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Brainstorm Newsletter

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

March 2019

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**PRAGMATIC
HEALTH ETHICS
RESEARCH UNIT**



Profile of the Month

Barry Hoffmaster, PhD

Q: Could you describe how you became a leader in the health ethics field?



A: My first job was teaching philosophy of law in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario (UWO). Real legal cases were used in the course, and I felt incompetent to understand and explain that material. So in my first sabbatical I went to law school. I took the Law School Admission Test, applied to a law school, and was accepted. I went to all the classes, read

the cases, and took the final exams. Later the Chair of my department wanted to create a Ph.D. program in bioethics. He needed a director, and there was only one professor in our department who did not have tenure. He found his director.

London, Ontario is an excellent place to learn about health care. There are four hospitals in the city, and I was fortunate to spend many years in the Victoria Hospital-London Health Sciences Center and Parkwood Hospital. In the former, for example, I saw newborn babies who could be held in the palm of a hand in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. In the latter, I saw older patients with illnesses and debilities and Canadian soldiers returning home with injuries. Where I started, though, was in the Child and Parent Resource Institute (originally the Children's Psychiatric Research Institute), which treats children from birth to eighteen. I stayed there a long time.

I was a member of UWO's Department of Family Medicine from 1980 to 2003. Family doctors can earn a M.Sci. there, and Dr. Ronald Christie asked me to offer a course on bioethics for that degree. Subsequently Dr. Christie and I wrote articles and a book and gave presentations.

I became the Director of the Westminster Institute for Ethics and Human Values from 1991 to 1996. The staff did research and gave presentations, and they wrote for academic and popular publications. They also worked in various health care settings. Victoria Hospital-London Health Sciences Center and Parkwood Hospital financially supported the Institute.

Short Statement:

In most philosophy departments, bioethics is comprised of principles, such as respect for autonomy, beneficence, and justice, and those principles are applied to facts to derive decisions. Bioethics is an abstract moral theory. Real bioethics is practical, contextual, and grounded in experience. Real bioethics is rational. It requires investigation, critical assessment, deliberation, and judgment. When bioethics is re-constituted and re-reasoned, it can bring understanding and find resolution.

Selected Books:

1. Ronald J. Christie and Barry Hoffmaster. *Ethical Issues in Family Medicine*. Oxford University Press, 1986.
2. Barry Hoffmaster, ed., *Bioethics in Social Context*, Temple University Press, 2001.
3. Barry Hoffmaster and Cliff Hooker. *Re-Reasoning Ethics*. MIT Press, 2018.

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 March:

When: March 14th, 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: Josee Blanchette (Le Devoir), "Bien traités, mal soignés. La relation et l'information au coeur des soins"

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 Researcher at Dartmouth College- Call for Applications](#)

Cognitive Science and Philosophy of Dartmouth College and the Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine are seeking applications for a postdoctoral researcher to take the lead on a project funded by the BRAIN Initiative entitled "Assessing the Effects of Deep Brain Stimulation on Agency." This position is renewable for a period of three years from January 2019; start date flexible. Application review will continue until the position is filled.

[McCain Postdoctoral Fellow - Mount Allison University - Call for Applications](#)

The Department of Philosophy at Mount Allison University invites applications for a twelve-month position as McCain Post-Doctoral Fellow. Candidates should have or be near completion of a PhD in Philosophy. Candidates should also demonstrate a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and a promising research profile. The teaching requirement is two undergraduate courses per term.

We invite applications from all specializations of philosophy but we have a particular interest in philosophy of social science, applied ethics, environmental philosophy, and/or, philosophy of science (especially philosophy of the life sciences). Historically-informed approaches are desirable, in keeping with the department's strong commitment to the importance of the history of philosophy.

Consideration of applications will begin **March 22, 2019** and will continue until an appointment is made.

[Bioethica Forum - Intelligent Technology in Medicine and Healthcare - Call for Papers](#)

The emergence of intelligent systems, based on big data, advanced machine learning and sensor technology, is profoundly transforming human-technology interaction in different areas of our society. While medicine is one among many sectors affected by this innovation dynamics, healthcare professionals and policymakers put much hope into the coming era of digital medicine, most notably the use of artificial intelligence in diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic contexts. In fact, technology already plays a substantial role in medicine, but with

the advent of digitalized “intelligent” systems, new ethical, anthropological, social and legal questions arise.

The concept of human-machine interface is particularly challenging where this interface consists of a direct contact between the human organism and technological devices, e.g. where technology is implanted into the body or attached to the body. Wearable sensors are increasingly being used by chronic patients to allow a supervision of certain bodily functions and an early detection of malfunctioning that might necessitate medical intervention.

A particular example of this close human-machine interaction is the concept of a brain-computer interface (BCI), the attempt to create a direct link between human brain activity and computers, opening up diverse possibilities in therapy, but also in enhancement and manipulation. Non-invasive BCIs are about to enter clinical application as assistive devices for paralyzed patients or as rehabilitation tools. But their implications reach far beyond a clinical benefit-risk assessment, as they may profoundly alter the nature of human agency and responsibility, especially when combined with deep learning paradigms.

This special issue of Bioethica Forum will focus on the ethical, legal, social, and philosophical implications of man-machine interface and its use in healthcare. Bioethica Forum is the official journal of the Swiss Society for Biomedical Ethics. It publishes scientific articles on bioethics topics four times per year. Contributions can be submitted in either one of the three languages of the journal: English, French, or German.

