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21ST INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ETHICAL THINKING:  
PAST AND PRESENT  
(ETPP 2019/21)

**GLOBAL  
BIOETHICS**  
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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**16 - 17 OCTOBER 2019**  
UNIVERSITY OF PREŠOV,  
SLOVAKIA

# GLOBAL BIOETHICS

16 - 17 October 2019, Prešov, Slovakia

Since the pioneer years of coining the term “bioethics”, there has been an emphasis on expanding the limitations of medical bioethics to an ecological perspective and, in the words of V. R. Potter, to form the science of survival for whole humankind; science, which will join in action the knowledge from the science of living systems and the knowledge of human value systems. As such, the problem orientation of bioethics is to respond to the questions which are in itself global, interdisciplinary, and focused on long-term and sustainable solutions.

Despite this, bioethics has in the last decades started to face numerous challenges, which are linked to its global dimensions. This has led to the establishment of a new discipline, Global Bioethics. Even the existence of the global market represents an important factor (medical tourism, organ trade, globalized

biomedical research), the problem goes far beyond the internationalization of bioethics and opening its topics around the world.

There is also an important conflict between the aims of finding a universal and transcultural framework of bioethical principles and of its cultural representation and interpretation around the world. Global bioethics rejects the idea of Western values to be simply transmitted to different cultural, regional, religious, and social settings. This necessitates a critical approach to analyze core bioethical ideas and ethical frameworks in the light of its contextual setting. Thirdly, there are new health and life challenges for humankind worldwide, such as famine, climate change, pandemics, humanitarian crisis, and inequality and inequity regarding health around the globe, and many others, which often mirrors the relationship

between the so-called global north and the global south.

In order to address these complex questions, the conference Global Bioethics is organized. The aim is to analyze not only the scope of global bioethics, but also its original methodological approach which, due to its problems and topics, needs special consideration and methods of research (narrative-based medicine, comparative methods) in both practice and education. The topics are expected to draw equally on universal as well as cultural and local perspectives to bioethical issues. We would like to invite experts from philosophy, (bio)ethics, anthropology, cultural studies, psychology, humanitarian medicine, social and political sciences, etc. to join us in the open discussion on the present and the future of Global Bioethics.

## Scope of Topics:

- The origin of global bioethics and its future scope;
- Methods and methodology in global bioethics (narrative-based medicine, global narratives, comparative health systems, etc.);
- Global health, its inequity, distribution, and guaranty;
  - Culture and gender in global health;
- Global issues of the humanity: the ethical aspects of wars, terrorism, catastrophes, (over)population, famine, migration, and humanitarianism;
  - Global bioethics in education – the perspective of professional education of health care professional;
  - Global bioethics in education – Agenda 2030 from the perspective of global education and its goals.

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**Mgr. Zuzana Danišková, PhD.**

**Trnava University (Slovakia)**

## **Refugee Children in Slovakia: a Particular Challenge for Global-Development Education**

Our country is still more of a national state than a society with many minorities. At the same time, our teachers have been little experienced to work with the immigrant children, or simply with the children using different language as the national is. Neither the teachers nor the system is ready to work with them as much as possible. We need, in preschool as well, how to handle with these children, how to help them, how to communicate with them, with their parents, and how to start their school success. From the global humanity perspective, this should be our duty.

**Keywords:** global education, immigrants, education, preschool education.

**Prof. PhDr. Vasil Gluchman, CSc.**

**University of Prešov (Slovakia)**

## **Martha Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach and Animal Ethics Issues**

The author focuses on Nussbaum's theory of human development and especially her capabilities approach (CA). The approach includes the basic human capabilities establishing fundamentals of the human development. The core values of the CA are human dignity and freedom, however, a very important part of the approach is also our relations to animals, plants, and nature. According to Nussbaum, it is necessary to keep in mind that dignity does not concern only human beings, but also animals. For this reason, she argues for plurality of forms of life as well as plurality of dignities. Nussbaum affirms that we have a duty to establish possibilities for positive development of any rational animals including non-human animals.

