



BIOETHICS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS A WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE

March 8, 2025
9:00 am - 6:45 pm





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Program

- 9h00 *Opening of the day and welcome* (Prof. Alberto GARCÍA GÓMEZ, Chairholder of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights)
- Presentation part 1* (Maroun BADR)
- 9h15 *The rights of female patients confronted with gynecological and obstetric violence. The Progressive legal recognition of a multifaceted phenomenon* (Laura ESCUDIER)
- 10h15 *Promoting girls' rights and development. A culturally-grounded and grandmother-inclusive approach* (Judi AUBEL)
- 11h15 *Woman 2 .0 - What feminism in the age of transhumanism?* (Laetitia POULIQUEN)
- 12h15 *Conclusion part 1* (Maroun BADR)
- 12h30 *Pause*
- 14h00 *Presentation part 2* (Maroun BADR)
- 14h15 *Woman's body and reproductive technologies* (Aude MIRKOVIC)
- 15h15 *Women, the UN and global governance. Historical perspective* (Marguerite A. PEETERS)
- 16h15 *Pause*
- 16h30 *Normative and effective assessment of women's right to health in French prisons* (Pauline BEER)
- 17h30 *Methods of Cycle Observation. An ethical and effective response in Women's Health* (Sophie SAAB-TSNOBILADZÉ)
- 18h30 *General conclusion* (Maroun BADR)
- 18h45 *End of the day*

Maroun BADR

Doctor in Bioethics

Research Scholar, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights

Associate Researcher, Facultad de Bioética –

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Maroun BADR holds a PhD in Bioethics (Summa cum laude) from the Faculty of Bioethics of the Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum (Rome), with a thesis entitled “Women’s autonomy between personal freedom and public health. Application to abortion and contraception, and bioethical issues in the French context of sustainable development” (under the supervision of Prof. Alberto García Gómez).

He is a Research Scholar at the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights - Rome and a Research Associate at the Facultad de Bioética Universidad Anáhuac México (Mexico). A frequent lecturer, he regularly publishes scientific articles in international bioethics journals and takes part as a speaker in regional and international bioethics conferences. His main areas of interest are Prenatal issues, Women’s rights and health, Biolaw, Biopolitics and Sustainable Development.



Presentation of the day

March 8, 2025 marks the first “anniversary” of the promulgation of the constitutional law on abortion in France, a symbolic date as it is International Women’s Rights Day. To mark the occasion, this online French-speaking day of reflection on the theme of “Bioethics and rights. A feminine perspective” aims to highlight women’s dignity and rights from an interdisciplinary angle. In today’s complex socio-political context, there is an urgent need to re-emphasize the value of feminine identity, to defend the rights of women who respect this identity, and to promote their self-fulfillment through a holistic approach based on the dignity of the human person. Seven women specialist speakers will address a number of themes that represent a challenge at both national and international level.

Laura ESCUDIER

*PhD Candidate in Public Law, Aix-Marseille University,
UMR 7268 ADES - Centre de Droit de la santé
(Health Law Laboratory)*

Holder of a Master's degree in Health Law, Laura ESCUDIER is a PhD candidate in Public Law. Her research focuses on the intersection between law and gender in the domain of public health law. She also teaches public law and health law at the Faculty of Law in Aix-en-Provence, as well as in training programs for healthcare professionals.



The rights of female patients confronted with gynecological and obstetric violence: The Progressive legal recognition of a multifaceted phenomenon

Gynecological and obstetric violence refers to acts of violence perpetrated by medical professionals. The term encompasses a wide range of abuses, including for example non-consensual episiotomies and sexist and humiliating remarks made during consultations. The existence of this phenomenon within medical institutions may be surprising, given that healthcare providers are bound by ethical and legal obligations that correspond to patient rights. These rights, which are universally recognized, include the right to dignity and the right to consent to medical treatment. These rights apply equally to both men and women. How, then, should we interpret the gap between the law and the lived experiences of certain female patients?