Authors may submit original articles (max. 30'000 characters), that either theoretically or empirically addresses one of the issues of the topic. They may also submit personal viewpoints (max 10'000 characters), which are short papers and comments on specific aspects of the topic.

For more detailed author guidelines please consult the journal homepage (www.bioethicaforum.ch, Instructions). Please submit manuscripts by April 15th, 2019 to: ralf.jox@chuv.ch or philipp.kellmeyer@uniklinik-freiburg.de.

[American Society for Bioethics + Humanities \(ASBH\) - Registration Open](#)

Remembrance and Resilience: How Bioethics and Humanities Can Move Us Forward.

The 21st Annual Conference, to be held on October 24-27th, 2019 will coincide with a solemn anniversary in Pittsburgh. In recognition of this and other mass tragedies throughout the world, the theme highlights the role of bioethics and humanities in responding to injustice, trauma, and loss, especially in the context of health and medicine. Submissions in all categories that directly engage in this theme are welcome, as are submissions on other core topics in bioethics and humanities. Submissions that explore past and current events as well as those that look ahead to ways in which our academic and professional communities can be active and productive participants in a world undergoing rapid and profound change are welcomed. Further, submissions that interrogate the concepts of “remembrance” and

“resilience,” which often place unequal responsibilities on those affected by loss or trauma than on other members of society are encouraged.

Deadline to submit abstracts: **March 4th at 11:59 pm Pacific Time**

[Neurotechnology for High-Consequence Communication and Decision-Making - Registration Open](#)

The International Neuroethics Society and Cognixion are hosting a special 1-day conference on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 in Toronto, Canada. The event will be of particular interest to:

- Neurotechnology industry professionals
- Neuroscientists and neurologists
- Psychologists and psychiatrists
- Lawyers and lawmakers
- Civil and disability rights professionals
- Ethicists and philosophers

Experts from industry, academia and legal professions will come together to discuss the social and ethical implications of neurotechnology relating to health, crime, and civil and disability rights. Find out what the future holds for Neurotechnology.

[Qualitative Health Research Conference - Upcoming Call for Abstracts](#)

QHR is a three day annual conference focused on qualitative research in health disciplines and is held in various Canadian cities every October. This year the conference will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. Call for abstracts will begin mid-march, 2019.

Conference Features:

- Oral, Poster, and Alternative Scientific Presentations
- Interactive Discussion Sessions
- Evening Networking and Graduate Student Events
- Pre-Conference Workshops (two days)
- All presented abstracts to be published in the [International Journal of Qualitative Methods \(IJQM\)](#)

Literature

Interdisciplinary Foundations of Health Ethics

[The decision partner in healthcare decision-making: A concept analysis.](#)

Gray TF, Nolan MT, Clayman ML, Wenzel JA. Int J Nurs Stud. 2019 Jan 24; 92: 79-89.

[The injustice of fat stigma.](#)

Nath R. Bioethics. Feb 13.

[An Ethical Obligation for Bioethicists to Utilize Social Media.](#)

Herron PD. Hastings Cent Rep. 2019 Jan; 49(1): 39-40.

[From #MeToo to #TimesUp in health care: can a culture of accountability end inequity and harassment?](#)

Choo EK, Byington CL, Johnson NL, Jagsi R. Lancet. 2019 Feb 9; 393(10171): 499-502.

[Multiple Marginalizations: What Bioethics Can Learn From Black Feminism.](#)

Cheema AW, Meagher KM, Sharp RR. Am J Bioeth. 2019 Feb; 19(2): 1-3.

Methodologies and Practices in Health Ethics

[Mapping Bioethics in Latin America: History, Theoretical Models, and Scientific Output.](#)

Garcia LF, Fernandes MS, Moreno JD, Goldim JR. J Bioeth Inq. 2019 Feb 18.

[Caregiver Experience in Pediatric Dialysis.](#)

Wightman A, Zimmerman CT, Neul S, Lepere K, Cedars K, Opel D. Pediatrics. 2019 Jan 29.

[Advancing Ethics and Policy for Healthy-Volunteer Research through a Model-Organism Framework.](#)

Fisher JA, Walker RL. Ethics Hum Res. 2019 Jan; 41(1): 4-14.

[Local Knowledge and Single IRBs for Multisite Studies: Challenges and Solutions.](#)

Klitzman R, Pivovarov E, Murray A, Appelbaum PS, Stiles DF, Lidz CW. Ethics Hum Res. 2019 Jan; 41(1): 22-31.

[The growing pains of physician-administration relationships in an academic medical center and the effects on physician engagement.](#)

Keller EJ, Giafaglione B, Chrisman HB, Collins JD, Vogelzang RL. PLoS One. 2019 Feb 13; 14(2): e0212014.

News and Social Media

[Technological Solutions to Communication Failures in Science and Ethics.](#)

Kallmes K. The Neuroethics Blog. Jan 22, 2019.

[Measles: Why it's so deadly, and why vaccination is so vital](#)

Duprex P. The Conversation. Feb 01, 2019.

[Ontario's forecast: MacLeody with a chance of half-apologies](#)

Southey T. Macleans. Feb 15, 2019.

[Woman with disability banned from No Frills store after failing to pack groceries fast enough](#)

Marchitelli R. CBC Go Public. Feb 24, 2019.

[Thousands of migrant children in U.S. shelters allegedly sexually abused](#)

The Associated Press. CBC News. Feb 26, 2019.

[The Small, Small World of Facebook's Anti-vaxxers](#)

Madrigal AC. The Atlantic. Feb 27, 2019.



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