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BRAINSTORM

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

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**PRAGMATIC
HEALTH ETHICS
RESEARCH UNIT**



[Pragmatic Health Ethics Research Unit,
Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal](#)

IRCM Institut de recherches
cliniques de Montréal

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Fardeau, E., Senghor, A.S. & Racine, E. The Impact of Socially Assistive Robots on Human Flourishing in the Context of Dementia: A Scoping Review. Int J of Soc Robotics (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12369-023-00980-8>

éthique vivante avec l'Université Laval.

Recrutement en cours: Poste d'assistant.e de recherche!

Intéressé.e à vous joindre à l'Équipe? Nous sommes justement à la recherche d'un.e assistant.e de recherche. Pour en apprendre davantage, consultez l'offre d'emploi en [cliquant ici](#).

Reportage sur la conscience minimale paru dans Le Devoir!

Nouveau reportage sur la conscience minimale, dans la foulée de la conférence annuelle de la Société internationale de neuroéthique (INS) qui a eu lieu à l'IRCM à l'automne 2022. Ce reportage émerge d'une entrevue accordée à Pauline Gravel.

- Pour lire l'article paru dans Le Devoir, [cliquez ici](#).

Monthly profile

Giulia Inguaggiato, PhD

Giulia is a postdoctoral researcher and teacher at the department of Ethics Law and Humanities of the Amsterdam University Medical Centres (NL). She has a background in philosophy and bioethics and her main research interest is in applied ethics, especially looking at the intersection between philosophical ethical reflection and the practice of moral reasoning in health care and research. This interest is reflected in the work she has done both in the field of clinical ethics support and research integrity. In both domains Giulia has explored how to support professionals in dealing with the ethical issues they encounter in their work. Her PhD project focussed on clinical ethics support (CES) and explored the relevance of American pragmatist philosophy for the practice and theory of CES in pluralistic societies. In parallel to this, her work in the field of research integrity has been focusing on the creation of a community-based platform (The Embassy of Good Science) to support researchers in their day-to-day practices, and on the development of a train-the-trainer program for research integrity based on a virtue ethics approach (funded by the EU projects EnTIRE and VIRT2UE). Giulia is also a teacher in the Research Integrity course for PhD students at the Amsterdam University Medical Centres and a moral case deliberation facilitator and trainer. Currently, she is



involved in two EU funded projects on research integrity focussing on training (Beyond project), and on supporting researchers in conducting research in times of crises such as pandemics, natural disasters and wars (PREPARED project).

Democratizing clinical ethics support in pluralistic society

In today's pluralistic societies, moral dilemmas in healthcare increasingly arise from the conflict between values, principles and beliefs representing different moral frameworks, and cultural or religious backgrounds. Clinical ethics support services (CES) have been established worldwide to support healthcare professionals in addressing the concrete moral dilemmas and questions they encounter in their everyday work. However, the question arises, how can we provide clinical ethics support in a pluralistic society characterized by a diversity and a plurality of moral perspectives?

To answer this question, in my research I have turned to the classical American pragmatists Charles Sanders Peirce, William James and John Dewey and explored the significance of pragmatist philosophy for clinical ethics support (CES) within the context of pluralism. I have argued that a pragmatist approach can be valuable in avoiding the pitfalls of scepticism and relativism, while also providing CES with effective tools to address the moral dilemmas that arise in contemporary healthcare. In particular, I have argued that taking a pragmatist approach to clinical ethics support implies realizing that ethical decision making is an intersubjective process that starts from the analysis of a specific question, and aims at responding to the needs of a concrete issue and of the people involved in it. This requires considering CES as a democratic and inclusive process in which new ethical knowledge is collectively generated and normative outcomes are developed through the collaboration of all the stakeholders involved in the case.

