Annual Report 2021-22

Cover photo: Photo by Rocci Wilkinson

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Introduction from the Chair

OUC Director
Julian Savulescu

2021 saw a gradual thaw in the pandemic. Our cover photo shoot marked our first opportunity to meet as a whole Centre post-pandemic, and was a joyful occasion. Although Omicron meant another winter working from home, we welcomed our first MSt students back to Oxford in March, and we are currently preparing for an in-person Trinity (Summer) term.

The Centre is built on the philosophy that collaboration, environment, and community produce a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. We maintained this philosophy throughout the pandemic through joint initiatives including making further inroads into our impact goals by collaborating on 8 joint policy papers that have fed into government decision-making.

We maintained a lively online events and teaching programme, shifting seamlessly online when Omicron hit. International events are much harder to replicate given the time zones, and we were saddened to have to postpone the Uehiro-Carnegie-Oxford Conference, although the edited volume on Pandemic Ethics is working to schedule, aiming to draw lessons from the pandemic that will equip us for future pandemics (see p2). Even when online events work well, the spontaneous creativity of in-person interactions cannot be replaced, and the summer term will be focussed around restoring that element of our working life.

We are grateful as always to The Uehiro Foundation for Ethics and Education for continued and steadfast support through this global crisis. Although our Uehiro Exchange Programme has been put on hold due to travel difficulties, the benefits of the programme continue to accrue. Former Exchange participant OUC Research Fellow Dr Doug McConnell spoke at Taku Sasaki's (Kanazawa University) workshop, The Philosophy and Ethics of Blame, following their interactions of the course of the programme. Seisuke Hayakawa (Tokyo University) was the respondent/discussant.

We are delighted to introduce a number of exciting new programmes and research fellows this year. The Moral Psychology Lab (p13) builds on the Centre's pioneering work, such as the award-winning Oxford Utilitarianism Scale, to develop interdisciplinary work understanding the psychological basis of our moral intuitions and beliefs, and the extent to which they can be altered. A Leverhulme Fellowship for former Centre student, Max Kiener, will build the Centre's profile in the ethics of artificial intelligence, while the Centre's role in a major European project developing a new theory of awareness that encompasses artificial agents, and investigating the ethical implications of such awareness, will explore deep questions about consciousness alongside practical questions about AI ethics as we work to embed concepts of trust and accountability into AI systems (see p6 for more detail).

Alongside these new programmes of work, we have also continued our core work on public health, responsibility, and neuroethics in a range of new developments. As we continue to develop interdisciplinary engagement through initiatives such as the Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities, a Carlsberg Fellowship has brought Dr Mette Hoeg, a literary theorist to the Centre.

Meanwhile, we have strengthened our education remit through a partnership with Cherwell School, a key local state school, and by broadening the remit of our annual schools debate to international competition.

Overcoming national boundaries has been one clear advantage of online activities that we will work to keep in the post-pandemic environment. Indeed, we have been able to maintain close contact with many of our internationally based MSt students throughout the year through online classes, and we will make sure that this option remains open.

Although the pandemic has delayed some of our key programmes, I was delighted to see Larry Temkin's excellent Uehiro Lecture series appear in print as the latest volume in the Oxford University Press Uehiro Series in Practical Ethics. This important series of lectures will now be available to a wider audience. The volume constructively addresses philosophical issues in effective altruism, an Oxford based movement founded by former OUC student Toby Ord which has gained traction worldwide and sparked a movement of young people interested in devoting their time, talents, and money to the global good.

We look forward to 2022 with the return of the Uehiro Lectures, and the Festival of Arguments, and planning for international events in 2023, including the Uehiro-Carnegie-Oxford Conference.

Selected Highlights:
Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics

Home Office Science Advisory Committee

OUC Director Julian Savulescu will join the Home Office Science Advisory Committee working to provide the Home Office's Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) with independent advice on maximising the quality of the science and research that informs strategic delivery and policy development.

The Council also supports the CSA in engaging and communicating the importance and impact of research and scientific issues to the department. In this context, science non-exclusively include economics, social science, statistics, operational research and engineering, physical and life sciences, ethics, and data science. This appointment will build on the Centre's ongoing work to provide ethical advice to policymakers (see p18)

COVID-19 and Future Pandemics

COVID-19 remained high on the Centre's agenda, as we seek to address the latest challenges it poses. Indeed, although the current pandemic is still with us, we must look to the future. People have been expecting another pandemic for decades. Other recent novel infections (for example SARS, MERS, or Ebola) led to death in between 1 in 10 (SARS) to 5 in 10 (Ebola) cases. The mortality rate in the Spanish Flu of 1918 was many times greater than COVID. Some 50 million people — 2.8% of the global population — died. We have the opportunity to look, with the benefit of hindsight at what happened at the time, when we had imperfect knowledge. Choices that are clear now were not as obvious at the time.

The Centre, led by OUC Director Julian Savulescu is continuing to analyse ethical issues of each stage of the current pandemic, and moving to address the lessons learned for future pandemics, most notably in the forthcoming Oxford University Press volume arising from the Uehiro-Carnegie-Oxford conference (see p4) which will bring global experts to bear on the question of how to handle 'Disease X' given what we have learned from COVID-19.

Julian Savulescu's current citation data

	All	Since 2017
Citations	23935	13280
h-index	79	56
i10-index	367	276
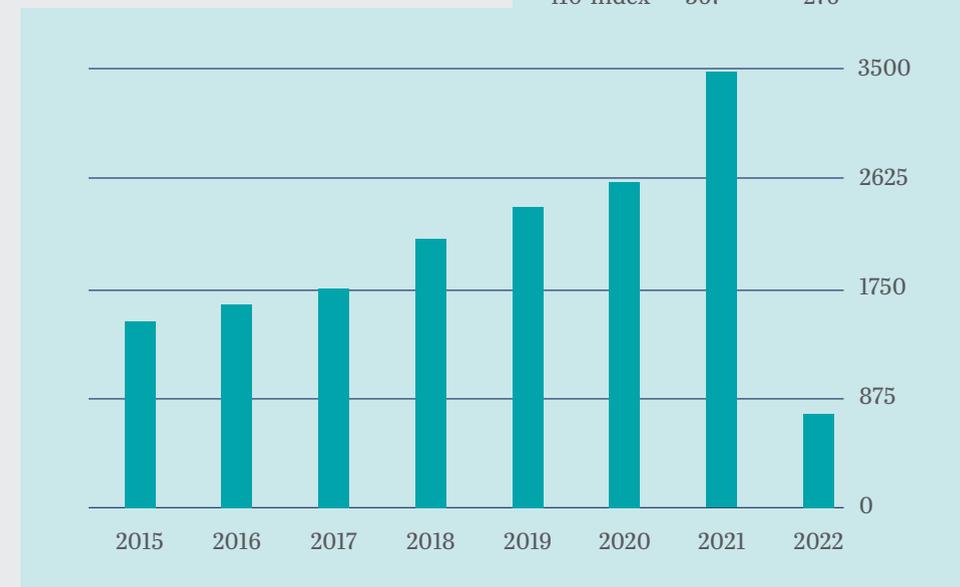
Through Savulescu's co-directed Pandemic Ethics Accelerator Award, OUC researchers Savulescu, Pugh, Giubilini and Wilkinson continued to lead the Centre's COVID-19 Ethics responses, with articles in leading ethics (*Journal of Medical Ethics, Bioethics*), and medical journals (*Nature Medicine, Journal of Paediatrics, British Medical Bulletin*). As the pandemic has developed, the ethical issues have developed. Most recently, the issue of vaccine mandates has been reassessed in the light of evidence about ongoing transmissibility post-vaccination, as well as questions about the rights and responsibilities of health care workers as we emerge from the pandemic. OUC Director of Research, Thomas Douglas and OUC Research Fellow Lisa Forsberg joined the team on a series of policy papers on these issues.

The Centre has also joined broader collaborations. Working with historians, as part of our Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities collaboration, OUC Research Fellow Alberto Giubilini has explored what the end of a pandemic means, and how it is achieved. The Spanish flu virus still circulates, but it is no longer harmful. Understanding how a pandemic ends will help us to adjust our policies appropriately.

In a series of eight collaborative policy papers, centre researchers contributed to national policy through written submissions to national consultations on vaccine mandates and immunity passports. In particular, we argued publicly and lobbied that the mandatory vaccination program for health professionals should

no longer be imposed, particularly where there was natural immunity which provides similar levels of protection. This has now been enacted in the UK.

