

Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context

University of Lucerne

4 – 8 June 2018

Monday, 4 June 2018

Introduction: Why and How Ethics in a Global Context? (9.30-10.00)

Prof. Dr. theol. lic. phil. Peter G Kirchsclaeger, Professor of Theological Ethics and Director of the Institute of Social Ethics ISE at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Lucerne

Human beings face ethical questions on a local, national, regional, and global level. Ethics affects every facet of human life and activity. All disciplines in the sciences conducting research encounter ethical challenges. In this introductory lecture, I argue for universal ethical principles and norms enabling ethically sound solutions for global issues. I will propose a justification for such an understanding of ethics; and I will outline how ethics in a global context unfolds.

Human Dignity – An Ethical Perspective (10.15-11.45)

Prof. Dr. Jennifer Herdt, Gilbert L. Stark Professor of Divinity and Professor of Religious Studies, Yale Divinity School, Yale University

Human dignity is a hotly contested topic today. According to some thinkers, *only* persons possess dignity, and not *all* human beings are persons. According to others, all human beings, and only human beings, possess dignity. Following a critical survey of influential recent arguments, I defend an account of dignity as belonging to all members of personal natural kinds, as irreplaceable selves, unique sites of responsibility. Hence, dignity belongs to *all*, but *not only*, to human beings.

Workshop: The Lucerne Summer University and I (11.45-12.30)

Prof. Dr. theol. lic. phil. Peter G Kirchsclaeger, Professor of Theological Ethics and Director of the Institute of Social Ethics ISE at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Lucerne

Juliette Wyler, Coordinator Lucerne Summer University: Ethics in a Global Context, Expert in Transcultural Communications & Mediation

You will establish a link between the working process of the Lucerne Summer University and its context and identify the ethical challenge to which you wish to devote yourselves in your final paper.

Human Dignity (14.00-15.00)

Prof. Dr. Adrian Loretan, Chair of Canon Law and Law-and-Religion; Co-Director of the Center of Comparative Constitutional Law and Religion, University of Lucerne

Fatima Mukaddam, Federal Excellence Scholar at the Department of Political Science, University of Lucerne

Martina Tollkühn, Dipl. theol., Scientific Assistant at the Chair of Canon Law and Law-and-Religion, University of Lucerne

Human dignity was used as basic concept for the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights". But human dignity has brought up different concepts throughout the ages depending on time, religious sphere, and the concept of man. This course will introduce a fictive discussion between various religious groups. We will examine how different religious and cultural contexts construct the concept of human rights based on human dignity.

The Relation Between Law and Ethics – An Islamic Perspective (15.20-16.20)

Prof. Dr. Rana Alsoufi, Assistant Professor for Islamic Theology, University of Lucerne

The prophetic tradition of Muḥammad preserves the saying: "He was sent as a prophet to perfect the ethical standards of human beings". Ethics and morality have occupied Muslim theologians and jurists for centuries. This lecture touches upon a number of questions related to Islamic ethics, namely, what is the relation between Islamic Law and ethics? What is the source of moral ethics in Islam and how do Muslim jurists define ethics? What does the Islamic theory of ethics offer in the diverse global context in which we belong to?

Tuesday, 5 June 2018

Ethics in the Shadow of the Holocaust (9.00-10.15)

Rabbi Jehoshua Ahrens, Co-Initiator of the Orthodox Rabbinic Statement on Christianity and SNSF PhD student, University of Lucerne

Where was God in Auschwitz? Can theology and ethics still exist after this human catastrophe? What are the consequences of this, and what are the implications for inter-religious dialogue in society? This lecture deals with the significance of the Holocaust for our understanding of ethics today. We will examine perspectives on the question of good and evil within the context of the Holocaust.

Business and Human Rights (10.45-12.30)

Prof. Dr. Florian Wettstein, Director of the Institute of Business Ethics at the University of St. Gallen, Vice-President of the International Society of Business, Economics, and Ethics (ISBEE) and Editor-in-Chief of the Business and Human Rights Journal (BHRJ) published by Cambridge University Press

The discussion on human rights responsibilities of corporations – the so-called business and human rights debate – has been at the forefront of recent developments in the corporate responsibility field. This session aims at providing a general introduction to, and an overview of, this high-paced, inter-disciplinary field. We will look at why companies may have human rights responsibilities alongside governments; possible grounds on which they can be held accountable; and at the tools and instruments they use to implement a respect for human rights in their operations.

Movie screening “Lampedusa in Winter” (14.00-15.40)

Workshop (16.00-17.00)

Jakob Brossmann, Director, and Stefania Schenk Vitale, Interpreter and Assistant Director

In this workshop, we will use the methods of documentary filmmaking as a means of verification to examine prevailing narratives. Based on a topic of your choice, we will discuss perspective change and narratives and develop them as a concept. We will work together to strengthen your media competence. In doing so, we will encourage you to actively shape the discourse around narratives.

Wednesday, 6 June 2018

The Absolute Prohibition of Torture on the basis of the Universality of Human Rights (9.00-10.30)

Prof. Dr. Manfred Nowak, former UN-Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the University of Vienna, founder of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights and Secretary General of the European Inter-University Institute for Human Rights and Democratisation, Venice

Based on the recently published book „Torture. An Expert’s Confrontation with an Everyday Evil“, in which I summarized my impressions and experience from 18 official fact-finding missions and other investigations during six years as UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, I will share my personal thoughts about and experiences with the phenomenon of the global practice of torture in the 21st century. In relation to the universality of human rights and to the universal and absolute nature of the prohibition of torture, I will explain and discuss with you how modern-day torture is investigated and understood by those working on the frontlines of researching, addressing, and preventing it.

