



## *The Inaugural Lanson Lecture in Bioethics*

# Two Concepts of Dignity:

Decisions about Assisted Suicide, Genes and Embryos, Psychiatry

## Jonathan Glover

Professor of Ethics, King's College London

### Free Admission

For registration: please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/lansonlectures>

Saturday, 19 November 2016 (2:30 - 4:30 pm)  
Lecture Theatre 1, Cheng Yu Tung Building,  
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T.

Discussant: Alastair Campbell

Professor of Medical Ethics, National Singapore University

#### About Professor Jonathan Glover:

Professor Jonathan Glover is a leading philosopher who specializes in Practical Ethics. Prior to becoming Professor of Ethics at King's College London, he was already a famous world-class philosopher teaching at Oxford University. He has authored seven books, including *Causing Death and Saving Lives* (1977), which is now a classic. *What Sort of People Should There Be?* (1984) was the first philosophical book ever written on the ethics of genetic choices and (in its second half) the first book on what is now called "neuroethics." *Choosing Children: Genes, Disability and Design* (2006) descended from his Inaugural Uheiro Lecture in Practical Ethics delivered at Oxford University. His widely acclaimed book, *Humanity: A Moral History of the Twentieth Century*, was published in 1999. He chaired a European Commission Working Party on Assisted Reproduction; *The Glover Report* was published in 1989. His works have been translated into French, Finnish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, and Spanish.

#### About the Lecture:

"Dignity" is the most frequently used term in bioethics, and yet the least understood. This lecture contrasts two versions of respect for dignity. The first is about not humiliating people. The second (expressed particularly by Kant) is about showing respect for someone's moral standing.

The lecture considers some uses made of the "moral status" version in bioethics. These include claims that we should respect the dignity of the embryo, dignity arguments against assisted suicide, and dignity objections to various genetic choices, including "enhancement". It will argue that these uses in bioethics of appeals to this version of dignity are examples of an approach to ethics that is "abstract", rather than rooted in empathy for people. It will argue that an empathy-based version is preferable and sketch out this approach with reference to respect for dignity in psychiatry.