NEWSLETTER

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The Research Cluster for Applied Ethics
Vytautas Magnus University

MEMBERS

John–Stewart Gordon (Head)

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EVENTS

International conference "Kant and the Ethics of Enlightenment. Historical Roots and Contemporary Relevance" (Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University in Kaliningrad, April 22-24). The conference will also be joined by prof. Gordon, who will be giving a talk titled "Kant and Applied Ethics: The Concept of Person- hood under Fire".

International conference "Human Rights in the Age of Globalization and Rapid Technological Innovations" (VMU's law faculty, June 12). The conference takes place at S. Daukanto str. 28, with the registration starting at 9 AM.

Research Project: SIENNA

Recently, prof. John-Stewart Gordon has been invited to contribute to the SIENNA project as one of the selected experts. Focused on the ethical, social, and human rights aspects of AI, the SIENNA project is holding a workshop at Uppsala University (Sweden) this June in which prof. Gordon will be expected to engage in discussions with around 20 other leading scholars in the fields of AI and ethics.

Keynote Speech

On the 20th of February, prof. Jonas Ruskus gave a keynote speech at a conference on inclusion, participation, and human rights organized by Humboldt University (Germany). In his speech, titled "The Human Rights Standards for a Full Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities: The UN Perspective", he introduced the new UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, which heralds a new epoch of how such persons are treated in the world by shifting the paradigms from charity and medical model to the social and human rights model of disability.

Published Textbook: Professional Ethics of Lawyers

This February, a textbook on ethics for professional lawyers co-authored by the staff of VMU's law faculty was published. Among the authors and editors are prof. Edita Gruodyte, dr. Paulius Astromskis, and prof. Julija Kirsiene who is also a part of the "Future Law, Ethics, and Smart Technologies" project. The textbook, titled "Professional Ethics of Lawyers", is the first of its kind in Lithuania and is aimed at improving both the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills of future lawyers. To learn more about it, click here (the information is in Lithuanian).

"Future Law, Ethics, and Smart Technologies" – Project News

Publication: Building Moral Machines – Ethical Pitfalls and Challenges

Earlier this year, prof. Gordon published a paper at the journal Science and Engineering Ethics titled "Building Moral Machines - Ethical Pitfalls and Challenges". In the paper, prof. Gordon offers his insights on the vital question of programming ethics into robots, stressing the importance of ethical expertise of AI researchers and examining several existing approaches to building moral machines. One can access the paper here.

Research Stay

Prof. Gordon has recently completed his research stay at Oxford University (England). During the stay (March 1st-17th), he worked at the Oxford Future of Humanity Institute headed by Nick Bostrom. The primary focus of his research was the concept of personhood in the context of ethics and law.

Philosophy in Lithuania

International Conference: On The Philosophical Conceptions of Time and Beyond

On the 10th-11th of May, an international conference titled "On the Philosophical Conceptions of Time and Beyond" is taking place. In this conference, hosted by The Lithuanian Philosophical Association and The Philosophy Institute of Vilnius University, various conceptions of time will be discussed, ranging from phenomenological, and psychoanalytic to religious and even scientific. For more information about the conference (in Lithuanian only), click here.