Thomas Mitchell
Professor Neil Levy (0.50 FTE)
Dr Cristina Voinea (Marie Curie Research Fellow)
Dr Hazem Zohny (0.50 FTE)

Hosted Research Fellows

Dr Binesh Hass
Dr Mette Hoeg (until 29/01/2024)
Dr Muriel Leuenberger (until 31/07/2023)
Dr Sarah Raskoff
Dr Viktor Savchenko
Dr Aksel Sterri

Public Engagement

Liz Sanders

Administration

Rachel Gaminiratne (0.8 FTE)
Deborah Sheehan (0.8 FTE)
Rocci Wilkinson (0.59 FTE)
Axelle Duquesnoy

DPhil Students

Ayushi Agarwal
Dr Sophie Bertaud
Esther Braun
Mattia Cecchinato
John André Nebb Ek
Anna Golova
Dr Daniel D'Hotman de Villiers
Bryce Goodman
Paul Heller
Katerina Jennings
Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert
Gurjhinder Malhi
Abhishek Mishra (now completed) Gary O'Brien (now completed)
Jonas Sandbrink (now completed)
Callum Smith
Dr Bridget Williams
Lewis Williams

