

10th International Bioethics, Multiculturalism and Religion Workshop and Symposium

An Interreligious and Multicultural Perspective
on
The Nature of Medicine and the Role of
Physicians

Madrid, Spain
December 17-19, 2024

UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights
www.unescobiochair.org

PAPER GUIDELINES

Recognized thought leaders from diverse religions and cultures will be invited to analyze, write a paper and discuss these bioethical questions and their anthropological implications:

- Use authoritative texts from their religious and/or cultural traditions and beliefs.
- Organize their discourse around the workshop's featured leading questions.
- Frame the issues within the global bioethics paradigm of human rights and duties, as articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005).
- Engage the issues in accordance with the mission of the Bioethics, Multiculturalism & Religion Project.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. How does your cultural/religious tradition conceive medicine as a discipline? Consequently, how does it approach concepts of health, disease, and mortality?
2. How does your cultural/religious tradition perceive the role of the practitioners in the art and science of healing?
3. How does this conception influence, in particular, the physicians' relationship with patients, their families, and healthcare provision?
4. How has traditional medicine reacted to the advance of modern medicine?
5. How has your tradition interacted with medical ethics and deontology?

WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

1. The following papers will be commissioned:
 - a. Keynote papers:
 - i. Some presentations will be given on the first day of the workshop, addressing and framing the issues at stakes that are not necessarily pertinent to any tradition.
 - ii. They could be topics on the current state of science, law, human rights, philosophy, and interreligious dialogue.
 - b. Dialogic paper panels
 - i. Author A from one of the traditions or religions will write and present a paper (approx. 10 pages) that should be submitted 3 months before the workshop addressing the leading questions as much as possible.
 - ii. Author B will be assigned to respond to the above paper (approx. 10 pages) and submit it 1 month before the workshop.
 - iii. Author A may then respond to the critique further with a paper (approx. 4-5 pages) and submit it for publication.
2. During the three-day workshop, the language is English. Physical participants of the workshop include:
 - a. Scholars from the various religions who have written and submitted the papers. They must read the others' papers before attending the workshop.

- During each workshop session, they will give a 15-minute summary of their papers followed by ample discussion, clarification, and questions from other authors.
- b. Other academics interested in the workshop may also participate in the sessions after the organizing committee approves (send requests to agarcia@unescobiochair.org). They can raise questions only after the group above has completed its discussions.
 - c. The workshop may be open to Zoom participation depending on the local facilities.
3. Before submission for eventual publication, authors may modify their papers considering the dialogue of our three-day meeting. Hopefully, these discussions will provide a clear and thorough understanding of each tradition's understanding of the topic in the light of human rights.

Organising Committee

Alberto García, *UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights, Rome.*

Joseph Tham, LC, *Regina Apostolorum Pontifical Ateneo, Rome.*

Chris Durante, *Saint Peter's University, New York.*

John Lunstroth, *University of Houston, Texas.*

Elena Postigo, *Francisco de Vitoria University, Madrid.*