**Keywords:** Martha Nussbaum, capabilities approach, dignity, plurality.

**Grzegorz Grzybek, dr hab. Prof. UR & Liliya Morska, Prof. dr hab.**

**University of Rzeszow (Poland) & Lviv National University (Ukraine)**

## **Ethical Dimension of the Reproductive Rights**

The article will address the following points: 1) Sexual rights as a component of human rights 2) The health aspect of the decision to conceive a child and give birth 3) Religious view on reproductive rights 4) Ethical evaluation of reproductive rights - towards the erotic ethos.

The purpose of the current paper is to indicate the ethical dimension of reproductive rights as an aspect of sexual rights and thus human rights. A look at the health aspect of the decision to have a child will be used for the analysis. A religious view will also be analyzed, which in practice imposes restrictions on the autonomy of the individual in this regard. Ethical evaluation, on the other hand, is a moral justification for the autonomy of the individual in the field of sex and reproductive rights. It is also an attempt to properly describe the erotic ethos. The erotic ethos constitutes an important area of a person's life ethos.

**Keywords:** reproductive rights, life ethos, erotic ethos.



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**Mgr. Katarína Komenská, PhD.**

**University of Prešov (Slovakia)**

## **Moral Motivation of Humanitarian Actors**

In humanitarian actions, people respond to crisis and disaster situations in which victims are unable to recover on their own and in which their vulnerability puts them at further risk. Individuals involved in humanitarian work are driven by a strong motivation which source can be identified using an ethics-based approach. Moral motivation is the basis for the commitment to the moral course of the human agent's action. Humanitarian ethics shows us it is important to renew the discussion on the role of moral motivation in ethical decision-making. Some of the moral sources of motivation will be critically examined in this study—namely the partiality, the popularity of ethics, the value declaration, and moral motivation based on moral obligation (according to the ethics of social consequences).

**Keywords:** moral motivation, volunteering, humanitarian crisis, proces of ethical decision making.

**Dr. Jatinder Kumar Sharma & Daljeet Kaur**

**Punjabi University Patiala, Punjab (India)**

## **Rights of the Unborn Vs Rights of the Mother: Considerations for and Against Abortion**

Life is invaluable and human life is seen to be having an intrinsic value. An action leading to the termination of life is not only considered to be crime but is also seen as inappropriate from moral point of view. Here, the question arises whether terminating an embryonic-life is also morally wrong? Is abortion inappropriate? This is a dilemmatic problem which is being deliberated from moral and social perspectives. Sometimes miscarriage and induced abortion are taken to be synonyms, but infact they belong two different categories –miscarriage means termination of pregnancy due to certain natural factors, whereas abortion signifies intentional termination of pregnancy. The problem of abortion is conceptually related to certain other problems. One is linked to the principle of value of life and the other is related to the principle of individual freedom. If, on the one hand, it is said that embryo has right to life, on the other, the mother also has complete right over her body. According to the principle of freedom, if she wills, she has the right to terminate her pregnancy; but at the same time the principle of value of life also entails the right to life of the embryo. Another fundamental question that arises along with the problem of abortion is: what may be seen as the beginning of human life and when can we associate the concept of value with it; and should it be given same moral consideration which is given to a grown up human being. The present paper seeks to analyse these issues by a critical consideration of arguments for and against the abortion.

**Keywords:** miscarriage, abortion, principle of value of life, principle of individual freedom.

**Svetlana Martynova, PhD.**

**Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia in Saint-Petersburg (Russia)**

## **Viruses as the Agents of Establishment of Global Bioethics**

Kant supposes that morality is a result of human establishment of his purpose in nature. It is possible only if a man can think about the nature via the principle of purposiveness. In the contemporary world, bioethics researches how can man be moral in the transformed nature (by human activity, communication, technics). Can we think about the nature via the principle of purposiveness? Can we think about human greatness?

