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Annual Report 2020-21



Cover photo: XXX

Inner Page: All Centre Staff and Scholars, including externally funded staff

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Highlights from the Past Year

Infected Blood Inquiry

Over 20 years in the 1970s and 80s, the UK National Health Service used clotting treatments known as Factor VIII, created from blood purchased from American prisons. To make the treatments, the blood was pooled from thousands of donors. If just one of those donors was infected with HIV or hepatitis, the whole batch would become contaminated. And that is exactly what happened: Over 75% of those who received the products became infected with hepatitis, HIV, or both. Of those who used the earlier treatment, none became infected.

No-one knows exactly how many have died as a result, but it is at least 1200 to date, with around 3800 infected in total. The cost to the patients was tragic. One daughter lost both her parents to AIDS when her father, who had been given contaminated products unknowingly infected her mother with HIV. Another woman lost two husbands, both given infected blood. Others who survived have been living with chronic disease since childhood, unable to work or lead normal lives. There was no warning that the treatments were risky—some were even treated unnecessarily—and in many cases the resulting disease itself was kept from patients.

The signs were there from the start. The World Health Organisation cautioned the UK against using blood products from the US, due to the high rates of infection circulating there. Warnings persisted throughout the 1970s and 1980s, especially as the HIV/AIDs epidemic developed, but were ignored. In France, where a similar scandal unfolded, the Health Minister was found guilty of manslaughter.

Last year, after decades of campaigning and failed inquiries, the government announced an Infected Blood Inquiry led by Sir Brian Longstaff. The Inquiry is broad and will investigate clinical and political decision-making. But it includes questions of medical ethics. What duties did clinicians have to tell their patients about the risks, and about their deteriorating conditions? Did patients know enough to give informed consent to these risks? When does record-keeping become research, and what are the special obligations attached to research? Should

the manufacturer or the clinician warn the patient if risks become apparent? How should clinicians weigh risks and benefits?

OUC Director formed part of the Medical Ethics Expert Group, co-authoring a 130-page report before 3 days of oral evidence to the inquiry. The report and inquiry were made available online, with the evidence given live. Many of those affected by the inquiry watched. The medical ethics group provided evidence on the guiding ethical principles for clinicians who must operate in a world of risk, benefit, and uncertainty. As information emerged, what should have been done? The Medical Ethics Expert group provided expert information on the ethical obligations that the profession imposes. As the inquiry pieces together who knew what, and when, the Medical Ethics Report will help the inquiry to understand what should have been done with that knowledge.

Prof Savulescu said as a newly qualified doctor he looked after haemophilia patients infected with HIV. He said he and colleagues were "embarrassed and ashamed" at this "medical failure". Apologising, he said: "We had promised them miracles and we gave them HIV."

The Haemophilia Society Public Inquiry Team

Member of
Public Following
Inquiry

Pandemic Response

XX

papers

XX

media appearances

3

externally funded
grants

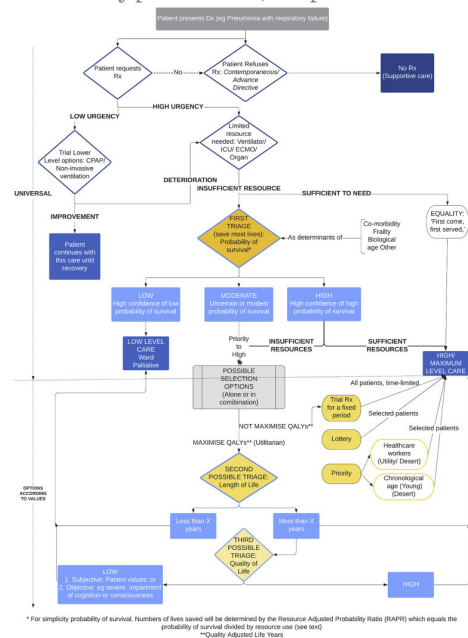
XX

policy inputs

“I’d personally like to thank Julian Savulescu for his contribution throughout. Forthright and informative, and let’s hope lessons can finally be learned and the NHS gets the required funding to provide a better overall service”

Ethical Allocation of Ventilators in a Pandemic and Lessons from Italy

In the early part of 2020, the pandemic



Algorithm to Support Allocation Decisions

appeared to be isolated to China, and then Iran. In the UK, it wasn't until images and testimony from Italy showed hospitals and intensive care units overwhelmed that it became clear that the pandemic was not only already in Europe, that it had already taken hold, and we had lost control.

In a wealthy society, we expect medical decision-making to focus on the patient primarily. Is this care in the best interests of this patient? Sometimes, the burden of treatment is too high for the possible benefits. At a national level, we know that cost is a factor, resources are limited. Some drugs are approved, but others are too expensive to offer. But in the early stages of the pandemic, and even later, at times of crisis as new waves rolled across the country, we have had to face a critical shortage of ventilators, and other life-saving equipment. There were simply too many patients needing treatment at once, many too ill to be moved. Doctors were

asked to make decisions about who should get potentially life-saving equipment.

OUC Director Julian Savulescu and Head of Medical Ethics Dominic Wilkinson are both medically trained. Collaborating with Italian Intensivist Marco Vergano and Ethicist Lucia Craxi, learning from Italian experiences. Marco Vergano had helped draft Italian guidelines to support doctors forced to choose between patients, and faced significant criticism.

The resulting papers provided the first algorithm for ethical allocation of ventilators in a pandemic, published in the *British Journal of Anaesthesia*. This approach ensures that these decisions are made clearly, and after a transparent deliberation process, preventing rush or panic from overwhelming the process. It respects differences in value weighting, and the unique situation of each patient, but allows for greater shared and collaborative decision-making, and a clear and well-structured process to develop. A second paper reflected on the Italian lessons learned to assist other countries as they prepared for the first peak of the pandemic in developing processes. Indeed, the conclusions of the paper were summarised for Canadian policymakers in a commissioned review of evidence, as well as cited in US, Asian, and European-based healthcare journals as preparations were made worldwide.

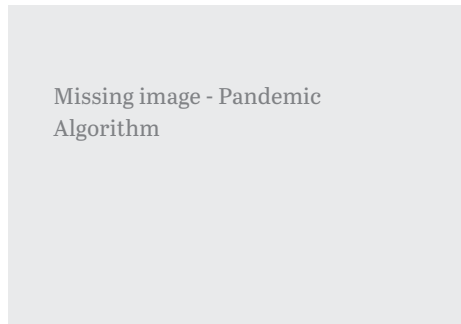
“Differences between countries in their chosen approach to allocation are inevitable, and will reflect the ethical choices of particular societies. However, these values must be made explicit and decisions not left to personal values, conscience, intuition, religion, or idiosyncrasy. Algorithmic ethics makes these values and their relationship explicit. How these values are applied will depend on the facts. But we should as a society agree on the ethical values and their relationship. As events such as the COVID-19 pandemic befall us, our values and choices play a significant role in determining who lives and who dies.”

Vaccinations: Should Vaccines be Mandatory?



Regulators in Europe are at odds over whether the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine should be given to the elderly. In the UK, the vaccine has been approved for use in adults aged 18 and up, but France, Germany, Sweden and Austria say the vaccine should be prioritised for those under the age of 65. Poland only recommends it for those younger than 60. Italy goes one step further and only recommends it for those 55 and younger.

It is only ethical to approve a vaccine if it is safe and effective.



Decision-chart for mandatory vaccination

One of the outstanding success stories of the pandemic has been the speed at which vaccines have been produced. Despite the notorious difficulties of vaccination against coronavirus, there are a range of effective options, and some countries have already achieved widespread coverage.

But vaccination was already facing a crisis in some cultures. A developing culture of vaccine hesitancy has seen outbreaks of measles, and other diseases that had

previously been all but eradicated. A new vaccine, using new technology, developed with incredible speed has added fuel to the flames of the anti-vaccination movement, as well as leaving many simply undecided. However, the virus is so contagious that we will likely need a very high rate of uptake to achieve enough immunity to return to normal without continued risk to healthcare systems, and to protect those who cannot be vaccinated. How should we address these concerns?

Some countries use mandatory vaccination, making benefits, or access to school or daycare, dependent on vaccination. Some have even used legal sanctions on parents to have them comply. Should we use some of these measures for COVID-19 vaccines? Despite having argued in favour of mandatory vaccination in the past, given the uncertainty, Julian Savulescu argued that it may be premature for these measures. Indeed, just a few months into the vaccination programme, it has now become clear that there are some extremely rare

but potentially fatal side-effects, at least to the AstraZeneca vaccine. As we roll out the vaccine, we gather data on a scale that is not possible in a clinical trial, both in terms of length and numbers of participants.

Instead, in a widely-read Conversation piece, OUC researchers have argued for continuing roll-out on a voluntary basis, and informing patients of risks as we become aware of them. The most at-risk groups are vaccinated first, and receive enormous potential benefit from an effective vaccine. Pausing vaccination, which was presented by some as a precautionary measure, is not the safe option for those groups in countries where the virus is circulating widely. Instead, it puts them at daily risk of an illness with an immediate and much higher than the vaccine risk. Clinical trials have already shown any unexpected vaccine risks that do occur will be extremely rare. Any risk must be balanced against the risk of the disease, which varies throughout the population.

Whether a vaccine should be made mandatory, incentivised, or offered voluntarily depends on features and risks of the vaccine, and the disease. In a Journal of Medical Ethics article, OUC Director Julian Savulescu created a decision-algorithm to assist with selecting an ethical strategy for overcoming issues with vaccine hesitancy. He is working with clinicians specialising in vaccines to address these issues.

Others at the Centre presented arguments more vehemently in favour of mandatory vaccination, given the risk to vulnerable members of society, comparing it to other forms of mandatory treatment. At the moment, the discussion is on hold while investigation of the possible risk continues. However, once that is resolved, and we reach the end of the population who are keen to be vaccinated, there will be important discussions ahead.

“Vaccines are a balance between an individual risk assessment and collective interests. Nearly every medical intervention carries a small risk. And a few people who are unvaccinated can benefit from the protection others. But too many can undermine the whole enterprise. Balancing the right to make decisions about your body and future with infectious disease in the community is an ethical issue as well as a medical, legal, and political one. It isn’t one-size fits all.”

Julian Savulescu

Majority of UK public want greater choice at the end of life - survey

Most people in the UK would like the option of being heavily sedated, having a general anaesthetic or to having euthanasia, if they were dying, according to Oxford research published today in the medical journal PLOS One.

Professor Dominic Wilkinson, Professor Julian Savulescu and colleagues from the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, including a BMedSc student from the long running Monash collaboration training young doctors in medical ethics, surveyed more than 500 adults in August 2020 on their views about the care of a patient who had one week to live.

The study found a high level of support for access to deep sedation in dying patients.

Some 88% said they would like the option of a general anaesthetic if they were dying. Meanwhile, 79% of those surveyed said they

would like to have the option of euthanasia.

About two thirds (64%) said they would personally choose to have an anaesthetic at the end of life and slightly more than half said they would potentially choose euthanasia for themselves or a family member if they had the choice.

The report shows that a substantial proportion of the general community support a range of options at the end of life, including some that are not currently offered in the UK.

The paper was picked up by leading

journalist Polly Toynbee in national newspaper, The Guardian. Highlighting the legal barriers to care at the end of life in the UK, she argued that the law needs to change to enable people to make their own choices about how they die, and to experience less suffering through the medical means we have available.

“Previous surveys have shown that a large proportion of the UK public wish to have the option of euthanasia. This study shows an even larger number wish to have the choice of being heavily sedated or even receiving a general anaesthetic if they were dying.

Currently, in the UK it is legal for doctors to provide pain relief to dying patients, and to use sedatives if that is not enough to keep a patient comfortable. Heavy sedation is used as an option of last resort. General anaesthesia is not currently considered. But members of the general public value the option of deep sleep and complete relief from pain if they were dying. They believe that patients should be given this choice.”

Dominic Wilkinson

“This was of great personal meaning to me, having witnessed my mother go through great suffering at the end of her life. The palliative care available was powerless to help. Patients have a right to be unconscious if they are dying. This survey shows that the general public want to have greater choice at the end of life.”

Julian Savulescu

Message from our Director



OUC Director Julian Savulescu

Although 2020 is perhaps a year that the world would rather forget, I am proud to introduce this year's annual report.

Despite the logistical, professional and personal difficulties that are inevitable in a global pandemic, the Centre has not only continued to fulfil our mission, but has worked to make a difference in the global pandemic by providing ethical insight and support to policymakers, public, clinicians, and to academic ethics. Some of our staff have focussed almost entirely on pandemic issues, and a summary of our contribution to

identifying and resolving the ethical issues associated with the pandemic is on pxx.

In addition to this rapid response, we have continued our core work throughout the difficult pandemic circumstances, and managed to maintain our research, including publishing books, creating new research programmes through external funding, and working on a range of collaborative impact-focussed research articles addressing current issues. Some of these are described in this report, and our website also provides a platform for our research. We were able to deliver our

teaching and academic events online, in many cases increasing attendances.

I'm especially pleased that we were able to run a full public engagement programme online, including the annual Uehiro Lectures, a second Schools event, and even launching our first Festival of Arguments. In fact, we reached record audiences this year in terms of size and global reach, and when we do return in person, we will take advantage of the rapidly improved online streaming facilities to offer hybrid attendance. Although we have not seen each other in person for over a year, we remain a team committed to the Centre's mission and goals, and I am delighted that so many of our staff and students engaged with the public this year, through the festival, and through our new book, *Future Morality*, edited by David Edmonds, and written entirely by academics linked to the Centre, including many staff. The book is in press, but I have been able to read nearly all the chapters and have been entertained, engaged, and educated, and I am sure others will be too. I am grateful to all our staff for their flexibility and support at this difficult time to deliver these activities online. We have received outstanding feedback from those who participated. A summary of the activities and feedback is available on p xx.

In addition to research and engagement, a third key strand of our mission is to act

as a training Centre for young scholars. I was delighted that Dr Ben Davies was awarded his own Fellowship to start next year, staying at the Centre, a huge step in his career and a valuable research project for the Centre. A key goal for many scholars is a permanent position. I would also like to congratulate Dr Carissa Veliz who is now a permanent Associate Professor at the University. We will look forward to collaborating her in her new post. Finally, marking world-class contribution to the field, Tom Douglas was awarded the title Professor in recognition of his outstanding achievements and service. It is a personal pleasure to see these talented young scholars achieving their potential. It is also heartening to see that the future is in good hands. These are just a few of the achievements this year.