"The Ethics Accelerator project has enabled us to quickly and effectively engage with policymakers over pandemic issues"

Julian Savulescu
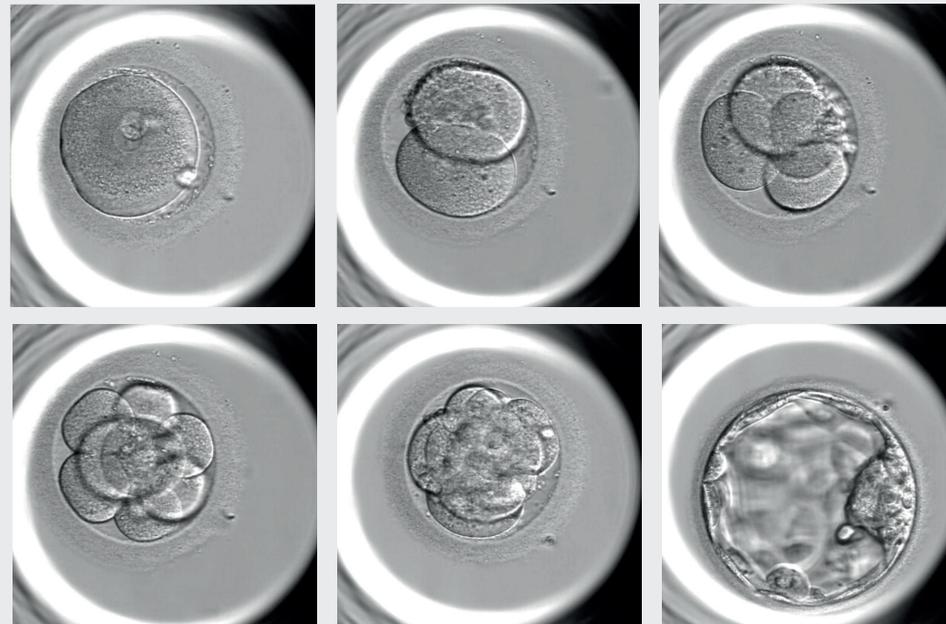
Artificial Intelligence

Concerns have been raised about the use of artificial intelligence in a number of fields, including warfare. Using AI to select the most viable embryos for IVF appears uncontroversial, and indeed, it is already being used. Yet unlike most new medical interventions, it has not been assessed through a clinical trial, and as is common with AI technology, we do not understand the basis of AI decision-making.

This is a well-known problem with AI, and has led to famous AI mistakes. For example, AI learned to distinguish wolves from

huskies solely by the presence of snow in the background. Mistakes of this kind have ethical significance when applied to selecting future children. For example, if AI learns to base decisions about viability on embryo sex. Moreover, the lack of information about the AI recommendation limits the efficacy of key medical values such as shared decision making and patient autonomy. There is also a broader issue in medicine's use of AI. As AI begins to replace clinician decision-making with a clear recommendation, but no supporting explanation, who is responsible when things go wrong?

Machine Learning does not have to be 'black box'. Interpretable models may be more difficult and expensive. Parents make important decisions about their future children during IVF, and widespread use of these technologies by health care systems will lead to changes at the population level. There is an ethical imperative to take the time to understand and carefully research not only the outcomes but also the reasoning behind AI recommendations.

"Interpretable AI is an ethical issue. Handing over decision-making doesn't resolve difficult questions and their consequences."

Julian Savulescu

Left: The developing embryo: a new frontier for AI in medicine

Working with an international team of doctors and computer scientists, Julian Savulescu has produced a series of papers, launching the programme of work at the leading Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Society Conference, run by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence.

Building on this work, OUC Director Julian Savulescu has joined cutting edge work on building awareness architecture into machine learning, in part as a response to these concerns. In a €3.9 million European Commission project, Savulescu will join psychologists and computer scientists to design an awareness architecture that will address key problems around explainability, trust, and values.

Antimicrobial Resistance

Almost unnoticed amongst the current issues around pandemic, war, and financial crises, was recent research showing that antimicrobial resistance is already making common infections significantly more deadly. In Australian research, drug-resistant UTIs were two and a half to three times more deadly than their treatable counterparts, and these infections were being acquired in the community.

This year saw the culmination of a major project led by OUC Director Julian Savulescu on collective responsibility and healthcare, with key papers published

this year in the *American Journal of Public Health* calling for an international treaty to address antimicrobial resistance. The project offers hope: similar work effectively resolved the ozone layer crisis. Although the Paris Agreement on climate change is flawed, it is also ambitious, and offers a helpful model for international responses to antimicrobial resistance. In this work, Savulescu and the team have drawn key lessons from the Paris Agreement to call for international action.

One of the lessons learned from the pandemic is our individual and national vulnerability to global disease. Much of our work has focussed on the ethics of advances in medicine. In this project, we address the terrifying prospect that medicine might go backwards: the hard-won advances of previous generations may no longer be effective. Collective responsibility is more, not less, important than an individual responsibility.

The article is in the top 5% of all research outputs scored for impact by Altmetric, and was picked up by multiple news outlets.

Global challenges inevitably involve ethical challenges. There are trade-offs that must be made between different values, and costs that must be shared amongst global societies.

New Books

One of the key remaining pandemic impacts on academic life has been international conferences. Thanks to the flexibility of our participants in joining our events online, often at anti-social times, we have been able to continue to work on two key projects: The Uehiro-Carnegie-Oxford Annual Conference and edited volume on pandemic ethics, and the international event that is the culmination of our Responsibility and Healthcare conference and its edited volume, both published by Oxford University Press and edited by OUC Director Julian Savulescu and other team members.

Top 3 most read paper in *Public Health Ethics*

Top 3 most read Oxford author in *The Conversation*

2.2 million Conversation readers in total

1.1 million Conversation readers this year

Key Uehiro-Funded Staff Highlights

Wabi- sabi: a virtue of imperfection

In a contemplative short piece in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, **OUC Head of Medical Ethics Dominic Wilkinson considers the Japanese art of wabi-sabi, and the values that we can draw from this aesthetic for the practice of medicine.**

Medicine has been used to reach for physical perfection through cosmetic surgery, to seek to banish disease and disability, and to control and delay death. Wabi-sabi helps us to question these values, and to find balance between wellbeing, healthfulness and an unattainable or undesirable understanding of medicine as the search for perfection.

A wabi-sabi aesthetic in medicine sees the value in loving attention and care, and the beauty in healing that restores wellbeing to a patient in their individual embodied self.

Clinical Collaborations

OUC has fostered a range of key clinical collaborations, helping to foster ethical analysis within practice, as well as keeping up to date with the latest developments and issues in medicine.

OUC Chair Julian Savulescu and researcher Rebecca Brown both presented to the UK's Royal College of Anaesthetists. Savulescu contributed to the Australian Academy for Health and Medical Sciences key policy papers, and Wilkinson to the European Society for Resuscitation. Savulescu and OUC Research Fellow Pugh collaborated with clinicians including a dentist to produce original research directed at resolving profession-specific ethical issues.

The Centre has welcomed a series of clinician visitors, and will shortly formalise this programme with the support of the Faculty of Philosophy. The MSt programme has also attracted a number of doctors and other healthcare professionals internationally to Oxford to study ethics at Master's degree level.

Music and Philosophy

OUC Director of Studies Guy Kahane's philosophy inspired a musical composition, 'What About Significance', by Elina Lukijanova, which was performed for the first time in Heidelberg, Germany. The article, 'Our Cosmic Insignificance' in *Nous*, has already inspired an artist.

Meanwhile, OUC Research Fellow Jonathan Pugh is collaborating with musicians composing a song about a 12th Century monk called Abelard. Abelard brought back translations of philosophy (including the Nicomachean Ethics), and championed the power of reason. The piece will be performed at Oxford's famous Sheldonian Theatre and professionally recorded.

The inaugural performance of *What About Significance*

New Externally Funded Projects

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Publications
2021-22

3 of 5

most read *Public Health Ethics* papers are by Centre staff and students

2 of 5

most cited *Bioethics* papers are by Centre Staff

Centre Feature Article

most-read paper in *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Counterfactual Assessment and Valuation for Awareness Architecture

PI: Julian Savulescu; Co-I: Neil Levy, Research Fellow

The realization of aware machines is considered implausible. The Counterfactual Assessment and Valuation for Awareness Architecture (CAVAA) proposes that awareness has a specific function: the ability to survive in a world governed by hidden states, especially those pertaining to other agents. Awareness rests on five core processes: the ability to virtualize task spaces, to merge "real" and virtual elements into these internal models, to run parallel future-oriented simulations of possible world-self states, to collapse these into a single conscious scene which defines the content of awareness, and to use awareness to bias valuation and memory consolidation. The CAVAA project will build on this understanding of awareness to engineer awareness in computational systems, and use that system to integrate a system of AI Ethics.

Answering Others: Moral Responsibility and the Challenges from Artificial Intelligence

Fellow: Maximilian Kiener

This project centres around a book entitled *Answering Others. Moral Responsibility and Artificial Intelligence*. The project will explore and clarify our understanding of moral responsibility, break new ground in the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI), and connect moral philosophy, legal theory, and AI ethics in new ways.

Honesty in Public Health Communication

PI: Rebecca Brown

This project seeks to explore what it means for public health communication to exhibit the virtue of honesty, and to determine whether or not it is ever permissible for such communication to be dishonest. For instance, should public health communicators exaggerate the benefits of vaccination in order to encourage public uptake? A paper relating to this project, which describes how medical evidence incorporates a great deal of uncertainty which is rarely communicated to patients, has been accepted for publication in *Synthese*. Another paper, which describes how we should identify group beliefs for the purposes of judging

honesty is currently in preparation, as is an empirical paper which describes how often public health websites report information regarding the effect size of benefits and harms of interventions they recommend.

Reproductive Ethics in the Mexican context

OUC PI: Cesar Palacios Gonzalez

The project is collaboration with physicians and researchers at Mexico's National Institute of Perinatology, the main research and academic hub for reproductive medicine in Mexico.

The collaboration will focus on three areas: conscientious objection and its relationship with reproductive medicine; the ethics of reproductive biotechnologies that alter the DNA of embryos or gametes; and the ethical issues of uterus transplants.

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Externally funded projects support international collaborations, and also help our younger scholars gain valuable leadership experience.

