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BRAINSTORM

An interdisciplinary and bilingual newsletter about advances in health ethics theory and practice

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CLINIQUES DE MONTRÉAL

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Monthly profile

Mona Gupta, MD CM, FRCPC, PhD

Mona Gupta is a psychiatrist at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal and Associate Clinical Professor in the Département de Psychiatrie et d'Addictologie at the Université de Montréal. The broad theme of her research focuses on the intersection of ethics and epistemology in psychiatry. Her current projects examine knowledge, error, and justification in clinical psychiatry, assisted dying for persons with mental disorders, and the rise of 'medicine on demand'. Numerous graduate students and residents are involved in these projects under her supervision.



Clinically, she works in consultation-liaison psychiatry (which concerns the psychiatric care of the medically ill) and has a special interest in the care of persons with type 1 diabetes mellitus. She is also a practitioner and a supervisor of cognitive-behavioural therapy. Among her extramural activities, Dr Gupta serves as a senior editor of the journal *Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology*. She was also recently appointed Chair of the Government of Canada's Expert Panel on medical assistance in

dying for those suffering from mental illness.

Knowledge of the other: bridging the subjective-objective divide in psychiatry

The dominance of the evidence-based medicine (EBM) movement in clinical practice has stimulated great interest in establishing standards for clinical knowledge claims. The epistemic claim – that only EBM's privileged research methods offer knowledge about health and disease – easily shades into a normative claim. Namely, those phenomena that cannot be captured by such methods should not be given consideration in clinical decision-making.

It turns out that what patients care about most in psychiatric treatment are experiences poorly captured by the currently privileged methods of medical research such as self-worth, motivation, and fatigue. Symptom rating scales in which lived experiences are assessed quantitatively convey the impression of objective measurement without questioning whether such measures contribute any meaningful understanding of these experiences. At its extreme, such an approach can even redefine phenomena from ones that concern the whole person to numerical values.

I became interested in medical assistance in dying because it offers fertile terrain to explore the question of what counts as knowledge in medicine. For example, physicians and nurse practitioners are legally obliged to assess patients' suffering when they request MAID yet, many will argue that because suffering is not amenable to objective measurement, it is inaccessible. The epistemic claim 'suffering is subjective' (private, inaccessible) shades once again to the normative: 'we should not judge the suffering of another' precisely because it is unknowable. Conceived of this way, we cannot have knowledge of the other's lived world. Yet, knowledge of the other is exactly what we are trying to achieve in psychiatry in order to engage patients therapeutically.

In my research, I am interested in this interplay between epistemic and ethical claims in psychiatry. And as a practitioner, I think it is important that psychiatry be able to ground claims to knowing persons as this is central to the work we do.

Selected publications

1. **Gupta M**, Blouin S. Ethical judgment in assessing requests for medical assistance in dying in Canada and Quebec: What can we learn from other jurisdictions? *Death Studies*. 2021 Jun 4:1-3.
2. Association des médecins psychiatres du Québec, Accès à l'aide médicale à mourir pour les personnes atteintes de troubles mentaux, Document de réflexion, 2020 (principal author).
3. **Gupta M**, Forlini C, Laneuville L. The hidden curriculum in ethics and its relationship to professional identity formation: a qualitative study of two Canadian psychiatry residency programs. *Canadian Journal of Bioethics*. 2020;3(2):80-92.
4. **Gupta M**. Mental illness is not a myth: Epistemic favoritism in research funding. In: *Thomas*

Szasz: *An appraisal of his legacy*. 2019, pp. 224-237.

5. Lamothe D and **Gupta M**. Conceptual and ethical issues in screening for major depressive disorder, in: *Mental health as public health: interdisciplinary perspectives on the ethics of prevention*. 2019, pp. 145-166.

Events and announcements

The Montreal Health Ethics Conference Series

The Montreal Health Ethics Conference Series is a monthly bilingual livestreamed conference aiming to bring clinicians, academics, patients, politicians, public figures, students and community members together to think about and discuss issues in health ethics.