Finally, I speak on behalf of all of the Centre when I express our gratitude to The Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education for its generous and continued support to the Centre, unwavering through the global crisis. The Foundation's ethos and vision of the value of ethics in society is at the heart of everything we do.

Pandemic Response: Impact

The Centre has devoted considerable resources to the pandemic this year. Notably, our Head of Medical Ethics, Professor Dominic Wilkinson joined the frontline at the peak of the pandemic, transferring from neonatal to adult intensive care to take care of the worst-affected patients. Drs Alberto Giubilini and Jonathan Pugh have also been redeployed to work fulltime on COVID-19 ethics research, funded by *UK Research and Innovation*, with Dr Giubilini leading his own project on exit strategies, and Dr Pugh working with Profs Savulescu and Wilkinson as part of a major multi-partner initiative to scope out and address ethical issues in the changing pandemic landscape. A *World Health Organisation*-funded project, led by Profs Savulescu and Wilkinson and Dr Hazem Zohny and collaborating with researchers in the US and London, is addressing vaccine allocation in the context of differing prognoses at a group level, including public surveys.

Centre researchers also advised governments, healthcare providers, and others on the acute ethical issues that have arisen during the course of the pandemic. In the UK, Professor Wilkinson was lead author of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health's *Ethics framework for use in acute paediatric settings during COVID-19 pandemic*. He also joined

the committee for the British Medical Association's *Covid-19 ethical issues*.

Centre Director, Julian Savulescu supported Australian approaches to COVID, as a

member of the Australian Academy for Health and Medical Science's COVID-19 committee, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre's COVID committee, and

a worldwide, Australian-led ECMO study steering group, sharing best practice on ECMO use for COVID-19 patients.



OUC Head of Medical Ethics Professor Dominic Wilkinson treating COVID-19 patients in Oxford's Intensive Care Unit

“This has been an exceptional collaborative response that I believe has made a material difference to our capacity to support our patients and our peers during this challenging time. While it’s still far from over, the pandemic will eventually become history however I believe this network will have enduring benefits.”

Professor Grant McArthur, VCCC Executive Director on the COVID Committee

The Centre also contributed government-level advice. The UK has been considering immunity passports as a way of re-opening the country as the vaccine rollout continues. Professors Savulescu and Wilkinson met with the UK’s Cabinet Office to discuss the ethics of these proposals, and the Centre submitted two written submissions to the formal consultation process, with authors Profs Douglas, Savulescu, Wilkinson, and Drs Pugh and Forsberg as well as MSt student and Public Health specialist Bridget Williams. Prof Douglas and Drs Forsberg and Pugh also contributed two pieces written evidence on human rights and COVID to the UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights on compulsory vaccination, and other restrictions of liberty during the pandemic. Overseas, OUC Research Fellow Dr Palacios-Gonzalez reviewed Mexico’s vaccine allocation guidelines on behalf of the National Bioethics Commission.

Think Tanks have been another route

into policymaking. Dr Alberto Giubilini formed part of the THIS (The Healthcare Improvement Studies) Institute’s expert group for the report, *Pandemic Ethics: Testing times: An ethical framework and practical recommendations for COVID-19 testing for NHS workers*. The report “sought to identify and characterise the ethical considerations likely to be important to the testing programme, while recognising the tension between different values and goals. The project report emphasises that getting the COVID-19 swab testing programme for NHS workers right is crucial to support staff and patient safety and broader public health. It also recognises that COVID-19 does not affect all population groups equally. People who are socio-economically disadvantaged or members of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups may face distinctive issues in relation to testing.” Prof Savulescu and Dr Brown also built on their published research on immunity passports to contribute to an Ada Lovelace report on immunity passports,

with Dr Brown providing evidence as an expert witness to the report team.

All of these were underpinned by published, peer-reviewed research on COVID-19 ethics, which were a major theme in the Centre’s research this year. Topics included ventilator allocation, risk-related payments to healthcare workers, vaccine ethics, and immunity passports and were published across leading ethics and medical journals. We are working on collating these into an open access book to provide a readily accessible resource as we begin to reflect on lessons learned. In addition to academic readership, these articles were cited by House of Commons briefings (House of Commons Library Briefing Paper Number CBP 9076) on vaccine policy, one of the major sources of reliable information for UK parliamentarians. In a year when the UK lost its measles elimination status as well as ongoing difficulties with the COVID-19 vaccination programme, informed policy responses are of increasing importance.

The Centre’s researchers also engaged widely with the public throughout the pandemic, across a range of media. The Centre’s blog and YouTube channel, ‘Thinking Out Loud’ both ran ‘Pandemic Ethics’ series. Researchers also published widely on pandemic ethics issues in national media (opinion pieces in *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, and *The Conversation*), and engaged in widespread debate on television and radio, as well as contributing to the general print media. The Festival of Arguments covered a broad range of themes, but one highlight was a

panel discussion on the role of academia in policy-making in the light of the sometimes-difficult relationship between scientists and government during the pandemic, chaired by Sir Charles Godfray.

The research and expertise gained throughout the pandemic is feeding into the organisation of the Uehiro-Carnegie-Oxford conference in 2022 which will bring together leading world specialists for a conference and volume on pandemic ethics, with a view to consolidating a body of wisdom on pandemic. Epidemiologists have long feared ‘Disease X’—a lethal and easily spread pandemic. COVID-19, whilst devastating to affected individuals and families, our way of life, nation states, and to the global community, is sadly perhaps just a dress rehearsal for Disease X. Our goal is to develop a sound and coherent ethical approach to equip humanity for the next, and perhaps even more overwhelming, pandemic.

Selected Research Highlights: Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics



Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics, Julian Savulescu, is trained in both medicine and philosophy. In addition to leading the Centre and its hosted research projects, he maintains a leading research profile. His h-index, a measure of academic citation rate, reached 71, with 2020 seeing him achieve the highest number of new citations yet.

Centre for the Ethics of Paediatric Genomics

OUC Director Julian Savulescu is co-leader of a major new Centre for Paediatric Genomics, funded by the Medical Research Futures Fund (AUD475,000).

The Centre is focussed on the improvement of paediatric care: the world's first ethics research centre specifically devoted to ethical issues in paediatric genomics.

The Centre's mission is to develop a framework for the effective and ethical

implementation of paediatric genomic sequencing, particularly rapid genomic sequencing of critically ill, including empirical work on the impact of genomic sequencing on families, clinicians and health systems as well as an analysis of ethical issues associated with paediatric genomic sequencing. The ultimate goal is to develop evidence-based advice and guidelines and improve policy and practice.

The project involves leading geneticists, health economists and clinicians, as well as ethicists.

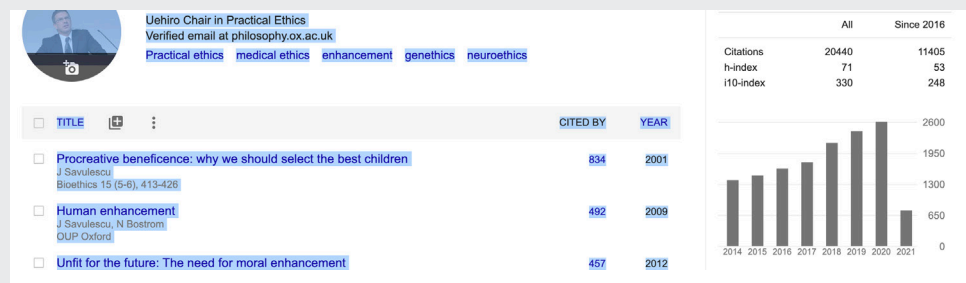
"This research will improve our understanding of the impact of rapid genomic sequencing on critically ill children and their

families, clinicians and health systems.

Genomics is revolutionising medicine. But peering into the genome of a child, even to save their life, raises especially difficult ethical questions. The Centre for Paediatric Genomics will unravel these puzzles - and

help develop evidence-based advice and guidelines to improve policy and practice."

Dr Christopher Gyngell, lead project partner



Graph of Julian Savulescu's annual citations

Psychiatry Reborn: Biopsychosocial Psychiatry in Modern Medicine

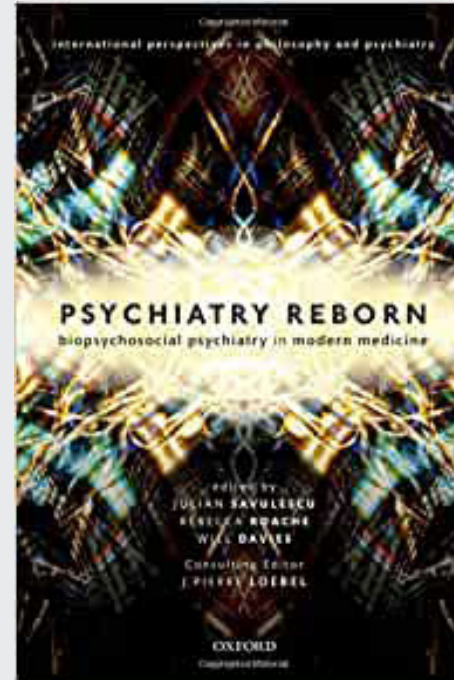
This edited volume is a comprehensive collection of essays by leading experts in the field, and provides a reassessment of the biopsychosocial approach in psychiatry. Spanning the sciences and philosophy of psychiatry, the essays offer complementary perspectives on the ever more urgent importance of the biopsychosocial approach to modern medicine.

With contributions from psychiatry, psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy, the book provides the most comprehensive account to date of the interplay between biological, psychological, and social factors in mental health and their ethical dimensions. The book reviews the history and place of the biopsychosocial model in medicine, and explore its strengths and shortcomings. In particular, it considers how understanding this interplay might lead to more effective treatments for mental health disorders, as developments in genomic and neurobiological medicine challenge traditional conceptions and approaches to the research and treatment of mental health disorders. The book explores the challenges and rewards of developing diagnostic tools and clinical interventions that take account of the inextricably intertwined bio-psycho-social domains, and the ethical implications

of the conceptualization. It concludes with chapters drawing together the book's range of expertise to propose a best conception of the model, and how it might be adopted going forward in an age of exponentially increasing technological advances and of integrated/collaborative care. The volume is intended to present the BPS model as it stands today in the academy, the lab, and the clinic, and to start to address the challenges and potential that the model has for each.

“[A]n important and timely book, tackling a subject that has increasingly preoccupied psychiatry and philosophy of psychiatry over the last two decades.... a serious and scholarly attempt at making sense of the fractured nature of psychiatry as a discipline. It does so by engaging with philosophical arguments as well as research studies, and it is a valuable book for psychiatrists, psychologists, and philosophers”

Excerpt from review by Awais Aftab, a psychiatrist in Cleveland, OH, and clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University.



Pandemic Ethics

The pandemic has had an effect on our lives that was impossible to imagine a little over a year ago: nor is it yet clear that the vaccine production, swift as it has been will necessarily bring a swift resolution.

The scientific advances that have produced effective treatments and vaccines over the past year have been supported by profound behavioural changes, often legally enforced. Even with these measures, the pandemic has imposed a huge moral burden on clinicians who have had to ration resources in some areas, and to face a deadly disease with insufficient protection, and to work without knowing if they themselves may be carriers due to insufficient protection and testing. At the same time, political divisions and failing trust in science has led to vaccine hesitancy and lack of support for measures such as masks-wearing and social distancing.

These issues and others have been a major theme of OUC Director Julian Savulescu's research this year. Two of his papers, on vaccine ethics, and immunity passports, are in the top five most-read journal articles in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, with his vaccine ethics article, making a case for payment for vaccination the most-read article. His article with OUC Senior Research Fellow Neil Levy on responsibility and the pandemic is the most read article published in the Oxford University Press journal *Public Health Ethics*, while a pre-pandemic article on the duty to vaccinate (with OUC Researcher

Alberto Giubilini is the second most-read. His pre-pandemic paper (With OUC Researchers Alberto Giubilini and Hannah Maslen) on the pandemic-related themes of quarantine, isolation and the duty of easy rescue is the current second most-cited paper in *Developing World Bioethics*. This has led to policy impact: further details of the Centre's engagement with pandemic policy are on p X.

Through a major UK Research and Innovation Award, Julian Savulescu, along with Dominic Wilkinson, and Jonathan Pugh are part of a national team addressing ethical issues in the pandemic (see pXx). The team has already addressed unpredictable issues such as the unfolding

rare but catastrophic side-effects associated with the AstraZeneca vaccine, with team responses reaching over 110,000 people and receiving widespread news coverage.

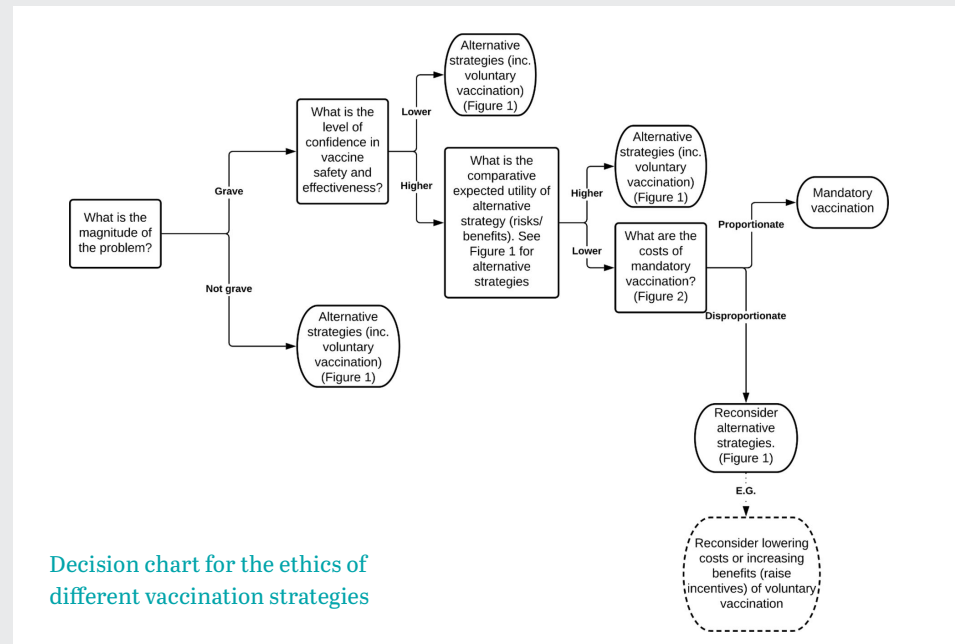
"The disagreement about whether to recommend the vaccine for the elderly concerns an ethical rather than a scientific question, namely, what standard of evidence do we need to establish the efficacy of a vaccine before approving it for use in a pandemic?"