Julian Savulescu

New Externally Funded Research Projects

2022-2026, Julian Savulescu

European Commission

CAVAA: Counterfactual Assessment and Valuation for Awareness Architecture

€3,955,419 (OUC total €389,429)

2021-2022, Dominic Wilkinson

Effective Giving

Neonatal Ethics

$100, 000

2021-2024, Maximilian Kiener (Mentor: Thomas Douglas)

Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship

Answering Others: Moral Responsibility and the Challenges from Artificial Intelligence

£109,190

2021- 2022, Rebecca Brown

John Templeton Foundation and Wake Forest

Honesty in Public Health Communication

£53,172.95

2022, Cesar Palacios Gonzalez

The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities

Reproductive Ethics in the Mexican context

£10,340

2022, Hazem Zohny

University of Oxford Public Engagement with Research Seed Fund

Philosobot: A Chatbot in Practical Ethics

$4400

Hosted Fellowships

2021-2023, Muriel Leuenberger (Mentor: Thomas Douglas)

Swiss National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Mobility Grant

Neuroimaging, Personal Digital Records and the Narrative Self: How Different Kinds of Self-knowledge Alter the Self

CHF 120,280 (£97,408)

Collaborative Grants

These grants are held at other institutions, but involve Centre members.

2022-2025, Douglas McConnell

Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

Rewriting moral character and professional virtue

$343,772

OUC: Douglas McConnell will move to take up this Fellowship

2021-2026, PI: Gerben Meynen.

Netherlands Research Foundation (NWO) Vici Grant

Targeting the Offender's Brain: A Unified Normative Framework for the Evaluation of Neurotechniques in Criminal Justice

£1.28M [€1.48M]

OUC: Thomas Douglas will co-supervise a PhD student and Research Fellow

2021-24, Wendy Lipworth

MRFF Stem Cell Therapies Mission (APP2007623)

Improving decisions about access to stem cell interventions

$799,543

OUC: Julian Savulescu is an Associate Investigator, co-supervising staff

7
Centre Principal Investigators

£674,507
in new externally funded Centre-based awards

£5.58 million
in collaborative awards won this year with OUC as a member

Books

New Book Contracts

Pandemic Ethics: From COVID-19 to Disease X

Julian Savulescu and Dominic Wilkinson
Oxford University Press

The COVID-19 pandemic is a defining event of the 21st century. It has taken over three million lives, closed national borders, put whole populations into quarantine and demolished economies. The pandemic toll and the cost of measures taken to combat it—both effective and ineffective—has been paid in human lives, mental and physical suffering, and economic hardship. The costs will continue to be paid by individuals and societies for decades to come.

The pressure of the pandemic has pressed on society's weaknesses, turning cracks into fissures. Where inequalities persist, the pandemic exacerbates them: there has been unequal distribution of both disease harms and lockdown burdens across different groups in society.

Yet while COVID-19 is catastrophic, it is not unique. We await 'Disease X', the World Health Organisation's placeholder name for "the knowledge that a serious international epidemic could be caused by a pathogen currently unknown to cause human disease." Children who are being home-schooled today will almost certainly face another pandemic in their lifetime – one at least as bad—and potentially much worse—than this one.

"...the knowledge that a serious international epidemic could be caused by a pathogen currently unknown to cause human disease."

In this volume, Julian Savulescu and Dominic Wilkinson will edit a volume of papers by a global team of leading philosophers, lawyers, economists, and bioethicists to address these questions. The book will review the COVID-19 pandemic and ask not only 'how did our pandemic responses measure up to our existing ethical principles', but also 'how has the experience of COVID-19 transformed our ethical beliefs?'

Responsibility and Healthcare

Ben Davies, Gabriel De Marco, Julian Savulescu, Neil Levy,
Oxford University Press

Many illnesses that risk death or serious harm are at least partly the result of lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, lack of exercise, or extreme sports. The WHO notes that the global prevalence of preventable, noncommunicable diseases is rising, and accounts for a large proportion of deaths worldwide. According to some, patients with such illnesses may be partly, or wholly, responsible for them. When there are not enough resources to treat everyone who is ill, one might reasonably ask whether it would be permissible to introduce a responsibility-sensitive policy, which holds patients accountable for their harmful lifestyles - for instance, by taxing tobacco products, charging higher premiums, or giving such patients lower priority for certain treatments. Answering this question requires delving into a variety of issues in political philosophy and ethical theory: When is a distribution of resources just or fair? Should individuals have to meet all the costs of their choices, or is there a limit on how much any individual can be expected to bear? What are the responsibilities of institutions, government and society for individual's health-related lifestyle choices? It also raises questions in philosophy of action and moral psychology: What does it mean for agents to be responsible for their actions, their lifestyles, and their health-related outcomes? And responsibility for health involves cognitive science: What are we actually like as agents? When we make health-affecting decisions such as having a cigarette or failing to wear a seatbelt, do we actually meet the conditions for responsibility laid out by our best philosophical theories? When these questions are addressed, they are often addressed independently, yet the answers are interrelated. For instance, whether a policy that holds patients accountable is justified will not only depend

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"Answering this question requires delving into a variety of issues in political philosophy and ethical theory: When is a distribution of resources just or fair? Should individuals have to meet all the costs of their choices, or is there a limit on how much any individual can be expected to bear? What are the responsibilities of institutions, government and society for individual's health-related lifestyle choices? "

on what amounts to a fair distribution of goods, but also on whether patients' health and health-related behaviour is sufficiently under their control to justify holding them accountable for it. Similarly, the nature of such policies, if they are justified, will depend on what sorts of things we can be responsible for, and to what extent we can be responsible at all.

This collection brings together papers by world-renowned experts in these topics, in order to push the debate forward by elucidating our understanding of these questions, their possible answers, and how they are related. 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.

Answering Others. Moral Responsibility and Artificial Intelligence
Maximilian Kiener, Hart Publishing

Answering Others uses a novel puzzle, the Lorry Driver Paradox, to explore and clarify our understanding of moral responsibility, to break new ground in the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI), and to connect moral philosophy, legal theory, and AI ethics in new ways. *Answering Others* supports a 'legal turn', i.e., the idea that an inquiry into legal responsibility can guide an inquiry into moral responsibility, and not just the other way around.

More specifically, *Answering Others* offers a novel conception of moral answerability, as opposed to liability, shows that 'taking responsibility' can be a genuine normative power, like

consenting or promising, and elaborates on the moral significance of apologies in our social and legal practices. *Answering Others* stands out due to its paradox-driven methodology, its combination of legal and philosophical perspectives, and its solutions to challenges around 'responsibility gaps' and trustworthy AI.

New Books Published

Rethinking Moral Status
Stephen Clarke, Hazem Zohny, Julian Savulescu (2021), Oxford University Press

Common-sense morality implicitly assumes that reasonably clear distinctions can be drawn between the "full" moral status that is usually attributed to ordinary adult humans, the partial moral status attributed to non-human animals, and the absence of moral status, which is usually ascribed to machines and other artifacts. These implicit assumptions have long been challenged, and are now coming under further scrutiny as there are beings we have recently become able to create, as well as beings that we may soon be able to create, which blur the distinctions between human, non-human animal, and non-biological beings. These beings include non-human chimeras, cyborgs, human brain organoids, post-humans, and human minds that have been uploaded into computers and onto the internet and artificial intelligence.

It is far from clear what moral status we should attribute to any of these beings.

There are a number of ways we could respond to the new challenges these technological developments raise: we might revise our ordinary assumptions about what is needed for a being to possess full moral status, or reject the assumption that there is a sharp distinction between full and partial moral status.

This volume explores such responses, and provides a forum for philosophical reflection about ordinary presuppositions and intuitions about moral status.

Further Under Contract Books

Protecting Minds
Thomas Douglas,
Oxford University Press

Conscientious Objection and Healthcare
Alberto Giubilini, Francesca Minerva,
Udo Schuklenk, and Julian Savulescu,
Oxford University Press

Procreative Beneficence: A Defence
Guy Kahane and Julian Savulescu,
Oxford University Press
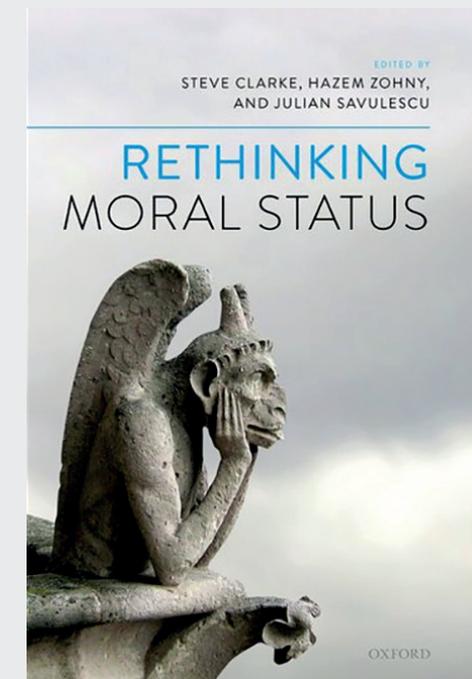
Voluntary Consent: Theory and Practice
Maximilian Kiener,
Routledge

Handbook of Responsibility
Maximilian Kiener (editor),
Routledge

Philosophy, Bullshit, and Peer Review
Neil Levy,
Cambridge University Press

Future Morality

**David Edmonds (2021),
Oxford University Press**

The world is changing so fast that it's hard to know how to think about what we ought to do. We barely have time to reflect on how scientific advances will affect our lives before they're upon us. New kinds of dilemma are springing up. Can robots be held responsible for their actions? Will artificial intelligence be able to predict criminal activity? Is the future gender-fluid? Should we strive to become post-human? Should we use drugs to improve our intimate relationships — or to reduce crime? Our intuitions about questions like these are often both weak and confused.

