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## Brainstorm Newsletter

An Interdisciplinary Newsletter about Advances in Health Ethics Theory and Practice -

February 2019

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## Editorial Team

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**PRAGMATIC  
HEALTH ETHICS  
RESEARCH UNIT**



## Profile of the Month

### Kieran O'Doherty, PhD



Kieran O'Doherty is an associate professor in applied social psychology at the University of Guelph, where he directs the Discourse, Science, Publics research group. His research focuses on the social and ethical implications of science and technology. In this context, he has published on such topics as vaccines, human tissue biobanks, the human microbiome, salmon genomics, and genetic testing. Kieran's research also emphasizes public engagement on science and

technology. In this regard, he has designed and implemented public deliberations in which members of the public engage in in-depth discussion about ethical aspects of science and technology and collectively develop recommendations for policy. Kieran's research has been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Research & Innovation, Genome Canada and Genome British Columbia. He is editor of *Theory & Psychology*.

### **Short Statement:**

New scientific and technological solutions never resolve existing problems in a linear and mechanistic fashion. Rather, science and technology emerge within particular societal contexts, characterised by pre-existing relationships, cultural norms, vested interests, and institutional practices. The particular meanings and values that are associated with the application of scientific and technological advances are therefore not self-evident, nor can they easily be predicted. Accordingly, there arise social and ethical implications that often cannot be understood through only abstract analysis; they also require direct engagement with people and groups who are affected by the emergence of those advancements.

All of us are constrained in our perspective of the world by the particular positions in life we hold, the communities we associate with, and our particular life experiences. Experts are no different. Whether scientists, clinicians, or ethicists, we each embody only a limited set of life experiences, perspectives, and values. To develop meaningful responses to social and ethical challenges arising from new science and technology therefore requires identification and engagement with as diverse as possible a range of perspectives. On the one hand, this means working in inter- and multi-disciplinary collaborations. On the other, it means working with patients and broader communities to reflect on the issues and work collectively to develop appropriate responses. Much of my work has focused on this latter issue, experimenting with deliberative democratic ideas about involving broad publics in policy level decisions, and developing methods for implementing these ideas in the context of health, science, and technology.

### **Publications:**

1. Barned, C., Dobson, J., Stintzi, A., Mack, D., & O'Doherty, K. C. (2018). Children's perspectives on the benefits and burdens of research participation. *AJOB Empirical Bioethics*, 9(1), 19-28.
2. O'Doherty, K. C., Virani, A., & Wilcox, E. (2016). The human microbiome and public health: social and ethical considerations. *American Journal of Public Health*, 106(3), 414-420.
3. O'Doherty, K. C. & Burgess, M. M. (2013). Public deliberation to develop ethical norms and inform policy for biobanks: Lessons learnt and challenges remaining. *Research Ethics*, 9(2), 55-77.

# Events and Announcements

## [Montreal Health Ethics Seminar Series](#)

The seminar series is a bilingual monthly seminar/webinar series aimed at bringing people together to think about and discuss issues in health ethics. Our aim is to promote health ethics through seminars that foster dialogue between groups of participants with different perspectives (e.g., academics, clinicians, patients, community members). These seminars will appeal to audiences both within and outside of academia and healthcare settings with the goal of increasing mutual awareness about health ethics and promote interdisciplinary and community reflections on various cross-cutting health ethics topics.

Join us for our next seminar/webinar in February:

**When:** February 21st, 2019, 12-1PM

**Where:** Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (110 avenue des Pins Ouest, Auditorium Jacques Genest) OR livestreamed through our [YouTube page: Pragmatic Health Ethics](#)

**What:** Dr. Matthew Hunt (McGill University), "Moral entanglements and the ethics of closing humanitarian projects"

**Abstract:** Humanitarian organizations and their staff regularly make and implement decisions to close humanitarian health projects that were initiated in situations of disaster, war or epidemic. Such decisions are frequently challenging to make, and may be contested within organizations. Indeed, they have been described as among the most ethically fraught aspects of this field of practice. In this presentation, I draw on interviews with humanitarian workers, a review of the literature, and Richardson's concept of moral entanglements, to consider the following questions: What is ethically at stake when organizations decide to close a humanitarian project? And, how can humanitarian organizations implement ethical exit strategies? Closing projects is an inescapable aspect of humanitarian healthcare – indeed, almost all humanitarian projects will come to an end. Careful attention to obligations toward local communities and project partners during project closure is therefore a vital component of ethical humanitarian action.

All conferences are free and require no registration!

