Uehiro Oxford Institute

Annual *report*

2025-26

Inside cover photo by *David Fisher*
Cover images by *Bounce*
Design and publishing by *MeThree*

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Introduction *from the director*

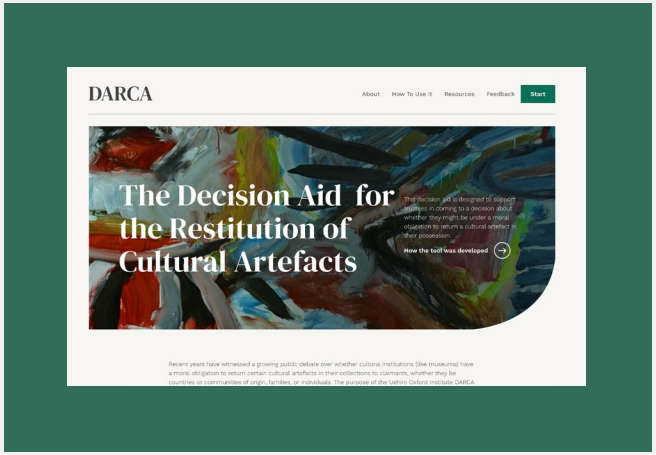
UOI DIRECTOR
ROGER CRISP

The Uehiro Oxford Institute celebrated its first birthday on 1 October 2025. The anniversary prompted us to reflect on what may await the Institute, in the near and far future, while events over this year have demonstrated ever more clearly the importance of rational ethical thinking and the appropriateness of our guiding principle: Thought into Action.

The generosity of the Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education has made possible everything we do, and enabled us to begin to expand in several areas, including, for example, moral psychology and the ethics of predictive technologies. This expansion might have led to problems with space at Littlegate House, where we have occupied much of two floors for many years. Fortunately (though of course we miss them), most of the staff in History of Art, our neighbours on the second floor, have now moved into the new Humanities building in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, which has provided us with a little more space, including a lecture room useful for on-site presentations. In the meantime, we are actively considering ways to move closer to the ROQ ourselves.

The mission of the Institute is essentially tripartite: first, to work across disciplines, often through collaboration; second, wherever possible, and in new ways, to build genuine public engagement and impact into our work; and finally, to ground all our work — practical as well as theoretical, and across all disciplines — in rigorous philosophical reflection and argument.

One excellent example of how we are fulfilling that mission is the recently launched Decision Aid for the Restitution of Cultural Artefacts **(DARCA)**. This free, online tool enables trustees of museums who are considering returning a cultural object to engage in an algorithmically assisted discussion of the main ethical issues at stake in their own case, and has already been welcomed by museums in the UK and elsewhere. The project was initiated and led by Jonathan Pugh at UOI, greatly assisted by Liz Sanders, a member of our outstanding team of professional services staff, and the Creative Digital Agency MeThree, alongside much input from the Institute of Art and Law and the Pitt Rivers Museum, management consultants, lawyers, and Oxford philosophers from UOI and elsewhere.



A highlight of any year at UOI is the presentation of our annual Uehiro Lectures in Practical Ethics. Towards the end of 2025, Prof Kimberley Brownlee, holder of the Canada Research Chair in Ethics and Political & Social Philosophy at the University of British Columbia, presented three lectures on 'Reproductive Rights'. Discussion of the ethics of reproduction has, unsurprisingly, focused especially on women. In her first lecture, Kimberley explained how the inability of men to gestate may be seen as an unfairness which requires some kind of compensation. The second lecture did focus on women, suggesting that they in turn deserve special consideration for taking on the risky task of gestation, while the third defended the right of all women under 18 to be protected from gestational labour. The lectures were remarkable for their originality and clarity, and the book based on them to be published by Oxford University Press is eagerly awaited.

I have outlined just two examples of the many important projects and activities of our talented and hard-working staff, and must also mention the sterling work of Guy Kahane in making our MSt in Practical Ethics one of the University's most successful programmes (Guy has now stood down as Director of Education and is succeeded by César Palacios-González).

None of this work would have been possible without the support of the Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education, and all of us are deeply grateful for the Foundation's continuing interest and friendship.

ROGER CRISP
APRIL 2026

Introduction *from the deputy director*

UOI DEPUTY DIRECTOR DOMINIC WILKINSON

It has been a very positive year for the Uehiro Oxford Institute. The Institute continues to flourish thanks to the generous support of the Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education. Their vision has enabled us to build on the achievements of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, and to expand our work in research, teaching, and public engagement.

We have been particularly pleased to continue strengthening the warm intellectual relationship between England and Japan that lies at the heart of the Foundation's support. Over the past year we welcomed a number of visitors and several new Uehiro Scholars to Oxford.

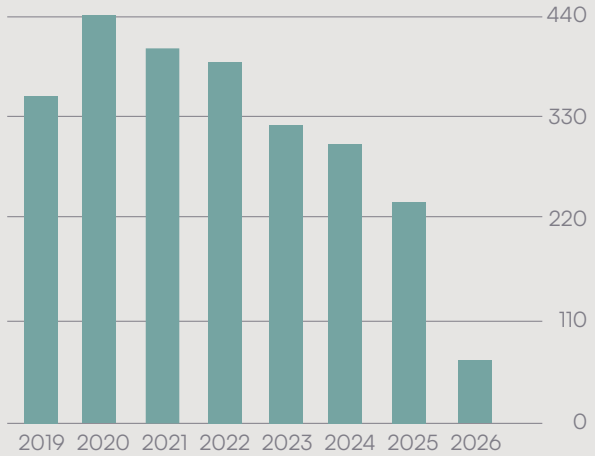
I was also personally delighted and honoured to have the opportunity to teach as part of the Young Scholars teaching programme in Tokyo in September, which continues to foster lively discussion of practical ethics among outstanding early-career researchers from Japan.

The Institute's academic community has also evolved over the year. We have been very pleased to welcome several new colleagues whose expertise strengthens our interdisciplinary work. At the same time, we have said farewell to valued members of the team. In particular, I would like to record our deep gratitude to Debbie Sheehan, whose dedication and professionalism contributed enormously to the Centre—and subsequently the Institute—over more than fifteen years.

Dominic Wilkinson was ranked ***#1 for Medical Ethics*** and ***#9 globally for Ethics*** by Scholar GPS over the last 5 years

Alongside our research programmes in areas such as AI and digital ethics, bioethics and neuroethics, we have continued to engage with policymakers, practitioners and the wider public through lectures, workshops, competitions and collaborative initiatives. These activities reflect the Institute's central aim: to ensure that philosophical thinking contributes meaningfully to real-world ethical decision-making.

	All	Since 2021
Citations	5538	1689
h-index	39	22
i10-index	77	42



Left. ***Dominic Wilkinson*** speaks at the University of Queensland Phil Walker Memorial Ethics Lecture in September 2025.

Below. ***Dominic Wilkinson has taken part in a number of podcasts*** this year, including Scott Newman's feature on **Pandemic Ethics** and **Female Circumcision: Ethics, Language, and Harmful Ways of Opposing**, featuring Zainab Nur (Hidden Voices) and Brian Earp (National University of Singapore).

Selected Staff *Highlights*

The Parfit Memorial Lecture

The Parfit Memorial Lecture is held biannually in memory of Professor Derek Parfit. The aim is to encourage research among academic philosophers on topics related to global priorities research - using evidence and reason to figure out the most effective ways to improve the world. The 2025 Lecturer was Professor Jacob M. Nebel (Princeton University) who spoke on 'The Procreation Asymmetry: Some Puzzles' in June 2025. The lecture is available on YouTube, and has been viewed over 700 times.

Click to watch the video

Vice-Chancellor's Award for the Medical Humanities Research Hub

Shortlisted last year, the Medical Humanities Research Hub (which at the time included Alberto Giubilini and Institute visitor Dr Tolulope Osayomi) won the 2025 Vice-Chancellor's Research Culture Award. The Hub promotes public awareness of the contribution the Humanities make to a proper understanding of health, disease, and medicine. Alberto Giubilini now leads the Hub, with a three-year role.

Alberto Giubilini holds the team award presented at the Vice-Chancellor's Awards Showcase on 13 May

Oxford-Amsterdam Winter School

The annual Oxford-Amsterdam Winter School in Bioethics took place in January this year and involved academics from Oxford with students from VU Amsterdam and the University of Augsburg. Visiting students choose a paper from a participating Oxford academic and present it, as though at a conference, while offering critical discussion. The Oxford academic then responds and leads a discussion with all of the students. This year, three UOI academics participated: Alberto Giubilini, Dominic Wilkinson, and Gabriel De Marco.

Oxford - Bucharest Workshop

The annual workshop took place in Littlegate House in Oxford this year, and the packed schedule featured talks from members of the UOI including Lisa Forsberg on 'Difficulty, Achievement, and Perfectionist Value' and Cristina Voinea on 'Doing AI Differently'.

The event also included 'Philosophy with Friends', the discussion of a book chapter by Emi Socaciu on friendship and loyalty, shared in his memory.

UOI Visitor Programme

UOI hosted 46 visitors this year, including BMedSci students from Monash University, student visitors, visiting scholars, AfOx fellows, and scholars of the Oxford Uehiro-St Cross Visiting Programme. Additionally, we were delighted to welcome back five research associates for short visits, as well as our first professional services visitor, Anna Lena Strauß, who joined us from the University of Bonn to co-develop the *Women in Ethics* Instagram series.

100% of the visitors who filled our feedback form during this period 'strongly agreed' that they enjoyed their visit.

"I felt very welcomed and integrated. Participating in daily lunches, research meetings and Friday pub visits has been very rewarding."

Research Culture Working Group

Led by Tom Douglas and Gabriel De Marco (Junior Rep) and supported by Divisional colleagues, the Research Culture Working Group focuses on research culture development at the Institute. This is a key initiative to support the ongoing transition, and is active in promoting career development for Early Career Researchers, as well as ensuring that the Institute is at the forefront of good practice.

Last Haven

Last Haven, a research project with gamified elements that explores the trade-offs between protecting habitats for endangered species and pursuing human benefits, was launched in May 2025. The project involves several current and former members of UOI, along with external collaborators—including Edmond Awad, Gracie Reinecke, David Lyreskog, Ilina Singh, Julian Savulescu, and others from the Neurosec group in Psychiatry and across Oxford. Last Haven is part of the ANTITHESES Discovery Research Platform for Transformative Inclusivity in Ethics and Humanities Research funded by the Wellcome Trust [226801].