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Contemporary researchers think that Kant assumes human exclusivity, distinguishes man from the nature and allows thought to prevail under the nature. According to Schaeffer's conception, teleology is not the right approach of explanation of the nature, because cultural achievements depend on living forms (bacteria). There are no purposes in the nature because of optimization of various forms of life (the theory of evolution). Analysis of viruses approves the end of human exclusivity. But they cannot be explained only in the frames of the theory of evolution. Viruses can be researched via the principle of purposiveness in nature (as goal of the nature with the strategies for survival, as a means for spreading the information and mobilizing immunity of living forms). Globalization leads to the quantity increase of viruses, their relocations and human inability to interact with them fruitfully. Human fight with viruses can be researched as a reconstruction of purposiveness in organism (vaccination, isolation one people from another, drugs). Global bioethics depends not only on evolutionary spreading of viruses. I would like to discuss the importance of human ability to think about the nature via the principle of purposiveness and human influence on nature for saving this ability.

**Keywords:** nature, culture, theory of evolution, viruses, principle of purposiveness.

**Mgr. Eva Pechočiaková Svitačová, PhD.**

**Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia)**

## **Change in Economic Theory Paradigm Bases and Sustainable Economy Development**

The development of global economy has been recently accompanied with several issues including a burden of the natural sources and the ecosystem. The study pinpoints the fact that the key values for the concept of sustainable development have apparently conflicted with the stereotypes of today's economic thinking. The need for the change of paradigm bases in the economic theory arises regarding the holistic interpretation of current economic problems. The holistic paradigm as a new paradigm of science and scientific thinking enables holistic interpretations of today's economic reality, understanding and, furthermore, a removal of the causes in mismatch between human activities with the nature. The transformation of economy into sustainable one and its development require the transfer into the conception of sustainable development that has a nature of a new developmental paradigm. Its aim is to limit the gap in existing global problems, risks and crises in the world and development of a quality life on the Earth.

**Keywords:** global economy, sustainable development, holistic paradigm, quality of life.

**Emil Perron**

**University of Bergen (Norway)**

## **A Reflection on Human Genetic Enhancement Opening up for Moral Enhancement through Aristotle's Responsibility for Character**

Technological and scientific progresses are making great shifts in today's society, making human genetic engineering (HGE) a possibility as well as a real concern for global bioethics. With such rapid shifts, ethics must keep up in order to illuminate the many problems of these new developments. HGE has been described as "biomedical interventions used to improve human form or functioning beyond what is necessary to sustain health". In this paper, I challenge Baillie's criticism of HGE as irrelevant to moral matters. I argue that virtue ethics gives the question of moral character a pivotal role, and that, as such, it lends itself to the exploration of what HGE actually does to its subject's moral character.

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I ask the question of whether HGE can lead to better dispositions in order for the individual to better take responsibility for their virtuous, or moral, character.

I will argue that, according to Aristotle, moral agents have a responsibility for their moral character, and that through genetic engineering the moral agent could obtain better dispositions towards the virtues. This in turn would provide the moral agent with a better starting point for virtuous development towards a moral character. It is part of the responsibility of ethics to predict future ethical problems, and by way of thought experiments work towards an answer so as to be ready when reality catches up. I argue that, by looking backward to Aristotle, we may also give ourselves the opportunity to look forward towards a moral future.

**Keywords:** Aristotle, human genetic engineering, moral character, responsibility, virtue, virtue ethics.

**Mgr. Lukáš Švaňa, PhD.**

*University of Prešov (Slovakia)*

## **Global Ethics of War and Peace**

The dynamic process of globalization requires a dynamic concept for behaviour during times of war. There are more approaches to issues of ethics, war and morality. The article searches for possible answers to these issues. It deals with the just war theory and its possibility to serve as a basic standpoint for dealing with ethical problems before, during and after wars or conflicts. Its dynamic nature presupposes its possible application in practice and thus reflecting certain level of morality even during such harsh times as war, terrorism, humanitarian interventions, etc.