David Edmonds has put together a philosophical task force to get to grips with these challenges. Twenty-nine philosophers present provocative and engaging pieces about aspects of life today, and life tomorrow — birth and death, health and medicine, brain and body, personal relationships, wrongdoing and justice, the internet, animals, and the environment.

"Readers will be hard-pressed to find a better introduction to a range of contemporary moral problems."

**Simone Gubler, Times
Literary Supplement**

"In this wide-ranging anthology, philosopher Edmonds… brings together some of the brightest minds in philosophy and ethics to discuss the future… This comprehensive overview of looming ethical issues goes a long way toward equipping readers with the tools to work out their own answers to sticky questions."

Publisher's Weekly
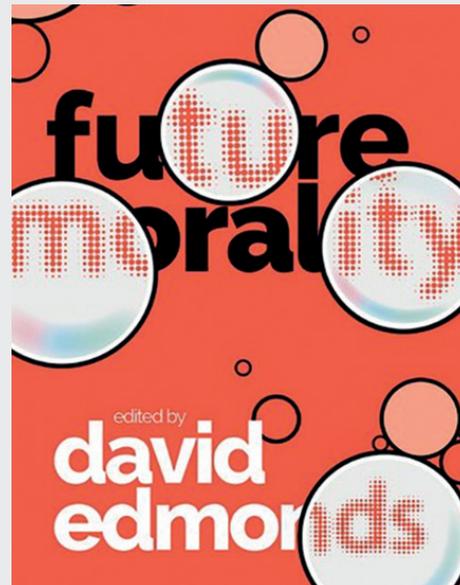
Out of the World: On the Point of Doing Philosophy

Ingmar Persson (2021), Thales

It seems plausible that the point of doing philosophy is to arrive at a rational consensus about the true answers to philosophical problems. But then it appears clear that doing philosophy is bound to be pointless because it will fail to produce such a consensus. A main reason for this is that philosophical problems often take the form of firmly entrenched commonsensical intuitions being opposed by powerful philosophical arguments. Examples are issues such as whether physical things, some of which have minds, exist independently of our perception, whether our inductive and memory beliefs are justifiable, whether we have free will and responsibility, whether we have reason to be especially concerned about ourselves, and whether there are moral norms that are objectively valid.

This book suggests that what side we land on in such disputes is ultimately due to features of our personality. But if this is true, the point of philosophizing could be to work out a philosophy that articulates our personality. If our philosophy has a broad scope, it will enable a fuller articulation of our personality. Moreover, it is more likely to carry implications about how to live, which provides philosophizing with a further possible point. Persson sketches how his personality has shaped his views on the issues mentioned and their implications for living.

Más (que) Humanos

Francisco Lara and Julian Savulescu (editors) (2021), Tecnos Publishing

This new book edited by Profs Francisco Lara (Granada) and Julian Savulescu (Oxford) provides a general introduction to human enhancement ethics in the Spanish language — filling a gap in Spanish literature on the subject. Papers from academics at Oxford University's Uehiro Centre in Practical Ethics, the University of Granada and other prominent ethicists offer an analysis of current trends in the ethics of biotechnology, artificial intelligence (AI) and enhancement.

The volume focuses on exploring the ethics of new and developing science,

examining real-world scenarios such as the use of oxytocin, the applications of CRISPR, the use of neurofeedback for moral enhancement, and the possible application of AI to moral decision-making. Regarding the latter, the book goes beyond mainstream analyses of the ethical aspects of AI uses, inquiring also into the promises and perils of using AI to make us more ethical.

Published by Tecnos, and with a prologue from Prof Nicholas Agar (Victoria University of Wellington), Más (que) humanos provides Spanish-speaking students and academics with a general introduction to the topic, followed by an in-depth discussion of Moral Enhancement.
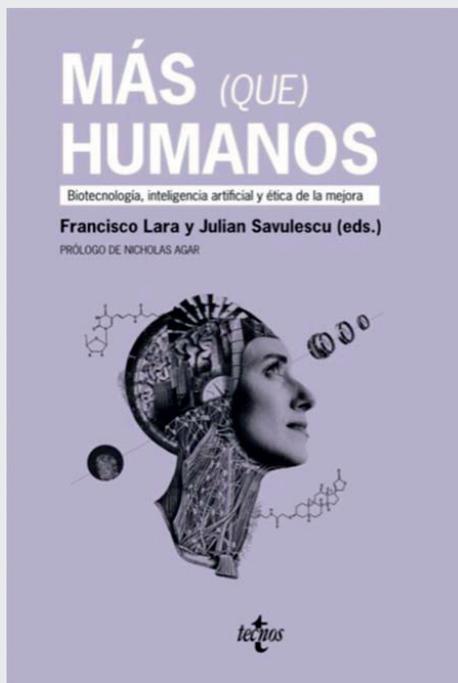
Bad Beliefs: Why They Happen to Good People
Neil Levy (2021), Oxford University Press

Bad beliefs — beliefs that blatantly conflict with easily available evidence — are common. Large minorities of people hold that vaccines are dangerous or accept bizarre conspiracy theories, for instance. The prevalence of bad beliefs may be politically and socially important, for instance blocking effective action on climate change. Explaining why people accept bad beliefs and what can be done to make them more responsive to evidence is therefore an important project.
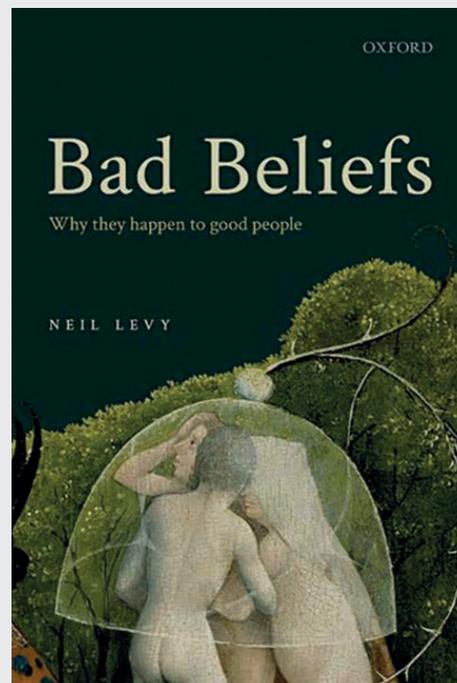
A common view is that bad beliefs are largely explained by widespread irrationality. This book argues that ordinary people are rational agents, and their beliefs are the result of their rational response to the evidence they're presented with. We thought they were responding badly to evidence, because we focused on the first-order evidence alone: the evidence that directly bears on the truth of claims. We neglected the higher-order evidence, in particular evidence about who can be trusted and what sources are reliable. Once we recognize how ubiquitous higher-order evidence is, we can see that belief formation is by and large rational.

The book argues that we should tackle bad belief by focusing as much on the higher-order evidence as the first-order evidence. The epistemic environment gives us higher-order evidence for beliefs, and we need to carefully manage that environment. The book argues that such management need not be paternalistic: once we recognize that managing the epistemic environment consists in management of evidence, we should recognize that such management is respectful of epistemic autonomy.

"Levy's account is novel, and avoids the condescension of arguments that climate change denialists and anti-vaxxers are simply irrational or stupid."

Lisa MacDonald, Times Literary Supplement

Neurolaw: Ways forward for Neuroscience, Justice & Security
Van Toor D, Ligthart S, Kooijmans T, Douglas T, Meynen G, (editors) (2021), Palgrave Macmillan

This edited book provides an in-depth examination of the implications of neuroscience for the criminal justice system. It draws together experts from across law, neuroscience, medicine, psychology, criminology and ethics, and offers an important contribution to current debates at the intersection of these fields. The volume examines how neuroscience might contribute to fairer and more effective criminal justice systems, and how neuroscientific insights and information can be integrated into criminal law in a way that respects fundamental rights and moral values.