Rethinking Conscientious Objection in Health Care: A symposium

Organised by the Department of Philosophy at the University of Milan, Alberto Giubilini discussed his recently published book *Rethinking Conscientious Objection in Health Care* with co-author Francesca Minerva and panel members Maurizio Mori (Turin), Massimo Reichlin, and Roberta Sala (S. Raffaele. Milan). The meeting was chaired by Stefano Bacin and Emilio D'Orazio, both of the University of Milan.

Which AI Doctor Would You Like to See? Exploring Communication Styles in Healthcare AI

Hazem Zohny led a project investigating how large language models (LLMs) might be adapted to communicate using different healthcare communication styles, potentially giving patients more options in how they receive medical information. It enables the public to explore different AI communication models in a healthcare context. The research raises several questions about how AI might influence healthcare communication in the future.

Further highlights

Right, ***Jonathan Pugh launched the DARCA tool*** — the decision aid for the restitution of cultural artefacts — with a panel discussion hosted in Reuben College in March. Both panel and tool were very well received, with journalists, lawyers, and embassy staff in attendance. For further details see *Policy and Practice.*

DARCA

Neil Levy gave the Distinguished Lecture at the 60th Anniversary of the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain, at the University of Birmingham. His topic was 'What should educators do about bad beliefs?'.

Alberto Giubilini delivered the keynote lecture at the flagship conference of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases on 'Ethics of Vaccine Research' in Lisbon.

Hazem Zohny continued his work on Large Language Models, taking part in the Uehiro Oxford Institute and Akita International University AI workshop 'Automating reflecting equilibrium: Can LLMs conduct this philosophical method reliably?'.

Hannah Maslen continued as Independent Ethics Advisor to the European MINIGRAPH project. This project aims to develop a next generation of neuroelectronic therapies, involving highly miniaturised, closed-loop brain implants using flexible electronics and graphene microelectrodes. Her role involves providing ongoing ethical oversight of issues such as safety, consent, and the broader societal implications of advanced neurotechnology.

Katrien Devolder gave the keynote lecture for the Annual EACME conference 'When Slowing Down Creates Value', EACME Annual Conference, Zurich, 12 September 2025.

Above, ***Marcello Ienca, Professor of Ethics of AI & Neuroscience at the Technical University of Munich,*** was joined by the UOI's Gracie Reinecke for the discussion following his inaugural Oxford Neuroethics Lecture at Wolfson College: 'Who Is Afraid of Mind Reading? The Science, Ethics and Policy of Decoding Thought'.

AI Ethics workshop with colleagues from Akita International University, November 2025. Co-hosted by Roger Crisp and Hazem Zohny.

César Palacios-González is working with the Mexican Council on Bioethics on a research programme on the ethics of organ transplantation. The goal is to produce actionable advice on how to ethically improve the organ allocation procedures in Mexico. He also joined the Nuffield Council on Bioethics' Oversight Group to oversee the public dialogue on reviewing the 14-day rule for human embryo research — providing challenge, guidance, and advice on its scope, design and delivery.

The Institute has continued to support the Diversity Reading List in Philosophy, through the leadership of Senior Research Fellow Lisa Forsberg.

Katrien Devolder and Dominic Wilkinson were both ranked in the ***top 10 The Conversation posts for 2025*** by University of Oxford authors.

Katrien's '***Why being 'lazy' at work might actually be a good thing***' has been read in *The Conversation*

60,774 times

#1

The University of Oxford is ranked #1 for applied ethics in the global rankings 'Philosophical Gourmet Report'

Lisa Forsberg (centre) at the Brocher Foundation

Neil Levy is ranked lifetime

#33

for Philosophy and #50 for Arts and Humanities by ScholarGPS

Alberto Giubilini is ranked

#22

for Philosophy by ScholarGPS over the last 5 years

Roger Crisp presents at the fifth anniversary celebrations of the European University of Well-being ***(E-Uni-Well)****, held in Cologne*

Lisa Forsberg attended the 10th anniversary conference for 'The Diversity Reading List' in Manchester, July 25

New *Staff*

The last year has seen significant growth, as the Uehiro Oxford Institute has welcomed both new academic and administrative staff as part of its transition. Five new postdoctoral researchers have joined the Institute on four new projects. We had to say farewell to Dr Chris Register who joined the CAVAA project in 2024, but his role has been well-filled by our former hosted researcher Dr Cristina Voinea of the University of Bucharest. We have also been delighted to welcome Dr Kathryn Francis, as Senior Research Fellow and Sinéad Cleary as the Moral Psychology Lab Manager, as well as Jacob Heath and Debs Thomas as admin. assistants, all of whom have made a great contribution to the smooth running of the Institute.

Dr Kathryn Francis

Senior Research Fellow

Kathryn is a Senior Researcher in the Neuroscience, Ethics & Society team and Co-Director of the Design Bioethics Laboratory within the Department of Psychiatry. She also co-directs the Wellcome Discovery Platform 'ANTITHESES'.

Kathryn's background is in experimental moral psychology, with a PhD in Experimental Psychology from the CogNovo programme at Plymouth University. Her research covers three central themes: moral disagreement and moral inconsistency; morality and human-animal/nature relations; morality, bioethics, and medicine.

Dr Kim Leontiv

Research Fellow

Kim is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Ethics of Predictive Technologies. His work addresses normative conflicts and public disagreements concerning justice and value, including equality, fairness, democracy, and human rights. Kim holds his PhD in philosophy from University College London and an LLB (Hons. I) from the University of Sydney. Kim is admitted to legal practice as a solicitor and barrister of the Federal Court and the High Court of Australia, concentrating on commercial, intellectual property and technology law as well as engaging in pro bono work for organisations aiding refugees, Indigenous groups and those at risk of homelessness.

Dr Federico Bina

Research Fellow

Federico is a Research Fellow in Philosophical Moral Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy, and member of the Philosophical Moral Psychology Lab at the UOI. He works on theoretical, practical, and experimental ethics, the psychology of moral reasoning and value change, morality and rationality in non-human animals, the ethics of science and policy communication, and the social epistemology of expertise and trust. He holds a PhD in Philosophy from San Raffaele University in Milan and has authored two books on 'moral change'.

Dr Joost Mollen

Research Fellow

Joost is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Ethics of Predictive Technologies. His focus is on the ethics of technology and research ethics. Joost completed his PhD in philosophy at Delft University of Technology's Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management where he worked on the ethics of research with technology under real-world conditions. Beyond academia, he worked on AI and healthcare as a policy officer at the Dutch Ministry of Health, Wellbeing and Sport.

Dr Aidan Runagall-McNaull

Research Fellow

Aidan is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Philosophical Moral Psychology Lab. His research intersects social psychology, cognitive science, moral philosophy and ecology, examining how cognitive structure influences our moral and political judgements, behaviours, beliefs and belief systems. He completed his PhD at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Kartik Upadhyaya

Research Fellow

Kartik is Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the Oxford Martin Programme on Decarceration, with a focus on arguments for decarcerating offenders whom governments lack moral standing to punish. More broadly he's interested in moral, political and legal problems arising from our practices of blaming, accountability, and other kinds of moral discourse. Beyond decarceration, he is writing about white saviourism, political hypocrisy and mass 'piling-on' of online criticism.

Sinéad Cleary

Lab Manager at the Philosophical Moral Psychology Lab

Sinéad is interested in exploring how adults and children relate to and care for morally distant entities. She holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Edinburgh, where her research examined whether anthropomorphism can effectively enhance attitudes toward insect conservation in both adults and children. More broadly, she's interested in finding ways to encourage pro-environmental behaviour across development and to support the design of effective conservation and sustainability initiatives.

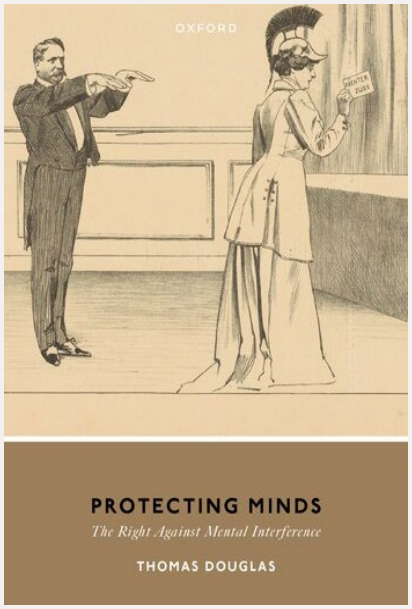
Hosted *Fellowships*

We have been delighted to continue hosting Fellows Edmond Awad, Mette Leonard Høeg, Daniel Villiger, and Viktor Savchenko this year, as well as welcoming Dr Andrew Moeller and Dr Carme Isern Mas. Dr Moeller is an associate member of the History Faculty at Oxford and he regularly collaborates with UOI Senior Research Fellow Alberto Giubilini. Dr Carme Isern Mas is based at the University of the Balearics, and works primarily with Joanna Demaree-Cotton.

Image right, Viktor Savchenko, Mette Høeg and Carme Isern Mas

Books

Published this year



Protecting Minds: The Right Against Mental Interference

Tom Douglas | OUP, 2025

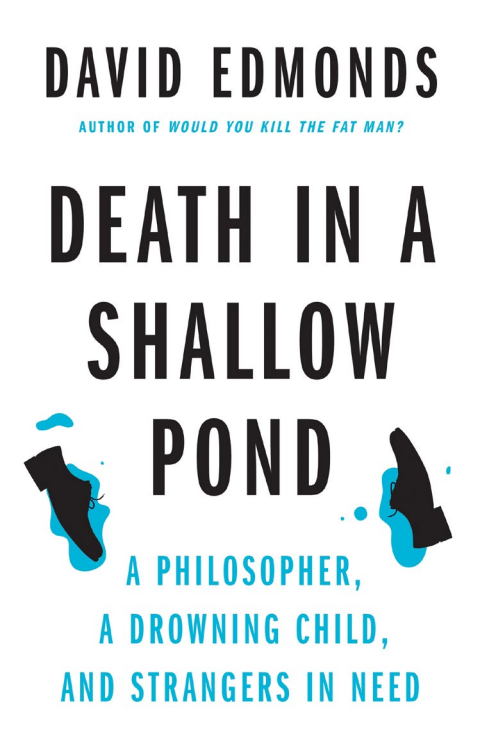
Protecting Minds contributes both to the increasingly vigorous debate over 'neurorights' and to the wider discussion of the ethics of mental and behavioural influence. Such discussion has traditionally treated manipulation, coercion and persuasion as the most important categories of influence; this volume introduces mental interference as a further category warranting attention.