Although pragmatist CES methods exist (see ref. 1), fully embodying a pragmatist approach to CES would mean realizing the inclusion of all the perspectives involved in the case at hand, including patients'. This can be challenging, as reflecting on difficult moral questions often requires sharing ones' doubts and vulnerabilities, a process that can potentially be harmful to the professional relationship between patients and healthcare practitioners. Establishing trust between participants in CES sessions can be a good way to promote fruitful exchange between stakeholders. Although there are compelling theoretical justifications for making CES more democratic by realizing the inclusion of all voices, especially the marginalized and vulnerable ones, practical barriers may still exist. These obstacles could stem from factors such as the emotional or physical vulnerability of stakeholders, power imbalances, or the capacity and willingness of participants to communicate effectively. Further investigation is required to devise effective strategies and CES methods to overcome these challenges and guarantee the participation of all stakeholders.

Selected publications:

- Inguaggiato, G., Metselaar, S., Porz, R., & Widdershoven, G. (2019). A pragmatist approach to clinical ethics support: overcoming the perils of ethical pluralism.

- Inguaggiato, G., Metselaar, S., Molewijk, B., & Widdershoven, G. (2019). How moral case deliberation supports good clinical decision making. *AMA Journal of Ethics*, Vol. 21, pp. 913–919. <https://doi.org/10.1001/amajethics.2019.913>
- Inguaggiato, G., Metselaar, S., Widdershoven, G., & Molewijk, B. (2019). Clinical Ethics Expertise as the Ability to Co-Create Normative Recommendations by Guiding a Dialogical Process of Moral Learning. *The American Journal of Bioethics: AJOB*, 19(11), 71–73. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2019.1665735>

Orcid account:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2340-908X>

Additional resource:

embassy.science

Events and announcements

The Montreal Health Ethics Conference Series

The Montreal Health Ethics Conference Series is an annual series of bilingual conferences / webinars that aims to bring together clinicians, academics, patients, politicians, public figures, students, and community members to think about and discuss issues in health ethics. The series' objective, supported by many academic institutions located in Montreal, is to promote interdisciplinary reflection as well as foster new ways of thought that better assemble the larger public.

2023 THEME: Participatory, inclusive, and eco-social health: How to innovate and build bridges between democracy, environment and our health care systems?

More than ever, the interconnections between health and the environment are recognized and represent a burning issue for citizens. But the power to influence social and natural environments depends closely on the existence of democratic institutions that make room for the voices of individuals and groups. To address these questions, this new series of conferences will address the links between, on the one hand, democracy and its institutions and, on the other hand, the development of



Conférences de Montréal en éthique de la santé



INSCRIPTION ZOOM

INSCRIPTION EVENBRE

La santé participative, inclusive, écosociale : comment innover et créer des ponts entre démocratie, environnement et nos milieux de soins de santé ?

À PROPOS DE LA SÉRIE

VOIR SUR YOUTUBE

Janvier

26
Stéphane Paquin, directeur, Groupe de recherche et d'études sur l'International et le Québec (SERIQ)
La réforme de la santé en Suisse : quelles leçons pour le Québec ?

Février

23 / VIRTUELLE
Pierre Lavoie, athlète, fondateur : Le grand défi
Pierre Lavoie
La prévention, la voie de la pérennité

Mars

30 / HYBRIDE
Lara Maillet, professeure agrégée,
titulaire de la Chaire de recherche du Canada en système adapté en santé et services sociaux,
École nationale d'administration publique
Un système de santé adapté et inclusif ? Le cas d'un réseau intersectoriel de proximité au service des personnes réfugiées en Extré

Avril

20 / HYBRIDE
Laurence Bherer, professeure titulaire,
département de science politique
Université de Montréal
Le droit d'initiative en matière de consultation publique de la Ville de Montréal : action collective et démocratie directe

Mai

25 / VIRTUELLE
Anne-Danièle Gervais, conférencière,
communicatrice en maladies rares, patiente partenaire
Adaptation, inclusion et partenariat

Juin

22 / HYBRIDE
Cristina Bionis, Lecture, TU Delft, Joint editor,
Global Bioethics
Green Bioethics: Sustainable Health Care

Septembre

14 / HYBRIDE
Amandine Catala, professeure agrégée,
Chaire de recherche du Canada sur l'équité et l'agentivité épistémiques, département de philosophie, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
Vers la justice épistémique dans la recherche avec les personnes autistes en Extré

Octobre

5 / VIRTUELLE
Carole Jabot, directrice scientifique, Fonds de recherche du Québec Santé
Quand la santé durable rejoint santé participative, inclusive et écosociale: moyens d'action des agences subventionnaires

Novembre

9 / HYBRIDE
Jarid Hesse, psychologue communautaire,
professeure au département de psychologie de l'UQAM et titulaire de la Chaire de recherche sur la réduction des inégalités sociales de santé
Réduire les inégalités sociales de santé : Quels leviers avons-nous pour agir ?