The book's first part approaches these questions from a legal perspective, followed by ethical accounts in part two. The authors address a wide range of topics and approaches: some are more theoretical, like those regarding the foundations of punishment; others are more practical, like those concerning the use of brain scans in the courtroom. Together, they illustrate the thoroughly interdisciplinary nature of the debate, in which science, law and ethics are closely intertwined.
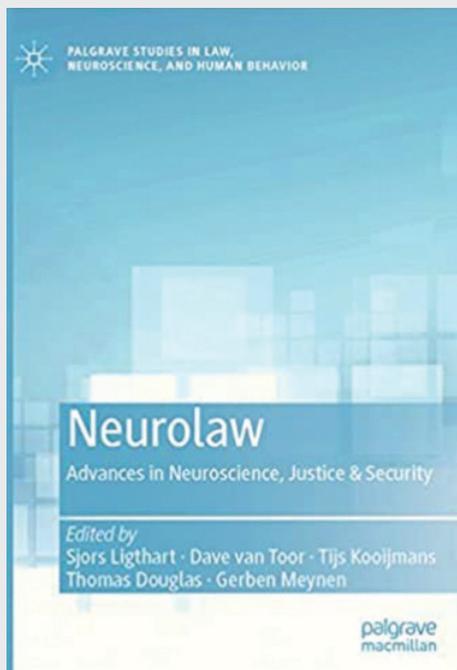
Literary Theories of Uncertainty
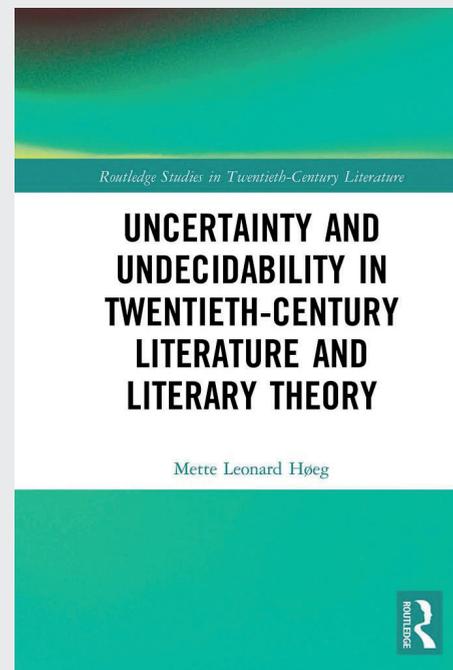
Mette Hoeg (editor) (2021), Bloomsbury

As the first study to examine the concept of uncertainty of meaning as it relates to modern and contemporary literature and literary theory, *Literary Theories of Uncertainty* demonstrates how this notion functions as a literary feature, narrative device and theoretical concept in 20th and 21st century texts. Calling upon theories of interpretation and challenging the distinction between literature and theory, this exploration is broken down into three sections: Poststructuralist legacies of uncertainty; life-writing and uncertainty; and contemporary literary uncertainties.
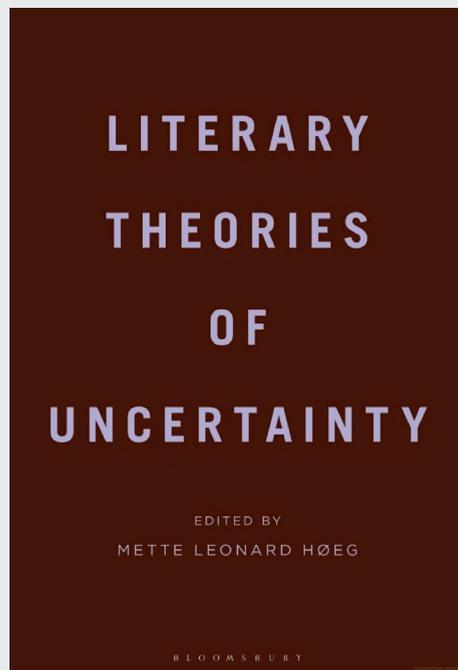
The volume takes into account related terms such as undecidability, indeterminacy, ambiguity, unreadability, and obscurity, and the topics examined include: undecidability and the motif of suspension in deconstruction; Derrida and Bataille; poetry as a mode of critical discourse and point of convergence between logico-mathematical ideas of undecidability and literary forms of uncertainty; uncertainty in relation to speech and the impact of Robert Antelme on Mascolo and Blanchot; Proust and temporal uncertainty; uncertainty in relation to death, trauma and autobiography; moral uncertainty in the Scandinavian welfare state and Nordic Noir; the aesthetically disruptive and anti-authorian effect of uncertainty in in the works of German-Turkish writer Emine Sevgi Ozdamar; uncertainty in the form of 'the double' and in relation to meta-fiction; and many more.

Literary Theories of Uncertainty collates original and diverse discussions by some of the most prominent, inquiring minds in literary, cultural and critical theory today to map out the contours of the field of 'theory of uncertainty'.

Uncertainty and Undecidability in Twentieth-Century Literature and Literary Theory

Mette Hoeg, (2022), Routledge

Undecidability is a fundamental quality of literature and constitutive of what renders some works appealing and engaging across time and in different contexts. This book explores the essential literary notion and its role, function and effect in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature and literary theory. The book traces the notion historically, providing a map of central theories addressing interpretative challenges and recalcitrance in literature and showing 'theory of uncertainty' to be an essential strand of literary theory. While uncertainty is present in all literature, and indeed a prerequisite for any stabilisation of meaning, the Modernist period is characterised by a particularly strong awareness of uncertainty and its sub forms of undecidability, ambiguity, indeterminacy, etc. With examples from seminal Modernist works by Woolf, Proust, Ford, Kafka and Musil, the book sheds light on undecidability as a central structuring principle and guiding philosophical idea in twentieth-century literature and demonstrates the analytical value of undecidability as a critical concept and reading-strategy. Defining undecidability as a specific 'sustained' and 'productive' kind of uncertainty and distinguishing it from related forms, such as ambiguity, indeterminacy and indistinction, the book develops a systematic but flexible theory of undecidability and outlines a productive reading-strategy based on the recognition of textual and interpretive undecidability.

Research Projects

Moral Psych Lab (Core Funding)

Newly appointed OUC Research Fellows Brian Earp and Joanna Demaree Cotton are in the process of starting up a new Programme in Moral Psychology and Experimental Bioethics, establishing an interdisciplinary research group that will bring the methods of cognitive science and experimental psychology to bear on the study of real-world issues of importance to bioethics. For example, they will study the contextual factors and cognitive processes that shape stakeholder judgments about real-world ethical dilemmas: whether to honour an advance directive, how to determine futility in treatment, how to allocate scarce resources, and so forth.

They are then building a framework for thinking about how these empirical findings about realistically-situated moral judgments might have substantive normative implications for bioethics and associated policy. They have planned an international workshop to showcase the latest work in this emerging field of "experimental bioethics" - which has already garnered support through a published consensus statement co-authored with leading figures in moral psychology, experimental philosophy, and bioethics. This interdisciplinary workshop is scheduled for July, this summer, and features cutting edge work by both senior figures and up-and-comers helping to establish this new field.

BrainCom, European Commission

BrainCom moved into its final phase of research, and released a virtual reality app to document some of its findings. The 'VRainCom' app provides users with a virtual tour of some of the research facilities used in researching neural recording technology, as well as ethical questions and issues arising from neuroscience research.

The ethics parts of the app experience are narrated by Dr Hannah Maslen and Dr Stephen Rainey, both based in the Uehiro Centre and active in the BrainCom research project's *Ethics, Implants, and Society* workpackage. Because it is compatible with Apple and Android phones, and can be used with a simple homemade VR headset, this will be a highly accessible way to engage the public with the world of neuroscientific research and neuroethical analysis.

Meanwhile, the BrainCom project will wrap up in April, with a concluding event to be held in Barcelona in which a variety of stakeholders in neuroscience, neurotechnology development, policy, and ethics will hold workshops and discussions. The aim will be to explain the work of the project so far, and to stake out future questions for the neurotechnology sector from a variety of angles. The project was recently selected to participate in the *EU Innovation Radar*, whose objective is to identify high-potential innovators and innovations and their specific 'go to market' needs. This should help the project in getting its innovations 'out of the lab' and closer to the market. This has been one area in which The Uehiro Centre's Dr Rainey has been active, analysing the ethical issues attaching to *translational research* or innovations for medical applications and how they transition from lab to market.

Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities, Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities (WEH) is a joint initiative between OUC, and partners Ethox, NeuroSec, and History. The current phase of WEH has seen a greater emphasis on close collaboration between partners. Hazem Zohny and David Lyreskog are both appointed between OUC and NeuroSec, working on neuroethics and collective minds. A further shared post on justice and discrimination will shortly be recruited to.

Other School activities include talks and workshops. WEH also worked with a local theatre company on an exploration of ethical issues in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

Pandemic Ethics Accelerator, UK Research and Innovation

The UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator is a new initiative that brings UK ethics research expertise to bear on the multiple, ongoing ethical challenges arising during pandemics. We provide rapid evidence, guidance and critical analysis to decision-makers across science, medicine, government and public health. We also support public debate on key ethical challenges. OUC is a founding member of this national research collaboration with partners in Oxford, and at leading national institutions, including The Nuffield Foundation.

The project has made key input into public policy, through a series of rapid ethics reviews, as well as formal contributions to government policy making and evaluations, including on the use of data in the pandemic, and policies such as mandatory vaccination of healthcare workers.

New Staff

OUC's vision is act as a training centre for talented young scholars in practical ethics.
We are delighted to welcome several new Research Fellows to the Centre this year.

Maximilian Kiener

Dr Maximilian Kiener is the Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in Philosophy at Oxford, held at OUC, and specialises in moral and legal philosophy, with a particular focus on consent, responsibility, and artificial intelligence.

A key project goal is the monograph, *Answering Others. Moral Responsibility and Artificial Intelligence*, which is under contract with *Hart Publishing. Answering Others* uses a novel puzzle to explore and clarify our understanding of moral responsibility, to break new ground in the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI), and to connect moral philosophy, legal theory, and AI ethics in new ways, *Answering Others* supports a 'legal turn', i.e., the idea that an inquiry into *legal responsibility* can guide an inquiry into *moral responsibility*, and not just the other way around.

Brian D. Earp

Dr Brian Earp has joined the Centre as Senior Research Fellow, leading the Moral Psych Lab (see p13). He is also Associate Director of the Yale-Hastings Program in Ethics and Health Policy at Yale University and The Hastings Center, and Associate Editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. Brian's work is cross-disciplinary, following training in philosophy, cognitive science, psychology, history and sociology of science and medicine, and ethics.