The right against mental interference protects us against actions that significantly alter our mental states and operate via processes that are insensitive to the reasons that bear on the mental alteration. The interventions that most obviously infringe the right are 'non-consensual neurointerventions'—interventions that alter a person's mental states by physically modulating their brain states, and are performed without the target's consent. Douglas argues that some psychological forms of influence can infringe the right too.

This open access book is free to read and download from Oxford Academic under the terms of a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 licence.

DOI: doi.org/10.1093/9780191979651.001.0001 | ISBN: Online ISBN: 9780191979651 | Print ISBN: 9780192883254

> *"A very relevant text with regard to psychological treatment, nudge, and the myriad forms of influence (subtle and otherwise) we are all increasingly encountering."*
>
> Dr Roger Willoughby, conflict consultant



Finalist for the PROSE Award in Philosophy (Association of American Publishers), A FiveBooks Best Philosophy Book of the Year, A New Yorker Best Book of the Year

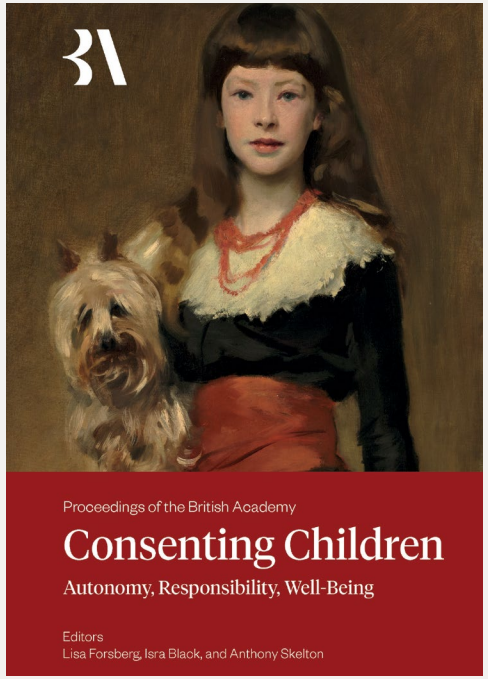
Death in a Shallow Pond

David Edmonds | Princeton University Press, 2025

In *Death in a Shallow Pond*, a book aimed at the general public, David Edmonds tells the story of Peter Singer and his controversial thought experiment, tracing how it radically changed the way many think about poverty—but also how it has provoked scathing criticisms.

Death in a Shallow Pond describes the experiences and world events that led Singer to make his radical case and how it moved some young philosophers to establish the Effective Altruism movement, which tries to optimize philanthropy. The book also explores the reactions of critics who argue that the Shallow Pond and Effective Altruism are unrealistic, misguided, and counterproductive, neglecting the causes of—and therefore perpetuating—poverty. Ultimately, however, Edmonds argues that the Shallow Pond retains the power to shape how we live in a world in which terrible and unnecessary suffering persists.

ISBN: 9780691254029



Edited volumes

Consenting Children: Autonomy, Responsibility, Well-Being

Ed. Lisa Forsberg, Isra Black and Anthony Skelton | Proceedings of the British Academy, 2025

The differential treatment of children—in comparison to adults, and in the case of younger children and adolescents, to each other—makes it both practically and theoretically important to examine the justification of when and why this treatment is permissible. Because the justifications of children's differential treatment typically appeal to foundational normative considerations—matters of autonomy, responsibility, and well-being—they provoke considerable controversy and disagreement in law and ethics.

Consenting Children brings together philosophers and academic lawyers to share disciplinary and interdisciplinary insights and understanding. The volume's contributors engage in discussions of children's consent and responsibility, decision-making capacity, and best interests, as well as the role, powers, and duties of parents and state institutions. The volume lays the groundwork for future engagement in the legal and philosophical literature with the controversies raised by children's autonomy, responsibility, and well-being, and the myriad interactions between them concerning children's consent.

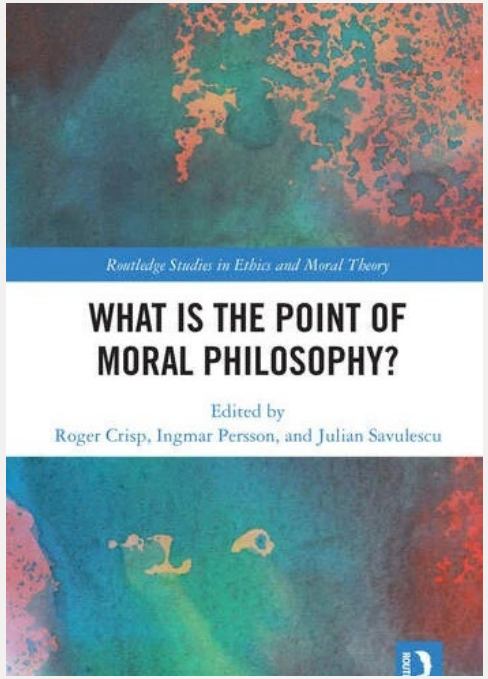
With the support of UOI, the book will shortly be made available open access, with copies being sent to those working outside academia on issues involving children and consent.

DOI: 10.3828/9781836245674 | ISBN:9781836245674 (Hardcover) | eISBN:9781836249504 (PDF) | eISBN:9781836249573 (ePub)

'It is [...] undoubtedly time for a volume in which the academy takes stock of most (but, thanks to the timelines of producing such a volume, not all) of these decisions. And there are few better equipped than the editorial team behind Consenting Children to bring together a group of scholars of different disciplines – and helpfully – from different jurisdictions – to reflect on the controversies raised by arguments about children's autonomy, responsibility and well-being. [...] an excellent work, upon which both the editors and contributors are to be congratulated.'

Alex Ruck Keene KC (Hon), Mental Capacity Law and Policy

Lisa Forsberg and panel at the launch of Consenting Children



What Is the Point of Moral Philosophy?

Ed. Roger Crisp, Ingmar Persson, Julian Savulescu | Routledge, 2025

Over the last half-century, moral philosophy has taken an applied turn, covering practical issues in areas such as medicine, business, the environment, and many others. But it has largely failed to examine itself. In this volume, a range of contemporary ethicists, representing many different positions, examine what might be the point, if any, of moral philosophy.

Given the deep and apparently intransigent basic disagreements between philosophers, is the discipline able to provide genuinely helpful advice? Is there an agreed methodology for philosophical ethics? Perhaps the only philosopher to have addressed these issues head-on has been Ingmar Persson. His important arguments provide a starting point for debate and are examined and discussed by several contributors. But the volume goes beyond Persson's path-breaking work to clarify the nature of the challenges to philosophical ethics and the variety of responses available.

ISBN: ISBN 9781032802558

In press

How We Govern Our Minds Through Others: Epistemic Autonomy Beyond the Myth of Independence

Neil Levy and J. Adam Carter | MIT Press, forthcoming 2026

This open access book has arisen from Levy and Carter's four-year, AHRC-funded Epistemic Autonomy project. The project aims to reconceptualize epistemic autonomy by rethinking it in the light of the individual's pervasive dependence on others. The project explores the extent to which autonomy should be thought of as scaffolded: dependent for its development and exercise on environmental supports (ranging from the provision of information through to the provision of cognitive tools and even other people) and investigating means of better scaffolding autonomy by providing environments and supports that support agency. Using standard philosophical methods, empirical data and feedback from the general public, the authors are exploring when such scaffolding ceases to support agency and instead becomes paternalistic.

ISBN: 9780262056458

4

book chapters by Uehiro Scholars currently under contract

16

chapters in edited books this year contributed by Uehiro Scholars

New *Research Projects*

UOI Research Project Awards

Last year the UOI launched a new, internally-funded annual Research Project Awards (RPA) scheme. UOI RPAs are intended to support the development of a small research group pursuing a project that bears on the Institute's guiding question, 'how should we live?', which will run for between two and four years. The incorporation of interdisciplinary elements, in line with UOI's mission, is encouraged and all project proposals should include plans for engaging with non-academic audiences. In the inaugural round three projects were awarded funding.

The Moral Psychology of Autonomy in Healthcare

Joanna Demaree-Cotton | Project duration: 3 years (1st September 2025 – 31st August 2028)

This project brings together moral philosophy and experimental psychology to explore autonomy-based rights in healthcare, with a particular concentration on how psychological biases can lead to unequal respect for the medical autonomy of certain groups. A major focus of the project is investigating the ethics of 'listening'. We aim to investigate what it means to be 'genuinely listened to', how failures of listening impact medical autonomy, and the nature, if any, of moral duties to listen to patients.

Predictive Technologies, Ethics, and the Future of Insurance

Jonathan Pugh | Project duration: 3 years (1st September 2025 – 31st August 2028)

The rise of powerful predictive technologies — such as artificial intelligence, digital health tools, and genetic testing - is changing how insurance companies assess risk, enabling them to develop far more personalised risk assessments. This raises profound questions about foundational ethical principles underlying the provision of insurance, including fairness, privacy, respect for autonomy, and solidarity.

This interdisciplinary research program will explore the ethical implications of the personalized insurance pricing enabled by these sorts of powerful predictive technologies, focusing on life, critical illness, and income protection insurance. Drawing on legal, philosophical, and economic expertise, the project will address two interrelated strands: (1) privacy, consent, and data and (2) fairness, discrimination, and solidarity. Public engagement will be central to the project's methodology, with stakeholder workshops shaping the research agenda and dissemination strategy.

Deliberate Ignorance and Justified Informing

Rebecca Brown and Neil Levy | Project duration: 3 years (1st September 2026 – 31st August 2029)

Knowledge is almost universally held to be valuable, instrumentally and for its own sake. But people sometimes choose not to know. This project is concerned with the conditions under which such choices are justified, on the one hand, and with the conditions under which we provide people with information without first consulting with them, on the other. We aim to illuminate a number of pressing practical questions, for example on the role of expertise in decision-making, on freedom of speech, cancel culture, and medical paternalism. We also aim to build capacity in the institute on applied epistemology.