Jonathan Pugh and Julian Savulescu, writing in *The Conversation*

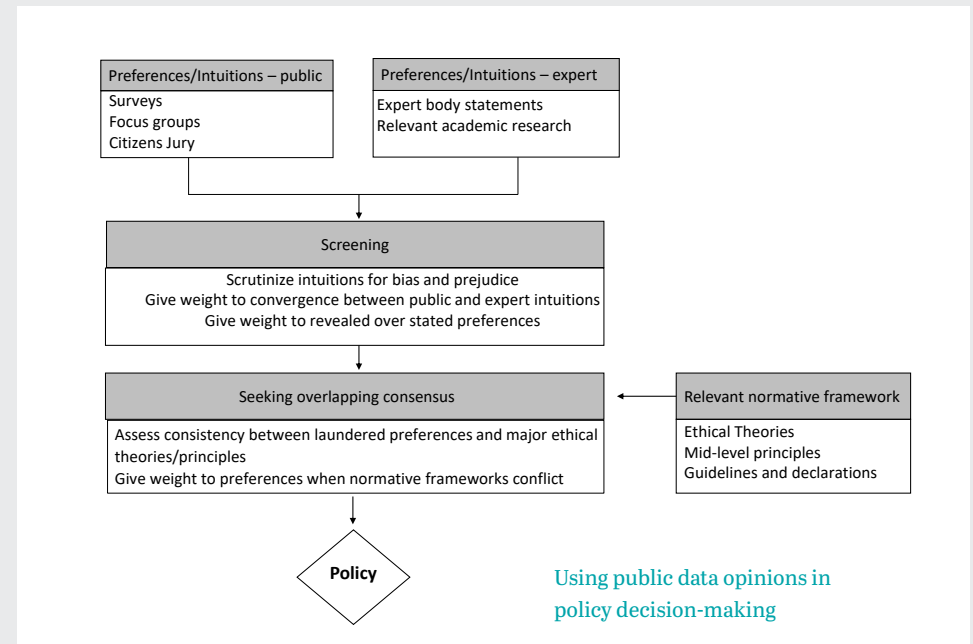
Collective Reflective Equilibrium in Practice

Over the past year, Western democracies have faced a public re-evaluation of our moral history and re-assessment of how far we have come today. Whilst the principle of democracy is important, it is more evident than ever that current acceptable values and practices may seem unacceptable to future generations. It is clear that public opinion is not by itself a barometer of a good policy. How should we assess current views when we are writing policy?

This year, Julian Savulescu, Guy Kahane and colleagues further developed an approach called 'Collective Reflective Equilibrium in Practice' (CREP). In CREP, data on public attitudes functions as an input into a deliberative process that looks for coherence between attitudes, behaviours and competing ethical principles. According to the CREP method, where there is *reasonable* moral disagreement, data on public attitudes should play a much greater role in shaping policies than in areas of ethical consensus. The goal of CREP methodology is to provide a principled way of using some public preferences as an input for policy, while justifiably disregarding others.



Decision chart for the ethics of different vaccination strategies



Using public data opinions in policy decision-making

Antimicrobial Resistance

The pandemic has highlighted difficulties with collective action, even when harms are almost immediate, and directly linked to behaviour. Antimicrobial resistance has the potential to cause even greater devastation to world health by rendering effective treatments to a range of common infections and diseases useless, and returning medicine to the pre-antibiotic era. It would undermine not only disease control, but also surgery and recovery from trauma. Yet action to mitigate antimicrobial resistance will be economically costly to agriculture, and will require a radical reduction in medical use of antibiotics. Moreover, it cannot be done alone, since resistant microbes spread. If they do, controls similar to those seen in the pandemic may be required.

Work on this theme is developing a proposal for an international legal agreement governing the global antimicrobial commons. This would represent the strongest commitment mechanism for achieving collective action on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Since AMR has important similarities to climate change—both are common pool resource challenges that require massive, long-term political commitments—there are lessons to be learned from various climate agreements that could be applicable for developing a grand bargain on AMR. Using the Paris Climate Agreement and current

governance structures as a model for AMR, the project aims to identify the merits and challenges associated with different international forums for developing a long-term international agreement on AMR.

In a special edition of *Healthcare Analysis*, a team of experts brought together by Savulescu and Hoffmann's collaboration and conference, argue that to be effective, fair, and feasible, an enduring legal agreement on AMR will require a combination of universal, differentiated,

and individualized requirements, nationally determined contributions that are regularly reviewed and ratcheted up in level of ambition, a regular independent scientific stocktake to support evidence informed policymaking, and a concrete global goal to rally support. Since last year's high-level international policy event and associated publications, the World Health Organisation and United Nations have each published major reports, with committee members including our attendees.

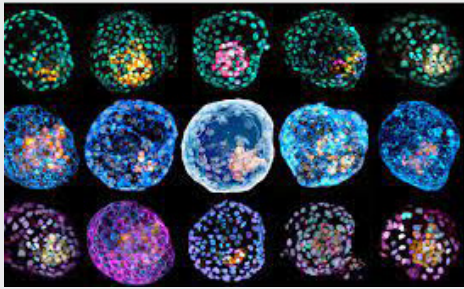
“Antimicrobial Resistance is an escalating and highly complex problem — ultimately, we are in an arms race against microbes, which are expert at evolving resistance rapidly, so we have to respond quickly and in a multifaceted way.”

Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer, Conference Delegate, co-Convenor of WHO Report

[Photo: AMR WHO -MISSING

Caption: WHO depiction of Antimicrobial Resistance]

The Time to Legislate is Now: Polygenic Scores, and Embryo-Like Structures



Embryo-like structures created this year

In Australia this year, a group of researchers working on developing stem cells from skin cells had to make an emergency call to the regulator when stem cells stored together began to develop in an embryo-like manner. They had to make a call because there is no current regulation to cover this kind of novel life-form.

“Science progresses exponentially; the law develops at a near flat line. It is time to facilitate unproblematic iBlastoid and brain organoid research (as is currently occurring) but institute new limits that are linked to an ethically relevant waymark: if and when the new entity might be conscious in the future. Prior to that point, it does not matter whether it was cloned,

or formed by natural reproduction.”

Julian Savulescu, writing on the Centre’s blog following the announcement of the new ‘embryo-like structures’

A great deal of thought, regulation, and policy has gone into the use of genetic selection in reproductive technology, covering which genetic disorders may be tested for, at which stages, and providing access to those technologies. Until now, those have applied primarily to monogenetic disorders. In these cases, there is typically a very high chance that embryos carrying the relevant gene will go onto develop the disorder, and information about the severity of the disorder.

However, big-data and AI has driven a new predictive technology: polygenic disorders, where combinations of genes are associated with greater risk of developing diseases later in life, although they may be lifestyle-mediated.

The technology is already in use in the US. However, there is little directly applicable legislation. Existing regulation is poorly applicable as polygenic scores cover a wider range of disease, certainty, and may exist only as associations or correlations, not as known causally linked genes.

In new research this year, published as an Extended Essay in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, Julian Savulescu and Sarah Munday outlined three possible regulatory models, and introduced a possible welfarist model, with predicted threshold welfare as a possible basis for selection. The

research is the first detailed ethics paper on polygenic scores, and, amongst other analyses, highlights the importance of isolating causal mechanisms to avoid potentially mis-leading correlations. It builds on Julian Savulescu’s body of work on the ethics of genomic medicine.

Failing to regulate may not be an option in a globalised and privatised market where enhanced data analysis is providing access to vast tracts of new information. On the other hand, delaying technology that is later approved is not neutral: it denies a generation of parents and babies the use of a technology that could have helped them.

Indeed, the first baby has already been born following an assessment of the

polygenic scores of her sibling embryos. Julian Savulescu was part of a webinar with her father, and the first baby born to IVF, Louise Brown, as well as clinicians and others in the field to discuss the science and ethics of polygenic scores.

The paper has led to an invitation to give a keynote lecture at European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology next year.

In addition, Professor Julian Savulescu maintained a busy programme of policy, presentations, teaching, and engagement, which are described throughout the report.

“Louise Brown was the first IVF baby. It was fascinating to hear her experiences growing up as the pioneer of a new technology, and the pressure that put on her.

Some believe that polygenic scores will herald the next new age in the creation of life. People are right to question the technology at the moment. We don’t know how accurate it is. But the birth of the first baby shows that we can’t wait if we want this technology to have legal and ethical safeguards. The time to legislate is now.”

Julian Savulescu

Key Uehiro-Funded Staff Highlights

Publications



New Funding

A key strategic goal has been to diversify funding streams and investigators, to promote research excellence through engaging in competitive funding applications, ensure a diversity of research agendas within the Centre, and to enhance career development within the Centre through experience of research leadership and management.

Our hosted fellowships also help maintain a vibrant research environment by bringing leading young scholars to the Centre for

a period of research, funded by their respective national or charitable agencies. The fellows are full members of the Centre and engage in our training programmes and other opportunities, as part of our vision to act as an international training Centre.

OUC-based External Funding
Awarded this Year £710, 272

An additional 10 years of research time



awarded in hosted Fellowships this
(Cash value estimated at £500,000)

Total: £1.2 million

Best interests and sufficient benefit: The ethics of hard decisions in healthcare

Wellcome Trust Fellowship in Humanities and Social Sciences

Fellow: Ben Davies
Sponsor: Julian Savulescu



Dr Ben Davies

This proposal explores whether a principle of sufficiency - the idea that it is particularly important to prevent people from being very badly off - can help address current issues in resource allocation and value differences in healthcare. Sufficiency has received renewed attention in political philosophy; my research will

build on recent theoretical advances, developing a theory that is responsive and applicable to practical challenges.

Ethics Accelerator: Coordinating and Mobilising Ethics Research Excellence to Inform Key Challenges in a Pandemic Crisis

UK Research and Innovation

Co-Investigators: Julian Savulescu,
Dominic Wilkinson
Researcher: Jonathan Pugh



Caption: OUC Head of Medical Ethics Dominic Wilkinson appears on national TV to discuss pandemic ethics

The COVID-19 crisis demands that policy-makers, researchers, health and social care workers, and members of the public address unprecedented ethical dilemmas on a daily basis. Resolving these is hard, and it is risky. The complexity and speed of ethical challenges are leading to harms—some inevitable, some avoidable—on a significant scale. The main aim of the Ethics Accelerator (EA) is to harness and mobilise existing UK ethics research expertise to bear on these multiple, ongoing ethical challenges. The EA will rapidly provide evidence, guidance and critical analysis to decision-makers, helping to improve decision-making over the evolving pandemic response. A second aim is to enable systematic public deliberation around key ethical challenges. A third aim is to identify strategies to embed ethics at the core of future epidemic preparedness. The EA will leverage and promote a broad network of UK and international researchers to create flexible Taskforces that deliver rapid guidance and responsive advice to leadership in government, science, medicine, and public health. It will establish virtual fora for public discussion, deliberation and information about arising ethical challenges. In coordinating and focusing existing national investments in ethics research, the EA adds significant value and scales up the potential impacts of ethics research in science, medicine, policy and society. Primary outputs will be rapid research reviews; policy guidance; commissioned research; a broad peer review body; and stakeholder engagements. Main outcomes will be decision-making

that is informed by ethics expertise, and is more transparent and accountable, thereby improving public trust.

The exit strategy: the path from relaxing measures to vaccination

AHRC/UKRI grant

PI: Alberto Giubilini



Caption: Dr Alberto Giubilini presenting to UK thinktank Ada Lovelace Institute

The current lockdown to contain the COVID-19 emergency, even as it is eased, implies a societal, economic, and psychological cost that is not sustainable for too long. The ‘exit strategy’ is and will be for quite a while the main focus of the public health and political debate, also in consideration of the not too remote possibility of a second wave of the virus in the coming months. But the exit strategy cannot be designed and implemented unless certain ethical decisions about trade-offs between values are made.

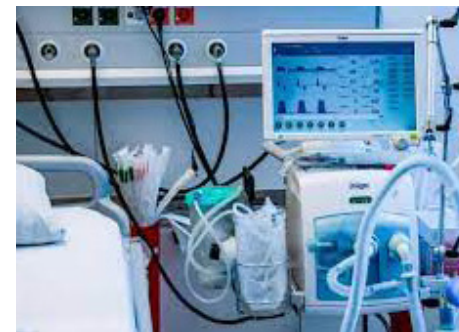
Although they might seem just technical decisions about epidemiology, economics, or psychology, many of the decisions in

the exit strategy will actually be ethical decisions about how to weigh these different aspects against each other.

Race and resource allocation in the COVID-19 pandemic

World Health Organisation

Dr Hazem Zohny (Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics), Dr Andreas Kappes (City of London), Professor Dominic Wilkinson (Director of Medical Ethics, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics), Professor Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Duke University), Professor Julian Savulescu (Director, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics)



It is all too clear that SARS-CoV2 disproportionately affects racial and ethnic minorities. In the UK, in the first phase of the pandemic, people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) groups had a higher risk of being hospitalised from COVID-19; Black men were 4.2 times more likely to die than White. Even after taking into account other risk factors, COVID-19-related death for males and females of Black ethnicity in the UK occurred at almost double the

rate of those of White ethnicity. In the US, the Centre for Disease Control reported a similar trend: Black and Hispanic people were 5 times more likely to be hospitalised from COVID-19 than White people.

Some of these disparities reflect the fact that racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to have underlying health conditions, live in multi-generational homes, crowded conditions and more densely populated areas. Members of these minorities are also disproportionately represented in jobs considered essential and/or that involve interacting with the public. For instance, in the US, 25% of employed Hispanics and blacks work in the service industry, compared with 16% of whites, while blacks account for 30% of licensed nurses.

The pandemic highlights the pressing need to promote the health and well-being of racial and ethnic minorities. While all agree that this is important, there is less agreement about the right way to achieve this goal. One option would be to preferentially allocate scarce healthcare resources to those disproportionately affected racial and ethnic groups. For instance, NHS England has recommended that BAME pregnant women should be fast-tracked to hospital due to their increased risk of coronavirus. Similarly, some have argued that those from ethnic minorities should be given priority access to COVID-19 vaccines. However, it has been suggested that at least in the US, explicit priority to a specific racial group would be likely to be subject to legal challenge, and that racially neutral strategies would be ethically

preferable. Moreover, if critically scarce life-saving resources were preferentially allocated to members of a disadvantaged group, that might actually lead to increased overall mortality from COVID-19 (for example, because better prognosis patients would be denied access to a ventilator).