A co-recipient of the 2018 Daniel M. Wegner Theoretical Innovation Prize from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Brian was also one of four named finalists for the 2020 John Maddox Prize for "standing up for science" (awarded by Sense about Science and Nature). Brian is also recipient of both the Robert G. Crowder Prize in Psychology and the Ledyard Cogswell Award for Citizenship from Yale University, where, as an undergraduate, Brian was elected President of the Yale Philosophy Society and served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Philosophy Review*. Brian then conducted graduate research in psychological methods as a Henry Fellow of New College at the University of Oxford, followed by a degree in the history, philosophy, and sociology of science, technology, and medicine as a Cambridge Trust Scholar and Rausing Award recipient at Trinity College at the University of Cambridge. After spending a year in residence as the inaugural Presidential Scholar in Bioethics at The Hastings Center in Garrison, New York, Brian was appointed Benjamin Franklin Resident Graduate Fellow while completing a dual Ph.D. in philosophy and psychology at Yale University. Brian's essays have been translated into Polish, German, Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Japanese, and Hebrew.

Joanna Demaree Cotton

Dr Joanna Demaree Cotton has joined OUC as a Research Fellow in Moral Psychology, as part of the newly formed Moral Psychology Lab. Her research focuses on various questions at the intersection of ethics and psychology. She uses interdisciplinary methods from analytic philosophy and empirical psychology to investigate the psychological underpinnings of moral judgments, moral concepts and moral agency, and to explore implications of this for normative questions in philosophical ethics. Recently, she has been working on a project on the folk concept of valid consent, which examines the role of the concepts of autonomy and consent in ordinary moral reasoning, and considers implications of these findings for applied questions in the ethics of consent.

Joanna joined OUC after receiving her PhD in Philosophy from Yale University. She was also a Newcombe Fellow in the study of ethical values with the Woodrow Wilson foundation. She received her B.Phil. in Philosophy and her B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology from the University of Oxford. During her time at Yale, as well as conducting doctoral research, she developed an undergraduate course on the ethics of technology, and taught various undergraduate courses on applied and normative ethics, the psychology and philosophy of human nature, and introductions to the history of philosophy.

David Lyreskog

David Lyreskog joins the OUC team as a joint appointment with the Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities project, working across the Centre and Psychiatry. Dr Lyreskog will lead the 'Rethinking Collective Minds' collaboration between the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics and the Neuroscience, Ethics & Society team (NEUROSEC) at the Department of Psychiatry, led by former OUC researcher, Professor Ilina Singh. This theme will investigate conceptual and ethical implications of emerging technologies for collective thinking, sensing, and decision-making. In 2020 he was awarded Summa Cum Laude by RWTH Aachen University for his PhD thesis 'The Ethics of Mind Maintenance – analysing trade-offs for emerging technologies aimed at preventing and treating age-related neural decline and disease' , and went on to develop novel methods for empirical bioethics research in adolescent populations.

New Hosted Research Fellows

Hosted Research Fellows are paid directly by their funder rather than through the University, but hosted at the Centre

Muriel Leuenberger

OUC Hosted Research Fellow Muriel Leuenberger's project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. In this two-year project, Dr Leuenberger will analyse novel and emerging technologies that can provide us with new kinds or unprecedented amounts of self-knowledge. For example, health trackers or neuroimaging alter our identity and why and to what degree we should know ourselves or have a right not to know ourselves. An ethical debate on self-knowledge through technology can support policymakers and developers and inform users of potential harms and benefits for their identity. This interdisciplinary work in philosophy intersects with research in psychology, medicine, information technology, and AI.

Mette Hoeg

OUC Hosted Research Fellow Mette Hoeg is leading a Carlsberg Foundation project "The role of literature and the humanities in the development of a consciousness culture and ethics". The project aims to establish consciousness research as an interdisciplinary field by integrating theories and methodology from the humanities, in particular literature and philosophy. The project considers the potential and value of literature for developing concepts of self and subjectivity and existential and ethical models that are compatible with the new materialist explanations of human consciousness.

Mette holds a PhD in English from King's College London, an MA in Modern Culture and Literature from the University of Copenhagen, is a Fulbright Alumna and literary critic.

Awards

Norwegian Fulbright prize

For 'The Ethics of Emergencies'

Aksel Sterri

Best Paper Award

Computer Ethics Philosophical Enquiry and International Association for Computing and Philosophy Joint Conference 2021

For 'Can "Taking Responsibility" as a Normative Power close AI's Responsibility Gap?"

Maximillian Kiener
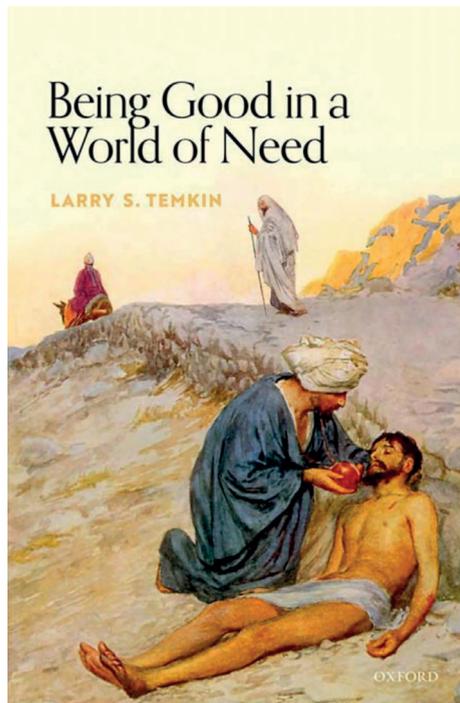
Fulbright Scholarships

Former BMedSc student Dean Hayden

Former MSt student Xavier Symons

Aksel Sterri receives the Norwegian Fulbright Prize'

Uehiro Lectures and Uehiro Series in Practical Ethics

Above: Cover, Being Good in a World of Need

Academic Lead: Julian Savulescu

The ongoing pandemic meant that in person public lectures could not be held last academic year. Rather than proceed online, our lecturers felt that postponing to 2022 would mean a safe, in-person experience, although mindful of our broader international audiences, we will continue to provide an online livestream. We will therefore look forward to Professor Howard McGary's and Professor Peter Railton's lectures this year.

Being Good in A World of Need

Larry Temkin
Oxford University Press

The latest publication in the Uehiro Series in Practical Ethics is *being Good in a World of Need*.

In a world filled with both enormous wealth and pockets of great devastation, how should the well-off respond to the world's needy?

This is the urgent central question of *Being Good in a World of Need*. Larry S. Temkin,

one of the world's foremost ethicists, challenges common assumptions about philanthropy, his own prior beliefs, and the dominant philosophical positions of Peter Singer and Effective Altruism. Filled with keen analysis and insightful discussions of philosophy, current events, development economics, history, literature, and age-old wisdom, this book is a thorough and sobering exploration of the complicated ways that global aid may incentivize disastrous policies, reward corruption, and foster "brain drains" that hinder social and economic development.

Using real-world examples and illuminating thought experiments, Temkin discusses ethical imperialism, humanitarian versus developmental aid, how charities ignore or coverup negative impacts, replicability and scaling-up problems, and the views of the renowned economists Angus Deaton and Jeffrey Sachs, all within the context of deeper philosophical issues of fairness, responsibility, and individual versus collective morality. At times both inspiring and profoundly disturbing, he presents the powerful argument that neglecting the needy is morally impermissible, even as he

"In his new book, Being Good in a World of Need, [Temkin] systematically unpicks the lazy thinking that characterizes many campaigns "to save" those in need…. The force of his criticism of the Effective Altruism movement should not be underestimated. Without a credible account of what it means to live a good life, we cannot have a credible account of the good we should try to do."

Mark Hannan, Times Literary Supplement

illustrates that the path towards helping others is often fraught with complex ethical and practical perils. Steeped in empathy, morality, pathos, and humanity, this is an engaging and eye-opening text for any reader who shares an intense concern for helping others in need.

Uehiro Lectures

Ethics and Artificial Intelligence

Professor Peter Railton

May 2022, Maths Institute, University of Oxford

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

Professor Howard McGary

October 2022

Policy and Practice

Academic Lead: Jonathan Pugh

Thanks to the generous support of The Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education, the Centre has developed a diversity of expertise, experience, and seniority in practical ethics. In the past year, we used the depth and breadth of expertise within the Centre and amongst our collaborators to contribute a series of papers to national and international policy processes in the UK and European Union, on a series of topics including artificial intelligence, criminal justice, animal welfare, mental health care, and COVID-19 related issues.

In addition to written submission, OUC members have contributed to key workforces on issues directly impacting policy and practice in the UK, Europe, and Mexico, as well as worldwide through input into supranational bodies such as the World Health Organisation.

OUC Director, Julian Savulescu, was appointed to the UK's Home Office Scientific Affairs Committee, advising the government on maximising the quality of the science and research that informs strategic delivery and policy development. OUC Research Fellow Maximilian Kiener has joined the European Commission Working Group on Meaningful and Ethical Communication to advise European policy makers on ethical and effective methods of communication with the public. Meanwhile, in Mexico, OUC Senior

Research Fellow Cesar Palacios Gonzalez joined the National Bioethics Commission, a decentralized body of Mexico's Secretariat of Health. The Commission has technical and operational autonomy, and it is responsible for defining national policies on bioethics issues. The Centre's work was cited in key WHO reports as well as in reports by international governments.