30

/ HYBRIDE
Bénédicte D'Anjou, coordonnatrice de recherche,
docteure en sciences de l'information, Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM) McGill
Mettre sur pied des laboratoires vivants en santé au Québec : expériences et réflexions

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Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM)
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Montréal H3W 1P7

and spaces for citizen voices and their impact on health, democratic reform of health systems, and many innovative experiments aimed at democratizing health and creating citizen spaces. Because thinking about health is also working to improve it for everyone.

Prochaine conférence:

Adaptation, inclusion et partenariat

25 mai 2023 – 12h PM à 1h PM (EDT)

Conférencière : [Annie-Danielle Grenier](#), autrice, conférencière et patiente partenaire

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

[Call for grant applications: Strategies for responsibly reporting back environmental health and non-genomic research results to research participants and/or key partners](#)

National Institute of Health (NIH)

Pre-application webinar on May 10, from 2 PM to 3:30 PM (ET)

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in partnership with the NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP), the *All of Us Research Program*, and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), seeks applications that will identify, develop and/or adapt, as well as test strategies for responsibly reporting back environmental health, non-genomic research, and gene-environment interaction (GxE) results to research participants and/or key partners (for example, health care professionals, IRBs, and policy makers).

To learn more, [click here](#).

To register to the pre-application webinar, [click here](#).

[Call for applications: Assistant Professor or Associate Professor in the Non-tenure Line \(Research\)](#)

Stanford Center of Bio-Medical Ethics- NTLR

The Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics in the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford University seeks an Academic Scholar with a record indicating scholarly activity in any areas related to Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues in Genetics, Genomics, or Precision Medicine to join the Department as Assistant Professor or Associate Professor in the Non-tenure Line (Research) faculty line. Interested candidates should submit their curriculum vitae and a brief letter with optional diversity statement.

To learn more, [click here](#).

To apply, [click here](#).

[Call for registration: CBS-SCB Workshop and Community Forum](#)

Canadian Bioethics Society – Société canadienne de bioéthique

May 15-18, 2023

Join the event for peer-reviewed workshops, conversations in Canadian Bioethics event, CBS-SCB Annual Business Meeting, interaction and networking, student events.

To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

October 16-19, 2023 – Porto, Portugal

The World Conference offers its participants an international platform for fruitful scientific discourse on more than 70 topics and subtopics in the fields of bioethics, medical ethics, and health law. Moreover, it is an excellent opportunity to create professional and personal connections with those who lead the field of bioethics in the world.

To learn more, [click here](#).

To register, [click here](#).

[Call for applications: Clinical ethicist position](#)

Providence Health Care, Vancouver, Canada

Full time position. Reporting to the Director, Ethics Services, the Clinical Ethicist is accountable for aiding in developing, planning, and implementing ethics related services. The position has four areas of emphasis including: Clinical Ethics; Education; Policy Review, Development and Implementation; and Administration. The Clinical Ethicist builds organizational capacity for sound ethical decision-making by engaging physicians, staff and volunteers in appropriate forums. The position also provides leadership on ethical issues by participating on appropriate internal and external committees and task groups.

For more details, [click here](#).

To apply, [click here](#).

[Call for applications: Dana Foundation Fellow in Neuroscience & Society](#)

Dana Foundation

The Dana Foundation seeks two Dana Fellows in Neuroscience & Society for a two-year fellowship experience. The Dana Fellows will have the exciting opportunity to assist in the planning, coordination, and execution of Dana Foundation grant programs, meetings, and public outreach activities. Please submit a cover letter describing your qualifications, a brief bio (200-word limit), and your curriculum vitae to the Dana Foundation's Director of Human Resources, Pat Mangini: pmangini@dana.org

Application deadline: July 15, 2023 – 5 PM EDT

To learn more, [click here](#).