Visit our website or email us for more information about where seminars will be archived for future viewing or educational use (e.g., journal clubs, classroom, continued education):

<http://www.pragmatichealthethics.ca/outreach/montreal-health-ethics-seminar-series/>

[Postdoctoral Fellow - The Pragmatic Health Ethics Research Unit - Call for Applications](#)

The Pragmatic Health Ethics Research Unit is seeking TWO (2) postdoctoral fellows or graduate students to work on two main projects. The first project examines the ethical and social implications of health care transitions for youth with chronic conditions, including rare diseases. The second project examines the ethics of registry-based-type-1 diabetes research.

**Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the position is filled.**

### **[Postdoctoral Fellow - Neuroethics Canada - Call for Applications](#)**

A postdoctoral fellow position is available immediately for a highly motivated PhD graduate to join a dynamic research team devoted to issues related to brain health, technology and patient experience. The position is based out of BC Children's and Women's Hospital in Vancouver, BC. The successful individual will work closely with the PI, the Alzheimer's Society of BC, and other members of the project team to explore the strengths and areas for improvement of a provincial dementia support program.

**Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the position is filled.**

### **[Postdoctoral Research Associate in Ethics and Climate Change - Call for Applications](#)**

The University Centre for Human Values (UCHV) and the Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI) at Princeton University invite applications for a fulltime postdoctoral research associate or more senior position working at the intersection of ethics and global change to contribute to the Climate Futures Initiative in Science, Values and Policy - a jointly supported research program.

**The deadline for applications is March 1, 2019, 11:59 P.M. EST.**

### **[Postdoctoral Fellow - Innovation and Innovation Society, Technical University of Berlin - Call for Applications](#)**

The Technical University of Berlin is seeking two postdoctoral fellows at the 'Innovation Society Today' graduate school. The program is affiliated to the department of sociology, but applications from political science, history, philosophy, economics, STS and other fields that deal with innovation in society are encouraged.

**The deadline for applications is February 20, 2019.**

### **[Postdoctoral Fellow - Ethics and AI - York University - Call for Applications](#)**

The Department of Philosophy at York University, in collaboration with the Lassonde School of Engineering and Schulich School of Business, seeks to hire a Post-Doctoral Fellow for a

term of two years, starting July 1, 2019. Responsibilities include both teaching and research.

**The deadline for applications is February 22, 2019.**

### **[Early-career researcher in Anthropology/Science and Technology Studies - Call for Applications](#)**

The CNRS (Paris) is hiring an early-career researcher to join the research project "Healing Encounters: reinventing an indigenous medicine in the clinic and beyond" (2018-2023). The successful candidate will be in charge of developing research in sub-project 2: Healing in the Laborator in close collaboration with Emilia Sanabria, the grantee.

**The deadline for applications is February 15, 2019.**

### **[Deputy Director, School for the Future of Innovation in Society - Call for Applications](#)**

Arizona State University's School for the Future of Innovation in Society (SFIS) seeks a tenured associate or full professor to serve as its deputy director. The SFIS seeks a dynamic leader who will work closely with SFIS founding director Professor David Guston, SFIS leadership, and leaders from across the university in designing and implementing academic initiatives at the heart of the School's activities.

### **[Postdoctoral Fellow - Center for Art, Science and Technology \(CAST\), MIT - Call for Applications](#)**

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Center for Art, Science, and Technology offers a two-year postdoctoral fellowship. The Fellow will collaborate with MIT faculty and invited guests on the production of an international symposium and a publication issuing from the event. Additional duties of the CAST Fellow include development and teaching of cross-disciplinary courses or workshops and possibly supervision of students engaged in undergraduate research opportunities (UROPs) at the intersection of the arts, science and technology.

**The deadline for applications is February 15, 2019.**

### **[Bioethics/Social Science Research Project Director - Columbia University - Call for Applications](#)**

Columbia University's Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics is seeking a Project Director for a NIH funded study on "Ethics of Inclusion: Diversity in Precision Medicine Research" under the supervision of principal investigators, Sandra Soo-Jin Lee, Ph.D and Janet Shim, Ph.D. The study aims are : 1) identify scientific and sociopolitical justifications for

goals of inclusion and conceptual definitions of diversity in precision medicine research; 2) determine how scientific, social and technical factors influence the operationalization of diversity and implementation of inclusion in precision medicine research; and 3) engage stakeholders to create data-informed guidance that describes the strengths and weaknesses of diversity and inclusion decisions and practices in precision medicine research.

