



THE CENTER FOR
THE STUDY OF BIOETHICS



The
Hastings
Center
for Bioethics



香港中文大學醫學院
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Centre for Bioethics
香港中文大學生命倫理研究中心



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
M.S. in Bioethics

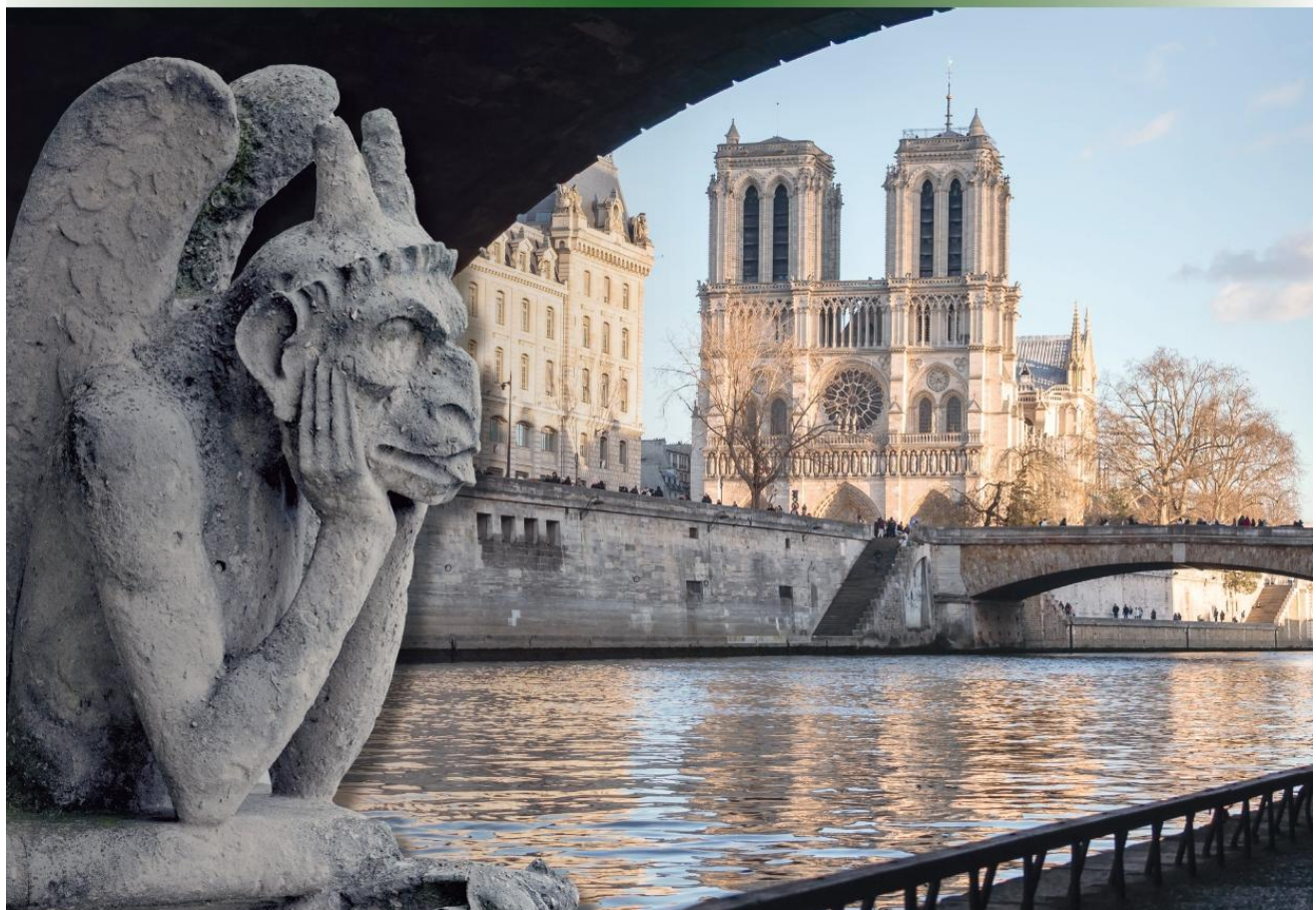
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