OXFORD MEDHUM

The Medical Humanities Hub

The Medical Humanities Hub at Oxford, led by UOI Senior Research Fellow Alberto Giubilini, is an award-winning network of scholars dedicated to promoting humanities-based interdisciplinary work around health, healthcare, and medicine. It organises, supports, and promotes academic and public engagement events and projects.

Medical Humanities examines the relationship between health and society, situating medicine and disease within their political, social, historical, ethical, and cultural contexts.

It aligns perfectly with the UOI's mission and interdisciplinary perspective. It funds initiatives such as the 'Immunity and Humanities' programme, dedicated to understanding societal and ethical tensions around vaccines and public health more generally; the Oxford-Cambridge-London Society for the Philosophy of Medicine, of which UOI is now part and which promotes philosophical reflection on health and medicine across the most prestigious UK universities; and the collaboration with Oxford Global Health to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations across the humanities around global health problems.

Through collaboration with Medical Humanities, UOI is hosting historian Andrew Moeller, philosopher Caesar Atuire, and historian Sally Frampton to manage engagement activities around public health and vaccination.

Alberto Giubilini waits to open 'Thanks for the Memories', a panel discussion exploring the themes behind Dangerous Matter, a new opera inspired by the life of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

Immunity and the Humanities: Vaccines, disease prevention, and public health

Programme duration: 3 years (1st October 2025 – 30th September 2028) | Alberto Giubilini

This Uehiro-Medical Humanities programme - a collaboration between TORCH Medical Humanities and the Uehiro Oxford Institute - aims at deploying and developing new interdisciplinary, humanities-based methodologies to address key issues in public health, particularly regarding ethical connotations and societal perception of infectious diseases and of the medical, public health, and societal measures to tackle them.

The program involves network formation, public engagement, and methodology development, by supporting a number of multidisciplinary events over the year, drawing together clinicians, philosophers, historians, and people from a range of other disciplines.

Other awards

The Oxford Martin Programme on Decarceration

Tom Douglas (co-I, PI: Seena Fazel) | The Oxford Martin School (Oct 2025-Sep 2028, £991,466.65)

The Oxford Martin Programme on Decarceration, led by Prof Seena Fazel, seeks safer, fairer and more effective alternatives to imprisonment. With incarceration rates at record highs worldwide the programme will bring together experts in psychiatry, criminology, law, economics, and philosophy. Its aim is to evaluate alternatives such as community sentences, improve decision-making tools, and build evidence to guide sentencing policy. The Institute's contribution to the programme will focus on analysing ethical and human rights issues raised by alternatives to carceral sentences and on contributing to the development of general principles to inform the safe and ethical reduction of prison populations.

Bridging Law and Morality: Updating the Legal Landscape of Organ Transplantation in Mexico

OPEN Public Policy Challenge Fund | César Palacios-González (Jan-June 2026, £24,000)

See *Policy and Practice* for details.

Reframing Laziness: Voices of Lived Experience

Katrien Devolder| PCER Fund (Feb- June 2025 £3,375)

This project brought together people who have experienced laziness stigma to share their stories, increase public understanding, and shape impactful academic research. It also addressed a critical research gap in philosophical work on 'laziness'. Though frequently invoked in academic work, public discourse, and in policy debates, this concept remains largely unexamined.

TORCH International Fellowship

Alberto Giubilini | John Fell Fund

The project is funded by the John Fell Fund via a TORCH International Fellowship to host Dr Tolulope Osayomi (University of Ibadan) at the Uehiro Oxford Institute during the autumn of 2025. Dr Osayomi worked on a collaborative Uehiro-Medical Humanities Program on 'A Humanities Framework for Equity in Global Health'.

Arts, Health and Ethics Collective (AHEC) awards

See *Public Philosophy* for details.

- Hear My Story: on Laziness and Productivity (Katrien Devolder and Nicola Sayers (writer))
- Quality of Life is not a Measurable Outcome (Dominic Wilkinson and Jamie Hale (Performer and Creative Researcher))

José Catillejo Fellowship

Academic visitor and frequent collaborator of Joanna Demaree-Cotton, we were delighted to support Carme Isern Mas in her Fellowship application. Carme returned to Oxford in autumn 2025.

Collaboration on awards

Meaningfulness and the Future of Work

Tom Douglas (PI: Charlotte Unruh, Southampton | AHRC Catalyst Award (£249,633)

Many people want to live meaningful lives. But our lives are changing as new technology increasingly influences how we work, live, and socialise. How do these changes affect the meaningfulness of our working lives? And why should we care about such impacts on meaningfulness? This project aims to address these questions.

Algorithms and the Individual in Depression Diagnosis

Tom Douglas (co-I, PI: Sune Holm, Copenhagen | Danish Research Council

The project will provide a case study of an algorithm for estimating patient risk of major depressive disorder (MDD) recently constructed using Danish registry data. The research will examine the prospects of using this in general practice.

Policy and *Practice*

Academic Lead: Jonathan Pugh

This year, the Institute strengthened its role in embedding ethical analysis within public policy through funded research, representation, and public engagement. This success was grounded by new training initiatives, including guidance on writing policy briefs, that have enhanced our researchers' capacity to engage impactful decision-makers. OPEN Fellowships and new grant funding have supported publicly-engaged work on public health ethics, obstetric violence, and organ transplantation law. The year also saw the completion of the DARCA project and the beginning of a new major initiative with the Oxford Programme on Decarceration. Institute members have also continued to contribute to national bioethics deliberations on embryo research while publications, podcasts, and public events fostered informed dialogue on pressing moral and policy challenges such as the ongoing assisted dying debate in the UK.

Jonathan Pugh leads a panel at the public launch of the DARCA tool

Major policy projects

The Ethics of Cultural Restitution (DARCA)

DARCA is a free, online ethics tool designed to help people think about whether there is a strong moral case for returning a cultural artefact in a particular situation.

The tool was developed by members of the UOI and the Institute for Art and Law, in collaboration with external contributors with experience of restitution cases or relevant expertise in ethics or policy-making, in response to recent changes in UK law. It was funded partly though the Oxford Policy Engagement Network, which provided the initial support to scope out the project, and by the Institute.

DARCA asks a structured set of questions that reflect issues widely discussed in existing ethical guidance and academic research. These questions are intended to help users work through the moral considerations involved, make their reasoning clearer, and record how they reached their conclusions. DARCA is designed primarily for museum trustees and professionals, but it may also be used by claimants, researchers, students, policymakers, and members of the public who want to better understand how ethical decisions about restitution can be approached.

Oxford Policy Engagement Network Visiting Fellowship

We were delighted to welcome the Cabinet Office's Jess Lawrence as a policy partner for the OPEN Visiting Fellowship pilot programme. This was a unique opportunity for the UOI to develop detailed policy understanding as well as relationships at the heart of government, whilst at the same time sharing the opportunities and challenges of a research environment with a policy specialist. The Fellowship culminated in an interdisciplinary workshop with Cabinet Office and academics on 'Ethics and Emergency Decision-Making in COBRA'. Jess has continued to engage with the Institute, and is working with Jonathan Pugh on future projects.

OPEN project: Embedding ethics in public health policy and practice

Rebecca Brown received funding from the Oxford University Policy Engagement Network to spend four months working part time at Oxfordshire County Council. The aim of the fellowship was to support the Council to reflect upon the ethical implications of their public health work, with a particular focus on their public health communications. The programme was successful in building relationships and deepening an appreciation of the challenges faced by councils in communicating health messages, as well as providing discussion points for areas of further collaborative work.

OPEN project: Obstetric violence in the Mexican context

Eradicating obstetric violence globally is of critical concern, and this is even more so where other types of injustices (e.g. racial discrimination) compound the phenomenon. This Fellowship enabled César Palacios González and the Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida (GIRE) to work together, building on his existing network of Mexican healthcare practitioners and policy makers, to investigate and develop methodologies for the reduction of obstetric violence in Mexico. This culminated in a series of workshops in Mexico earlier in the year.

Bridging Law and Morality: Updating the Legal Landscape of Organ Transplantation in Mexico

Cesar Palacios-González' ultimate goal is to identify key problems in Mexico's current organ transplantation legislation, and propose concrete legal and policy changes to address them. The project examines new ethical challenges arising from recent scientific developments, outlining parts of the existing law that must be amended to accommodate these advancements. This will provide legislators with a clear, evidence-based roadmap for reform and help ensure that future regulations promote fairness, transparency, and ethical standards in organ allocation. We are grateful to the OPEN Public Policy Challenge Fund for supporting this work.

Policing Ethics

Hannah Maslen has continued to develop collaboration between academic researchers and policing institutions, particularly in the UK and Australia. Her paper on principlism for policing ethics, currently under review, adapts the framework of biomedical principlism to the policing context, developing a flexible hierarchy of principles designed to guide both policy formation and operational decision-making. She aims to construct a framework that is usable within real-world policing environments, and a companion paper, oriented towards policing audiences, will follow which aims to translate the philosophical framework into policing-relevant language, demonstrate its practical applicability through worked examples, and develop decision-making templates that can be embedded in institutional practice.

Examples of other policy engagement

Dominic Wilkinson contributed to the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology POSTnote (#763) on 'diagnosis and treatment of rare genetic diseases'. It supports UK ministers and civil servants working on policy in this area by providing a quick reference - synthesizing information on the screening, diagnosis and treatment of rare genetic diseases, identifying significant challenges in coordinating care, and highlighting inequalities, data challenges and data inclusivity issues.

The European Resuscitation Council Guidelines 2025 'Newborn Resuscitation and Support of Transition of Infants at Birth' was co-authored by Dominic Wilkinson.

Jonathan Pugh and Tom Douglas presented 'Philosophy in Policy – A Case Study' at the Science, Digital and Technology Hub in the UK Parliament in February.

Hazem Zohny joined a new University policy committee on the use of generative AI in research and contributed to the development of this policy and related FAQs.

An NHS Race and Health Observatory report revealing alarming levels of discrimination and mistrust felt by Black, Asian and ethnic minority patients in their interactions with NHS primary care service providers was co-authored by Joanna Demaree-Cotton.