Judi AUBEL

*PhD, MPH, MA, Co-founder and Executive Director of
Grandmother Project – Change through Culture*



Judi AUBEL is a social scientist - development practitioner. She holds a PhD in Education and Anthropology (University of Bristol, U.K.), a Masters in Public Health (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and a Masters in Adult Education (Arizona State University). Dr. Aubel has worked the past 30 years primarily in Africa, but also in Latin America, Asia and The Pacific in applied research, program evaluation and in the design of community interventions dealing with: adolescent development; maternal and child health; and education. Her main interest is in the

development of community health and development strategies that build on cultural roles and values, including those of the elders and that catalyze community-led change through the use of inclusive and participatory methods that increase community cohesion and collaboration. Judi has published more than 25 articles dealing with health, education and adolescent development. She is an ASHOKA fellow, recognized for her development of innovative and effective approaches to address complex social issues.

Promoting girls' rights and development. A culturally-grounded and grandmother-inclusive approach

In southern Senegal, girls face major challenges to their rights and development related to: limited family support for their education; child marriage; teen pregnancy; and female genital mutilation (FGM). In addition, limited communication between generations and weak social cohesion in communities, limit the support that girls need. The Girls Holistic Development (GHD) Program was developed by “Grandmother Project – Change through Culture (GMP)”, an American and Senegalese NGO established in 2005. GMP develops community change strategies that build on the structure and values of non-western, collectivist cultures. GHD involves an inclusive and participatory approach to promote community consensus for change for girls. GHD builds on an underutilized cultural resource to support girls – the grandmothers. GHD draws on concepts and methods from community development, adult education, positive psychology and systems change. In GHD, a series of community activities strengthen relationships between generations; share new information on GHD; and elicit collective reflection on existing and new ideas related to GHD. Community activities include: “intergenerational forums” that involve three generations of women and men; “days of solidarity and dialogue; grandmother leadership training; all women forums; and leadership training for girls based on African values”. Several evaluations of GHD have shown that GHD has contributed to significant change in social norms related to girls' education, child marriage, teen pregnancy and FGM.

Laetitia POULIQUEN

Director of NBIC Ethics, Brussels

Laetitia POULIQUEN is the proud mother of four boys and a graduate in International Marketing, and Bioethics, she is also trained in Computer Science and Electronics. She worked for international software companies and at the Harvard Business School as a Research Assistant. Her expertise in Artificial Reproductive Technologies, women's mental health and transhumanism led her to write *Woman 2.0 – Feminism and Transhumanism*, and to found the thinktank NBIC Ethics focusing on the ethics of new technologies and the Digitalization of EU to the European Commission. Among other legislation, she was involved in the regulation on Artificial Intelligence AI Act and in the regulation of health data, eHealth Data Space. Her latest book *IA Master of Time – Towards a connected eternity?* was published in December 2024.



Woman 2 .0 - What feminism in the age of transhumanism?

While equality in dignity and rights is affirmed and guaranteed by Western countries, the liberation of women has generated dysfunctions, the most significant of which could be the undermining of the feminine specificity, the premise of society's "Unbirthing" and the probable disappearance of the feminine specificity. The speaker will endeavor to highlight the attack perpetrated on women by transhumanist philosophies, by stripping them of all bodily, psychic and social specificity, as well as all propensity to give oneself through motherhood. While transhumanism promises eternal youth without bodily contingency, and immortality of the soul, the use of NBIC technologies (Nanotechnologies, Biotechnologies, Information and Cognitive technologies) could produce specific and harmful effects on the identity of the woman: those of causing her to disappear in her feminine essence and become an individual of neutral gender, augmented and without filiation, in which one would no longer recognize either man or woman.