This raises an important ethical question: Should individuals from disproportionately impacted racial minorities be prioritised when allocating scarce resources such as hospital beds in intensive care, mechanical ventilators and, once available, treatments and vaccines? If so, how should this be weighed against other ethical values in resource allocation, including the desire to save the most lives and the need to treat patients equally?

This large international study will be the first to gauge and evaluate the views of the general public about the role of race in resource allocation during the pandemic and its weight with competing ethical considerations. It will provide a timely, urgently needed, mechanism for involving the general community in deliberation about pandemic resource allocation, allowing the values of the wider community to be considered in development of policy and guidelines. The accompanying ethical analysis will rigorously evaluate the ethical role of race in allocation of different resources during the pandemic.

Medical Misbelief

John Fell Fund
Rebecca Brown



Dr Rebecca Brown

The University's John Fell Fund provided support for pump priming research on the project 'Medical Misbelief' led by OUC Researcher Rebecca Brown.

This project addresses an issue in medicine of over-optimism in medicine, especially where limited information exists. Attempts to address uncertainty about interventions' effects have largely focused on improving evidential quality. Whilst this has facilitated somewhat better decision making and healthcare provision, uncertainty and overoptimism persist.

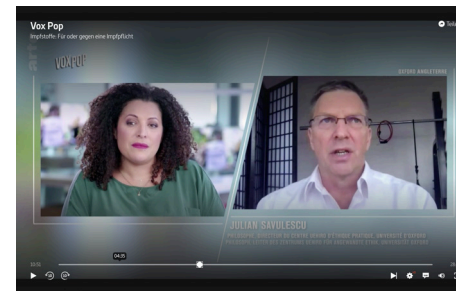
There is thus an ethical imperative to consider what should be done in the absence of more effective interventions and better evidence. By clarifying conceptual issues and the nature of

medical misbelief in public health, and considering our ethical obligations to correct medical misbeliefs, this project will provide normative guidance for an urgent and important area of public health.

The grant funded an international (online) workshop, to assist in the preparation of major funding applications.

Extension: Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities

PI: Julian Savulescu



Julian Savulescu appears on Vox Pop TV on vaccination

The Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities has received a funded extension. In light of new research priorities and the Centre's remit to address emerging ethical issues, new research themes have been identified: Justice and Discrimination, and Collective Minds, while the Neuroethics theme will continue.

Major project outputs this year included Dr Carissa Veliz's work on digital ethics, including an in-press *Oxford Handbook of Digital Ethics*, (*Oxford Handbooks* are

widely recognised as key authoritative textbooks on a given subject) as well as her trade book, *Privacy is Power*, published by Penguin as one of *The Economist's* best books of the year.

As with many of our projects, a pivot to COVID-19 research occurred this year, especially for our key medical ethics leaders Professors Savulescu and Wilkinson. The details of that research are on P XXX.

Hosted Fellowships

Hosted Fellowships bring scholars to Oxford for a period of research, although they are employed directly by their funding body rather than by the University.

Binesh Hass



Dr Binesh Hass

Binesh Hass is a Hosted Research Fellow at the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics and a Junior Research Fellow at

Wolfson College, Oxford. His work centres on two research projects: (i) the legal regulation of certain medical technologies, such as germline genetic modification, by relying on constitutional and rule of law principles; and (ii) genetic profiling in sentencing practices. Both research projects are a mix of jurisprudence and bioethics and, furthermore, both projects have as their ultimate objective the designing of regulatory frameworks that could be of practical use to the courts and other authoritative bodies. Binesh received his DPhil in Law from the University of Oxford in 2018.

Aksel Sterri



Dr Aksel Sterri

Aksel Sterri is a hosted Research Fellow funded by the *Research Council of Norway* for a Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility, to be held at the

Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics.

During his time at the Centre, Aksel will undertake his research project, *The Ethics of Contagion*. Despite several wake-up calls, the SARS outbreak in 2002-2004, the H1N1-swine flu pandemic in 2009-10, and the Ebola virus epidemic in 2014-2016, the current COVID-19 pandemic has caught most governments off-guard, revealed a lack of pandemic preparedness, and laid bare many of the unresolved ethical issues a contagious disease poses for societies and institutions.

Contagious diseases are primarily a topic for medicine and epidemiology. How we respond to prevent the spread of contagious disease, particularly in cases where a disease reaches pandemic proportions, presents us with pressing ethical questions. What restrictions are governments justified in imposing on their citizens to protect what they see as the greater good? How should we distribute the burdens of combatting the disease across the population? What role should markets play in allocating scarce goods in times of crisis?

To satisfactory answer such questions, we need, I argue, an account of our individual moral responsibilities to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. I aim to provide such an account and build, from our individual- level obligations, a framework for how governments can ethically respond to the spread of contagious diseases.

Collaborations

The Centre is a named partner on the following international awards, providing a platform for collaborative work:

The Center for the Experimental-Philosophical Study of Discrimination (CEPDISC)

Ethical, Social and Regulatory Issues in Advanced Prenatal Testing

Danish National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence (2020-2026)

ARC Linkage

\$475,000

co-PI Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen

Uehiro Lead: The Center for the Experimental-Philosophical Study of Discrimination (CEPDISC)

Investigators: Catherine Mills, Michelle Taylor-Sands, Lisa Hui, Mark Pertile, Martin Delatycki Partner Investigator: Julian Savulescu, Peter Coleman (Illumina)

£7.3 million

2020-2023. MRFF Genomics Health Futures Mission

Conscientious Objection and Abortion

ARC Discovery Award

A Centre for Ethics of Paediatric Genomics to Improve Paediatric Care

CI: Louise Keogh, Lindy Willmott.

Partner Investigator: Julian Savulescu.

\$485,000

\$285385

Investigators: Julian Savulescu, Christopher Gyngell, Danya Vears, Julian Koplin

2020-2023

Digital ethics. Moral enhancement through an interactive use of artificial intelligence

Funder: Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación. Gobierno de España

Euros: 23.000 euros

2020-2023

Mette Hoeg

In a two-year Fellowship funded by the Carlsberg Foundation, *The Role of Literature and the Humanities in the Development of a Consciousness Culture*, Mette Hoeg will work at the intersection of neuroscience and the humanities. With recent advances in cognitive research and neuroscience, a new anthropology is emerging which calls for the development of new ideas of subjectivity, a new ethics and a bridging of the gap between the natural sciences and the humanities. Consciousness was until a few decades ago considered solely a philosophical problem but is becoming increasingly accessible to empirical research. As the notions of free will, agency and a centred self are accordingly being undermined and replaced by materialist explanations, so the understanding and definition of humans are changing. The new image of man that is emerging radically contradicts the traditional conceptions and self-perceptions of humans. As this new anthropology is broadly implemented in the cultural sphere of society, it will have a strong psychological impact and significant sociocultural consequences. To respond adequately to these challenges, the natural sciences and humanities must collaborate in the formulation of the new anthropology and of novel discourses for articulating the faculties of consciousness. Dr Hoeg will contribute to this aim through this fellowship by investigating existing ideas, investigating the literary and philosophical representations of subjectivity and the mind that are compatible with the undermining

of the notions of self, free will and agency in empirical consciousness research and demonstrate the relevance of literature and philosophy to consciousness research.

Awards and Honours

The University's Recognition of Distinction programme assesses candidates against international research, teaching, and service standards to award the title Professor to those who are working at the highest level. Thomas Douglas, in recognition of his contribution to the international research agenda in practical ethics, outstanding publication record, his leadership of major research programmes, and his contribution to the University through membership of committees and other forms of service was awarded the title. This promotion to professor marks the second Centre researcher who has transitioned from PhD student to Professor whilst staying within the Centre (after Dominic Wilkinson), and the 11th Centre student or postdoctoral researcher who has earned the title in their later career. For early career researchers, the University recognises excellence through an annual competitive award system and financial reward, the 'Reward and Recognition' scheme. We were delighted that Dr Rebecca Brown's achievements were recognised this year by the University as a marker of achievements above and beyond what is expected of researchers at her level.

Our researchers are taking a leadership

role across the collegiate University. OUC Senior Research Fellow Dr Katrien Devolder was named co-leader of the new Ethics & Values research theme at Reuben College. This newest College at the University has a unique and innovative structure: it is organized around 5 research themes: 'cellular life', 'environmental change', 'AI and machine learning', and 'ethics & values'. This is the first college in Oxford to accord such a central place to practical ethics, and the Ethics and Values theme has been included in the college coat of arms. We are delighted that, with Dr Devolder's support, the college will also accept MSt in Practical Ethics students, and we are sure that it will provide an ideal and future-focussed home for them.



Reuben College logo, designed with symmetry representing ethics

For the second time in the Centre's history, one of our researchers was selected for the AHRC/ BBC New Generation Thinker's Programme. This prestigious programme is a national competition across all humanities disciplines to select an early career scholar to develop in-depth radio programmes on their area of research. OUC researcher Dr Hazem Zohny was selected for the first stage, an intensive workshop to develop a programme on the use of psychedelics in

treatment for mental illness, and the unique ethical issues that this class of drugs poses.

Dr Rebecca Brown was also selected to attend the AHRC / Institute for Government 'Engaging with Government' course, a week-long series of seminars and group discussions to support researchers to engage with policy makers.

Honorary positions are a marker of international status. This year, Professor Roger Crisp was appointed Honorary Professor at the Dianoia Institute of Philosophy, Australian Catholic University. Dr Lisa Forsberg was appointed an Associate Faculty Member, Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Western University, and Research Affiliate, Legal Priorities Project.

The Centre is committed to international service to the broader international community. As well as our own engagement projects (see p X), Uehiro Fellow Professor Roger Crisp was a member of the judging panel for the Chicago Regional High School Ethics Bowl Final, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Romanian Young Academy, and initiative by our Romanian partners at the Centre for Applied Ethics. OUC Research Fellow Ben Davies was a judge for the John Stuart Mill cup, a UK ethics competition for schools and a volunteer for IntoUniversity, helping students from under-represented backgrounds gain places at university or professional training.

Books

David Edmonds

Future Morality

In David Edmonds' latest collection, twenty-nine philosophers linked to OUC present provocative and engaging pieces about aspects of life today, and life tomorrow — birth and death, health and medicine, brain and body, personal relationships, wrongdoing and justice, the internet, animals, and the environment.

Carissa Veliz

Privacy is Power

Digital technology is stealing our personal data and with it our power to make free choices. To reclaim that power, and our democracy, we must take back control of our personal data. Surveillance is undermining equality. We are being treated differently on the basis of our data.

The stakes are high. OUC researcher Carissa Veliz argues we need to understand the power of data better, and to use that understanding to protect our privacy on a personal level, and collectively through regulation.

The book was selected as one of The Economist's best books of 2020.

Will Davies, Julian Savulescu, and Rebecca Roache

Psychiatry Reborn: Biopsychosocial Psychiatry in Modern

Psychiatry Reborn: Biopsychosocial Psychiatry in Modern Medicine is a comprehensive collection of essays by leading experts in the field, and provides a timely reassessment of the biopsychosocial approach in psychiatry.

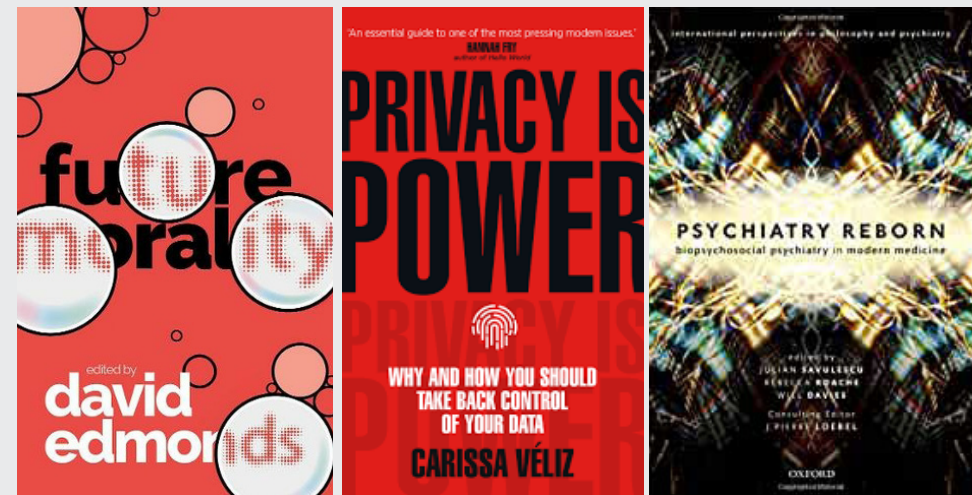
Spanning the sciences and philosophy of psychiatry, the essays offer complementary perspectives on the ever more urgent importance of the biopsychosocial approach to modern medicine. The collection brings together ideas from the series of Loebel Lectures by world leaders in the field of psychiatry and associated Workshops at the University of Oxford, including revised versions of the Lectures themselves, and a wide range of related commentaries and position pieces. With contributions from psychiatry, psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy, the book provides the most comprehensive account to date of the interplay between biological, psychological, and social factors in mental health and their ethical dimensions.

The 23 chapters of this multi-authored book review the history and place of the

biopsychosocial model in medicine, and explore its strengths and shortcomings. In particular, it considers how understanding this interplay might lead to more effective treatments for mental health disorders, as developments in genomic and neurobiological medicine challenge traditional conceptions and approaches to the research and treatment of mental health disorders.

The book explores the challenges and rewards of developing diagnostic tools and clinical interventions that take account of

the inextricably intertwined bio-psycho-social domains, and the ethical implications of the conceptualization. It concludes with chapters drawing together the book's range of expertise to propose a best conception of the model, and how it might be adopted going forward in an age of exponentially increasing technological advances and of integrated/collaborative care. The volume is intended to present the BPS model as it stands today in the academy, the lab, and the clinic, and to start to address the challenges and potential that the model has for each.