Teaching

Teaching has continued to be a key activity for UOI staff. The flagship MSt programme has become a widely respected course and is at the forefront of UOI teaching, but colleagues also continue to support a number of other programmes, including undergraduate courses for the Faculty of Philosophy and the Medical Sciences Division.

MSt in Practical Ethics

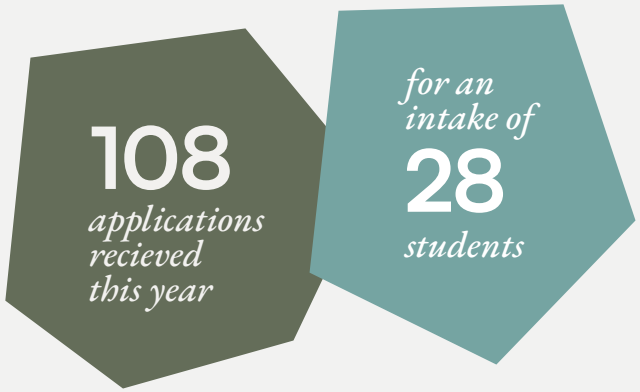
Academic Lead: César Palacios-González

The MSt in Practical Ethics is the flagship educational programme of the UOI and it continues to attract applicants from a wide range of backgrounds including law, medicine, philosophy, and AI. Many of the applicants are already leaders in their fields.

This year the leadership transitioned from Guy Kahane, who had been with the programme from its inception, to César Palacios-González, formerly the deputy course director. Jonathan Pugh also stepped down to take on the role of Deputy Director of Public Philosophy at UOI. We are enormously grateful to Guy for his leadership and development of the MSt, and to Jonathan for his untiring work for the programme. Two new Career Development Fellows will be appointed shortly.

The modules *AI Ethics* and *Data Ethics* continue to be the most popular with students. External speakers from Deep Mind, the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, and Thames Valley Police provided insights both from industry and the policy world which helped the students understand the impact of the ethical issues that arise from the development of new technologies in these areas. The module Ethics of the Beginning and End of Life also continues to be popular and in this particular iteration we were able to discuss contemporary legislative initiatives, for example in the UK and Mexico, that seek to legislate matters around end-of-life decisions.

The teaching at the MSt has always been research-led. This allows the students to engage with cutting-edge research and because of this, the students are very well placed to contribute to the contemporary academic discussion on these topics. We are very pleased that our current and former students continue to publish their work in major journals in the field, and that some of them have decided to continue their studies at doctoral level, at world leading institutions.



These three MSt students were offered a place on the DPhil programme in Oxford:

Marchegiani, Beatrice | Forsdyke, James | Chmurzynska, Dominika

MSt Student Publications

Cordeiro, J.J., (2025), On the difficulties of universalizing an ethics of state-sponsored pronatalism, ***Journal of Medical Ethics***

Cordeiro, J.J. and Kirjanenko, M., (2025), Keeping the humans in the loop: why surrogate human decision-makers remain necessary with personalised patient preference predictors (P4) use, ***Journal of Medical Ethics***

Forsdyke, J., (2025). Well-being, pain and the mere-difference view of disability, ***Bioethics***

Marchegiani, B., (2025), 'Anthropomorphism, false beliefs, and conversational AIs: How chatbots undermine users' autonomy', ***Journal of Applied Philosophy***

Mech, N., (2025), 'Bolstering the epistemic argument against desert-based medical resource allocation', ***Journal of Medical Ethics***

Nix, Hayden, (2026), 'Addressing incidental findings in neuroimaging studies: Never easy, rarely rescue in ethics & human research', ***Ethics & Human Research***

BMedSci Elective

Academic Lead: Dominic Wilkinson

The BMedSci programme in medical ethics continues to provide Australian medical students with the opportunity to undertake focused research in bioethics in Oxford. In 2025, we welcomed five students from Monash University. Topics this year include the use of large language models to assist in assessing decision-making capacity in young people, and an exploration of the ethics of hope in palliative care.

The programme has also continued to generate impactful scholarly work from former participants. Jemima Allen, whose BMedSci project examined the use of large language models in the context of informed consent, has now completed the PhD that grew out of that work. Over the past year she has produced several publications, including a widely discussed paper proposing an approach to translating 'black box' artificial intelligence into healthcare settings. The work was presented at the World Congress of Bioethics and has been published in the journal *Bioethics*.

Other former BMedSci students have also published with UOI co-authors, including Lauren Yip who co-authored with Katrien Devolder ('Will Human-Animal Chimeras Cause Moral Confusion? Exploring Public Attitudes' Journal of Bioethical Inquiry 2025;22(3):733-744) and Jennifer Langford, who has had a paper arising from her thesis accepted for publication in the journal Human Reproduction. The article, 'Public Attitudes Towards Consent for the Donation of Surplus Frozen Eggs to Research' is co-authored with Joanna Demaree-Cotton and Molly Johnstone.

Jemima Allen at the Radcliffe Camera, Oxford

DPhil Students

The Institute's DPhil students have continued to play an active role in the life of the Institute, taking part in teaching, research, conferences. See image on next page.

Highlights

Mattia Cecchinato was the recipient of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA) Young Scholar Prize. The Prize is an acknowledgement of the exceptional work of young scholars who have presented at a SIFA conference.

Rei Takahashi, a former Uehiro-Oxford Scholar and now a member of the DPhil student body, had his first paper in English accepted for publication. 'Group Well-Being and the Consciousness Requirement' has been accepted by *Philosophical Quarterly.*

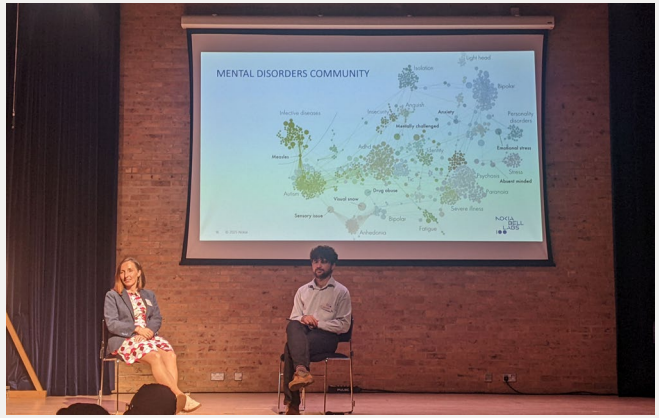
As part of a series of talks dedicated to the work of women in philosophy organised by the Philosophy Garden, a public engagement initiative led by the University of Birmingham, DPhil student Anna Golova gave a talk on the phenomenon of self-illness ambiguity. Anna has also had 2 papers published this year:

- Golova, A., Dings, R. (2025) Explicating the complexity of self-illness ambiguity. *Synthese.*
- Dings, R., Golova, A. (2025) 'Is it me or my illness?': self-illness ambiguity as a useful conceptual lens for psychiatry. *British Journal of Psychiatry.*

Undergraduate and graduate teaching

Rebecca Brown has continued to lead the graduate discussion group in applied ethics, where students present work in progress and receive teaching on practical ethics topics as well as career development sessions. This is open to all members of the University with an interest in applied ethics. UOI staff also regularly teach and mark for the Faculty of Philosophy's undergraduate and postgraduate courses, as well as elsewhere in the University.

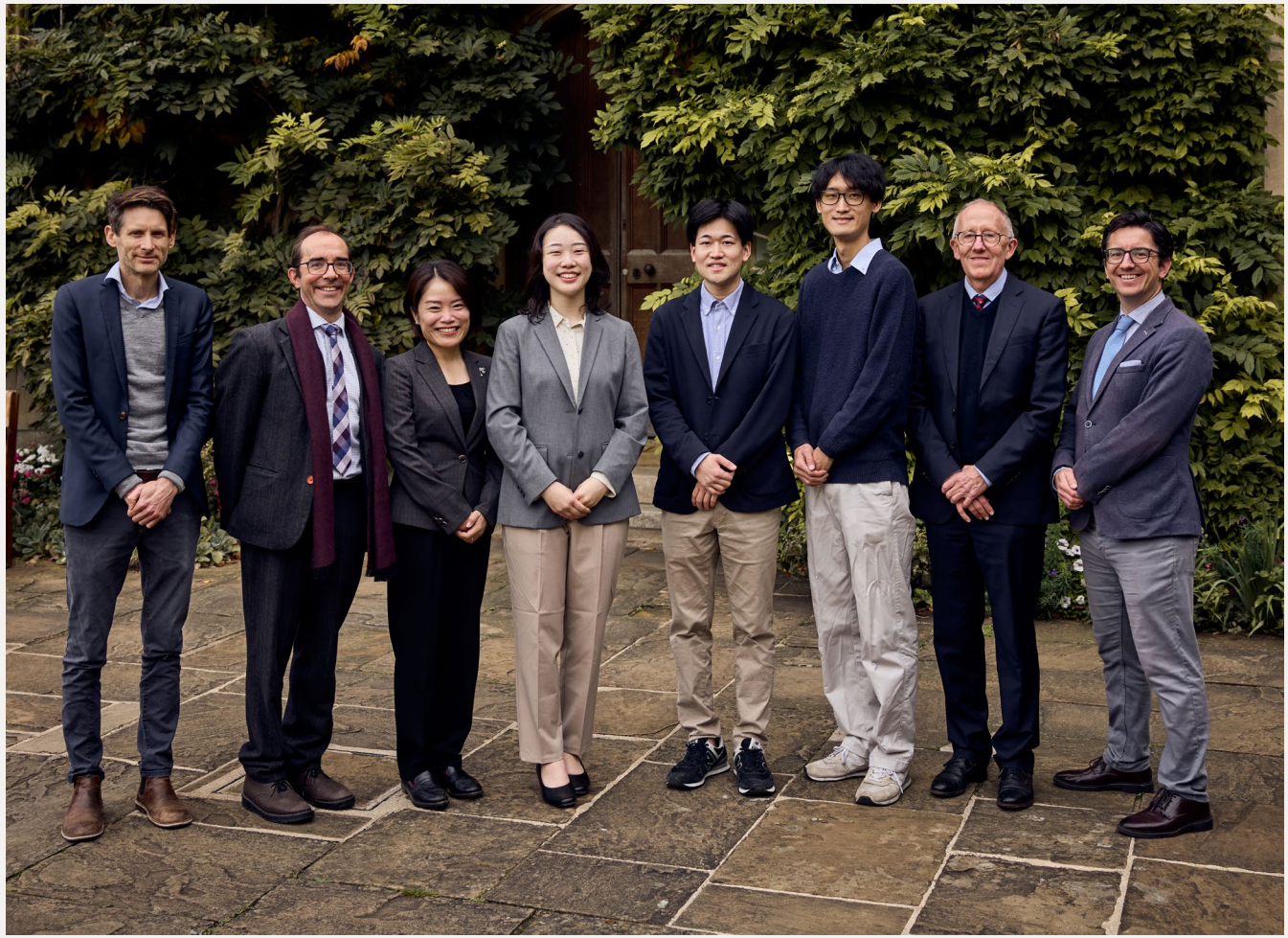
Alberto Giubilini teaches with academic visitor Dr Sanja Scepanovic for the Oxford Summer Academy for the Social Science of Health Innovation, organised by the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

