

Overview

The Institute of Ethics was established in September 2008 with the mission to create ethical awareness in relation to all fields of the university's activities and to play a leading role in raising public awareness of, and stimulating debate about, ethical issues.

We are committed to creating a community of scholars able to engage with professionals working in the private and public sectors, as well as with researchers from other academic disciplines to promote a systematic approach to applied ethics in various fields – including business, technology, politics, media, healthcare and the life sciences.

We aim to be an important European centre of ethics distinguished by its research activities and its focus on the translation of ethical theory into societal benefits. The Institute of Ethics satisfies a need for ethical reflection, especially with regard to the challenges of emerging technologies and the rapidly and radically changing globalized world of the 21st century. It specialises in ethical analyses of particular technologies as well as big picture questions around progress and the good life.

Research Areas

DCU was the first university in Ireland to establish an Institute of Ethics focusing on a broad range of applied ethics subjects.

The Institute has an interdisciplinary group of scholars focusing on ethical issues from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds such as journalism, law, theology, philosophy, nursing, pharmacy, and business studies. This means that the Institute is able to tackle a wide range of applied ethics problems.

These are mainly in six areas, i.e. Government, Business, Media, Science, Technology and Health Care.

The Institute disseminates its research output through publications in international peer-reviewed academic journals as well as in books published by well-respected international publishers.

Our research capabilities can easily be mobilised in order to participate in large funded research projects when there is a need for a work package focused on ethics. Furthermore, the Institute builds on its research capabilities in the development of first-rate teaching programmes and innovative services.



Why work with us?

For innovation and growth to occur in a responsible manner, myriad ethical challenges must be navigated. The Institute of Ethics not only helps society navigate these challenges but also asks deeper questions concerning the good, progress, and value.

The Institute of Ethics contributes to science and technology research centres by helping them to satisfy increasingly demanding EC ethics requirements in their funded research projects through tailor-made and high quality ethics contributions.

As ethics requirements are being taken more and more seriously in EC reviews, the Institute's contributions can make research proposals more competitive. In addition, the current science and technology centres can offer their own expertise and ethics know-how to prospective project coordinators, which makes them more attractive as partners to invite for European research proposals.

Centre Members



Professor Bert Gordijn

Bert is the Director of the Institute. He has served on Advisory Panels and Expert Committees of the European Chemical Industry Council, the European Patent Organisation, the Irish Department of Health and UNESCO. He is Secretary of the European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare and President-Elect of the International Association of Education in Ethics.



Dr. Fiachra O'Brolcháin

Fiachra is currently working as a Marie-Curie Research Fellow working on an ASSISTID project. The aim of this project is to provide ethical analyses and recommendations regarding the development, use and distribution of assistive technologies (AT) for people with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder.

Affiliated Scholars

Annmarie Bennett, Lecturer, Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting, Maynooth University

Professor Patrick Breton, Associate Professor, School of Communications, DCU

Professor Simone de Colle, Associate Professor, IÉSEG, School of Management, Paris, France

Dr. Gabriel Flynn, Senior Lecturer, School of Theology, DCU

Dr. Alan J. Kearns, Lecturer, School of Theology, DCU

Professor Steven Knowlton, School of Communications, DCU

Dr. Dónal O'Mathúna, Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing, DCU

Dr. Adam McAuley, Lecturer, School of Law and Government, DCU

Dr. Brid Murphy, Lecturer, Business School, DCU

Dr. Ethna Regan, Senior Lecturer, School of Theology, DCU

Professor Anne Scott, Dean, Faculty of School of Education, Health and Community, Liverpool John Moores University, UK