2021 theme: Wellness, health and human flourishing

More than ever, the question of well-being is at the heart of our lives and our concerns, but what role do we really give it in our personal and professional lives and more broadly in our society? Is this ideal accessible to all? How does our health care system respond to different visions of health and wellness? This series of lectures will highlight the perspectives of leading international experts reflecting on ethical issues related to wellness. The series will also focus on a number of critical interventions that will lead us to reflect on an inclusive vision of wellness and health. [Click here](#) for the conference series calendar.

12M-1PM / PM
ZOOM
FOURTE
Académie de la santé
Pragmatic Health Ethics

SÉRIE DE CONFÉRENCES DE MONTRÉAL EN ÉTHIQUE DE LA SANTÉ 2021
MONTRÉAL HEALTH ETHICS CONFERENCE SERIES

Bien-être, santé et épanouissement humain
Wellness, health and human flourishing

Plus que jamais la question du bien-être est au cœur de nos vies et de nos préoccupations. Quel rôle doit elle jouer dans nos vies personnelles, professionnelles et plus largement dans notre société? Cette série de conférences rassemble des experts de différents domaines pour réfléchir sur les questions éthiques liées au bien-être dans la société. Cette série de conférences rassemble des experts de différents domaines pour réfléchir sur les questions éthiques liées au bien-être dans la société.

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FÉVRIER - FEBRUARY
24
Marie Chénier, PhD
Psychiatre et conférencière

MARS - MARCH
4
David Ryle, PhD
Chercheur en éthique de la santé, Université de Toronto, Canada

25
Danielle Bernard, PhD
Chercheuse en éthique de la santé, Université de Toronto, Canada

AVRIL - APRIL
22
Danielle Bernard, PhD
Chercheuse en éthique de la santé, Université de Toronto, Canada

MAI - MAY
6
Marie Chénier, PhD
Psychiatre et conférencière

27
Gita Persson, PhD
Chercheuse en éthique de la santé, Université de Toronto, Canada

JUIN - JUNE
16
Marie Chénier, PhD
Psychiatre et conférencière

30
Danielle Bernard, PhD
Chercheuse en éthique de la santé, Université de Toronto, Canada

OCTOBRE - OCTOBER
14
Gregory Aiguier, PhD
Chercheur en éthique de la santé, Université de Toronto, Canada

NOVEMBRE - NOVEMBER
4
Marie Chénier, PhD
Psychiatre et conférencière

DECEMBRE - DECEMBER
2
Marie Chénier, PhD
Psychiatre et conférencière

GRATUIT
FREE

CONTACT
info@montrealhealthethics.ca

PARTENAIRES
CHUM, Université de Montréal, etc.

Upcoming conferences in October :

L'éthique comme apprentissage : vers une capacitation des acteurs et des organisations du soin

[Gregory Aiguier](#), Ph.D.

Enseignant-chercheur, Maître de conférences EA 7446 « Ethics » (Centre d'éthique médicale)

Faculté de médecine et de maïeutique, Université Catholique de Lille

14 octobre 2021 – 12h à 1h PM (EST)

Pour vous inscrire: [Cliquez ici](#).

Le partenariat patient, un levier majeur de transformation des soins

[Vincent Dumez](#), M.Sc., patient partenaire

Co-directeur, Centre d'excellence sur le partenariat avec les patients et le public (CEPPP),
Faculté de médecine et Centre de recherche du CHUM, Université de Montréal;

Co-directeur, Direction collaboration et partenariat patient (DCPPP), Faculté de médecine, Université de Montréal;

Co-directeur, Réseau québécois COVID-pandémie – FRQ;

Co-chercheur principal; Stratégie de recherche en partenariat avec les patients et le public, Unité de soutien SRAP du Québec

21 octobre 2021 – 12h à 13h PM (EST)

Pour vous inscrire: [Cliquez ici](#).