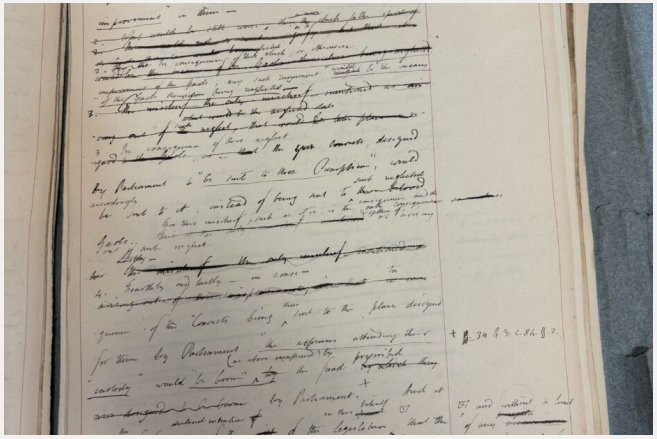


Oxford-Uehiro-St Cross Scholars

Academic Leads: Tom Douglas and Jonathan Pugh

This year's Uehiro scholarship programme welcomed three exceptional scholars working on pressing ethical issues in reproductive ethics and violence in the healthcare workplace. Their research benefits from the Institute's dynamic academic community, fostering rigorous analysis, interdisciplinary dialogue, and the development of impactful, internationally relevant ethical scholarship.





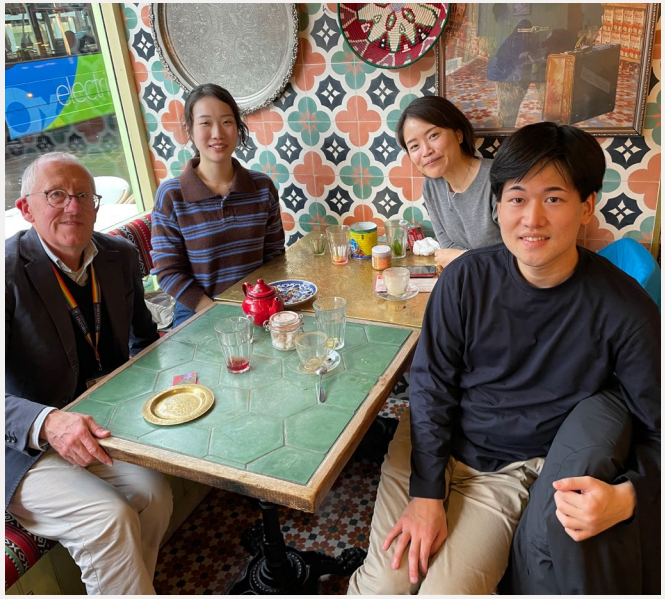
Bentham's manuscripts on display at UCL

Uehiro Scholar Taka Kurogi visited the Bentham Project at University College London with academic visitor Bruno dos Santos Queiroz.

> *"The highlight of our visit was the chance to see Bentham's manuscripts in their original physical form. As admirers of Bentham, standing in front of something he wrote over two centuries ago, covered in dense revisions, was a true revelation for us."*
>
> Taka Kurogi

Focus on Akari Matsuoka

I am a master's student in the Department of Ethics in the Faculty of Letters at Kyoto University, where I also completed my undergraduate studies. I came to Oxford in October 2025, and my main research interest lies in reproductive ethics, particularly the permissibility of coercive pronatalist policies, compared to military conscription. As a Uehiro scholar, I find supervision meetings, seminars, and everyday interactions with students and researchers extremely stimulating and insightful. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, Professor Dominic Wilkinson, for his broad guidance on how to write engaging and persuasive papers. In addition, my time here has allowed me to learn not only more about my own research interests but also about other central topics in ethics.



Welcome lunch for our Uehiro St Cross scholars

Focus on Noriko Katayama

I came to the Uehiro Oxford Institute (UOI) in October 2025 to learn from its ethics community as I develop my doctoral thesis. I am a PhD student in Death and Life Studies and Practical Ethics at the University of Tokyo, and a registered nurse with experience in psychiatric and intensive care.

My research examines the ethics of workplace violence in healthcare, focusing on patient-to-staff violence in Japan: when and how it was problematised, why public attention has lagged behind professional concern, and what responsibilities patients and institutions have in a post-paternalistic clinical relationship.

UOI's seminars and interdisciplinary discussions have been invaluable in refining my questions and strengthening my arguments, and I am especially grateful to my supervisor, Dr Cristina Voinea.

Uehiro Lectures *in Practical Ethics*

Academic Lead: Roger Crisp

The annual public Uehiro Lecture Series captures the ethos of the Uehiro Oxford Institute, 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, but make people's lives better.

This year we were honoured to welcome Professor Kimberley Brownlee (University of British Columbia) to deliver the 2025 Annual Uehiro Lectures in Practical Ethics. The three-part lecture series, entitled 'Reproductive Rights', took place in Keble College's H B Allen Centre on 6th, 13th and 20th November.

The lecture series, scrutinising alternate profiles of reproductive rights, had a large and engaged audience, and each lecture was followed by thoughtful discussion. Videos of the lectures are available on YouTube, where they have been viewed over 500 times. We are looking forward to the resulting book.

Upcoming Uehiro Lecture | Professor Miranda Fricker, New York Institute of Philosophy | Moral Pressures: Bending Time, Shaping Wills | June 2026

> Videos of the lectures have been viewed over ***550 times***

Public *Philosophy*

Academic Lead: Katrien Devolder

The Institute expanded its new public and community engagement initiatives this year. The Project Lazy team won two community engagement grants, allowing them to explore the meaning and impact of judgments about laziness with community members. Findings will help shape the project's research. Other new opportunities to connect include new AHEC awards. Institute academics have visited schools and other educational institutions around the country to provide lectures, masterclasses and judges for competitions. The Philosophy in Prisons project led by Joanna Demaree-Cotton continues to grow, and a new social media campaign, Women in Ethics, is drawing in a younger demographic. We are also strengthening our links with Thoughtful, a charity based in the north of England that works to bring philosophy into schools, who provided a wonderful afternoon of training in 'philosophical enquiry' to Institute staff.

Grace Lockrobin of Thoughtful leads the UOI in an exploration of 'philosophical enquiry'

> *"Philosophers contribute to public life by bringing clarity to complex and controversial debates. They distinguish different kinds of questions, separate emotional reactions from careful judgments, scrutinise arguments, and help identify what truly matters. How we frame issues shapes how we understand and respond to them, making this conceptual work essential."*
>
> Katrien Devolder

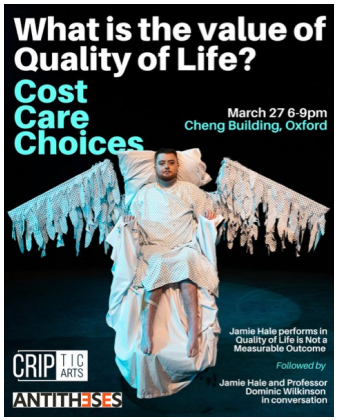
Arts, Health and Ethics Collective (AHEC)

AHEC, run by the ANTITHESES platform, seeks to integrate creative thinking into research projects, engage the public through arts-based methods, co-create outputs with artists and communities, and critically examine the ethics of arts-based interventions. The scheme offers funding to academic/practitioner partnerships to produce new, collaborative work.

Hear My Story: On Laziness and Productivity

Katrien Devolder and Nicola Sayers (writer)

By combining ethical inquiry with creative expression, this project helps individuals explore their implicit assumptions, understand how personal experiences shape views, and discover common ground. Participants with diverse experiences—from those consistently exceeding productivity standards to those labelled 'lazy'—participated in a collaborative workshop to develop personal stories into short pieces, practice active listening and respectful dialogue while revealing complexities behind commonly held beliefs. Selected writings are being disseminated through multiple channels, creating lasting resources for communities affected by productivity-related polarisation and demonstrating how creative approaches foster constructive engagement with contested moral concepts.



Quality of Life is not a Measurable Outcome

Dominic Wilkinson and Jamie Hale (Performer and Creative Researcher)

Healthcare systems worldwide face difficult ethical decisions about cost-effectiveness and resource allocation in a financially constrained environment. How are those decisions made, can personal narratives affect the decision-making process, and if they can, would this be ethical? Intertwining Jamie Hale's award-winning play, 'Quality of Life is Not a Measurable Outcome' with live audience polling, this project explored the tension between personal and impersonal perspectives and directly interrogate how an individual narrative shifts the framework for reflection and discussion.

Undergraduate Category

Winner: Zineb Zbirou Yatta, 'Should the law punish failure to save a life?'

Runner Up: Ethan Beri, 'Is prostitution just a job?'

Honourable Mentions:
Leela Kainth, 'Can pornography be feminist in a mass market economy?'