Digitalization, Robotization, and the Use of Artificial Intelligence from an Ethical Perspective (11.00-12.30)

Prof. Dr. Peter G Kirchsclaeger

This lecture will examine the development of a society and economy driven by multiple digital technologies, robots, and the use of artificial intelligence. What are we to make of the societal changes linked with this fundamental transformation? My contribution will discuss the positive potential, the risks, and the challenges of the “digital transformation” from an ethical perspective.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (16.00-17.00)

Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Economist and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. He serves as special advisor to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres on the objectives of sustainable development and is Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposes 17 goals that range from eradicating poverty & hunger to reducing educational inequalities. These goals have one purpose: Radically transform the world in which we live by 2030. The SDGs may yet be the UN’s most ambitious agenda. However, for us to

meet the targets set by the SDGs, we must stop doing business as usual. We must go boldly in a new direction. In my lecture, I will outline some strategies that could get us closer to our vision for a more sustainable society.

Thursday, 7 June 2018

Climate Change and Nuclear Weapons (9.00-10.30)

Rob van Riet, Director of the Climate Energy Program at the World Future Council in London. He coordinated the WFC's Disarmament Program from 2010 to 2018 and served as UK Coordinator for the international network of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament from 2011 to 2018

While humanity faces a range of interconnected transnational threats and crises in the 21st Century – including extreme poverty, hunger, pandemic disease and demographic change – climate change and the continued existence of nuclear weapons stand out as the two principal threats to the survival of humanity. On the long arc of human existence, both threats are relatively new to the scene, having only appeared over the last century. Both threaten the survival of life on earth as we know it and both are of our making. This lecture will explore the interaction and dynamic interplay between both threats.

My Contribution to the Global Network for Sustainable Responsibility (11.00-12.30)

Prof. Dr. Peter G. Kirchschaeger / Juliette Wyler

You will work in groups of four on how to become more involved in the "Global Network of Sustainable Responsibility". We will discuss how the network can support you on your journey.

Case-Study I: Social Entrepreneurship (14.00-16.00)

Samia Haimoura, Founder and CEO of SEON (former Securella)

Cilia Kanellopoulos, Head of Social Innovation, Vodafone Institute for Society and Communications

F-LANE, the Vodafone Institute Accelerator, is an acceleration program for high-potential digital impact ventures focusing on female empowerment. Cilia Kanellopoulos, manager of F-LANE, and Samia Haimoura, a participant of the program's 2017 cohort, will discuss the potential of social impact ventures to solve today's societal problems. Their case study presentation will focus on the challenges that social entrepreneurs face in building an impact-driven, socially-conscious venture that is profitable with a sound business model. In particular, the presentation will examine the unique challenges that female entrepreneurs face when trying to secure investment in a male-dominated ecosystem which often views female-led ventures with skepticism.

Follow-up Preparation: Which Ethical Challenge will I Address in My Context, and How? (16.20-17.00)

Juliette Wyler

You will find your two mentors.

Friday, 8 June 2018

Biolaw in a Global Context (9.00 - 11.00)

Prof. Dr. Laura Palazzani, Professor of Philosophy of Law and Biolaw, Lumsa University in Rome; Member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee; Member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies of the EU Commission

The delay in Biolaw can be traced back to many factors: The asynchrony between the rapidity and dynamism of the biomedical technical-scientific progress and the slowness of the process of producing laws; the interdisciplinary structure of bioethics, which requires the continuous updating of the scientific results and the constant debate with experts from different disciplines; and the moral and culturally pluralistic ways of conceiving the function of the law in bioethics. In the context of bio-juridical international discussion, there is a need to identify common juridical principles, which can be universally extended at a transnational level, while respecting cultural diversity and ethical heterogeneity. In this course, we will explore all these concepts.

Follow-up (Part 1): Which Ethical Challenge Will I Address in My Context, and How? (11.15-12.30)

Prof. Dr. Peter G. Kirchsclaeger / Juliette Wyler

Accompanied by the two mentors, you will develop a project plan to address the identified ethical challenge in your local context.

Case-Study II: "Water for Water" (14.00-14.45)

Jan Miotti, Head Communications of Wasser für Wasser (WfW)

Since 2012 WASSER FÜR WASSER (WfW) has been cooperating with restaurants and companies to introduce the human right to clean water into everyday life in Switzerland. WfW promotes tap water consumption, raises awareness of water issues, and integrates simple donation methods into everyday life.

We are a young team based in Lucerne and we will introduce you to our business model, which started locally with 12 partner enterprises and has since expanded into a network of over 400 partnerships throughout Switzerland. The donations generated this way have already given over 60,000 people access to clean water and over 200 people have received vocational training in the water sector in Zambia, our first project country in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Follow-up (Part 2): Which Ethical Challenge Will I Address in My Context, and How? (15.00-16.00)

Prof. Dr. Peter G. Kirchsclaeger / Juliette Wyler

Accompanied by the two mentors, you will develop a project plan to address the identified ethical challenge in your local context.