

Conference
CONSCIENCE AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION IN HEALTHCARE

University of Oxford
SR1 Old Indian Institute,
34 Broad Street, Oxford

23-24 November 2015

The Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics (University of Oxford) and the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (Charles Sturt University) will host a conference on conscientious objection in medicine and the role of conscience in healthcare practitioners' decision making.

Organizers: Julian Savulescu (University of Oxford), Alberto Giubilini (Charles Sturt University), Steve Clarke (Charles Sturt University)

The conference aims at analyzing from a philosophical, ethical and legal perspective the meaning and the role of "conscience" in the healthcare profession. Conscientious objection by health professionals has become one of the most pressing problems in healthcare ethics. Health professionals are often required to perform activities that conflict with their own moral or religious beliefs (for example abortion). Their refusal can make it difficult for patients to have access to services they have a right to and, more in general, can create conflicts in the doctor-patient relationship. The widening of the medical options available today or in the near future is likely to sharpen these conflicts. The conference will see the participation of experts in bioethics, philosophy, law and medicine, who will explore the topic of conscientious objection in its different dimensions, and will try to suggest solutions.

Participation is free, but registration is required (seats are limited). To register, please follow this link <https://v1.bookwhen.com/uehiro> and select this event.

The conference is supported by the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics and an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant (DP 150102068). We are grateful to the Oxford Martin School for providing the venue for the conference.

PROGRAM

23 NOVEMBER

Morning

9.15-9.30 Introduction: Julian Savulescu (University of Oxford)

9.30-10.15 Mark Wicclair (University of Pittsburgh): *Reasons, moral integrity, and conscientious objection*

10.15-11.00 Kimberley Brownlee (University of Warwick): *Medicine and morally messy relationships*

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-12.15 Julian Savulescu (University of Oxford): *Conscience, values, and a reasonable range of options*

12.15-13.00 Steve Clarke (Charles Sturt University): *Two concepts of conscience and their implications for conscience-based refusal*

Afternoon

14.00-14.45 Francesca Minerva (University of Ghent): *Conscientious objection and complicity in wrongdoing*

14.45-15.30 Roger Trigg (University of Oxford): *Conscientious objection and 'effective referral'*

(please notice that we are finishing relatively early on the first day to allow those interested to attend Hugh LaFollette's Moral Philosophy Seminar at 16.30. Details of Prof LaFollette's talk can be found at http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/lectures/moral_philosophy)

24 NOVEMBER

Morning

9.30-10.15 Jeanette Kennett (Macquarie University): *Kant, conscience, and professional roles*

10.15-11.00 Hugh LaFollette (University of South Florida St Petersburg): *My conscience may be my guide, but you may not have to honour it*

11.00-11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30-12.15 Alberto Giubilini (Charles Sturt University): *Objection to conscience. On good and bad objections in medicine.*

12.15-13.00 Dominic Wilkinson (University of Oxford): *Conscientious non-objection and medical dissensus in intensive care*

Afternoon

14.00-14.45 Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Duke University) and Aaron Ansell (Duke University): *We Want Kids, Too: Should Doctors be Allowed to Refuse to Help Gay Couples have Children?*

14.45-15.30 Tom Douglas (University of Oxford): *Refusing to treat sexual dysfunction in sex offenders*

15,30-16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00-17.00 Roundtable: Katrien Devolder (University of Oxford), Jeff McMahan (University of Oxford), Richard Sorabji (University of Oxford)