



The Lanson Lecture in Bioethics 2021-22

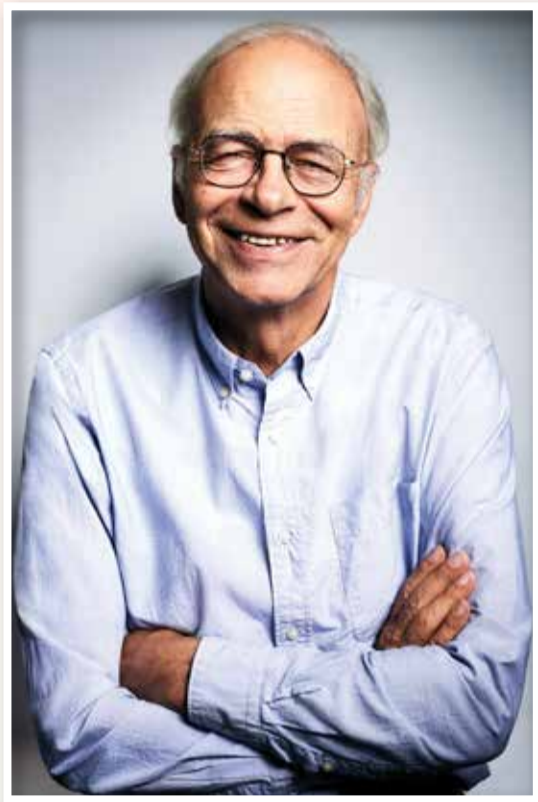


Photo by Alletta Vaandering

Pandemic Ethics: Five Lessons by Prof. Peter Singer

Date : **23 September 2021 (Thursday)**

Time : **7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Venue : **Online via Zoom**

About Professor Peter Singer:

Peter Singer has been Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics in the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University since 1999. He first became well-known internationally after the publication of *Animal Liberation* in 1975. In 2011 Time included *Animal Liberation* on its “All-TIME” list of the 100 best nonfiction books published in English since the magazine began, in 1923. He has written, co-authored, edited or co-edited more than 50 books which have been translated into more than 30 languages. His books include *Practical Ethics*; *The Expanding Circle*; *How Are We to Live?*, *Rethinking Life and Death*, *Ethics in the Real World*, *Why Vegan?* and, most recently, he has edited a new edition of what may be the world’s earliest surviving novel, *The Golden Ass*, by Apuleius.

Singer’s book *The Life You Can Save*, first published in 2009, led him to found a non-profit organization of the same name which has raised more than US\$35 million for the most effective charities assisting people in extreme poverty. In 2012 he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia, the nation’s highest civic honour. Since 2021, he has been a co-editor of the *Journal of Controversial Ideas*, which enables authors to publish well-argued controversial essays in a peer-reviewed journal under a pseudonym.

About the Lecture:

The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020/21 has posed old ethical questions in a new and sharper form, as well as giving rise to some new ethical issues. In this lecture, Professor Peter Singer looks at the lessons we can learn from five of these issues:

- **Allocating scarce medical resources:** If we do not have enough respirators for everyone who needs them, who should get them?
- **Experimenting on humans:** Is it ethical to speed up the process of developing and improving vaccines by using human volunteers?
- **Questions about vaccination:** When vaccines are in limited supply, who should be vaccinated first? And should vaccination be mandatory?
- **Implementing lockdowns:** Lockdowns have been widely used to restrict or slow the spread of the virus, but they inflict a significant burden on much of the population. How can we know if they are justified?
- **Preventing more pandemics:** What steps should we take to reduce the risk of future, possibly even more dangerous, pandemics?

Speaker:

Prof. Peter Singer

*Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics,
University Center for Human Values,
Princeton University*

Discussant:

Prof. Alexandre Erler

*Research Assistant Professor,
CUHK Centre for Bioethics and
Department of Philosophy,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Free Admission

For registration, please visit <https://www.med.cuhk.edu.hk/registration/view.php?id=652690>

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