**Keywords:** war, war theory, morality, humanitarianism, terrorism.

**Jakub Synowiec, PhD.**

*The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków (Poland)*

## **Moral Philosopher's Impact on the World. Three Paths of Effective Altruism**

The presentation aims to show the way contemporary moral philosophy can impact global society on the example of the movement called Effective Altruism. In the first part I will analyse the relation between philosophy and Effective Altruism. Then I will show three main cause areas of Effective Altruism and present justifications of choosing each of them as a priority for charity actions. In the final part I will present how, by Effective Altruism, philosophy has a potential to change the world. I will emphasize responsibility of philosophers supporting social movements in globalized world.

**Keywords:** effective altruism, poverty, x-risks.

**Mgr. Peter Takáč**

*University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (Slovakia)*

## **The Current Problems of Lookism**

Lookism is a new term used to describe discrimination based on the physical appearance of a person. The social impacts of lookism are a philosophical dilemma because, in this concept, attractive people have an advantage over others. The first line of our argumentation concerns the issue of lookism as a global ethical

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and aesthetic phenomenon. A person's attractiveness has a significant share on his or her preferential social and public status and this one of the direct effects of lookism. The common notion in society is to be more attractive, healthier, and intelligent; for example, the factor of physical attractiveness is often decisive in partner determination - for reproduction. This contemplation generates several ethical questions about human - social identity, health, authenticity, and integrity in society. The unequal treatment (the result of discrimination) has a negative impact on self-esteem and thus raises the ethical problem of elitism. The second line of our argumentation concentrates on the phenomenon of plastic surgery; specifically, the dilemma of consumerism in medicine. Our analysis aims to demonstrate both lines of argumentation on the specific case of fashion model Melanie Gaydos. She is considered to be a model with a unique look.

**Keywords:** lookism, discrimination, social identity, authenticity, health, unique look.

**Mgr. Katarína M. Vadíková, PhD.**

**Trnava University (Slovakia)**

## **Liquid Responsibility in a Situation of Global Menace of Humanity.**

The main aim of any bioethical research should be a dialogical person. This aim will be included into the presented analyses of the situation of global menace of humanity. Living in the era of a postmodern crisis of values it requires to find out a new approach to stay a moral person. Efforts of contemporary liquid postmodern era, to hide gradually transformation of obvious traditionally stabile forms of humanity into transhumanity, may be seen as an appeal into any conscience of any dialogical person to fight for not only personal humanity, but for humanity as such. It is upon any dialogical person to train own conscience to be able to recognise the truth what is the good definition of humanity. It requires adherence to own humanity as well as to dialogic relations. There is no chance to save and to defend the humanity forlornly, however in dialogic relations. The situation of global menace of humanity should be understood as the challenge to continue to response to provocations of contemporary civilizational progress, to find the proper argumentation and definition of humanity of nowadays and to stay adherence to it at least in name of mankind. The progress of civilisation needs to be humanised and cultured in a dialogical way. There, it is totally irresponsible to hide own personal responsibility behind institutional or global responsibility in postmodern society, however the liquid responsibility enables to hide own fear, uncertainty and loneliness.

**Keywords:** liquid responsibility, situation of global menace, bioethics, conscience, dialogical person.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Conference fee:

The conference fee includes conference package, coffee breaks, conference dinner, as well as printed issue of Ethics & Bioethics (in Central Europe) with published articles from the conference.

Conference fee (active participation)	75 EUR
Conference fee (active participation, PhD candidates)	40 EUR

### Conference fee is to be sent to the following bank account:

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Please, include a message for receiver by stating your name.

The payment confirmation needs to be presented at the registration to the conference.

**Language of the conference:** English

### Venue:

The conference will be organized at the Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov (Prešov, Slovakia). This venue is close to the city center of Prešov, which offers numerous options for accommodation. Prešov is accessible by car, train, bus. There are also several airports in the area (Košice, Budapešť, Poprad, Krakow) with direct bus-lines to Prešov.

### Contact:

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