



Bioethics *in* society: The challenges of a complicated but necessary relationship

Fall School – 10-14 October, Como, Italy

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have observed an increasing interest, within the public discourse, on many ethically relevant issues, such as the allocation of health care resources in emergency contexts, the substantial limitation of personal rights for the collective well-being, the allocation of vaccines, the communication of medical and scientific information to the lay public, and disagreement among experts.

While, on the one hand, the emergence of these issues has underlined the need for bioethical reflection in our society, along with the conceptual tools to address complex ethical issues, on the other hand, this phenomenon has highlighted how difficult it is for bioethicists to effectively contribute to collective decisions.

People struggle to conceive bioethics as a practical discipline and to understand its real usefulness. Nowadays, bioethics remains mainly an academic subject confined to theoretical reflection. However, this seems to be in contrast with the very meaning of bioethics which, since its foundation, has aimed to provide practical tools for personal and collective decisions related to the challenges of medicine and scientific progress. In the light of this scenario, there is a need to think about bioethics and its (putative) role in nowadays society.

The Research Center for Clinical Ethics (CREC) of the University of Insubria, would like to invite to participate in a fall school to deal with the aforementioned questions.

More specifically, the school is structured as follows. After an introductory class on the role that bioethical reflection should theoretically play in society, we will offer classes to address what bioethics currently is and the relationship between bioethics and other disciplines such as medicine,

law, and politics. These analyses are important for understanding the role and spaces that bioethical reflections – should – have in practical contexts such as clinical practice, ethics committees, and policy-making.

Second, we will address the role of bioethics and the influence of bioethical reflection across different countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Italy. By doing so, participants will be able to appreciate similarities and differences among different countries, to grasp how bioethics should deal with the pluralism of values in contemporary societies, and the relationship between bioethics and public and private institutions.

Finally, we will propose a final reflection on the future perspectives of the relationship between society and bioethics, trying to identify the necessary steps to enhance the practical role of ethical and bioethical reflection. Aside from keynote lectures (two per day), we will propose group activities and discussion of the participants' papers.

Where and When

The school will take place in person, in **Villa del Grumello**, via per Cernobbio, 11 – Como, Italy and will last five days, from **10th to 14th October 2022**.

Keynote speakers

- **Arthur Caplan** (online), Professor of Bioethics, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, USA.
- **Chris Gastmans**, Professor of Bioethics, KU Leuven, BE.
- **Francesca Minerva**, Assistant Professor of Bioethics, University of Milan, IT.
- **Giulia Cavaliere**, Lecturer in Medical Law and Ethics, King's College, London, UK.
- **Laura Palazzani**, Professor of Bioethics and Biolaw, Lumsa University, Rome, IT, Vice-president of the Italian Bioethics Committee.
- **Massimo Reichlin**, Professor of Bioethics and Moral Philosophy, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, IT.



- **Richard Ashcroft**, Professor of Bioethics, Queen Mary University of London, UK.
- **Stefano Semplici**, Professor of Social Ethics, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, IT.

How to apply and call for abstracts

Prospective participants have to fill out and submit the form on <https://bios.lakecomoschool.org/>, and upload a CV and a motivation letter.

We also invite participants to submit papers concerning the topics that will be discussed during the “Bioethics *in* Society” School. Papers dealing with bioethical issues that have or can have a huge impact on society are also warmly welcome. For example, we look for contributions that address ethical, social, or regulatory issues in the following broad topics:

- Philosophical reflection in bioethics
- Moral, cultural, and religious pluralism
- Bioethics and education
- Ethics, policy, and law
- New technologies and their impact on society
- Bioethics and mass media
- People attitudes toward bioethical issues and bioethics
- Bioethical expertise

Abstracts (no more than 350 words) should be submitted by the **30th of April 2022** on <https://bios.lakecomoschool.org/>. Presentations will be 20 minutes (including Q&A) and will be held in person, barring any future restrictions due to the pandemic.

The decision on applications will be communicated by the **30th of May 2022**. Note that submitting an abstract is **not required** to attend the school.

Registration Fees

You can register and pay the fee on our site (<https://bios.lakecomoschool.org/>).

Registration includes book of abstracts and coffee break for the whole week. Please, notice that the number of participants is limited (**36 max**).

Career stage	Before July 15 th	After July 15 th
Senior Researchers/ Professors	390 €	450 €
Young scholars (no more than 3 years after PhD)/PhD students	360 €	420 €

The Research Center for Clinical Ethics (CREC)

Since its foundation in 2016, the Research Center for Clinical Ethics (CREC) promotes the study of bioethics and clinical ethics, through research, training and consultancy activities in the university and hospital environment. Over these five years, the center has become a national landmark for the study of ethical issues in medicine. The CREC is one of the promoters of the PhD Program in Clinical and Experimental Medicine and Medical Humanities, University of Insubria, Varese, and – within this doctoral program – it is responsible for the Medicine and Human Sciences track. The CREC is a member of the European Association of Centers for Medical Ethics’ (EACME) bureau and, from 15 to 17 September 2022, it will host the EACME Annual Conference in Varese.

Directors

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Contact us

For enquiries about the venue of the school, travel, accommodation, and application procedure contact:

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