EXISTENTIAL THREATS AND OTHER DISASTERS

Novel (Bio)ethical Solutions for Novel Challenges

11-12 June, 2026 • Reid Hall • Paris • France

PROGRAM





THE CENTER FOR
THE STUDY OF BIOETHICS



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Existential Threats and Other Disasters: Novel (Bio)ethical Solutions for Novel Challenges

Reid Hall, Paris · 11–12 June 2026

DAY 1

09:15–10:00

Opening Remarks

- Vojin Rakić, The Center for the Study of Bioethics
- Vardit Ravitsky, The Hastings Center for Bioethics
- Robert L. Klitzman, The Master of Bioethics Program at Columbia University
- Roger Y. Chung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Centre for Bioethics

PLENARY KEYNOTES

10:00–11:45

10:00–10:15 Ingmar Persson – University of Gothenburg – **The Growing Mismatch between Our Moral Psychology and Our Technological Power**

Moderator: Vojin Rakić **10:15–10:20** Discussion

10:20–10:35 Nicholas Agar – University of Waikato – **How Future Humanities Could Meet the Challenges of all Humans**

Moderator: Vardit Ravitsky

10:35–10:40 Discussion

10:40–10:55 Toby Ord – AI Governance Initiative, University of Oxford – **Progress & Existential Risk**

Moderator: Robert L. Klitzman

10:55–11:00 Discussion

11:00–11:45
General Discussion

11:45–12:00

Coffee Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 1

12:00–13:15

ROOM 1

SESSION 1.1 – Moral Enhancement, Political Order, and Ethics of Global Crisis

12:00–12:10 Rebecca Brendel – Center for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School – **Bioethics and Moral Leadership in Challenging Times**

12:10–12:15 Discussion

12:15–12:25 Ingemar Patrick Linden – University of Europe for Applied Science, Geneva College of Longevity Science – **Should We Accept Death or Fight It?**

12:25–12:30 Discussion

12:30–12:40 Daniel Lee – Cognition, Values and Behaviour (CVBE) Lab and Graduate School of Systemic Neurosciences, Munich – **The Promise of Moral**

Bioenhancement and the Implementation Challenge of Pathocracy

12:40–12:45 Discussion

12:45–12:55 Marie-Kristin Resch – University of Vienna – **Moral Enhancement – A Remedy for Democratic Regression?**

12:55–13:00 Discussion

13:00–13:10 Jonathan H. Marks – Pennsylvania State University – **Toward an Ethics of the Polycrisis (Climate Violence, War, Pandemics, and Beyond) - Moderator**

13:10–13:15 Discussion

ROOM 2

SESSION 2.1 – Climate Justice (Ethics) and Political Transformation 12:00–12:10 Josep Recasens Subias – Universitat Pompeu Fabra – **Conditional Protection for Climate Disasters**

12:10–12:15 Discussion

12:15–12:25 Kyle Ferguson – Hunter College, City University of New York – **Wild Animals and the Ethics of Assisting Climate Adaptation**

12:25–12:30 Discussion

12:30–12:40 Erin Paquette – Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University Pritzker – **Rethinking Bioethical Paradigms: A Systems Approach to Responsibility, Inclusivity and Justice - Moderator**

12:40–12:45 Discussion

12:45–12:55 Cathy Lively – Columbia University, School for Professional Studies-Bioethics – **Adapting Without Capitulating: Novel Bioethical Threats and the Limits of Acceptance**

12:55–13:00 Discussion

13:00–13:15 General Discussion

13:15–15:00

Lunch Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 2

15:00–16:00

ROOM 1

SESSION 1.2 – AI as a Social Actor: Representation, Power, and Pedagogy

15:00–15:10 Aleksandra E. Kornienko – University of Vienna – **A billion “quasi-persons”: the unseen social transformation by conversational AI**

15:10–15:15 Discussion

15:15–15:25 Ana Maria Ganev – PhD Candidate in Bioethics at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, Rome, Italy – **Teaching Ethics in Apocalyptic Times**

15:25–15:30 Discussion

15:30–15:40 Christy L. Cummings – Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical

School – **From Conversation to Codes: Generative AI and the Future of Qualitative Research**

15:40–15:45 Discussion

15:45–15:55 Taylor B. Harrison – Biomedical Ethics Research Program, Mayo Clinic, Rochester – **Abrupt Decentralization and Risks to Clinical Research - Moderator**

15:55–16:00 Discussion

ROOM 2

SESSION 2.2 – Vulnerability, Migration, and Institutional Ethics

15:00–15:10 Katherine R. Peeler – Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School – **Bioethical Underpinnings in U.S. Policies Affecting the Health of Asylum-Seekers**

15:10–15:15 Discussion

15:15–15:25 Alexis Walker – Columbia University, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics – **Existential Threat Discourses, Collective Organizing, and University Futures**

15:25–15:30 Discussion

15:30–15:40 Mario Ruiz Serrano – Autonomous University of Barcelona – **Biopolitical Prelude to the End of Conscious Alienation**

15:40–15:45 Discussion

15:45–15:55 Romina Rekers – Goethe Universität Frankfurt/University of Graz – **Moral Preparedness for Health Emergencies through Transdisciplinary Reflective Equilibrium - *Moderator***

15:55–16:00 Discussion

PARALLEL SESSIONS 3

16:00–17:00

ROOM 1

SESSION 1.3 – AI in Clinical Practice: Empathy, Transparency, and Decision-Making

16:00–16:10 Karola Kreitmair – Department of Medical History and Bioethics, University of Wisconsin – **The Perils of 'Empathic AI' in Health Care**

16:10–16:15 Discussion

16:15–16:25 Mary Lou Gaeta – Yale School of Medicine – **Informed Consent in the Age of AI**

16:25–16:30 Discussion

16:30–16:40 Ursula Francis – Clinical Ethics Fellow and Postdoctoral Scholar The MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics – **Clinical Ethics: The Province of Man or Machine?**

16:40–16:45 Discussion

16:45–16:55 Beatriz Desanti de Oliveira – Columbia University, Irving Medical Center – **How Good is Good Enough: The Deployment of Substandard Algorithms in Early Pandemic Settings - *Moderator***

16:55–17:00 Discussion

ROOM 2

SESSION 2.3 – Healthcare Ethics under Crisis and Vulnerability

16:00–16:10 Željka Buturović – The Center for the Study of Bioethics – **Ectogenesis as Existential Threat**

16:10–16:15 Discussion

16:15–16:25 Olga Vinogradova – Institute for Biomedical Ethics, Basel University –

Challenges Experienced by Healthcare Professionals during COVID-19

16:25–16:30 Discussion

16:30–16:40 Rebecca Walker – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Caldwell Hall – **One Health One Ethic?**

16:40–16:45 Discussion

16:45–16:55 Kyle C.H. Hui – Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics, Yale Interdisciplinary Centre for Bioethics, Yale University/ Faculty of Science, The University of Hong Kong – **The Art of Dying - Moderator**

16:55–17:00 Discussion

DAY 2

PLENARY KEYNOTES

09:00–10:25

09:00–09:15 Julian Savulescu (online) – National University of Singapore – **Ethics of Polygenic Editing of Embryos**

Moderator: Robert L. Klitzman

09:15–09:20 Discussion

09:20–09:35 Anders Sandberg – Oxford University's Future of Humanity Institute – **Hinges of History and of Technology**

Moderator: Roger Y. Chung

09:35–09:40 Discussion

09:40–09:55 James Hughes – University of Massachusetts – **Global Citizenship: New World DisOrder and the Moral Case for Post-Nationalism**

Moderator: Ingmar Persson

09:55–10:00 Discussion

10:00–10:25

General Discussion

10:25–10:40

Coffee Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 4

11:00–12:00

ROOM 1

SESSION 1.4 – Genome Editing: Biodiversity and Social Consensus 11:00–11:10 Oliver Feeney – Ethics of Genome Editing Research Unit, Institute of Ethics and History of Medicine, University of Tübingen – **Germline Genome Editing & Calls for Consensus**