**Start date: March 1, 2019 or as negotiated.**

For more information, email [mp3704@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:mp3704@cumc.columbia.edu)

**Review of applications will begin Friday March 8, 2019, and will continue until the search is closed.**

### **[Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics - Call for Registration](#)**

Yale Interdisciplinary Centre for Bioethics - The Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics, now in its 14th year, is an intensive 7- week summer immersion for U.S and international professionals and graduate students (with a select) number of undergraduates from varying disciplines. The program aims for its attendees to: understand how they can use bioethics in their current careers; further define their interests in bioethics before or after acquiring a Masters in Bioethics, expand bioethics in their home country, see if a career in bioethics is right for them, and develop deeper knowledge in bioethics to supplement their current career or studies. The 2019 program will occur June 10 through July 27.

**Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the class is full.**

### **[Continuing professional development course in medical ethics at Imperial College London - Call for Registration](#)**

This course in medical ethics from September 16th to 20th 2019 offered by Imperial College London includes a 1 day conference on "Justice and fairness in medical and health care ethics." All participants will receive an Imperial College London Certificate of Attendance at the end of the course.

## **Literature**

### **Books**

**[Repères éthiques pour les professions de la santé.](#)**

Saint-Arnaud, J. 2019. Liber.





## Interdisciplinary Foundations of Health Ethics

### [Patient organizations and conflict of interest.](#)

Bruno B, Rose S. BMJ. 2019 Jan 16; 364:l129. [No abstract available].

### [Best practices in nutrition science to earn and keep the public's trust.](#)

Garza C, Stover PJ, Ohlhorst SD, Field MS, Steinbrook R, Rowe S, Woteki C, Campbell E. Am J Clin Nutr. 2019 Jan 18. [Epub ahead of print].

### [Health-emergency disaster risk management and research ethics.](#)

Chan EYY, Wright K, Parker M. Lancet. 2019 Jan 12; 393(10167): 112-3. [No abstract available].

### [Three Things Clinicians Should Know About Disability.](#)

Reynolds JM. AMA J Ethics. 2018 Dec 1; 20(12): E1181-7.

### [Erosion of informed consent in U.S. research.](#)

Shepherd L, Macklin R. Bioethics. 2019 Jan; 33(1): 4-12. Epub 2018 Nov 26.

## Methodologies and Practices in Health Ethics

### [Advance care planning for the severely ill in the hospital: a randomized trial.](#)

Krones T, Budilivski A, Karzig I, Otto T, Valeri F, Biller-Andorno N, Mitchell C, Loupatatzis B. BMJ Support Palliat Care. 2019 Jan 21. [Epub ahead of print].

### [Are Children Allowed?: A Survey of Childcare and Family Policies at Academic Medical Conferences.](#)

Kass D, Datta P, Goumeniouk NL, Thomas K, Berger ZD. Acad Emerg Med. 2019 Jan 19. [Epub ahead of print].

[When Is Death in a Child's Best Interest?: Examining Decisions Following Severe Brain Injury.](#)

McCadden MD, Anderson JA, Cusimano MD. JAMA Pediatr. 2019 Jan 14. [Epub ahead of print]. [No abstract available].

[How Medical Students' Compassionate Values Influence Help-Seeking Barriers.](#)

Lannin DG, Tucker JR, Streyffeler L, Harder S, Ripley B, Vogel DL. Teach Learn Med. 2019 Jan 7: 1-8. [Epub ahead of print].

[Recontacting patients in clinical genetics services: recommendations of the European Society of Human Genetics.](#)

Carrieri D, Howard HC, Benjamin C, Clarke AJ, Dheensa S, Doheny S, Hawkins N, Halbersma-Konings TF, Jackson L, Kayserili H, Kelly SE, Lucassen AM, Mendes Á, Rial-Sebbag E, Stefánsdóttir V, Turnpenny PD, van El CG, van Langen IM, Cornel MC, Forzano F; European Society of Human Genetics. Eur J Hum Genet. 2019 Feb; 27(2): 169-82. Epub 2018 Oct 11.

## News and Social Media

[Expert Report on Medical Assistance in Dying.](#)

Bean S. Impact Ethics. December 28, 2018.

[This First Nation produces clean water. So why are so many residents afraid to drink it?](#)

Elash A, Walker C. CBC News. January 09, 2019.

[Psychology Has a New Approach to Building Healthier Men](#)

Mull A. The Atlantic. January 10, 2019.

[The proudest day of Grace's life was graduating as a doctor. Then she began treating patients](#)

Hanson I, Ahmed S. The Guardian (UK): Opinion. January 15, 2019.

[Ontario doctors challenge referral rule for services that clash with their beliefs](#)

Loriggio P. The Canadian Press. CTV News. January 20, 2019.

[Fighting the Stigma of Mental Illness Through Music](#)

Hollow MC. The New York Times. January 29, 2019.





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