



**CUHK CENTRE FOR BIOETHICS 10TH ANNIVERSARY
Celebration Events

The 10th Anniversary Celebration Symposium

Theme: Science, Medicine, and Beyond: Connecting the Global Communities with Bioethics

Date: Friday, 21 February 2025 (AM and PM)

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm (9:00am-12:00noon – Ceremonial Session; 2:00pm-4:30pm – The 7th Lanson Lecture in Bioethics)

Venue: Cho Yiu Conference Hall, G/F, University Administration Building, CUHK (and hybrid on ZOOM)

**Abstracts & Biographies of Speakers/Commentators
(by presentation order)**

Mr. David Roscoe (Speaker)

“AI and Better Health: Challenges to Trust and Governance”

Patients today are directly benefiting from the use of both Predictive and Generative AI methods able to detect and diagnose disease, to assess clinical efficacy in real-time, to create personalized patient treatment plans, and to facilitate engagement with doctors. But these benefits also raise questions that can undermine trust. Do I as a patient have a right to know how and to what degree AI is being used in my health care? Can AI diagnoses, decisions, and plans be explained, or is accuracy and effectiveness sufficient? Can my patient data be used to further “train” and improve AI? These and other fundamental questions of trust run across the board—they are being asked by patients, providers, health care institutions, and the general public. Improving the entire health care system in a trustworthy way will require a robust, nimble governance process able to address today’s issues and keep pace with further AI progress.

David L. Roscoe currently chairs The Hastings Center Advisory Council and is Board Chair Emeritus. Mr. Roscoe participated in Hastings initial AI research project and co-authored the final report. He represented Hastings in the *Partnership on AI* and was a signatory to the 2022 statement by the *Center for AI Safety* calling for the mitigation of the risk of extinction from AI to be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war.

Mr. Roscoe retired in 1999 as a Managing Director after a 34-year career at J.P. Morgan and served as co-CEO of Bridge Information Systems and as a senior advisor at RiskMetrics Group. He currently serves on two corporate boards in Chicago and New York. Mr. Roscoe graduated from Yale University in 1965 with an Honors Degree in Economics and received an MBA with Honors from the University of Oregon in 1967. He served on active duty as a US Naval Reserve officer from 1968-1972.



Professor Vardit Ravitsky (Speaker)

“Current and Emerging Prenatal Testing Technologies: Bioethical Implications”

Prenatal genetic testing technologies can provide individuals and families with valuable information about their potential prospective children. Such technologies, including pre-implantation genetic testing of in-vitro embryos and testing of fetuses during pregnancy, can promote informed decision-making and in some cases can be medically beneficial. They have also been raising powerful bioethical concerns for decades, such as their impact on parental autonomy, societal eugenic tendencies, and disability rights. Recent new technologies, such as Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (that was developed by Prof. Dennis Lo in Hong Kong) or polygenic screening of in-vitro embryos, have further stimulated the bioethical discussion regarding what conditions and traits these technologies are targeting. This talk will focus on the recent analysis of prenatal testing in the Western bioethics literature, as well as cultural and policy implications for East Asia and Hong Kong. The talk will address the notion of a ‘serious’ genetic condition as justifying testing, and the debate surrounding the use of prenatal testing for medical versus non-medical purposes.

Vardit Ravitsky is President and CEO of the Hastings Center, an independent, nonpartisan bioethics research center that is among the most influential bioethics and health policy institutes in the world. She is a Senior Lecturer on Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and past Full Professor at the Bioethics Program, School of Public Health, University of Montreal. She is Past President of the International Association of Bioethics and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Professor Ravitsky has published over 200 articles and commentaries on bioethical issues and has given over 300 talks world-wide and over 400 media interviews. Her research focuses on the ethics of genomics and reproduction, as well as the use of AI in health. Professor Ravitsky holds a BA from the Sorbonne University in Paris, an MA from the University of New Mexico in the US, and a PhD from Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

Professor Nancy Jecker (Speaker)

“Lessons from *Li*: A Confucian Inspired Approach to Global Bioethics*”

(**Acknowledgment*: This keynote is from a paper by Nancy S. Jecker and Roger Yat-Nork Chung, Ph.D.)

This paper asks how bioethics navigates, and how it should navigate, value pluralism in the increasingly global spheres in which it operates. We juxtapose the ethical approaches suggested by East Asian societies, drawing primarily on Confucian ethics, with approaches more prevalent in Western societies, especially North America and Western Europe. Drawing on the Confucian virtue of *li* (禮) (ritual propriety and decorum), we argue for greater tolerance, respect, epistemic justice, cultural humility, and civility and show how to translate these values into practice using the examples of international bioethics policies governing abortion practice, artificial intelligence governance, and climate change. Section I introduces the challenge of how to engage better in bioethics across borders. Section II explores how the field of bioethics currently navigates value pluralism, and characterizes leading bioethics views as WEIRD—Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic. Section



III illustrates this phenomenon, juxtaposing East Asian and the Western views of personhood. Section IV argues that bioethics' WEIRDness violates epistemic justice by assigning excess credibility to the West while deflating the credibility of the East. We propose a pluriversal alternative and show how to translate it into bioethics practice by drawing on the Confucian virtue of *li*. The paper concludes (in Section V) that bioethicists should embrace pluriversalism and work with value plurality.