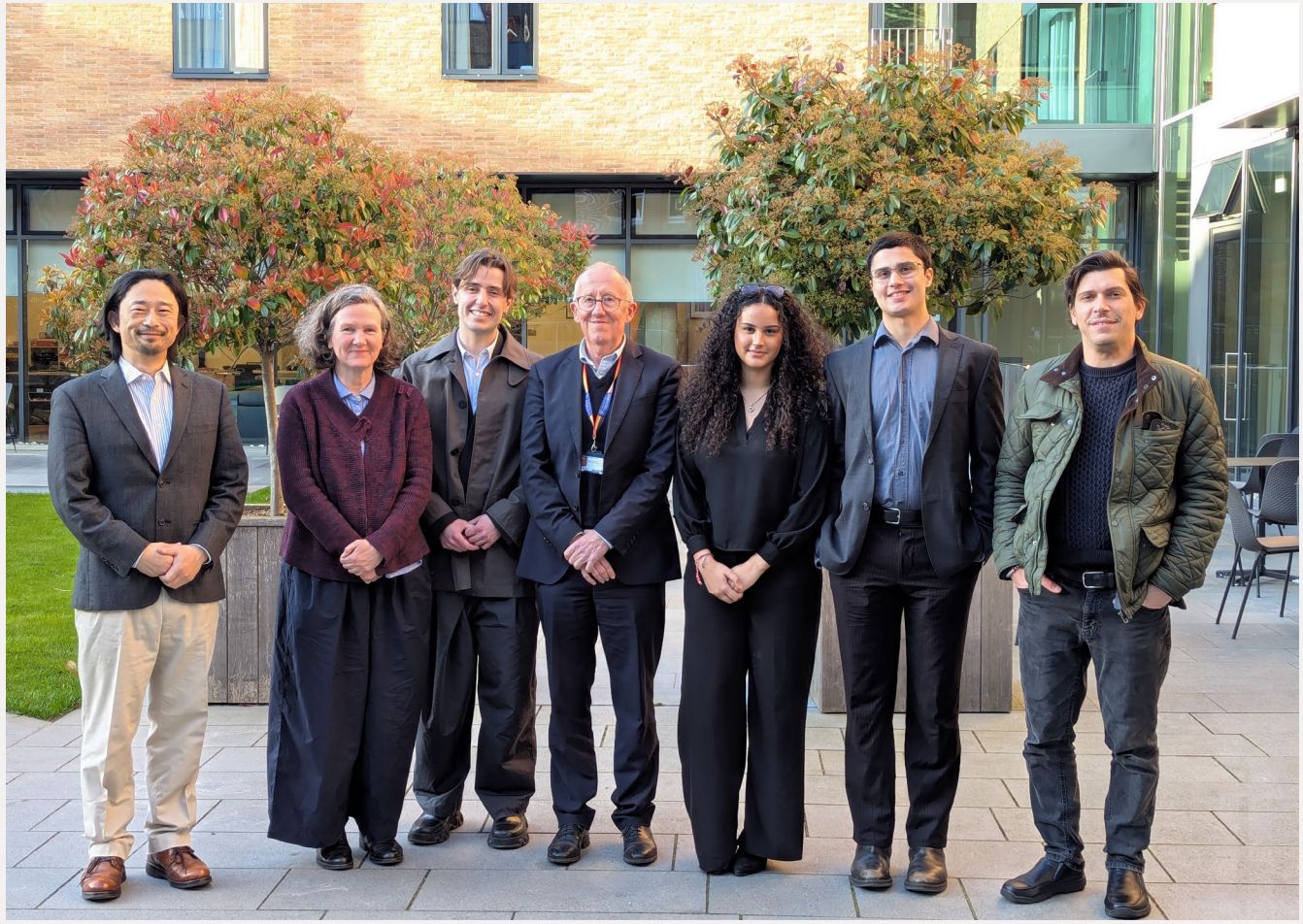
Graduate Category

Winner: Adam Hudson, 'What (if anything) is wrong with consumer boycotting?'

Runner Up: Clodagh Commane, ''It's not your fault, doctor.' How should we think about the ethics of NHS failure?'

Honourable Mentions:
James Forsdyke: ''It's physical, not intellectual.' The ethics of correcting assumptions about disability', and Justin Perry: 'What we owe the dispossessed'.

> Winners receive a prize of *£500*, and the runners up a prize of *£200*



12th National Uehiro Oxford Essay Prize in Practical Ethics

The final of the 12th annual National Uehiro Oxford Essay Prize in Practical Ethics took place in Keble College's HB Allen Centre in front of an audience of academics, students and members of the public. We were delighted to see the continuing trend of a substantial number of entries from outside Oxford this year, and indeed both categories were won by non-Oxford students for the first time in the competition's history. Some of the winning essays and those with Honourable Mentions can be read on the Practical Ethics blog.

The final competition results were as follows: ***Royal Latin School*** (first place), ***Westminster School*** (second place), ***Highgate Senior School*** (third place) and ***Varndean College*** (fourth place).

Practical Ethics and Responsibility

Academic Lead: Dr Joanna Demaree-Cotton and Dr Gabriel De Marco

The PERC video competition received a high-quality set of entries, with a similar level of entry to previous rounds despite being focused this year on just the UK. This change was made to enable more support for teams attending the final — funding travel for all teams, and accommodation for long-distance teams. We hope this will, over time, encourage more entries from state schools and lower-income areas.

Senior school students enter by making a video about an ethical problem and how they think responsibility is involved. The top four schools are invited to Oxford for a day of further competition to decide the over-all winners. We're grateful to our speakers Dr Jonathan Pugh and Dr Tess Johnson for really engaging the teams with applied ethics, and to our five judges (Kat Jennings, Paul Heller, Kathryn Francis, Cristina Voinea and Tom Douglas) who provided positive and constructive feedback. We're also very grateful to the teachers who took the time to support their teams and bring them to Oxford, and to all the academics and students who were involved in judging the video entries.

Participating students this year are aiming to study a wide range of disciplines at undergraduate level, including Law, Medicine and Physics, which demonstrates the wide appeal of the competition.

"The competition is fantastic and particularly being a state school, the idea of Oxford for them is so exciting!'"

"The commendation our 4 students got last year was life changing. One of them is applying to Oxford, the other three to Russell group, it is unlikely this would have happened without the commendation, to be honest.'"

Anonymous teachers

41
entries

8
Highly commended

100%
of students...
Felt that event improved students' ability to argue effectively and felt that the competition improved their understanding of how to work in a team

100%
of students...
Felt that the event has made it more likely that they will study a subject at university which involves ethics.

Bitesize Ethics

The 2025 Bitesize Ethics featured a single, overarching theme: Ethics in the Age of AI, covering topics such as the ethics of Human-AI relationships, data privacy, existential unemployment, automated moral reasoning, and sustainable AI. It exploring how to think clearly about ethics in the face of radical uncertainty, complexity, and rapid technological change.

The focused theme enabled us to continue to reach our regular attendees whilst also drawing in a new audience of people specifically looking for AI ethics - especially for continuing professional development and other professional reasons, where this is a currently under-served topic.

We also offered two Christmas editions this year, both of which were well-attended and added a fun element to our Bitesize programme.

"The lectures provided a valuable resource to help me to think through different ethical and practical implications of the choices we make about using AI in a more informed way. I used thoughts sparked by the introductory lecture as a basis for a critical reflection on my continuing professional development, which is a requirement of my professional regulator."

"This has been one of the most enriching experiences in my professional life. To say I'm impressed by my experience would be an understatement."

"It is a good way to gain an initial understanding of the issues in practical ethics."

"It was refreshing to see balanced discourse when it comes to AI."

Christmas Bitesize specials:

16th Dec 2025
The Ethics of Gift Giving – is it what it used to be?
(Alberto Giubilini)

17th Dec 2025
'Tis the Season to be Jolly: Hedonism and the Value of Pleasure
(Roger Crisp)

100%
of feedback providers
Felt encouraged by the course to continue studying Philosophy and wanted another course!

120+
registrations

86%
of participants were from outside the UK

2k
views on YouTube

Philosophy in Prisons

Academic lead: Joanna Demaree-Cotton

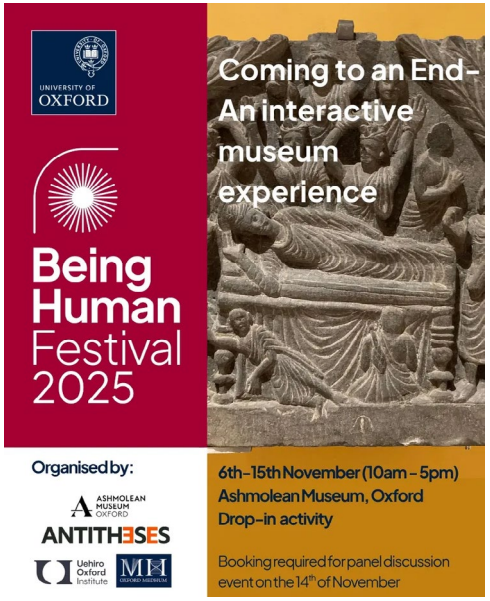
This program is unique at the University of Oxford, and aims to engage incarcerated offenders in ethics, philosophy, and academic inquiry.

In March 2025, three UOI researchers (Joanna Demaree-Cotton, Alberto Giubilini and Thomas Mitchell) concluded a 10-week course on the Ethics of Technology in a women's prison. Over the sessions, the women learned to engage in ethical reflection through conversation and respectful debate and the course received wonderful feedback from staff and participants. Participants commented that the course taught them how to think critically about both sides of an issue and respect others' perspectives; several felt it made them attentive to how ethics shapes the world and gave them the confidence to discuss ethics beyond the classroom. Many felt inspired to continue philosophy. As one participant said, she had enjoyed the sessions as it made her realise philosophy was something that we can all do. Since then, two UOI doctoral students, Paul Heller and Sasha Arridge, have begun delivering a 10-week Introduction to Philosophy course at a men's prison. A six-month follow-on programme at the women's prison is also being developed, to take place in 2026, with one-off monthly 'taster' sessions before a new 10-week course.

Philosophy in Prison

Coming to an End — an interactive museum experience

As part of the Being Human Festival, in collaboration with the Medical Humanities Hub and ANTITHESES, the Institute participated in creating this self-guided museum trail at the Ashmolean Museum in November 2025. Exploring issues of death, dying and end-of-life care, and adapted from an innovative, award-winning trail forming part of the Oxford medical curriculum, the tour was co-created by a multidisciplinary team spanning the Humanities and Medical Sciences Divisions and including the perspectives of expert patient tutors.



Project Lazy

Academic lead: Katrien Devolder

Katrien's research aims to better understand the meaning of the label 'lazy', and how it can affect people by harming wellbeing (causing anxiety, low self-esteem, or burnout), lead to unfair treatment (in employment, education and healthcare), and deepen inequalities. Members of the public are encouraged to get involved via the Project Lazy website to add their own experiences and insights.