In Press

Carissa Veliz

Oxford Handbook on Data Ethics
Oxford University Press

Neil Levy

Bad Beliefs: Why They Happen to Good People
Oxford University Press

Ingmar Persson

Morality from Compassion
Oxford University Press

Stephen Clarke, Hazem Zohny, Julian Savulescu

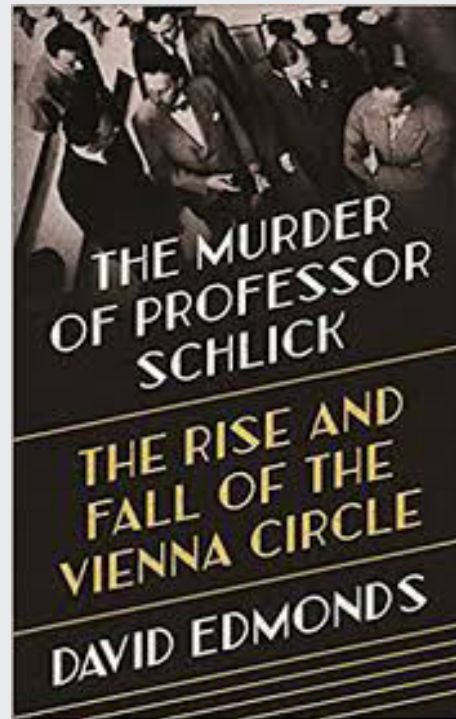
Rethinking Moral Status
Oxford University Press

Van Toor D, Ligthart S, Kooijmans T, Douglas T, Meynen G, (eds)

NeuroLaw: Ways forward for Neuroscience, Justice & Security
Palgrave

Philosophical Fiction

David Edmonds wrote two popular works of fiction, building in philosophical themes. The first, *Undercover Robot* (Walker Books), was aimed at children, and the other, *The Murder of Professor Schlick* (Princeton University Press) at adults. The *Murder of Professor Schlick* received extensive review coverage, including a lengthy and generous article in *The New Yorker*.



“[L]ively and accessible...His research has also uncovered important new biographical information, including about its lesser-known female members.”

New Yorker reviews *The Murder of Professor Schlick*



“We really enjoyed this book. And when I say “we”, I mean my seven-year-old son, for whom it was originally bought, and myself, his dad. We’d grown out of the habit of bedtime reading with him, but it was fun to grow back into it reading this book – there was plenty to laugh at together, and plenty to discuss.

My son loved it. It has robots, sport, technology, a few poo gags, and much mirth at the expense of teachers, schoolmates and siblings. What’s not to like? But the humour worked for both of us. Dotty uses her privileged position as an outsider to the human race to make gentle but funny observations. Her naive perspective on human behaviour is in the finest tradition of satire. Christmas, academia and the world of fine art are among the victims of her mordantly hilarious analysis.

Beneath the humour, however, the book explores some serious contemporary themes, such as the legal and ethical challenges of Artificial Intelligence and our uncertain relationship with androids that are a bit more humanoid than we’d perhaps prefer. These are things our children need to be thinking about even more than their parents. It asks some of the questions we should be encouraging our children to ask. The “Dottys” of their future will be more than mere fiction.

This is a book to be read with our children, laughed at with our children, and talked about with our children.”
Parent Review of *Under Cover Robot*

Hosted Research Projects

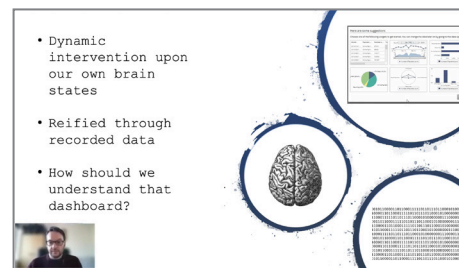
BrainCom

PI: Hannah Maslen

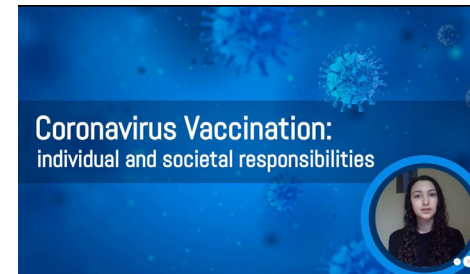


The BrainCom project is a large multinational and multidisciplinary project currently making devices for recording very high-density brain signals. OUC Senior Research Fellow Hannah Maslen is lead ethics investigator for the group, with team-member OUC Research Fellow Stephen Rainey. The project is developing devices will be used for a neuroprosthetic speech system to give a speech capacity back to patients with locked-in syndrome, aphasia, or other speech disabilities. The devices will also include new types of brain electrodes (see picture) which will open new doorways in basic neuroscience research. They will help open up new paradigms in exploring the brain, with increasing detail. Dr. Hannah Maslen and Dr. Stephen

Rainey are now investigating how these devices can be brought to the market in an ethical way. The ethical regulation of brain-based devices is especially important because they are so invasive. There is no room for error with brain implants. But it is also important that very strict regulation allows devices to reach the market without undue difficulties. Patients with grave illnesses can benefit from these technologies. Maslen and Rainey are helping BrainCom to develop ethical policy advice for making brain-based devices available to those who need them most. In addition, to explain some of the complex issues in neuroethics to a wide audience, they are contributing an ethics section to a BrainCom virtual reality experience. This experience will be part of an app to be released in 2021 that allows users to explore the brain, the research centres working in BrainCom, and to think about ethical questions concerning brain implants.

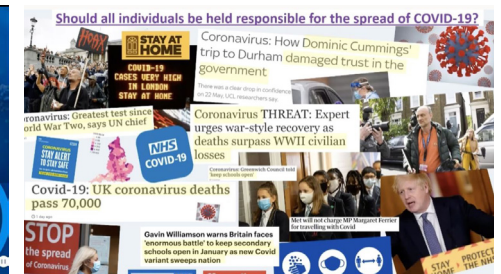


Responsibility and Healthcare



School debating teams presents for our competition

The pandemic has highlighted the complex interactions between personal responsibility for health, collective responsibility, and structural factors imposed by policy and history. The Centre's *Responsibility* research has addressed issues such as the permissibility of a range of measures to encourage vaccination uptake, and the responsibilities of different actors in the pandemic. The core research also



continued, including research on a concept of physician responsibility for medical errors that avoids blame and accounts for the often-challenging circumstances that doctors work in (*Journal of Applied Philosophy*). One cost of patient autonomy is the right to choose between treatment options. This has implications as the quality of outcomes can vary as a result. There has been much discussion of patient

responsibility for lifestyle choices such as smoking or under-exercising, but very little on who is responsible for any poor outcomes that arise as a result of treatment choices. In a Bioethics article, Ben Davies proposes a process to assign responsibility in these cases. Finally, the project has addressed a major issue in the modern world of 'bad beliefs'. As information has become more readily available with fewer gatekeepers, there is greater risk of misinformation. In an Oxford University Press monograph (in press), the project's Senior Research Fellow, Professor Neil Levy explores this urgent issue.

After more than 5 years, the Responsibility and Healthcare project is drawing to a close with a major international conference and edited volume (currently under review with Oxford University Press). After a delay enforced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference will go ahead online, spread across several days to accommodate timezone differences. Speakers include Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Nir Eyal, and Jeanette Kennett.

The project was able to enact its public engagement programme despite the pandemic, with researchers across the Centre rallying to support the second Schools Day on Responsibility, featuring an inter-school debate as well as supporting presentations by staff and students at the Centre.

Collective Responsibility for Infectious Disease

PI: Julian Savulescu



Caption: Project member presents government COVID-19 response on UK TV]

The Collective Responsibility for Infectious Disease project drew to a close this year, although its Antimicrobial Resistance work will continue through an ongoing, Wellcome Trust-funded collaboration with the Global Strategy Lab to work on an international treaty on antimicrobial resistance.

The project's work took on a new relevance over the past year, as work on vaccination and behavioural interventions to control the spread of infectious disease took on new relevance.

Although the main body of the research had been completed, the work has led to major impact, and placed the Centre in an excellent position to support the UK and international response, including notably OMPCRID Lead Researcher Prof

Andrew Pollard who has been at the forefront of the AstraZeneca vaccine development and OMPCRID Co-Director Prof Angela McLean became a senior leader in the UK government response. OMPCRID Co-Directors Profs Savulescu and Harrison were members of international groups addressing COVID-19 research, rationing in acute need, and other ethical and policy aspects of the pandemic.

The Centre built on the programme of research to win follow on funding by WHO to address rationing dilemmas for a ground-breaking study on attitudes to rationing that address existing inequalities in society, and OMPCRID Research Fellow Alberto Giubilini was awarded AHRC funds to address the ethics of exit strategies, drawing on his OMPCRID work, including his book, *The Ethics of Vaccination*. The Centre also joined a major national programme, the Ethics Accelerator to identify and respond to ethical issues as they come up in the pandemic.

Alongside this work, the Centre's research addressing different pandemic issues was possible thanks to the foundation of OMPCRID's work over the past 5 years (for example, on vaccine mandates and hesitancy, the use of challenge studies, the use of restrictions to address infectious disease).

The pandemic is a timely reminder that there is often little warning before public health crises eventuate. The project's ongoing work on Antimicrobial Resistance is all the more urgent: the window

for horizon-scanning and proactive problem-solving may be briefer than we imagine. The time for action is now.

Ethics of Behavioural Research and Intervention

PI: Thomas Douglas



Professor Tom Douglas presents his work on arational influences for our video series]

Not all decisions take place at a conscious level. As we move through life, we are subjected to 'arational influences': from nudges that make the healthier options the default choice, to carefully-designed social media platforms that access our reward systems to encourage longer, more frequent use, to drugs with side-effects that alter our feelings or decision-making. We may not even know that that these influences are acting on us, but evidence suggests that their effects can be powerful.

In a major European Research Council project based at the Centre, Professor

Thomas Douglas is leading a team addressing mental autonomy and the ethics and limits of interference in this autonomy through arational means. Is there a right to mental integrity as there is for bodily integrity?

Douglas will address these questions and more in a forthcoming book, provisionally entitled *'Protecting Minds: The Right to Mental Integrity and the Ethics of Mental Interference'*

The issue is achieving greater recognition and Professor Douglas is advising a new report currently in preparation by Marcello Ienca for the Council of Europe on human rights and emerging technologies. The project has initiated a number of new collaborations, for example with Massimo Renzo (a philosopher from Kings College London, whose recently awarded Leverhulme-funded project on manipulation and technology has interesting areas of overlap with Douglas' project), Kate Jones and Susie Alegre (human rights lawyers advocating for greater protection of mental autonomy and freedom of thought) and Christopher Burr (a philosopher working on the ethics of AI at the Turing Institute in London. Existing collaborations include a group of Dutch scholars in neurolaw and forensic psychiatrists at Broadmoor and The Maudesley Hospitals. The former has resulted in an edited collection entitled *Neurolaw: Ways forward for Neuroscience, Justice & Security*, which is currently in press with Palgrave.

The project, which began in January 2020, has so far produced 7 accepted publications, including articles in *Criminal Law and Philosophy*, *Neuroethics*, and *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, and book chapters in collections edited by Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and Palgrave Macmillan.

Global Terrorism and Collective Responsibility

PI: Seumas Miller

This European Research Council project investigates our collective responsibility against terrorism, and the kinds of surveillance and data collection that may be justified in order to mitigate the risk of attack.

This year, in *Social Epistemology*, a paper by OUC Senior Research Fellow Seumas Miller, 'Rethinking the Just Intelligence Theory of National Security Intelligence Collection and Analysis: Principles of Discrimination, Necessity, Proportionality and Reciprocity' addressed the conceptual basis for intelligence collection against the well-established just war theory. While the related aims, and widespread acceptance and implementation of just war theory makes it a useful starting point, the paper identifies key difference that prevent the straightforward application of just war theory to intelligence. Importantly, the distinction between war and peacetime

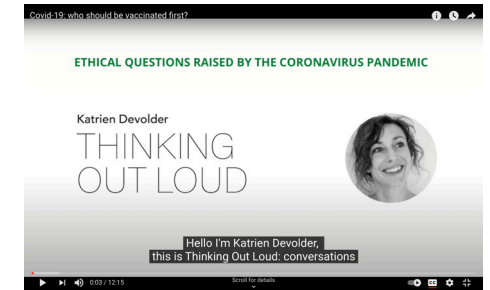
does not apply to intelligence gathering, which must be ongoing. Although the relative low stakes of intelligence gathering (compared to killing in war) mean there may be greater flexibility in applying standard principles, there is a risk of 'function creep', as more data is collected, linked, and shared with more groups, with little oversight or justification. The paper is an important step in defining principles for non-war activity around national security.

In this pandemic year, the project also turned its attention to the use of surveillance technologies in public health, such as Bluetooth technology supported contact tracing and other data collection, and addresses issues over the enforceability of collective responsibilities, access to technologies, and risks of normalisation of data collection. Once more, the conceptual foundation of earlier work supported pandemic work in this area.

In addition, three edited collections arising from international conferences are underway from this project, and in the coming year, Dr Alberto Giubilini will be deployed following the end of his Ethical Exit Strategies project to complete a monograph on the key project findings.

The Ethics of Gene Editing in Livestock

Fellow: Katrien Devolder



Katrien Devolder's YouTube Interview Series

Agricultural practices are a contributory factor to some of our greatest risks: novel pandemics, antimicrobial resistance and climate change. Meanwhile a greater acknowledgement of animal suffering has led to an all-time high in veganism, with an increase of vegan-registered products increasing by 50% in 2019, though there is still an overall increasing demand for animal products through emerging markets

Gene editing offers a solution to many of these challenges: adapting animals to increase efficiency (thereby reducing environmental impact), reduce suffering (for example, by producing hornless cattle), and provide in-built resistance to disease.

In research this year, Devolder addressed the most extreme version of gene editing, human-animal and animal-animal chimeras, as well as presenting the core arguments for and against gene editing

in animals in David Edmonds' public-focussed edited volume, *Future Morality*. In additional papers, she addresses key philosophical objections to gene editing in animals, the technological fix objection, and the non-identity problem.

Once more, the foundational work on agricultural practices was directly transferable to the pandemic, highlighting the risk that intensive farming poses

to human health, and arguing that the increased cost of social distancing measures in animals would be out-weighted by the ongoing benefits. Moreover, whereas social distancing in the human world reduces human welfare, social distancing in intensively farmed animals increases it.

