



UNESCO Chair
in Bioethics
(Haifa)
European
Division

International Conference

Transformative Technologies: Legal and Ethical Challenges of the 21st Century

07-08 February 2020, Banja Luka

The Law Faculty of the University of Banja Luka

The Center for the Study of Bioethics

The European Division of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics

Keynote Speakers: John Harris and Giovanni Boniolo

The three institutions partnered up in order to organize in collaboration with each other an international conference "**Transformative Technologies: Legal and Ethical Challenges of the 21st Century**". The conference will be aimed at exploring in-depth various issues pertaining to legal and ethical aspects of transformative technologies of the 21st Century.

The event will take place at the Law Faculty of the University of Banja Luka, on 07-08 February 2020.

Conference Theme and Purpose

In May 2013, the **Center for the Study of Bioethics (CSB)** and the **Oxford Centre for Neuroethics** jointly organized the conference “*Enhancement: Cognitive, Moral and Mood*”. Among many excellent discussions of the world’s top bioethicists, the conference participants could also witness the debate between **John Harris** and **Julian Savulescu** (with **Peter Singer** as the discussant) in which they forcefully disagreed on a number of important issues, but also found some space for common ground in certain questions.

The conference “Enhancing Enhancement” took the enhancement debate one step further than CSB did with its friends from OCN in 2013, overcoming its agonistic (sometimes perhaps even antagonistic) framework. **Hence, the 2015 conference that CSB organizes in partnership with Hastings, will build on the 2013 event by further enhancing the enhancement debate.**

In August 2017, the conference titled “Emerging Technologies in Healthcare” was organized by CSB in partnership with the **European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare (ESPMH)**. There were over 100 attendees, mostly philosophers, physicians and lawyers.

Only two days later, CSB partnered with the **Division of Medical Ethics in NYU School of Medicine’s Department of Population Health and The Hastings Center** for the international conference “Genome Editing: Biomedical and Ethical Perspectives”. It was the one of the most important bioethics events of 2017, in which one of the keynote speakers was **Arthur Caplan**. The conference covered various aspects of genome editing and it aimed both at searching for enhanced genome editing opportunities and at assessing their moral appositeness.

The Faculty of Law, University of Banja Luka (BiH) is a modern and well-organized higher education and scientific institution with a long tradition of educating lawyers and organizing teaching process at undergraduate and postgraduate level. The Faculty of Law, founded in 1975, is an organizational unit of the University of Banja Luka, which comprises 17 faculties and so far has produced 31,500 graduates, 700 hundred specialists, 1,150 MA/MSc and 600 PhD degree holders respectively, with 20,000 students currently enrolled at its study programmes. The Faculty of Law owns the largest amphitheater at the University of Banja Luka, five multimedia lecture halls and a conference room. The Faculty organizes and hosts every year a number of conferences and round tables, some of which are held on an annual basis. Many of these scientific events have international character.

The international scientific conference “**Transformative Technologies: Legal and Ethical Challenges of XXI Century**” will consider legal and ethical issues raised by the rapid technological progress. The development of new technologies can cause radical changes in the sphere of social and economic relations, as well as radical transformations of dominant ethical stances. The discoveries of steam engines, railways and electric power have already demonstrated the transformative power of technological development, which has become

even more pronounced today. The Conference will focus on two subthemes: legal and ethical dilemmas raised by the development of **digital** and **reproductive** technologies.

Main topics:

1. Digital technologies

- Internet, law and society
- Artificial intelligence
- Block chain
- Smart contracts

2. Reproductive technologies

- Assisted reproduction
- Genetic engineering
- Human cloning
- Human enhancement

Envisioned Conference Results

An outcome of the conference will be the publication of the conference proceedings: “Transformative Technologies: Legal and Ethical Challenges of the 21st Century”. In this publication the conference participants will have the opportunity to publish the papers they presented at the conference. The submitted full papers will be selected for publication after a peer review process. Conference participants are however not required to submit their conference papers for publication.

Invitation

The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended. We are inviting you to submit your abstracts **no later than 20 December 2019**. Notification of acceptance will be sent to the authors by **27 December 2019**. The first registration deadline expires on 10 November 2019.

Željko Mirjanić, Dean of LF of UBL

Vojin Rakić, Director of CSB

