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Brainstorm Newsletter

An Interdisciplinary Newsletter about Advances in Health Ethics Theory and Practice
- June 2019

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This will be our last Brainstorm Newsletter until September 2019. Have a lovely summer!

Editorial Team

- Claudia Barned
- John Aspler
- Matthew Sample
- Eric Racine (editor-in-chief)



Profile of the Month

Eugene Bereza, BA, MD, CM, CCFP



Dr. Eugene Bereza is physician and bioethicist with a multidisciplinary background (music therapy, literature, palliative care). A former Director of the Biomedical Ethics Unit at McGill, he taught interdisciplinary graduate seminars in bioethics. He is the founding director of the MUHC Centre for Applied Ethics.

He has been consulted on over 2,500 clinical cases ranging from home-care in CLSCs to quaternary care at the Montreal “Neuro”. Most recently, he has developed mechanisms and methodologies for organizational ethics review at the MUHC. During his thirty year career, Dr. Bereza has been Chair on the Committee of Ethics, first for the Quebec and then the Canadian Medical Associations, and has testified before Canadian Senate committees, Quebec Commissions and the Supreme Court of British Columbia. In 2015, he was elected

President of the Canadian Bioethics Society. He is currently a member of the Quebec Commission on End-of-Life Care.

Short statement on health ethics

As an academic clinician, I see ethics as central to everything about my vocation. As a child of disenfranchised, post war, traumatized immigrants, I was instilled with a single, over-riding imperative - help others and try your best to make a contribution. The most influential writer in my formative years was Victor Frankl, who taught me that one cannot pursue happiness: happiness is a by-product of trying to do good. Whether as a nursing orderly, a music therapist, a family physician, or a clinical ethicist, I always tried to live up to these ideals.

I have revelled in the intellectual challenges of normative ethics. I have been even more challenged at navigating the murky waters of clinical ethics, where I have found moral clarity to be so elusive. I teach my students that opposites can co-exist in time and space. Patients have taught me how wonderful and tragic life is. Cases can be a source of prolonged gratification as well as recurrent nightmares. So many try so hard to do so much good, only to produce more harm and suffering.

I have been so impressed and inspired by my mentors, colleagues and students. I remain convinced, however, that the “ethics lens” has not enlightened the “ethics enterprise” enough. Too often, I have confronted prejudice, hubris, self-righteous indignation, polarizing rhetoric, self-serving ambition, political correctness, and naïve fundamentalism within our ranks. A harsh critique perhaps, but one we ignore at our own peril.

At worst, these are the random ramblings of an aging mind. At best - a cautionary plea that

the next generation of bioethicists must do better than mine...

Events and Announcements

[International Neuroethics Society - Call for Abstracts](#)

The International Neuroethics Society (INS) invites researchers from around the world to submit abstracts for presentation at our 2019 annual meeting in Chicago, IL, USA. The meeting will feature a wide range of exciting talks, discussions, and networking opportunities with experts, researchers, and up-and-coming leaders in the field of neuroethics.

This is an opportunity to share your neuroethics research with international colleagues who are actively aligning ethics, law, society, and policy with advances in neuroscience. We welcome abstracts related to the field of neuroethics from any disciplinary background, whether the work is empirical or theoretical in nature. Investigators at all career stages are encouraged to submit one or more abstracts.

Abstracts will be peer reviewed. Acceptance will be based on content, available space, and overall program balance. Poster presentations will take place on Thursday and Friday, October 17 and 18, 2019; opportunities for oral presentations will also be available, with details to follow.

The submission deadline is June 24, 2019, at 11:30pm EDT. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted. All submissions must be made through the abstract submission form.

[Postdoctoral Fellow - NC State University](#)

NC State University invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Scholar in Empirical Neuroethics in Interdisciplinary Studies beginning in August 2019. The successful candidate will preferably have experience as a teaching assistant or instructor, mentoring students, and a specific research agenda in Neuroethics or a related field, that aligns with one of NCSU College of Humanities and Social Science's degree-granting departments. Motivation to teach, mentor, conduct and publish research is expected.