OUC researchers also used their expertise to contribute to developments in clinical practice. OUC Head of Medical Ethics Dominic Wilkinson was a member of the group who wrote the European Resuscitation Council Guidelines on newborn resuscitation and transition of infants at birth. The topics covered include an algorithm to aid a logical approach to resuscitation of the newborn, factors before delivery, training and

education, thermal control, management of the umbilical cord after birth, initial assessment and categorisation of the newborn infant, airway and breathing and circulation support, communication with parents, considerations when withholding and discontinuing support. OUC Research Fellow Maximilian Kiener is a member of an Oxfordshire Clinical Research Ethics Committee, evaluating applications for clinical trials.

In recent years, private companies have come under greater scrutiny for their ethical practices above and beyond regulatory requirements. OUC is supporting companies including Bayer Pharmaceuticals, and Avon Cosmetics in developing ethically informed policies.

Teaching

Course Dinner for the MSt Students

MSt in Practical Ethics

Academic Lead: Guy Kahane

The MSt in Practical Ethics welcomed its 5th cohort to Oxford in 2022, working in a hybrid format to allow students who are able to travel to participate in modules in-person, whilst those who are unable to travel participate online. This model enabled us to bring on board international speakers as well as OUC, Oxford, and UK-based experts.

We have continued to develop the course with three new modules available for the first time this year: AI Ethics, Animal and Environmental Ethics, and Data Ethics.

Meanwhile, our first graduates have progressed their careers in practical ethics. Former MSt Students Gin Mahli and Dominic McGuire have remained at Oxford as DPhil students, while Rivkah Weinberg took up a fully funded scholarship in London. Former student, Xavier Symons, who took the course alongside his PhD studies completed a Fulbright scholarship at Georgetown University, before taking up a job at Harvard University. Others have returned to their primary careers, and taken up positions on local ethics committees, and several have published their MSt work, or further research work using the skills learned on the course, in academic journals.

MSt Student Publications

Bradfield, O. and Giubilini, A.,
(2021), 'A spoonful of honey or a gallon of vinegar? A conditional COVID-19 vaccination policy for frontline healthcare workers',
Journal of Medical Ethics, Vol: 47(7): 467-472

Minehan, M.J.,
(2021), Moral status of the fetus and the permissibility of abortion: a contractarian response to Thomson's violinist thought experiment.
Journal of Medical Ethics

Nix, H.,
(2021), "Canadian perspective on ageism and selective lockdown: a response to Savulescu and Cameron",
Journal of Medical Ethics,

Williams, B., Cameron, J., Trauer, J., Marais, B., Ragonnet, R. and Savulescu, J.,
(2021), 'The Ethics of Selective Restriction of Liberty in a Pandemic',
Journal of Medical Ethics, Vol: 47(8): 553-562

Williams, B.,
(2022), 'The Ethics of Selective Mandatory Vaccination for COVID-19',
Public Health Ethics, phab028

Wilkinson D, Moore G, Zayegh A.
Moral Priorities, Decision Making and Legal Principles. In Avery and MacDonald's *Neonatology Pathophysiology and Management of the Newborn*. 8th Edition. Wolters Kluwer. 2021

Bradfield O, Wilkinson D.
Mandatory vaccination for RA--CF justified. *MJA Insight*. 12 July 2021
https://insightplus.mja.com.au/2021/25/mandatory-vaccination-for-racf-workers-the-ethics/

Publications arising from the BMedSc Programme

Dao, B., Savulescu, J., Suen, J., Fraser, J. and Wilkinson, D.,
(2021), 'Ethical factors determining ECMO allocation during the COVID-19 pandemic',
BMC Medical Ethics, Vol: 22(1): 70

Feng-Gu, E., Everett, J. A. C., Brown, R., Maslen, H., Oakley, J. and Savulescu, J.,
(2021), 'Prospective intention-based lifestyle contracts: mHealth technology and responsibility in healthcare',
Health Care Analysis, Vol: 29(3): 189-212

Munday, S. and Savulescu, J.,
(2021), 'Three Models for the Regulation of Polygenic Scores in Reproduction',
Journal of Medical Ethics, Vol: 47(12): e91

Takla, A, Savulescu, J., Kappes, A., & Wilkinson, D.,
British laypeople's attitudes towards gradual sedation, sedation to unconsciousness and euthanasia at the end of life,
PlosOne 2021

Takla, A., Wilkinson, D., Pandit, J. and Savulescu, J.,
(2021), 'General anaesthesia in end-of-life care: extending the indications for anaesthesia beyond surgery',
Anaesthesia, Vol: 76(10): 1308-1315

Takla, A., Wilkinson, D. and Savulescu, J.,
(2021), 'A conscious choice: is it ethical to aim at unconsciousness at the end of life',
Bioethics, Vol: 35(3): 284-291

Wilkinson D, Di Stefano L.
Artificial Wombs.
In: Future Morality, ed Edmonds D. OUP 2021

BMedSc Elective

Academic Lead: Julian Savulescu

The BMedSc elective in Medical Ethics brings talented medical students from Monash Medical School to Oxford to write a thesis in medical ethics. Although the students were not able to travel in 2021, we continued to supervise remotely. In 2022, we will welcome the newest cohort of three BMedSc students to Oxford. Despite the online format, the BMedSc continues to produce academic work at the highest levels, including 6 publications in medical, science, and bioethics journals this year. Many of our BMedSc students have continued to engage in ethics, with Daniel D'Hotman currently studying for a DPhil, and Dean Hayden continuing his ethics-focussed work at Harvard with a Fulbright Scholarship.

8th Annual Oxford Uehiro Essay Prize in Practical Ethics

This year we opened our annual Uehiro Essay Prize in Practical Ethics to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any University in the UK. A team of OUC researchers assessed the 43 submitted essays to produce the finalists for our hybrid online and in person competition.

Essay Prize Winners

Undergraduate Category

Winner: Matthew Price
Why We Should Negatively Discount the Well-Being of Future Generations

Runner Up: Leo Rogers
Terra nullius, populus sine terra: who may settle Antarctica?

Graduate Category

Winner: Lily Moore-Eissenberg
Legal Proof and Structural Injustice: Should jurors be given information about structural racism?

Runner Up: Avital Fried
Statistical Evidence and the Criminal Verdict Asymmetry

Oxford- Uehiro-St Cross Scholars

Academic Lead: Tom Douglas and Jonathan Pugh

Unfortunately, travel restrictions meant we were not able to host the Oxford-Uehiro-St Cross Scholars in 2021, but we are looking forward to welcoming our delayed scholar, Dr Tasei Wake, to Oxford this year, along with the incoming Scholar as we resume the programme. Our scholars and international visitors have been greatly missed at the Centre.

Public Engagement

Academic Lead: Katrien Devolder

The next Festival of Arguments will take place in June 2022, to enable to festival to move to a primarily in-person format. The six-day Festival will see a range of public activities from walking tours, classes, lectures, workshops and child-friendly activities such as Story Time in Oxford's central library, and a full day of animal ethics-inspired events in partnership with the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. In line with our commitment to maintain opportunities for international audiences post-pandemic, online as well as face-to-face events will feature on the programme.

Practical Ethics and Responsibility video competition

Academic Lead: Dr Ben Davies

Following the positive feedback received from last year's video competition s, 2022 saw a second annual competition. School students worked in teams to prepare 65 video entries on topics related to responsibility and healthcare, with the online format enabling us to welcome international entrants from countries including Germany, India, Singapore and Turkey.

Four teams were selected as finalists, presenting their work to our panel of

'...this competition challenged my beliefs regarding ethics and responsibility in general, and incited many moral quandaries in my daily life as well. The variety of different philosophical schools of thought allowed me to engage in my personal beliefs in an incredibly real way, and taught me that these principles are just tools to further my own thinking.

Student competition entrant feedback

judges as part of a day of school-focussed events including an exhibition debate between OUC Research Fellows Drs Hazem Zohny and Doug McConnell.

The competition is valued by both the students and teachers, who find the competition a fun way of introducing the study of ethics to the older students. Winning and highly commended videos were published on the Centre's YouTube channel.

The event was produced in partnership with *Philosophy Now* magazine, which helped advertise the competition and fielded an editor, Mr Rick Lewis as a guest judge for the final debate, along with a panel of OUC judges.
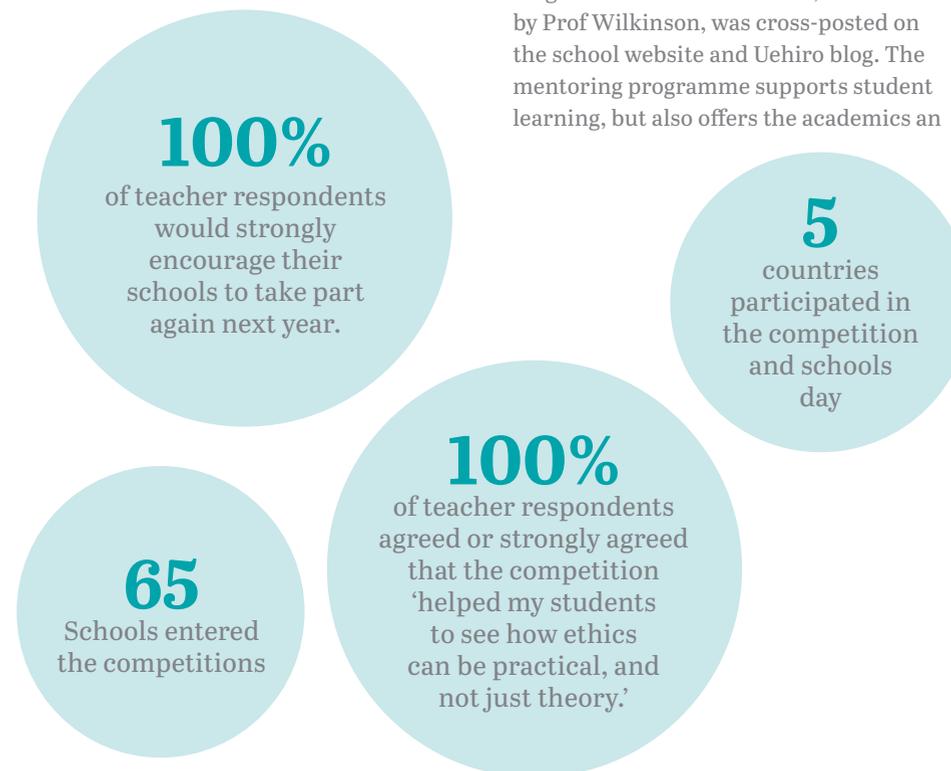
Winners: Varndean College, and St Mary's School Ascot

'It was a great competition, and incredibly interesting as well! Would love to see more competitions like this in the future. Also, the resources on the website were immensely helpful outside the context of this competition.'