[Announcement: Next INS Annual Meeting will be April 2024 in Baltimore](#)

International Neuroethics Society (INS)

Hybrid event - April 17-19, 2024, in Baltimore, MD, USA.

The meeting will include the latest neuroethics research and feature a set of sessions and activities on music, the arts, and the humanities as part of the meeting theme: *'Expressing Wonder, Making Meaning: Neuroethics Engages the Arts.'* The location of the Spring meeting in downtown Baltimore will be finalized in the coming weeks. The virtual event in October will be held on Zoom. For the latest announcements, [sign up to get email updates](#) about the INS meeting and associated calls for proposals, talks and posters.

To learn more, [click here](#) or contact Robert Beets rbeets@neuroethicssociety.org

[Literature](#)

[The impact of socially assistive robots on human flourishing in the context of dementia: a scoping review.](#)

Fardeau E, Senghor AS, Racine E. *Int J of Soc Robot* (2023).

[Epistemic justice in bioethics: interculturality and the possibility of reparations.](#)

de Vries J, Pratt B. *J Med Ethics*. 2023 May;49(5):347.

[Bioethics, sociality, and mental illness.](#)

Englander M. *J Med Philos*. 2023 Apr 20;48(2):161-169.

[Update on bioethical, medical and fertility issues in gender incongruence during transition age.](#)

Conflitti AC, Spaziani M, Pallotti F, Tarsitano MG, Di Nisio A, Paoli D, Lombardo F; TALENT Study Group. *J Endocrinol Invest*. 2023 Apr 18. Online ahead of print.

[The shifting landscape of death by neurologic criteria in pediatrics: current controversies and persistent questions.](#)

Long RFP, Kingsley J, Derrington SF. *Semin Pediatr Neurol*. 2023 Apr;45:101034.

Methodologies and practices in health ethics

[How interactive visualizations compare to ethical frameworks as stand-alone ethics learning tools for health researchers and professionals.](#)

Sleigh J, Ormond K, Schneider M, Stern E, Vayena E. *AJOB Empir Bioeth*. 2023 Apr 19:1-11. Online ahead of print.

[Traditional health care practitioners' perspectives on applying informed consent during African traditional medical practice in Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria: a cross-sectional qualitative study.](#)

Akpa-Inyang F, Chima SC. *J Integr Complement Med*. 2023 Apr 17. Online ahead of print.

[Views of stakeholders at risk for dementia about deep brain stimulation for cognition.](#)

Klein E, Montes Daza N, Dasgupta I, MacDuffie K, Schönau A, Flynn G, Song D, Goering S. *Brain Stimul*. 2023 Apr 17:S1935-861X(23)01748-5. Online ahead of print.

[Survival and long-term outcomes of children who survived after end-of-life decisions in a neonatal intensive care unit.](#)

Boutillier B, Biran V, Janvier A, Barrington KJ. *J Pediatr*. 2023 Apr 17:113422. Online ahead of print.

['You have to put a lot of trust in me': autonomy, trust, and trustworthiness in the context of mobile apps for mental health.](#)

Müller R, Primc N, Kuhn E. *Med Health Care Philos*. 2023 Mar 30. Online ahead of print.

Debates arising in news and social media

[The Supreme Court has delayed its abortion pill decision.](#)

Mullin E. *Wired*. 19 avril 2023.

[Réforme du réseau de la santé. Des groupes s'inquiètent de la diminution de la présence citoyenne.](#)

Lévesque F. *La Presse*. 19 avril 2023.

[Les organes d'un Canadien gai refusés : les critères de Santé Canada critiqués.](#)

Williams A. *Radio-Canada*. 15 avril 2023.

[AMM : voici pourquoi il serait injustifié de rejeter les demandes anticipées.](#)

Hamrouni N, Maclure J. *The Conversation*. 30 mars 2023.

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