The successful candidate will also pursue their own individual research agenda and be guided by Dr Veljko Dubljevic in conducting collaborative research in Neuroethics.

Applications should include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, unofficial transcripts, any teaching evaluations from the last two years, and contact information for three professional references.

[Postdoctoral Fellow - IEPI Postdoctoral Research Fellowship](#)

The Institute on Ethics & Policy for Innovation (IEPI) is accepting applications for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships, to begin September 2019. The positions provides one year of funding (with potential for renewal) at \$55,000.00 per year + benefits.

IEPI's postdoctoral research fellows program seeks to prepare and train the next generation of applied ethicists. The program offers an integrated program of applied ethics consulting, research, and professional development, led by an interdisciplinary team with diverse expertise and resources in the biomedical sciences, humanities, social sciences, and policy development. Fellows will complete their work under one of IEPIs research areas:

- Data Ethics and Governance
- Translational Science (Clinical Trials)
- Infections Disease Management
- Women and Girls in Global Health Research

Fellows will participate in the research and practice environment at IEPI. Each fellow will be matched with a primary research mentor with mutual interests and relevant research expertise. Such mentoring will be combined with an integrated program of applied ethics consulting and professional development activities.

Each trainee will participate in an individualized period of training that will provide knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- The current state of global health research
- Application of bioethics principles and frameworks to global health
- Ethics consulting service model
- Grant writing and manuscript preparation

Deadline: June 23rd, 2019

[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 - Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health

The Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) at the University Of Victoria (UVic) is looking for an outstanding post-doctoral fellow (PDF) interested in the current state of home care services in Canada, ethnographic approaches and realist reviews. One PDF is available through the CIHR funded “Tackling the Home Care Challenge: A mixed-methods study of publicly funded Home Care Services in 4 Canadian Cities” project. This project brings together a pan-Canadian inter-professional team of researchers. We aim to understand the current state of home care services in Canada by using institutional ethnography and realist review methodologies to build a theoretical framework around the factors that direct success or failure in current best practice home care models.

Applicants should have demonstrated interest or experience in qualitative research approaches, health services research, data management and analysis, the ability to work collaboratively with an interdisciplinary and multi-site investigator team. Other Important Assets: Experience with qualitative interviews and data analysis and realist review processes, and the ability to speak and understand both official languages (French and English).

Applications will be reviewed starting July 1, 2019.

Assistant/Associate Professor of Bioethics

The Department of Bioethics at the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level. The Department has a longstanding history of outstanding research, education, and service. Its nationally- and internationally-recognized faculty have expertise in bioethics, medical humanities, and social medicine, with particular areas of specialization including genetic research ethics, international research ethics, stem cell ethics and regenerative medicine, eating disorders and body image, biobanking, clinical ethics, and other evolving ethics-related research areas. The Department has a thriving Bioethics and Medical Humanities MA program, and is relaunching its highly successful PhD program. The Department also boasts an outstanding record of university, national, and international service. The successful candidate will begin work ideally in summer or fall 2019.

Applications received by June 12, 2019 will receive full consideration.

Assistant Professor & Clinical Ethicist

The Division of Medical Ethics and the Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College invites applications for a full-time academic clinical ethicist at the level of assistant professor.

This is a rare opportunity for a uniquely qualified individual to join the Medical Ethics faculty at this premier medical school located in New York City. Our established and rapidly growing program is home to 6 full-time and 30+ part-time and adjunct multi-disciplinary faculty with nationally recognized expertise in numerous areas including, neuroethics, research ethics, end-of-life decision-making, advance directives, the unrepresented patient, clinical ethics consultation, ethics education, the ethics of molecular and reproductive medicine, and feminist ethics.

The candidate will carry out clinical ethics case consultation at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center, conduct bioethics research, and teach medical students and residents. In addition, s/he will instruct and mentor clinical ethics fellows in our fellowship program. Consideration may be given to clinical practitioners who wish to do clinical work.