11:10–11:15 Discussion

11:15–11:25 Blessing T. Adewuyi – The University of Georgia – **Germline Genome Editing as an Existential Threat to Biological Diversity**

11:25–11:30 Discussion

11:30–11:40 Junji Kayukawa – Eikei University of Hiroshima – **Ethical Issues Surrounding the “Trio Genome Study”**

11:40–11:45 Discussion

11:45–11:55 Nikolaos Kolisis – School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens – **Justifiably Threatened? - Moderator**

11:55–12:00 Discussion

ROOM 2

SESSION 2.4 – Beyond Human: Life, Emergence, and the Future of Ethics

11:00–11:10 Ana Katić – The Center for the Study of Bioethics – **Emergence and the Limits of Modelling Life**

11:10–11:15 Discussion

11:15–11:25 Sergei Shevchenko – Ruhr Universität Bochum – **The Double Edge of Biological Multirealizability**

11:25–11:30 Discussion

11:30–11:40 Kristien Hens & Franlu Vulliermet – University of Antwerp, Department of Philosophy – **Thinking with Cable Bacteria - Moderator**

11:40–11:45 Discussion

11:45–12:00 General Discussion

12:00–14:00

Lunch Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 5

14:00–15:00

ROOM 1

SESSION 1.5 – Human Enhancement, Transhumanism, and Justice 14:00–

14:00–14:10 Konrad Szocik – University of Information Technology and Management, Rzeszow, Poland – **Survivalism and Justice**

14:10–14:15 Discussion

14:15–14:25 Marius Markuckas – Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania – **Disability as an Existential Resource**

14:25–14:30 Discussion

14:30–14:40 Mr. LEE Ho Wai, Theo – Hong Kong Baptist University – **Justifying Medical Immortality**

14:40–14:45 Discussion

14:45–14:55 Tang Ying Fei – Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong – **The New Fashion in Humanity - *Moderator***

14:55–15:00 Discussion

ROOM 2

SESSION 2.5 – AI Alignment, Institutional Ethics, and Moral Responsibility

14:00–14:10 Peter Zuk – Department of Philosophy and Humanities, University of Texas at Arlington – **Mental Privacy, Self-Expression, and Hermeneutical Injustice**

14:10–14:15 Discussion

14:15–14:25 Adam Ford – IEET Scholar, Convenor at SciFuture, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology – **AI Alignment: From Control to Motivation Selection**

14:25–14:30 Discussion

14:30–14:40 Michelle L. McGowan & Barbara A. Barry – Biomedical Ethics Research Program, Mayo Clinic – **Mirror, Mirror?: Disrupting the Illusion of the View from Nowhere in AI Ethics**

14:40–14:45 Discussion

14:45–14:55 Weian Zhong – Centre for Bioethics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong – **Euthanasia, Absolute Duties, and Moral Permission - *Moderator***

14:55–15:00 Discussion

ARTHUR CAPLAN SPECIAL ONLINE SESSION

15:00–15:20

ROOM 1

15:00–15:15 Arthur Caplan (online) – New York University’s Langone Medical Center –
Research Ethics for a World Facing Existential Risks

Moderator: Vardit Ravitsky

15:15–15:20 Discussion

CLOSING KEYNOTES

15:20–17:45

15:20–15:35 Vardit Ravitsky – The Hastings Center for Bioethics – **What are Humans Good for in the Age of AI?**

Moderator: Nicholas Agar

15:35–15:40 Discussion

15:40–15:55 Vojin Rakić – The Center for the Study of Bioethics – **Thought Thinking Itself Without a Thinker: What are Thinkers Good for in the Age of Advanced AI?**

Moderator: Anders Sandberg

15:55–16:00 Discussion

16:00–16:15 Robert L. Klitzman – The Master of Bioethics Program at Columbia University – **What are Doctors Good for in the Age of AI?**

Moderator: Toby Ord

16:15–16:20 Discussion

16:20–16:35 Roger Y. Chung – The Chinese University of Hong Kong Centre for Bioethics – **Facing Existential Threats with Our Whole Selves**

Moderator: James Hughes

16:35–16:40 Discussion

16:40–17:30

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING REMARKS