UK Ethics Accelerator

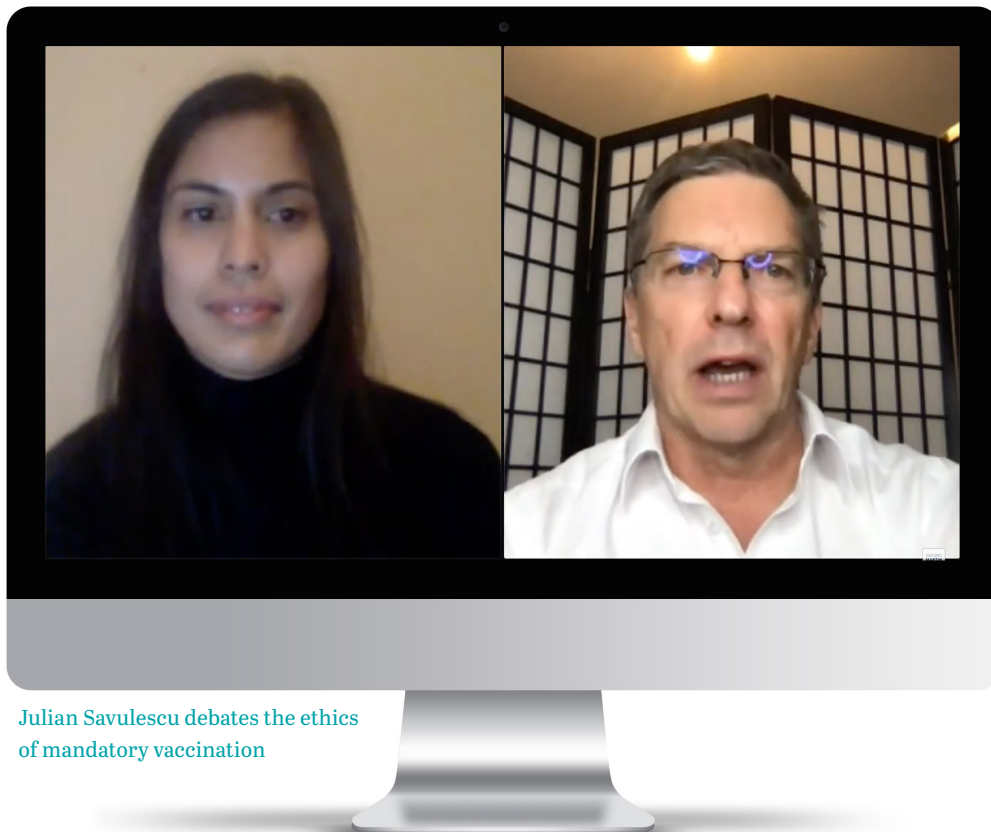
PI: Julian Savulescu. CI: Dominic Wilkinson. Named Research Fellow: Jonathan Pugh.

In a pandemic, what responsibilities do healthcare workers have to patients when there is a shortage of safety equipment? With a disease of unknown severity, when should we impose widespread burdens to prevent its spread? These questions have now been made mostly obsolete in the current pandemic through ramped up production of protective equipment, and greater knowledge of the risk profile of COVID-19. However, new ethical issues continue to arise. There appear to be rare but deadly side-effects to at least one of the COVID-19 vaccines. How should we balance these risks to individuals against the collective benefit to society of herd immunity? To what extent is nationalism permitted in the distribution of vaccines? When and how should we re-open society and which values should we prioritise as we do? There is very little time to consider these crucial issues. This project is designed as a radar and rapid response to ethical issues as they arise in the pandemic, providing fast and accessible ethical advice on the specifics of the COVID-19 pandemic in a range of venues. For example, the project's *Conversation* article, *Not recommending AstraZeneca vaccine for the elderly risks the lives of the most vulnerable*, addressed knee-jerk responses to rare

side-effects in some nations that failed to take into account of the high risk that the virus itself poses to the elderly. It was the 17th most read *Conversation* piece by Oxford authors this year. Another piece argued in favour of informing rather than restricting access to the vaccine. Given the rarity of effects, and the very differing risk profiles amongst the population and their close contacts, patients can make autonomous decisions over the risk. The *Conversation* is a well-respected venue with a fast turn-around and high impact. Indeed, since the project began in December 2020, 5 pieces at the online magazine *The Conversation*, have been read by over 135, 000 people cumulatively.

The project has continued to engage in peer-reviewed published research as the gold standard, with a recent *Journal of Medical Ethics* article on the value of inaccurate but readily available testing and others under review.

In recognition of the urgency of the project, OUC Research Fellow has been temporarily redeployed from the Parfit-Radcliffe Richards Fellowship to work exclusively on this project. With national project partners including the Nuffield Council for Bioethics, the project is in its first few months and has the potential to make an impactful contribution to the ongoing pandemic.



Julian Savulescu debates the ethics of mandatory vaccination

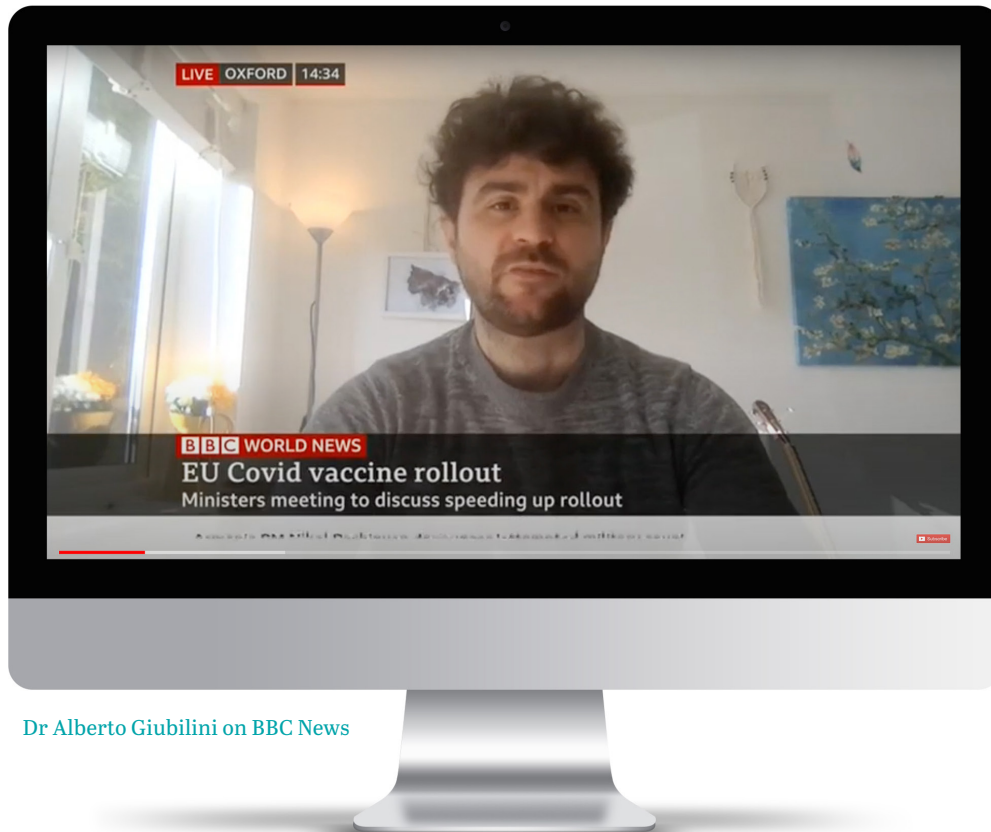
Ethical Exit Strategies

PI: Alberto Giubilini

Lockdown is a temporary solution, but different routes back to normalcy have a range of cost-benefit profiles. Each route is not only scientifically complex, but carries different ethical trade-offs.

The project has produced an expert-led report on the ethics of the UK's exit strategy options following a multi-disciplinary

expert workshop, as well as a series of journal articles, and over 40 international media appearances. Through these activities, Dr Alberto Giubilini has led an ethical analysis of key exit routes around vaccination policies (such as immunity passports and vaccination prioritisation) and other routes towards lifting lockdown. With a strong policy focus, Dr Giubilini has engaged with UK and Italian thinktanks, building on work his earlier monograph *The Ethics of Vaccination* and applying it to the specific circumstances of the pandemic.



Dr Alberto Giubilini on BBC News

Race and Resource Allocation in the Pandemic

PI: Hazem Zohny. CIs: Julian Savulescu, Dominic Wilkinson

It is all too clear that SARS-CoV2 disproportionately affects racial and ethnic minorities. In the UK, in the first phase of the pandemic, people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) groups had a higher risk of being hospitalised from COVID-19; Black men were 4.2 times more likely to die than White. Even after taking into account other risk factors, COVID-19-related death for males and females of Black ethnicity in the UK occurred at almost double the rate of those of White ethnicity. In the US, the Centre for Disease Control reported a similar trend: Black and Hispanic people were 5 times more likely to be hospitalised from COVID-19 than White people.

This raises an important ethical question: Should individuals from disproportionately impacted racial minorities be prioritised when allocating scarce resources such as hospital beds in intensive care, mechanical ventilators and, once available, treatments and vaccines? If so, how should this be weighed against other ethical values in resource allocation, including the desire to save the most lives and the need to treat patients equally?

This large international study will be the first to gauge and evaluate the views of the general public about the role of race in

resource allocation during the pandemic and its weight with competing ethical considerations. It will provide a timely, urgently needed, mechanism for involving the general community in deliberation about pandemic resource allocation, allowing the values of the wider community to be considered in development of policy and guidelines. The accompanying ethical analysis will rigorously evaluate the ethical role of race in allocation of different resources during the pandemic.

The project is currently gathering data.

Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities

PI: Julian Savulescu

The Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities was supplemented and extended this year, with plans to develop work on two new themes: Justice and Discrimination, and Collective Minds. Both themes are collaborative initiatives with our colleagues in Psychiatry. OUC Researcher, Dr Hazem Zohny has also joined the project, working on Philosophy and Psychiatry and working across the Centre and our Wellcome Centre collaborators in the Department of Psychiatry. Professor Wilkinson's involvement as Senior Researcher ensures that the Centre's focus on health is informed by clinical practice.

Uehiro Lectures and Uehiro Series in Practical Ethics

2020's Uehiro Lecturer was Professor Michael Otsuka, whose series on collective responsibility and pensions was particularly relevant in the UK where major conflict over a re-evaluation and re-structuring of pensions has led to strike action in recent years. Whilst these are often presented as financial decisions, underlying these decisions are important ethical questions about allocating risk to different groups and generations, and allocating the consequences of historical poor financial planning. Pensions can be presented as a personal saving scheme where the prudent saver reaps his or her rewards in old age, but Otsuka showed that they function instead as a social contract, and that there are ethical trade-offs for each potential model of saving and sharing risks.

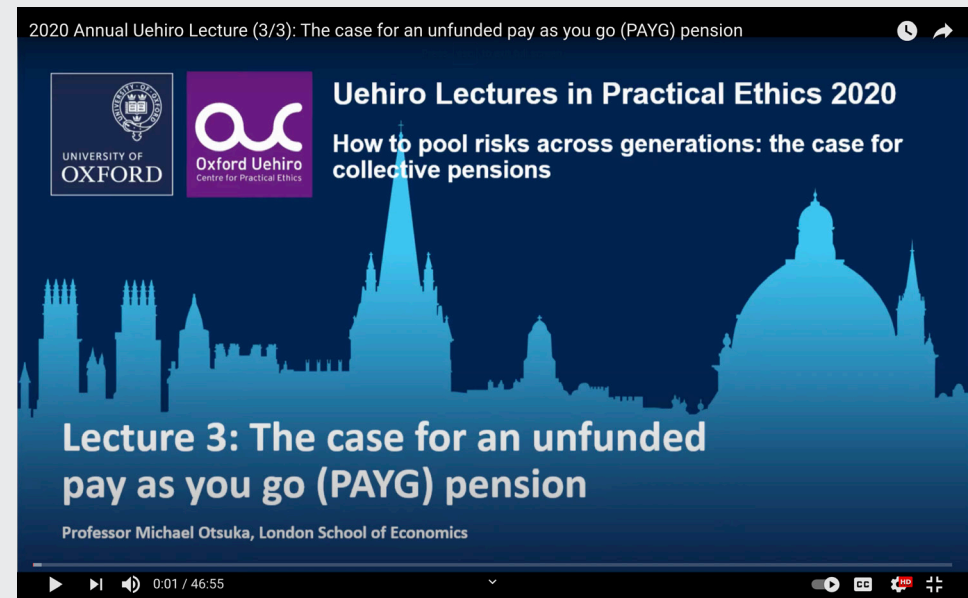
The lectures were summarised by MSt student Larry Locke, whose background in business supported a well-informed and clear summary of the financial issues as well as the ethical trade-offs on the Centre's blog to accompany the lecture videos.

The lectures were originally scheduled in

April 2020, but were delayed due to the pandemic, and eventually rescheduled for October 2020, when they took place online. The online format did not deter audiences who tuned in worldwide for the series of three lectures.

Uehiro Series in Practical Ethics

2017 Lecturer Larry Temkin delivered his manuscript to Oxford University Press, and we look forward to seeing it in print. We have had positive updates from our 2019 lecturer, Elizabeth Anderson, and look forward to the completed manuscript this year.



[2020 Uehiro Lectures in Practical Ethics](#)

Policy and Practice

Medical Ethics

While governments can control human and financial resources in health systems, important biological resources such as organs and blood products are reliant on public donations, and there are persistent shortages. In the UK, a policy to purchase blood products from the US, where they were often sourced from the prison population and then pooled, led to widespread HIV and Hepatitis infections, especially amongst groups such as those with haemophilia, who may require relatively frequent use of those. Whilst there is a risk of infection with any blood product, there are many ways to mitigate these risks, such as sparing use, selecting donors from low-risk groups, not pooling products, and treating the products beforehand. The UK government is currently carrying out an inquiry into this policy, and how it was applied to understand how and why this occurred. Julian Savulescu joined an expert group on medical ethics to advise the inquiry on whether and how the policy and practices failed to live up to principles in medical ethics, and the extent to which this was in line with understandings of medical ethics at the time. The group gave two days of oral evidence to The Infected Blood Inquiry, led by Sir Brian Langstaff, following the submission of a written report. The Inquiry continues.