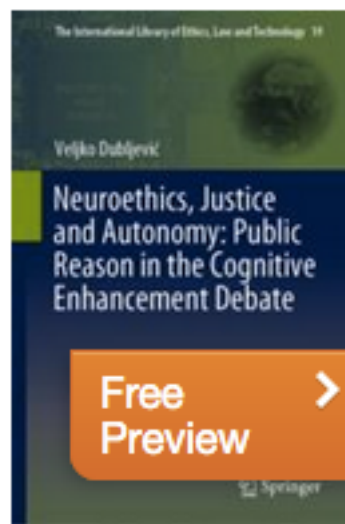
Qualifications include: a terminal degree; experience independently conducting clinical ethics case consultations; formal research or fellowship training and/or an established record of scholarship; and teaching experience. We seek a candidate with exceptional analytical and verbal abilities and the capacity to work collegially with diverse professional and lay populations.

For full consideration please send your application by June 1, 2019. Earliest starting date, September 1, 2019.

[New Book: Neuroethics, Justice and Autonomy: Public Reason in the Cognitive Enhancement Debate](#)

By: Veljko Dubljević

This book explicitly addresses policy options in a democratic society regarding cognitive enhancement drugs and devices. The book offers an in-depth case by case analysis of existing and emerging cognitive neuroenhancement technologies and canvasses a distinct political neuroethics approach. The author provides an argument on the much debated issue of fairness of cognitive enhancement practices and tackles the tricky issue of how to respect preferences of citizens opposing and those preferring enhancement. The author persuasively argues the necessity of laws and regulations regarding the use of cognitive enhancers. He also argues that the funds for those who seek cognitive enhancement should be allocated free of charge to the least advantaged. The work argues that the notion of autonomy has been mistakenly associated with the metaphysical concept of free will, and offers a political definition of autonomy to clarify how responsibility is implicitly grounded in the legal and political system. As such, this book is an essential read for everyone interested in neuroethics, and a valuable resource for policy makers, as well as scholars and students in philosophy, law, psychiatry and neuroscience.



Veljko Dubljević Ph.D.,D.Phil., is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Science, Technology and Society at North Carolina State University. Before arriving in Raleigh, he spent three years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Neuroethics Research Unit at IRCM and McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He studied philosophy (University of Novi Sad) and economics (Educons University), and obtained a PhD in political science (University of Belgrade). After that he joined the Research Training Group “Bioethics” at the International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities, University of Tuebingen, and after studying philosophy, bioethics, and neuroscience, he obtained a doctorate in philosophy (University of Stuttgart). Dr. Dubljević’s research focuses on ethics of neuroscience and technology, and neuroscience of ethics. He has over 50 publications in moral, legal and political philosophy and in neuroethics.

Literature

Interdisciplinary Foundations of Health Ethics

[Feeling like a burden to others and the wish to hasten death in patients with advanced illness: A systematic review](#)

Rodríguez-Prat A, Balaguer A, Crespo I, Cristina Monforte-Royo C. Bioethics. 2019 May; 33(4): 411-20. Epub 2019 Apr 8.

[The role of trust in global health research collaborations](#)

Kerasidou A. Bioethics. Bioethics. 2019 May; 33(4): 495-501. Epub 2018 Nov 27.

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'challenge studies'.

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The German debate on male circumcision and Habermas' model of post-secularity.

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Neurodevelopmental Risk: A Tool to Enhance Conversations With Families of Infants.

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Points-to-consider on the return of results in epigenetic research.

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Zinner SE. Camb Q Healthc Ethics. 2019 Apr; 28(2): 361-68.

The Role of Inclusion Benefits in Ethics Committee Assessment of Research Studies.

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News and Social Media

Press Release: In Defence of Intersex Athletes

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[At What Cost Presumed Consent for Organ Donation?](#)

Warren M. Impact Bioethics. May 07, 2019.

[Health Canada committees swimming in financial conflicts of interest](#)

Lexchin J. The Conversation. May 20, 2019.

[The Troubled History of Psychiatry](#)

Groopman J. The New Yorker. May 20, 2019.

[Fighting the Gender Stereotypes That Warp Biomedical Research](#)

Klein J. The New York Times. May 30, 2019.



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