[Webinar: Montreal Clinical Research Institute 2021-2022 conference calendar – Suzanne Metselaar](#)

Montreal Clinical Research Institute, Montreal, QC

Online conference: October 25, 2021 – 11:30AM to 12:30PM (EST)

Dre Suzanne Metselaar is an assistant professor of medical ethics and ethicist at the Department of Ethics, Law and Humanities of the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

[Click here](#) for the Zoom details

[Call for registration: ASBH's 23rd Annual Conference](#)

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities

Online conference: October 11-16, 2021

The conference takes its inspiration from its previously scheduled meeting place at the “Crossroads of America”, Indianapolis, Indiana. Attendees are invited to explore the many intersections of bioethics, health humanities, and the worlds with which we engage.

[Plenary sessions:](#)

1. COVID-19 at the crossroads

October 13, 2021 – 3PM to 4:30PM (CDT)

Panelists: Sandro Galea, MD DrPH MPH; Douglas B. White, MD MAS; Yolonda Yvette Wilson, PhD

Moderator: Keith Wailoo, PhD

2. Turning outside in: A future disability bioethics

October 14, 2021 – 2PM to 3:15PM (CDT)

Jackie Leach Scully, PhD FACSS FRSA

Supported by the Institute for Bioethics and Health Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch

3. Addressing the political determinants of health

October 15, 2021 – 1:30PM to 2:45PM (CDT)

Daniel Dawes, JD

Supported by the Institute for Bioethics and Health Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch

To register: [click here](#)

[Call for registration: 2021 INS Annual Meeting](#)

Social justice at the center: shaping the future of neuroethics

International Neuroethics Society

Online conference: November 4-5, 2021

The meeting program includes many informative and engaging activities for students and

professionals at all stages of their careers. The [social justice theme](#) has guided the selection of session topics and invited speakers with a diverse range of perspectives and experiences.

To register: [Click here](#). Deadline: October 15, 2021

For more information: [Click here](#)

Call for registration from Colombia University's Masters of Bioethics Program:

- [Careers in bioethics & health nonprofits: opportunities, impact & innovation](#)

A panel webinar with leaders working in bioethics-related nonprofits, discussing their jobs and how to enter the field

Online event: October 21, 2021 - 6:15PM to 7:45PM (EST)

To register: [Click here](#)

- [Addressing implicit bias as a standard of care: a legal & ethical imperative](#)

The legal system can be used as a tool for reframing the scope of professional ethical obligations and thereby improving the quality of care for marginalized communities.

Online event: November 4, 2021 - 6:15PM to 8:15PM (EST)

To register: [Click here](#)

Call for registration: Research related to medically assisted dying for people with mental health disorders.

Collaboration between the Réseau québécois sur le suicide, les troubles de l'humeur et les troubles associés, and the Pragmatic Health Ethics Research Unit of Montreal Clinical Research Institute, Montreal, QC

Online event: October 13, 2021 – 1PM to 3PM (EST)

This knowledge exchange event focuses on the gaps in knowledge with respect to protocols, guidelines and safeguards needed to help protect individuals with mental illness while providing them with equal rights to assisted dying.

The event's program is available [here](#)

To register: [Click here](#)

Call for applications: 2022 Jack and Anita Hess virtual faculty seminar on "Bioethics, disease, and the Holocaust".

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Online seminar: January 3-7, 2022.

This year's seminar will draw on an interdisciplinary body of scholarship to make clear how the history of the Holocaust informs the fields of bioethics and public health, and vice-versa.

Please contact Dr. Katharine White (kwhite@ushmm.org) with any questions.

Deadline for application: October 31, 2021.

Call for applications: clinical ethics fellowship program

Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

This competitive 2-year program offers the opportunity to train with a nationally renowned faculty and staff who lead premier Clinical Ethics Consultation Services at adult private

hospital systems in the Texas Medical Center. The fellowship offers a competitive stipend, excellent benefits, and opportunities for continued professional development.

See call for applications [here](#)

Submit your application, resume, and cover letter [here](#)

Deadline for application: October 29, 2021.

[Call for applications: 2022-2024 McDonald-Agape post-doctoral fellowship program](#)

The Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, Washington DC

Made possible through a generous grant from the McDonald-Agape Foundation, the fellowship is designed to promote the academic career of a junior scholar with outstanding potential for scholarship and leadership in bioethics. This two-year fellowship will begin in July 2022.