“I’d personally like to thank

@juliansavulescu

for his contribution throughout. Fortright and informative, and let’s hope lessons can finally be learned and the NHS gets the required funding to provide a better overall service”

Public response to the Medical Ethics Group Infected Blood Inquiry Oral Evidence

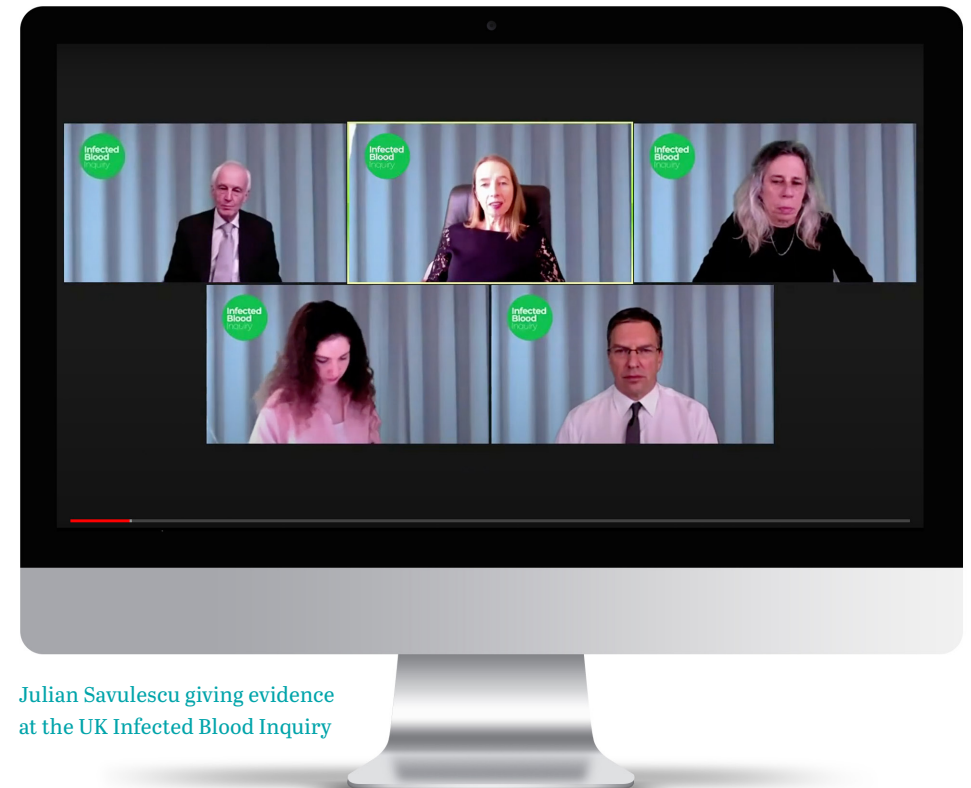
Please see ‘Highlights’ on p XX for more information.

Rare genetic disorders in the mitochondria can cause serious and even fatal disease in affected children. Relatively new techniques can resolve this issue by using healthy donor mitochondria, creating a so-called ‘3-parent’ embryo. The UK has approved this technology for use, and Australia is considering following suit by **amending its Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002 (PHCR Act) and Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002**. Although rare, around one child per week in Australia is born with mitochondrial disease. Julian Savulescu has advised the government in a series of submissions discussing the ethical issues around mitochondrial donation and arguing that emotive terms such as ‘3-parent’ embryos do not accurately capture the technology, where only a tiny and non-identity related portion of DNA

is transferred. Following cases such as Charlie Gard, who suffered from a form of mitochondrial disease, the avoidable suffering that mitochondrial disease can impose on affected children is well-known. Mothers who are carriers may face an impossible decision without this technology. While new technologies involve risk, and strong regulation is

necessary, preventing access to safe and effective treatments is not a neutral decision ethically: there is a real human cost to the affected babies and families.

Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK (MBBRACE-UK) is a group working to improve care for mothers and babies in the UK. OUC Head



Julian Savulescu giving evidence at the UK Infected Blood Inquiry

of Medical Ethics, Professor Dominic Wilkinson joined a committee established by MBBRACE-UK to provide guidance to clinicians on determination of signs of life following very premature spontaneous births. The report addresses the importance of sensitive communication with parents, and of engaging with them as individuals, and provides detailed support and guidance for staff in supporting parents, and each other.

Pandemic Ethics

The Centre's research has been cited by the Dutch Health Council (vaccine strategies), and contributed to UK government deliberations (immunity passports, vaccine strategies).

OUC Director Professor Julian Savulescu contributed to Australian research projects, and cancer care guidance throughout the pandemic, as well as, as a member of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences' COVID-19 Expert Committee co-authoring the Report 'Maintain Strong Foundations and Building Resilience: Planning Australia's Path Through the COVID-19 Pandemic', published in December 2020.

Neuroethics

As Artificial Intelligence continues to proliferate, OUC researchers Professor Thomas Douglas and Lisa Forsberg submitted evidence, 'AI-based Manipulation and Mental Integrity', to the European Commission in response to the

white paper On Artificial Intelligence - A European Approach to Excellence and Trust. Humans have employed 'nudge' strategies, gamification and other ways of over-riding our deliberate thought processes, but AI has the potential to quickly learn how to over-ride our conscious thought processes more effectively, and without ethical oversight.

Professional

OUC Director of Research, Thomas Douglas was interviewed by FINRA, the US professional body for financial advisors, for their report on the ethics and regulation of gamification in financial services apps in January 2021. Gamification is a type of arational influence that encourages certain behaviours on a subconscious level.

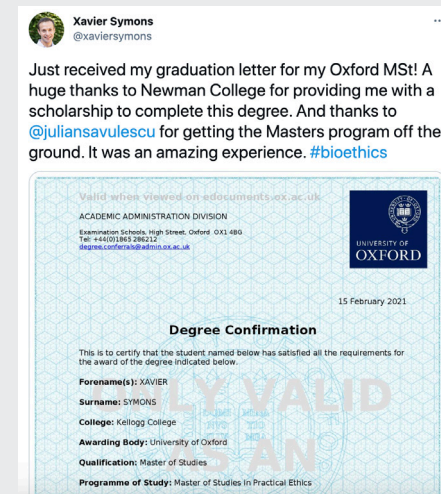
OUC research (Savulescu, Douglas) was cited in the US National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers' publication, *Risk Assessment Tools in the Criminal Legal System – Theory and Practice: A Resource Guide*.

OUC Consultant David Edmonds has joined the Research Excellence Framework's (REF) Impact Assessment Committee. REF is the UK Government's method of assessing quality in UK higher education. In recent years, impact has become an important metric to measure success, and in this role, Dr Edmonds will examine case studies showing how research has translated into real world impact in the UK and beyond.

Teaching

MSt in Practical Ethics

We are delighted to congratulate our first students to graduate the course this year, and to wish them all the best with their future careers.



Xavier Symons, one of our first MSt students to graduate shares his graduation news

One goal in creating the programme was to create a route into academic practical ethics for those who have expertise in other areas by providing a strong background in applied ethics. Three of our students have already taken the next step

on this path by winning places on the DPhil in Philosophy, to start in October 2021. We look forward to hosting them at the Centre for the next phase of their studies. Another went onto a Fulbright scholarship in the US, and several of our students have published articles in professional venues, either solo, or with their supervisors.

The course has continued as a blend of hybrid and online attendance, depending on the pandemic situation at the time. While the pandemic situation is ongoing, we hope that the next academic year will see a return to more of a normal group. Despite this, attendance at modules has remained high, and staff and students have coped well with the online format.

Other Courses

The Centre continued its **Blavatnik School of Government** course, teaching future leaders core concepts in Applied Ethics. The **Methods and Work in Progress Course in Applied Ethics** is also open to graduates across the University whose thesis has an applied ethics dimension. Each session begins with a lecture on a core topic or concept in applied ethics, before a student presents a section from their thesis for constructive discussion in the group. More advanced students, or students specialising in philosophical

practical ethics also join our **Work in Progress Seminars**, where Centre members present their current work. Many Centre members also contribute lectures and supervisions to undergraduate philosophy students studying for **the Practical Ethics module**. The **BMedSc** scheme bringing medical students from Monash University, Australia continued online, and in 2020-21 our students published 9 papers in academic journals arising from their research projects.

Uehiro Scholars

The COVID-19 pandemic was unfortunately highly disruptive to the 2020-21 Oxford-Uehiro-St Cross Scholarship Programme, as the situation in the UK took a significant turn for the worse in the Autumn and Winter, with much of the academic year to date in full lockdown, with no students at the University. Nevertheless, the programme managers Jonathan Pugh and Thomas Douglas engaged with our two current scholars online, and the MSt modules provided a further opportunity for study despite the difficult pandemic situation. We look forward to welcoming the scholars back in future years, and commend their perseverance online.


Our former scholars continued to flourish, and Tsutomu Sawai and team in Kyoto published a joint article with OUC Research Fellow Dr Jonathan Pugh, on the important issue of the moral status of human embryo-like structures (*EMBO Reports*, 2020). This proved especially prescient when Australian researchers announced they had produced embryo-like structures from skin cells just a few months later, in March 2021, sparking intense ethical interest.



Science & Society

The moral status of human embryo-like structures: potentiality matters?

The moral status of human synthetic embryos

Tsutomu Sawai^{1,2,*} , Tomohiro Minakawa³ , Jonathan Pugh⁴, Kyoko Akatsuka² , Jun K Yamashita³ & Misao Fujita^{1,2}

Research in early human development has undergone rapid progress during the past years, not least owing to two new methods for the *in vitro* culture of human embryos and for the generation of embryo-like structures. However, these very methods raise new ethical issues regarding the creation and use of human embryo-like structures, the moral status of which is uncertain. In particular, they raise questions about the moral significance of the potential of such embryo-like structures to develop into a human fetus and a mature human being. This potential to develop into human beings is one of the major points of contention in the ethical debate regarding human embryonic stem cell research and whether it is morally acceptable to destroy human embryos for research. We shall address the question of how consistency demands a comparable argument for

three-dimensional culture system for human embryos. These methods now allow researchers to observe the developmental process of early human embryos *in vitro* and to subject it to far more detailed analysis than has previously been possible. Thus far, embryos have only been cultured for 12–13 days after fertilization, in accordance with the widely observed 14-day limit for research involving human embryos.

.....
“*This potential to develop into human beings is one of the major points of contention in the ethical debate regarding human embryonic stem cell research. . .*”

formation events of early embryos, they do not undergo all of the same events. More specifically, they are constituted by aggregates of pluripotent cells, which form only a partial structure of normal embryos.

Using these techniques, researchers have reported novel insights on embryo-like structure and human organizer cells. With respect to the former, scientists developed a culture system for embryos using an extracellular matrix (ECM) and generated an embryo-like structure using mouse stem cells. In 2018, Nicolas Rivron’s group created an embryo-like structure similar to a blastocyst—they named it a “Blastoid”—by assembling mouse ESCs and trophoblast stem cells (TSCs). As a result of transferring and testing the embryo-like structure *in utero*, an implantation-like response on the uterine wall was observed although it subsequently stopped developing

Public Engagement

YouTube: Thinking Out Loud

3.64K
subscribers

46%
Increase on last year

92,469
views in the last
365 days

13-fold
increase on
last year

JPE

10k users
(increase of 27.8%)

12k sessions
(increase of 26.1%)

Blog

Over
500,000
Page views
391,777
Readers

The Conversation:

3 centre articles in
Top 20 most-read
by Oxford

Julian Savulescu
Top 10 Oxford Author

4 Centre Authors in
Top 25 Oxford Authors



Festival of Arguments 2021

The inaugural Festival of Arguments 2021 took place between 21-26th March this year, entirely online due to COVID-19. Having the Festival online created some challenges, but also lots of new opportunities too, and gave us a truly global audience for the event.

100%
of participant
enjoyed the
Festival

XX
of events
sold out

12
events held

With the support of colleagues from across the University the 2021 Festival was even bigger than last year's event, and we had participants from as far away as India. Our youngest participant was just 4 years old (Thomas from Portugal, who won the drawing competition in his age category) and our oldest were among the many retired people who participated in numerous events across the week.

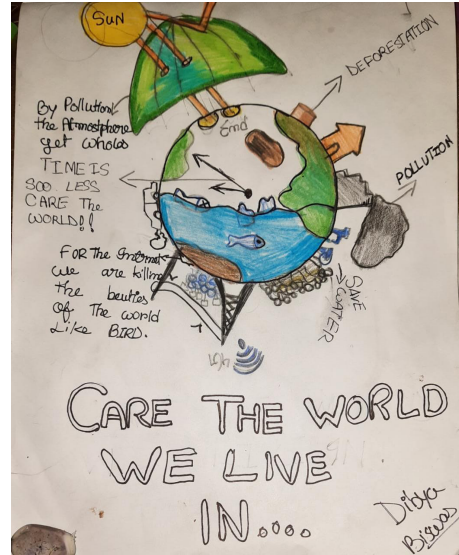
The festival is primarily a public engagement tool, designed to inspire a non-academic audience with curiosity about practical

ethics and provide an accessible means for exploring it, but it is also an opportunity for Oxford Uehiro Centre academics to experiment with new forms of engagement, and develop their networks across both an academic and non-academic landscape.

Festival highlights included an unusual form of debate between Dr Alberto Giubilini (Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Uehiro Centre) and Prof David Jones, where they strove to find areas of agreement instead of disagreement around the topic ‘COVID-19 vaccines and abortion: Should people be allowed a choice of vaccine?’. The entertaining and thoughtful debate was followed by a lively audience discussion excellently chaired by Dr Katrien Devolder. We were also delighted to welcome Prof Sir Charles Godfray, Director of the Oxford Martin School, who chaired what we hope will be the first of many novel panel discussions aimed at bringing together policy, political, charitable and academic stakeholders to effect real change in areas championed by members of the Uehiro Centre. Dr Jonathan Pugh was instrumental in putting together an extraordinary panel of specialists who were really able to move the debate around Public Policy in Future Emergencies forwards.

“I have been on and dialled into a number of panel sessions on COVID and this was one of the very best.”

Richard Gleave, Deputy Chief Executive of Public Health England



Entries to the children's drawing competition

Schools Day

Perhaps one of the most exciting events to take place during the festival was the Responsibility and Practical Ethics Schools' Day. This was the culmination of Dr Ben Davies' work with schools across the

country, looking at themes of responsibility and ethics. Small teams of senior pupils entered a video competition last January and the top four were selected to take part in a debating competition and full day of events aimed at expanding the participants' experiences of Philosophy at undergraduate level. We were delighted to receive 40 excellent entries to the video competition, and the winning videos, as well as eight Highly Commended videos, are available on the Centre's YouTube channel. Our four winning teams were exceptional, and went on to demonstrate excellent debating skills and very thoughtful approaches during the day. We especially congratulate the winners, Hasmonean High School for Girls, and runners up Parmiter's School on truly exceptional performances.