Women in Ethics

The work of women writers, thinkers and ethicists has often been forgotten or side-lined. This new series of social media-friendly reels is a collaboration between the Department of Social Ethics at the University of Bonn and the UOI. The reels focus on women thinkers and the ideas they've brought to the field. To date we have released seventeen reels featuring women from past and present, and all around the globe, which have over 5k views on YouTube.

Schools engagement

UOI academics visited a wide range of schools across the UK this year, providing mentorship, judging for competitions, lectures and other educational visits.

Roger Crisp served as a judge at the SPEAR Sovereign Minds Oratory Prize Grand Final. Sovereign Minds are a UK-based educational initiative aiming to empower young people to become responsible citizens.

> *"Thanks so much again to Gabriel and Becky for giving us your time on Wednesday! The students got a great deal out of it and were very positive. ... the skills they continued to refine in your practical ethics micro-debates are transferable'"*
>
> **Dr Luke Tarassenko, Cheney School**

Science communication

Institute scholars have taken part in many podcasts and interviews this year, bringing their research and expert comment into the public domain. Examples include:

Right top, ***Katrien Devolder took part in the Oxford Literary Festival*** in March 26. On a panel with Carissa Véliz and Daniel Kodsi, chaired by Gary Francione, she discussed 'How Can Philosophers Tackle Pressing Social Issues?' in front of a large audience in the University's Sheldonian Theatre.

Dominic Wilkinson commented on first-cousin marriages in the popular press in April 25.

Right bottom, ***Hazem Zohny produced a popular blog series*** on AI-researched and drafted blog posts and took part as a 'witness' in the BBC's Radio 4 program 'The Moral Maze' on the topic of privacy in light of government plans for digital IDs.

Tom Douglas appeared regularly on radio discussing the ethics of chemical castration, during renewed public interest in May 2025.

Journal of *Practical Ethics*

Editor: Rebecca Brown

The *Journal of Practical Ethics* has issued its thirteenth volume. Rebecca Brown continues as Editor-in-Chief, with Rachel Gaminiratne serving as Editorial Manager. This year the publisher, Michigan Publishing Services, has been accepted as a member of the Open Journals Collective which has enabled the JPE to participate. Journal of Practical Ethics is now indexed in the Directory of Open Access journals.

Forthcoming issues

The two forthcoming special issues will focus on the topic of manipulation.

Debates concerning what manipulation is, as well as the normative status of manipulation, have seen renewed interest in recent years. The first issue, scheduled for publication in September 2026, comprises four articles by Robert Noggle and Shlomo Cohen. Each author introduces their view, and each responds to the other's view. The next issue (March 2027) will include articles by four different authors commenting on the exchange in this issue. We hope these two issues can serve as a resource for readers of all types to get up-to-date on two new, robustly developed views on this highly relevant topic, as well as a reflection of the broader contemporary debate on manipulation.

26,000

Reads for JPE papers this year

6,677

Views for the most read paper for this period is Jeffrey Howard's The Ethics of Social Media

7,614

Growth in average views per year

Journal of Practical Ethics

September 2025 (Volume 13, Issue 1

Title: ***Together again: The value of our encounters, offline***
Author: ***Emily McTernan***

Title: ***The moral importance of low-welfare species***
Author: ***Jakob Lohmar*** (Uehiro essay prize finalist, 2024)

Title: ***Promises and consent***
Author: ***Arjan Heir*** (Uehiro essay prize finalist, 2024)

Title: ***Why me?***
Author: ***Sarah Buss***

Title: ***The ethics of social media: Why content moderation is a moral duty***
Author: ***Jeffrey Howard***

Public *Engagement*

41
new videos posted on YouTube with 9.7k views

52.7K
YouTube views in the last year

3 Institute academics received nominations for the University's Public and Community Engagement with Research (PCER) Celebration & Recognition Scheme this year: ***Alberto Giubilini, Gabriel De Marco and Joanna Demaree-Cotton.***

750
Instagram followers

6.3K
YouTube Subscribers

1.5K
Bluesky followers

1.8K
Views on most popular video this year: #WomenInEthics Philippa Foot

David Edmonds continues to co-present Philosophy Bites, the world's most popular philosophy podcast, which has now had ***50 million downloads.***

1K
followers on our new LinkedIn account

2.1k
Facebook followers

Selected Media *Outlets*

Aljazeera
BBC
BBC Radio 3
BBC Radio 4
BBC Radio Ulster
Daily Mail
De Volkskrant
Dissensus
France 24
GB News
Insijder
LBC News
NDTV
New Lines Magazine
New Republic
RTE
Times Radio
The Conversation
The Guardian
The Independent
The Telegraph
The Times
Undark
Voices of Islam

Translations

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

- Chinese
- Polish
- German
- Portugese
- Italian
- Romanian
- Japanese
- Russian
- Korean
- Serbian
- Dutch
- Spanish
- Greek
- Indonesian

89

Presentations

given by Uehiro Oxford Institute members last year

*14 conferences this year took place online only.

49

United Kingdom

Birmingham (1), Brighton (1), Bristol (1), Cambridge (1), Edinburgh (1), Glasgow (1), Oxford (27), London (14), Southampton (1), Slough (1)

5

Americas

Brazil: Sao Paulo (1)
Mexico: Mexico City (2)
USA: New York (2)

15

Europe

Denmark: Copenhagen (2), Odense (1)
Germany: Karlsruhe (1), Munich (1), Cologne (1), Leipzig (1)
Netherlands: Amsterdam (1)
Norway: Bergen (1)
Poland: Gdansk (1)
Portugal: Lisbon (1)
Romania: Bucharest (2)
Switzerland: Zürich (1), Geneva (1)

1

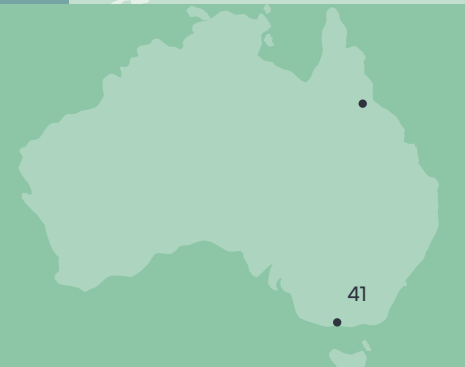
Singapore

4

Japan

3

Australia



Team

Directors

Director, Professor Roger Crisp

Deputy Director and Director of People, Professor Dominic Wilkinson (0.60 FTE)

Director of Education, Dr César Palacios-González

Director of Public Philosophy, Professor Katrien Devolder

Director of Research, Professor Thomas Douglas

Advisory Support and Consultants

Emeritus Professor Tony Hope

Emeritus Professor Janet Radcliffe Richards

Professor Ingmar Persson

Dr David Edmonds

Funded Research Fellows

Dr Federico Bina

Dr Rebecca Brown

Dr Gabriel De Marco

Dr Joanna Demaree-Cotton (50% externally funded)

Dr Lisa Forsberg

Dr Alberto Giubilini (20% externally funded)

Professor Guy Kahane

Dr Kim Leontiev

Dr Hannah Maslen (0.25 FTE)

Dr Joost Mollen

Dr Jonathan Pugh (funded through MSt)

Dr César Palacios-González (part-funded through MSt)

Dr Aidan Runagall-McNaull

Professor Julian Savulescu (20% FTE)

Externally-Funded Research Fellows

Dr Kathryn Francis

Professor Neil Levy (0.5 FTE)

Dr Christopher Register (until August 2025)

Dr Gracie Reinecke (in Psychiatry)

Dr Kartik Upadhyaya

Dr Cristina Voinea

Dr Hazem Zohny

Hosted Research Fellows

Dr Edmond Awad

Dr Mette Leonard Høeg

Dr Carme Isern Mas

Dr Andrew Moeller

Dr Viktor Savchenko

Dr Daniel Villiger

Research Assistants

Shristi Shakya

Public Engagement

Liz Sanders

Dr Sally Frampton

Vara Raturi

Administration

Axelle Duquesnoy

Rachel Gaminiratne (0.8 FTE)

Vara Raturi

Jacob Heath (0.4 FTE)

Debs Thomas (0.6 FTE)

DPhil Students

Ayushi Agarwal

Dr Sophie Bertaud

Dr Esther Braun

Mattia Cecchinato

John André Nebb Ek

Faisal Feroz

Amelia Foxton

Anna Golova

Bryce Goodman

Paul Heller

Katerina Jennings

Ryan Kulesa

Theo Naylor

Eve Poirier

Dominykas Ragelis

Darko Stojilovic

Rei Takahashi

Robert Vandersluis

Helena Ward

Service and *Committees*

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

University

Member of the Humanities Divisional Board (Roger Crisp)

Member of the Vice-Chancellor's Colloquium, AI and Climate (Gracie Reinecke)

Member of the Policy committee on the use of generative AI in research (Hazem Zohny)

Member of the 2025 Oxford Global Health Bioethics Conference Organising Committee (Alberto Giubilini)

Member of the TORCH Management Committee (Katrien Devolder)

Member of the Knowledge Exchange, Innovation and Impact Sub Committee (Katrien Devolder)

Member of the Oxford Policy Engagement Network Steering Committee (Jonathan Pugh)

Member of the Central University Research Ethics Committee (Tom Douglas)

Member of the Social Sciences and Humanities Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee (Lisa Forsberg)

Academic lead, Medical Humanities Hub (Alberto Giubilini)

Learned Societies and Journals

Member of the Society of Legal Scholars (Viktor Savchenko)

Member of the Socio-Legal Studies Association (Viktor Savchenko)

Special interest Groups and Working groups

Programme Committee Member, Machine+Behavior26 (Gracie Reinecke)

Nuffield Council on Bioethics working group on the future of the 14-day rule in human embryo research (Katrien Devolder)

Nuffield Council on Bioethics Oversight group on the future of the 14-day rule in human embryo research (César Palacios-González)

Member of an Expert Advisory Panel, General Medical Council (Dominic Wilkinson)

Clinical Lead, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Treatment Limitations Framework 2025 (Dominic Wilkinson)

Member of the EDI Advisory Subcommittee of Council, The British Academy (Lisa Forsberg)

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