See call for applications [here](#)

Send applications to: kiesearch@georgetown.edu.

Deadline for application: Applications will be accepted beginning November 1, 2021 and must be received by **January 3, 2022**.

Literature

Interdisciplinary foundations of health ethics

[Evaluation of artificial intelligence clinical applications: Detailed case analyses show value of healthcare ethics approach in identifying patient care issues](#)

Rogers WA, Draper H, Carter SM. *Bioethics*. 2021 Sep;35(7):623-633.

[Ethics and values in design: A structured review and theoretical critique.](#)

Donia J, Shaw JA. *Sci Eng Ethics*. 2021 Aug 19;27(5):57.

[Expectations as techniques of legitimation? Imagined futures through global bioethics standards for health research.](#)

Fleer ML. *J Law Biosci*. 2021 Aug 16;8(2):lsaa086.

[Pedagogies of possibilities: Liberating moral imagination by practicing pastoral aesthetics.](#)

Sharp MAM. *Pastoral Psychol*. 2021 Aug 11:1-9.

[Dying well in nursing homes during COVID-19 and beyond: The need for a relational and familial ethic](#)

Parks JA, Howard M. *Bioethics*. 2021 Jul;35(6):589-595.

Methodologies and practices in health ethics

[Creating a research ethics consultation service: Issues to consider](#)

Taylor HA, Porter KM, Paquette ET, McCormick JB, Tumilty E, Arnold JF, Spector-Bagdady

K, Danis M, Brandt D, Shah J, Wilfond BS, Lee LM. *Ethics Hum Res.* 2021 Sep;43(5):18-25.

[Work of a paediatric bioethics centre during the COVID-19 pandemic first phase.](#)

Brierley J, Aylett S, MacNiven A, Dittborn M. *Arch Dis Child.* 2021 Sep;106(9):906-910

[Deliberative engagement methods on health care priority-setting in a rural South African community.](#)

Tugendhaft A, Hofman K, Danis M, Kahn K, Erzse A, Twine R, Gold M, Christofides N. *Health Policy Plan.* 2021 Sep 9;36(8):1279-1291

[Achieving inclusive research priority-setting: what do people with lived experience and the public think is essential?](#)

Pratt B. *BMC Med Ethics.* 2021 Sep 4;22(1):117.

[A proposed model of core competencies for research ethics consultants.](#)

Matsui K, Inoue Y, Yanagawa H, Takano T. *Asian Bioeth Rev.* 2021 May 29;13(3):355-370.

Debates arising in news and social media

[Quelles leçons peut-on tirer de la pandémie?](#)

Nadeau J. *Le Devoir.* 22 septembre 2021

[Après 9 ans en CHSLD, Jonathan Marchand enfin chez lui](#)

Duval A. *Radio-Canada.* 13 septembre 2021

[Director Robert Truog comments on keeping patients alive indefinitely in modern ICUs: Improved technology collides with religious beliefs at the ICU](#)

Truog R. *Harvard Medical School.* 26 Aout 2021

[Opinion: How biomedicine could transform human reproduction](#)

Greely H. *The Scientist.* 1 août 2021

[Society is not ready to make human brains](#)

Kyoto University. *Science Daily.* 8 avril 2021

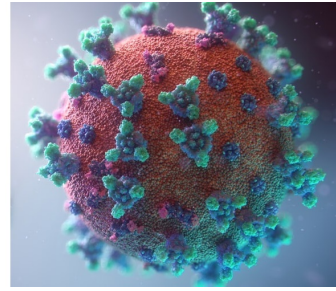
[Aide à la décision sur les recherches génétiques sur le nanisme et textes d'opinion](#)

Association québécoise des personnes de petite taille. 6 avril 2021

Health ethics and the COVID-19 pandemic

Recent and relevant literature

A list of the most recent and relevant health ethics scholarly publications relating to the COVID-19 response is available on [our website](#).



Other resources

For more resources on pragmatic health ethics theory and practice, visit our website at <http://www.pragmatichealthethics.ca>.



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