Nancy S. Jecker is Professor of Bioethics and Humanities, University of Washington School of Medicine. She holds Visiting Professorships at the University of Johannesburg and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Professor Jecker was President of the International Association of Bioethics and serves on its Board of Directors. She was a Fulbright U.S. Scholar; two-time recipient of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science international fellowship; and three-time Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship awardee. Professor Jecker was a Visiting Professor at National University of Singapore; Scholar-in-residence at Brocher Foundation; and Visiting Professor at University of Bucharest Research Institute. She has been a keynote speaker at national and international conferences, including the World Congress of Bioethics, UNESCO, Israeli Ministry of Health; and Treuman Katz Annual Lectureship.

Professor Jecker has published over 200 articles and five books. Her most recent book is *What is a Person? Untapped Insights from Africa* (Oxford, 2024).

Professor Bonnie Steinbock (Speaker)

“Physician-Assisted Dying: A Slippery Slope?”

The argument from suffering and the argument from autonomy provide the moral basis for a right to physician-assisted dying (PAD). The argument from suffering is based on the idea that terminally ill patients should not be forced to go through unbearable and unrelievable suffering if they prefer a quick and painless death. The argument from autonomy says that, in general, people should be able to make the most important decisions about how their lives go, so long as they do not harm others or violate their rights. This includes decisions about how one's life ends. To force individuals to go on living when this would contradict their deepest convictions, quite independent of whether they are suffering, is an attack on their autonomy; "a devastating, odious form of tyranny." [Ronald Dworkin, *Life's Dominion*, New York, NY: Vintage/Penguin Random House, 1994), p. 117.]

The moral arguments from suffering and autonomy support a strong prima facie right on the part of individuals to end their lives, and receive medical help in doing so, in accordance with their own values. In this talk, I address the question of whether the right to PAD should be limited to individuals who meet the original eligibility requirements of terminal physical illness, defined as a prognosis of death within six months, and contemporary competence. The following expansions have been adopted or proposed: dropping the terminal illness requirement to allow PAD for those with degenerative, incurable, and debilitating illnesses; making PAD available to those with psychiatric illness, such as severe, treatment-resistant depression; making PAD available to those who do not have any illness, physical or psychiatric, but who feel they have lived long enough and are "tired of life"; dropping the contemporary competence requirement to allow individuals who want to avoid living into severe dementia to request PAD by advance directive. Are such expansions evidence of a dangerous slippery slope or a logical extension of the right to die?



Bonnie Steinbock, PhD, is Professor Emerita of the Department of Philosophy at the University at Albany, The State University of New York. A Fellow of the Hastings Center since 1986, she was a resident scholar at the Bellagio Center on Lake Como, Italy (2008), and has been a visiting professor at Santa Clara University (2012), the Chinese University of Hong Kong (2015) and Monash University in Melbourne, Australia (2017).

In addition to 70 articles and 30 opinion pieces, she is the author of *Life Before Birth: The Moral and Legal Status of Embryos* (Oxford University Press, 1992, 2011) and the editor or co-editor of ten collections, including *Killing and Letting Die* (1980, 1994), *Public Health Ethics: Theory, Policy, and Practice* (2006), the Oxford Handbook of Bioethics (2008), and *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine*, 4th - 8th editions. With Paul Menzel, she co-authored *Bioethics: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

The Honorable Mr. Justice Johnson Lam (Commentator)

The Honorable Mr. Justice Johnson Lam has been serving as a Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal since July 2021. Born in Hong Kong in 1961, he obtained his LLB from the University of Hong Kong in 1983 and was called to the Hong Kong Bar in 1984. Beginning his private practice in 1985, he focused on property and family law. In 2001, Mr. Justice Lam joined the Judiciary as a District Judge. He advanced to the Court of First Instance in 2003, simultaneously serving as President of the Lands Tribunal until 2009 and as a Probate Judge until 2011. He was appointed a Justice of Appeal in 2012 and became Vice-President of the Court of Appeal in 2013.

Beyond the bench, he has chaired the Civil Court Users' Committee and various mediation committees, reflecting his commitment to judicial reform and mediation within Hong Kong's legal landscape.

Dr. Derrick Au (Commentator)

Derrick Kit-Sing Au is an Advisor and Former Director of the Centre for Bioethics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He received his medical education at Brown University in the US and postgraduate training in geriatric medicine in Hong Kong.

Before joining CUHK in 2017, Dr. Au served in clinical service in geriatrics and rehabilitation then health service management positions in the Hospital Authority (HA), including Director of Quality & Safety (2014-16), the portfolio of which included overseeing clinical ethics, research ethics and technology assessment. Dr. Au is former chairman of the HA Clinical Ethics Committee (2017 to 2020) and current Convenor of the Ethics Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Genome Institute.

Dr. Au is also a writer and columnist with books published (in Chinese) on bioethics, professional ethics, and history of medicine.



Professor Paul Weithman (Commentator)

Paul Weithman is the Glynn Family Honors Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He received his doctorate in philosophy at Harvard where he wrote his dissertation under John Rawls and Judith Shklar. He joined the faculty at Notre Dame in 1991. Professor Weithman works primarily in political philosophy but has also worked in moral philosophy, religious ethics and medieval political theory. He is the author of over a hundred published articles. Professor Weithman's first book, *Religion and the Obligations of Citizenship* (Cambridge University Press, 2002) won the annual book award given by the North American Society for Social Philosophy. His second, *Why Political Liberalism? On John Rawls's Political Turn* (Oxford University Press, 2011), won the Spitz Prize as the best book in liberal democratic theory published in its year. In 2016, Cambridge University Press published a collection of his papers *Rawls, Political Liberalism and Reasonable Faith*.

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