NEWSLETTER

The Research Cluster for Applied Ethics
Vytautas Magnus University

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EVENTS

An international conference by the ATEITIS project, titled "Law, Ethics, and Smart Technologies", is taking place on February 20, 2020. To learn more about the event, see the project webpage:

https://ateitis.vdu.lt

Ethics as a Method

In the last two months of the year 2019, prof. Gordon made a number of appearances in universities abroad to give presentations based on his recent book "Ethics as a Method" (published by Karl Alber), which he finished last year. On the 5th of November, prof. Gordon gave a talk titled "Ethics as a Method: Thinking Outside the Box" at Cork University, which was soon followed by the presentation "Meta-ethical Pluralism" in the Contextual Ethics Workshop I (14-15.11) at the University of Southern Denmark (Odense). Finally, he gave a talk "Ethics as a Method" in the Moral Philosophy Seminar by Oxford University. In his book and presentations, prof. Gordon defends the idea that morality is too complex to be grasped through a single moral principle and that in order to approach the complex ethical issues adequately, one needs to develop a pluralistic method of ethics.

International Workshop: Ethical Issues Raised by Human Enhancement

On the 7th of February (2020), an international conference on the ethics of human enhancement, organized by the Research Cluster for Applied Ethics, has taken place. In the workshop, presentations were given by two invited speakers from abroad: assist. prof. Sven Nyholm (Utrecht University), who gave a talk titled "Human Minds Meet Artificial Intelligence", and Petr Frantik (Cologne University) with a presentation titled "Is it Desirable to Eliminate Ageing and Death? Ethical Questions Regarding the Research on Radical Life Extension". In the event, a talk was also given by K. Mosakas, who covered issues related to life extension as well, in his presentation "Ethics of Death in the Context of Life Extension". Other presentations of the event included "The Content of the Concept of Struggle in the Context of Recognition: A

Honnet vs. S. Hall" by prof. Gintautas Mazeikis from VMU's philosophy department, as well as "Authenticity Open to Change? Common Worries Concerning Human Enhancement" by Agne Alijauskaite from Vilnius University.

Student Participation Award

In December of the year 2019, the RCAE announced the Student Participation Award (SPA) amounting to 300 Euros in total, which will be awarded to the student (or students), who will have attended the most events by the RCAE by the end of this year. Through the SPA, which is a personal donation by prof. Gordon, the cluster expects to raise awareness among the students about the important events taking place at VMU, as well as to increase their expertise and knowledge of the many important topics that will be covered. For more details, see the post by prof. Gordon on the cluster's Facebook page (direct link to the post).

"Integration Study on Future Law, Ethics, and Smart Technologies" – Project News

Research Trip: Maynooth University

In November of 2019, prof. Gordon (01-13.11) and K. Mosakas (01-21.11) were on a research stay at Maynooth University. During the stay, they have taken part in the international conference "Ethics and Digitalisation", hosted by Maynooth University in prof. Gordon's honour. In the event, prof. Gordon gave the keynote talk titled "The Problem of Social Media (Facebook as a Democracy-Undermining Threat), in which he shed light on the numerous morally troubling aspects of Facebook in its current form; whereas K. Mosakas gave a presentation titled "Artificial Consciousness and Moral Status". Prof. Gordon also joined the expert panel after the workshop and took part in the round table discussion.

Presentations: Education, Law, and Smart Technologies

In the last autumn, dr. Pasvenskiene took part in local conferences and gave presentations on legal issues pertaining to education in the context of technological development. On the 21st of September, she gave a talk titled "Human Rights Education in the Digital Era" at the conference "European Education on Values and Humanity" (European Humanities University, Vilnius), which was followed by her presentation at the "Teacher 360°" forum (VMU), titled "Legal Relations at School in the Age of Smart Technologies".

Publication: The Highest Rate of Public Trust in Judiciary in Twenty Years in Lithuania: Trend or Coincidence?

In last October, an article by prof. Gruodyte and prof. Julija Kirsiene has been published at the journal International and Comparative Law Review (Sciendo). The article, titled "The Highest Rate of Public Trust in Judiciary in Twenty Years in Lithuania: Trend or Coincidence?", explores the recent changes (towards the positive) in the Lithuanian attitudes towards the judiciary. Their article can be accessed in full here.

Keynote Presentation: Review of Law & Technology Curriculum in Top Universities

On the 13th of November, dr. Astromskis and dr. Pasvenskiene took part in the international conference "Future of Legal Education" at Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona). Their keynote presentation surveyed the curricula in top universities on the subjects at the intersection of law and technologies.

Research Trip: Technological Challenges to Academic Freedom

At the end of the last November, dr. Pasvenskiene had a stay in Brussels, where she attended G-STIC - Global Sustainable Technology & Innovation Conference (28-30.11). This annual international conference, which tends to attract over 1000 participants yearly, generally focuses on finding integrated technological solutions to the many sustainable development challenges across different disciplines and sectors.

Philosophy in Lithuania

Conference: Identifying the Causes of Social, Cultural, and Technological Change: Possibilities of Social Adaptation

On the 24th and 27th of February, the first part of the international conference "Identifying the Causes of Social, Cultural, and Technological Change: Possibilities of Social Adaptation" is taking place. The conference is organized by the Institute of Transcultural and Asian studies of Vilnius University. The second part of the conference is expected to take place in May. In order to learn more about this event, see the contact information at the dedicated section of the Vilnius University event page (in LT only).

Award: The Young Scholar Publication Contest

The Lithuanian Philosophical Association (LPA) have announced their annual Young Scholar Publication Contest. The eligible participants are the members of the LPA that are currently doing their MA or PhD studies. The winner will be awarded a money prize and will be invited to give a talk at the annual LPA conference. In order to learn more about the contest, see the LPA website (in LT only).

HONOURS AND AWARDS

No honours and awards received recently.

Please make sure to follow us on our Facebook page and check our main website for our regular events, which include but are not limited to workshops, public lectures, and conferences.

Our Facebook page:

 https://www.facebook.com/researchgroupappliedethics/

Our main website: https://www.applied-ethics.com/

Website of the "Integration Study on Future Law, Ethics, and Smart Technologies" project: https://ateitis.vdu.lt/