‘Being a part of this challenged me to reconsider my philosophical beliefs and forced me to see some subjects from another perspective. Having to argue against my instinctive opinion has reminded me of the importance of hearing other people's views; we never know where we might find a kernel of truth.

I must also add that the speakers were amazing. I felt honored to be addressed by such accomplished people, true experts, who answered our questions with the combination of simplicity and depth that is the badge of understanding.’

Schools Day participant Ariella Garren (Hasmonean)

We are hugely grateful to everyone who participated in the festival, either leading

events or sitting in the audience and diving in to the topics so enthusiastically. We are still working through the event feedback, but at the time of writing we are delighted to see 100% of respondents enjoyed the festival (82% enjoyed it ‘a lot’) and 47% felt that ‘exceeded their expectations’. Audience feedback will help us shape our future events, especially the new free ‘Bitesize’ programme of introductions to practical ethics aimed at subject novices, and the public policy panels aimed at specialists. We hope that the next Festival of Arguments will be able to capitalise on the need for online technology in 2021 to offer combined events, so that we can maintain our global audience as well as offer more intimate, local events.

The event was led by Dr Benjamin Davies but Professor Roger Crisp, Dr Gabriel De Marco, Dr Doug McConnell, and Professor Thomas Douglas all provided support, as well as OUC visitor Professor Jennifer Hawkins.



Journal of Practical Ethics

The *Journal of Practical Ethics* realised the next step in its evolution as a journal as it has entered into a publishing agreement with Michigan University Press, who will now handle submission software, copyediting, and journal production. Michigan also publishes two other top open access philosophy journals (*Ergo* and *Philosopher's Imprint*, ranked top 20 and top 10 in the field by the influential Leiter Reports).

The process, which followed a detailed application and content review, will not only benchmark the journal as an internationally-competitive journal, but will enable the journal to realise the next stage of its strategic plan: open submission. We are grateful to all our contributors, editors, associate editors, and production team who have created a Journal from scratch over the past 8 years to achieve international recognition at this level.

Published articles this year

What Should the Voting Age Be?

Dana Kay Nelkin

Parents' Rights, Children's Religion: A Familial Relationship Goods Approach

Adam Swift

The Feminist Argument Against Supporting Care

Anca Gheaus

Duty and Doubt

Seth Lazar

Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics

The Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics 2021 ran online, with categories for undergraduate and graduate students, with our winners, Imogen Rivers and Lily Moore-Eissenberg, selected after an online presentation to a panel of judges and audience.

As the UK continues to be in lockdown due to the pandemic, the 7th Annual Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics was again held as a Zoom webinar event. The Finalists in each category presented their ideas to an online audience and responded to a short Q&A as the final round in the competition. Over the coming weeks a selection of the winning essays will be published on this blog.

Essay Prize Winners

Undergraduate Category

Winner: Imogen Rivers: Against Making a Difference

Runner Up: Tanae Rao: Why, if at all, is it unethical for universities to prioritise applicants related to their alumni

Honourable Mention: Edward Lamb: 'Rational Departure': What Does Stoicism Reveal About Contemporary Attitudes Towards Suicide?

Graduate Category

Winner: Lily Moore-Eissenberg: Causing People to Exist and Compensating Existing People. Does the non-identity problem undermine the case for reparations?

Joint Runners Up: Rebecca L Clark: Should Feminists endorse a Universal Basic Income & Oshmita Ray: May the use of violent civil disobedience be justified as a response to institutional racism?

Honourable Mention: Jules Desai: Is there a moral difference between Corpses biological and artificial?

YouTube Series: Thinking Out Loud

OUC Senior Research Fellow Katrien Devolder is the creator and host of our Thinking Out Loud video-interview series, published on The Practical Ethics channel on YouTube, and as a podcast. This year, in the light of the current pandemic, the series was devoted to ethical issues arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking Out Loud Pandemic Ethics Series

Dr Jeff Sebo: *How to prevent future pandemics?* Jan 2021

Dr Alberto Giubilini: *Covid-19: who should be vaccinated first?* Sept 2020

Ass. Prof. Carissa Véliz: *are coronavirus contact tracing apps safe?* June 2020

Prof. Moti Gorin on why parental status matters when allocating scarce medical resources, May 2020

Dr Cesar Palacios-Gonzalez on unfair allocation of health care resources in Mexico, April 2020

Prof. Dominic Wilkinson. Past the peak of the pandemic: which non-Covid-19 patients should get treatment first? May 2020

Prof. Udo Schüklenk: should healthcare workers keep working if they lack PPE? April 2020.

Dr Agomoni Ganguli Mitra on how pandemics do not affect everyone equally, April 2020

Dr Marco Vergano on triage in an Italian ICU during the coronavirus pandemic, April 2020

Prof. Peter Singer on the causes of the coronavirus pandemic, April 2020

Selected Media Outlets this Year



Our work has been translated into the following languages to date:

(Uehiro- funded Staff)



Chinese



German



Italian



Japanese



Korean



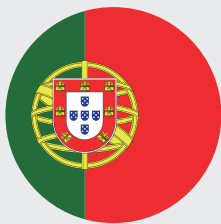
Dutch



Greek



Polish



Portugese



Romanian



Russian

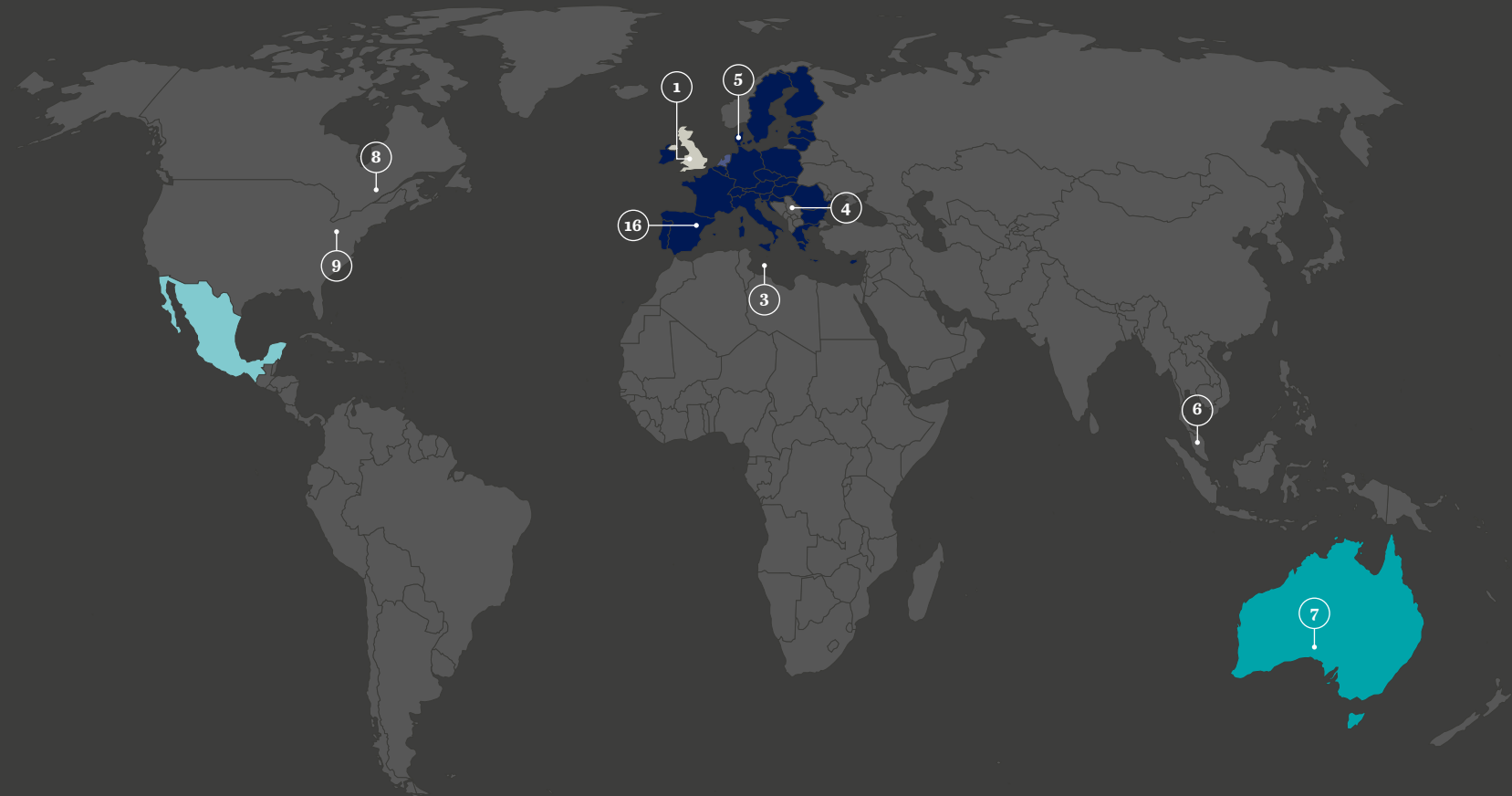


Serbian



Spanish

Presentations



UK

1. Cambridge, Birmingham, St Andrews

Europe

2. UNESCO, France
3. Italy
4. Belgrade, Serbia
5. Aarhus, Copenhagen, Denmark

Asia

6. Malaysia

Australasia

7. Melbourne Australia

US, Canada and South America

8. Ottawa, Canada
9. Case Western Reserve, Bowling Green State, International Neuroethics Society, USA
16. USA

Policy

- UK,
- Mexico
- Netherlands,
- Australia
- EU

Service and Committees

Learned Societies and Journals

Editor-in-Chief, *Neuroethics* (Hannah Maslen)

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Practical Ethics* (Thomas Douglas)

Subject Editor (Applied Ethics), *Routledge Encyclopedia of Ethics* (online). (Katrien Devolder)

Member of *British Medical Association Medical Ethics Committee*. (Dominic Wilkinson)

Senior Advisory Editor, *Journal of Practical Ethics*. (Roger Crisp, Julian Savulescu)

Associate Editor, *Journal of Practical Ethics*. (Rebecca Brown, Katrien Devolder, Jonathan Pugh, Guy Kahane, Dominic Wilkinson)

Member, Clinical Advisory Board, *Journal of Medical Ethics*. (Dominic Wilkinson)

Social Media Editor, *Journal of Medical Ethics*. (Hazem Zohny)

Board Member, *Journal of Medical Ethics*. (Julian Savulescu)

Member of Editorial Board *Ethics* (Roger Crisp)

Member of Editorial Board, Conatus: *Journal of Medical Ethics* (Julian Savulescu)

Member of Editorial Board, *Journal of Posthuman Studies: Philosophy, Technology, Media* (Julian Savulescu)

Member of Editorial Board, *American Journal of Bioethics* (Julian Savulescu)

Member of International Editorial

Advisory Board, *Iris: European Journal of Philosophy and Public Debate* (Roger Crisp)

Member of Advisory Board *International Journal of Well-Being* (Roger Crisp)

Special Interest Groups and Working Groups:

President of the *Australasian Association of Philosophy*. (Neil Levy)

Medical Ethics Expert Group, Infected Blood Inquiry led by Sir Brian Langstaff, UK (Julian Savulescu)

Co-Chair of working group commissioned by the Australian Chief Scientist to produce a report on 'The Effective and Ethical Development of AI'. (Neil Levy)

Member of *International Neuroethics Society Programme Committee*. (Hannah Maslen)

Committee member, working towards development of a GCSE philosophy course, and an independent A level philosophy course. (David Edmonds)

Member of REF Impact Committee (David Edmonds).

Commissioner on the Vatican-Lancet Mario Negri Commission on the Value of Life (Dominic Wilkinson)

Board member *Global Applied Ethics Institute* (Julian Savulescu)

Elected Member, Executive Committee, *Society for Applied Philosophy* (Thomas Douglas)

Supporting Research Programmes

Member, Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review. (Thomas Douglas)

University

Humanities division representative, Central University Research Ethics Committee. (Guy Kahane)

Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford. (Roger Crisp)

Member, Committee reviewing donations and research funding, University of Oxford. (Thomas Douglas)

Membership of Finance and Management Committee, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford (Guy Kahane and Roger Crisp (chair)

Official Fellow and co-leader of the new Ethics & Values research theme at Reuben College (formerly Parks College). (Katrien Devolder)

Culture

Philosophy Consultant, 'Ferryhill Philosophers', BBC Radio 4. (David Edmonds)

Ethics Consultant, 'Life Ever After', Audible. (Thomas Douglas)

Non-Stipendiary Research Associate, Wadham College, University of Oxford (Rebecca Brown)

Healthcare

Member, Victorian COVID-19 Cancer Taskforce (Julian Savulescu)

Team

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Professor Julian Savulescu

Director of Studies

Professor Guy Kahane

Director of Medical Ethics

Professor Dominic Wilkinson

Director of Research and Development

Professor Thomas Douglas (0.1 FTE, partly externally funded)

Chair of the Management Committee

Professor Roger Crisp

Advisory Support and Consultants

Emeritus Professor Tony Hope
Emeritus Professor Janet Radcliffe Richards
Professor Ingmar Persson
Dr David Edmonds
Mr Brian D. Earp (Practical Ethics in the News)
Dr Nadira Faber (Moral Psychology)

Funded Research Fellows

Dr Jonathan Pugh (in post January 2020, previously externally funded)
Dr Cesar Palacios Gonzalez (0.5 FTE, partly funded through MST)

Externally-Funded Research Fellows

Dr Rebecca Brown
Dr Benjamin Davies
Dr Gabriel De Marco
Dr Katrien Devolder
Dr Lisa Forsberg
Dr Alberto Giubilini
Professor Neil Levy
Dr Hannah Maslen (0.05 FTE, externally funded)
Dr Douglas McConnell
Professor Seumas Miller
Dr Stephen Rainey
Dr Hazem Zohny

Hosted Research Fellows

Dr Binesh Hass
Dr Stefan Schubert

Public Engagement

Liz Sanders

Administration

Rachel Gaminiratne (0.6 FTE)
Deborah Sheehan (0.8 FTE)
Miriam Wood
Rocci Wilkinson (0.4 FTE)

Former Staff

Dr Carissa Veliz (0.5FTE, partly externally funded), now Assistant Professor, University of Oxford.

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