Student competition entrant feedback

"Thank you for … the opportunity this competition provided for the students. They really loved the experience, and it also enriched their knowledge and understanding of ethics"

Teacher feedback

100%
of teacher respondents would strongly encourage their schools to take part again next year.

65
Schools entered the competitions

100%
of teacher respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the competition 'helped my students to see how ethics can be practical, and not just theory.'

Cherwell School Partnership

Academic Lead: Professor Dominic Wilkinson

The Cherwell School is a large Oxford state school. In partnership with Cherwell, OUC has developed a range of activities. Uehiro Centre academics mentor sixth form student bloggers, helping them to both explore complex ethical questions, and write convincing blog articles. The first article, mentored by Prof Wilkinson, was cross-posted on the school website and Uehiro blog. The mentoring programme supports student learning, but also offers the academics an

5
countries participated in the competition and schools day

opportunity to further develop their own communication skills for a public audience.

Uehiro academics are also regularly invited by schools across Oxford to participate in other events, such as careers fairs and enrichment across Oxford.

Link to the blog: https://thesixthformreview.wordpress.com/vaccine-passports/

'It's been truly phenomenal, and is really appreciated! Philosophy & Ethics is such a fascinating area, but also one which is full of abstract concepts, and therefore hard to understand at times. Thinking about how to put ethical theories into practice, especially with regards to something like Covid which is so relevant to all of us, has really brought this subject to life for me and showed me the importance of studying it. This tutorial project has really inspired me!'

Isobel, Year 12 student

Journal of Practical Ethics

Editor: Tom Douglas

December 2021 saw the first issue of the *Journal of Practical Ethics* following its migration to Michigan University Press.

The new platform provides DOI and citation services, as well as direct social media sharing facilities, enhancing the ability to easily share articles.

While the transfer of 8 years of content will take time, the new platform is a key step in consolidating the *Journal of Practical Ethics'* status and accessibility on the international stage.

Journal of Practical Ethics, December 2021

Reciprocity and Resources
Elizabeth Fenton

Prioritising Parents
Moti Gorin

How Ai Can Aid Bioethics
Walter Sinnott-Armstrong and Joshua August Skorburg

YouTube

5.7K viewed videos posted this year

303K total views of video content

The Conversation:

5 of the top 10 **University of Oxford authors in 2021 were from OUC**

2.2 million readers of **OUC authors on** *The Conversation*

Blog

9.5K

doctors and medical professionals read our blogs on doctors.net.uk

405k

readers of the Practical Ethics in the News blog this year

5.9 million

all time readers of Practical Ethics in the News

Journal of Practical Ethics

2k readers of the 2021 edition

17k readers total content

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

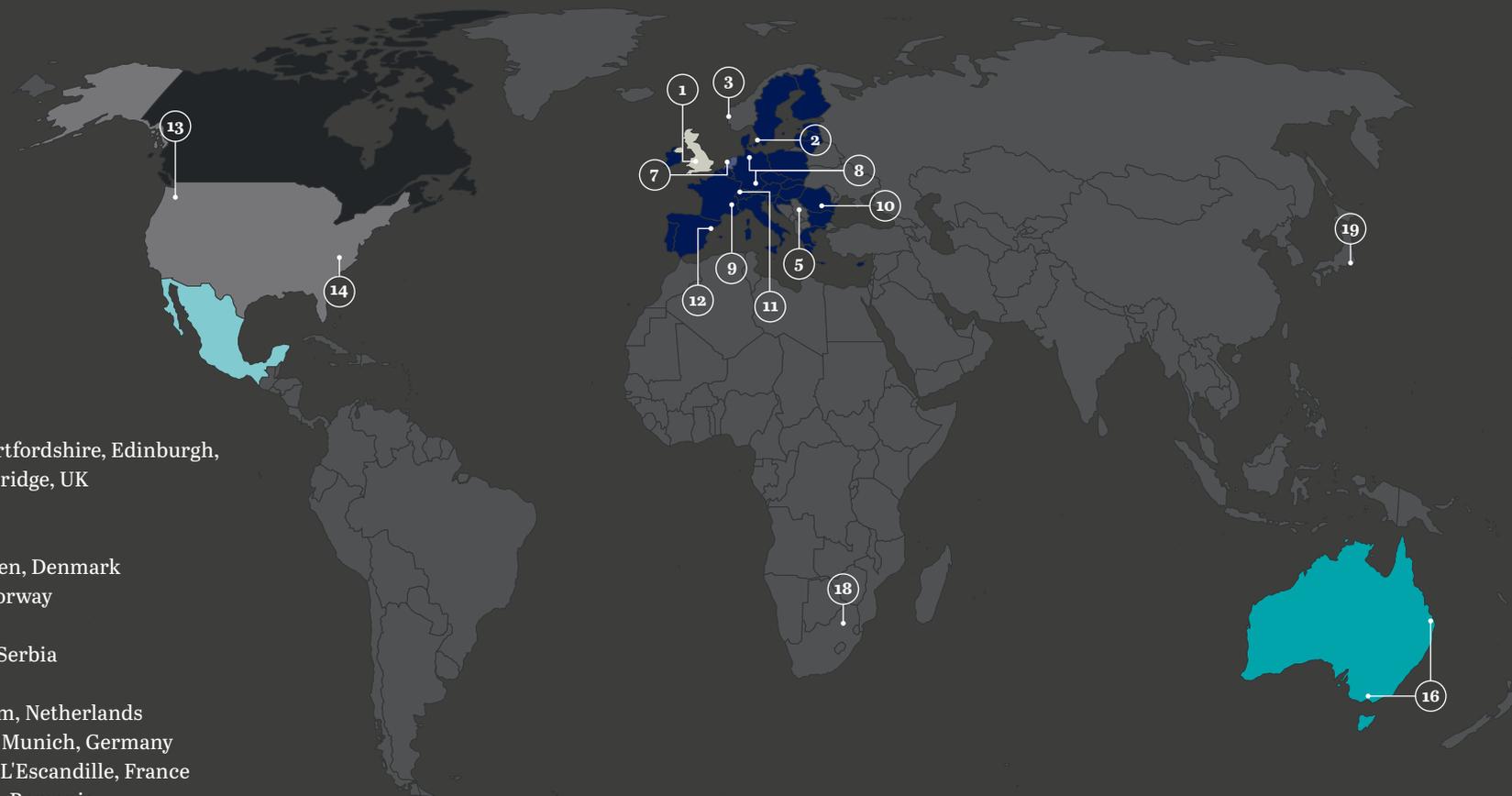Polish   Portugese   Romanian   Russian   Serbian   Spanish

Presentations

UK
1. Leeds, Hertfordshire, Edinburgh, Oxford, Cambridge, UK

Europe
2. Copenhagen, Denmark
3. Bergen, Norway
4. Slovenia
5. Belgrade, Serbia
6. Belgium
7. Amsterdam, Netherlands
8. Hamberg, Munich, Germany
9. Grenoble, L'Escandille, France
10. Bucharest, Romania
11. Basel, Switzerland
12. Barcelona, Spain

USA & Canada
13. Seattle, USA
14. Chapel Hill, USA
15. Canada

Australia &New Zealand
16. Melbourne, Brisbane,
17. New Zealand

Africa
18. Pretoria, South Africa

Asia
19. Tokyo, Japan
20. Singapore

Policy
- UK
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Australia
- EU
- US
- Canada

*Some conferences this year took place online only. These are listed by the location of the lead organising body.

Service and Committees

University

Member of the **University of Oxford's Committee on Animal Care and Ethical Review (ACER)**, Katrien Devolder

Ethical Investment Representations Review Subcommittee, Thomas Douglas

Committee to **Review Donations and Research Funding**, Thomas Douglas

Faculty of Philosophy Research Committee, Thomas Douglas

Public Engagement with Research Committee and Graduate Commissions Committee, Reuben College, Katrien Devolder

Future of Humanity Institute Management Committee, Julian Savulescu

Government

Home Office Science Advisory Council, Julian Savulescu

National Research Councils and Funding Bodies

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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, British Academy Early Career Network, Lisa Forsberg

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