Aude MIRKOVIC

HDR (Habilitation to direct/lead research) Senior Lecturer, Private law and criminal sciences, Université Paris Saclay

Aude MIRKOVIC holds a doctorate in law from the Université Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas, where she obtained her doctorate in 2001 with honors and congratulations from the jury, on the following topic: “The human person. A study to clarify the legal status of the unborn child”. Lecturer in private law at the University of Paris-Saclay (Evry site) since 2001, she obtained, she obtained her habilitation to direct research (HDR) in 2013. Specialized in family law and bioethics, she is the author of numerous publications, both academic and for the general public [see her main publications [online](#)].



Woman's body and reproductive technologies

Artificial procreation techniques or procreatic, involve the woman's body in a way that raises questions about the constraints and risks they entail for the woman. The aim of this presentation is to assess the cost to women of these processes (oocyte retrieval and hormone treatments in particular), in order to evaluate their relevance in terms of legal principles, and to encourage women to give informed consent.

Marguerite A. PEETERS

*Doctor in Political Science and Public Administration,
researcher, writer and lecturer*

Marguerite A. PEETERS holds a doctorate in political science from Warsaw's Wyzynski University. As a journalist in the 1990s, she investigated in depth the "new global consensus" built up during the major post-Cold War international UN conferences, the new global language that has since been imposed worldwide, and the new politics of partnerships that are characteristic of the emergence of global governance. She has written several books on these subjects, including "Global Governance - History of a Quiet Revolution within the United Nations (1945-96)", Tirant lo Blanch (2024). She is a frequent speaker and lecturer at various institutions of higher learning.



Women, the UN and global governance. Historical perspective

Since the inclusion of equal rights for men and women in the Charter (1945), the United Nations has played an undisputed leading role in promoting the status and rights of women throughout the world. The concrete history of this promotion often demonstrates the proactive initiative, not of member states and peoples, but of a minority of transnational non-state actors, who over the decades have developed an operative partnership with the UN Secretariat. Under the impetus of such actors, non-universal interests have come to influence the dominant interpretation of women's rights and equality. The gender perspective is the current culmination of this process. Over the past thirty years, it has become a cross-cutting priority in global governance. This presentation will identify some of the milestones in this historic process. It will show the need to reconcile women's equality with women's singularity, their universally recognizable being as women, and also to give power back to peoples and governments so that they can promote the equality of men and women, while respecting their cultures and histories.

Pauline BEER

Doctor in public law, socio-judicial worker with APCARS

Pauline BEER has completed a PhD thesis at Aix-Marseille University entitled “Towards a right to health in prisons. Conditions of detention in question”. Alongside her research work, she has specialized in working with people in mental distress, particularly on issues relating to sexuality, gender and trauma. She trained as an integrative psychotherapist and sex therapist with Indigo formations in Paris. After obtaining her doctorate in public law in 2023, she joined the APCARS as a judicial controller and personality investigator.



Normative and effective assessment of women’s right to health in French prisons

On October 1, 2024, the number of inmates in French prisons stood at 79,631. Of these, 3.4% (2,738) are women. A minority in number, women prisoners are discriminated against in the exercise of their fundamental rights in general, and in healthcare in particular. Thus, access to healthcare remains too low and unequal for them. Yet, they suffer from poor health, with a high prevalence of mental disorders and risky behavior. These difficulties, which predate incarceration, are all too often exacerbated by prison conditions such as overcrowding, lack of activity, weak family ties and poor hygiene. Worse still, this situation, which is hardly conducive to protecting prisoners’ health, hardly improves on release. Three quarters of women leaving prison have a psychiatric disorder. Despite this alarming state of affairs, both international and national legal standards provide a framework for the right to health of prisoners in general, and women prisoners in particular.

Sophie SAAB - TSNOBILADZÉ

Family physician (FOCUS Fertilité, FACTS About Fertility)

Dr. Sophie SAAB-TSNOBILADZÉ is a Family physician. She received her medical degree from the Université de Versailles, France, and completed her residency in the Paris University Hospitals. She trained as a Creighton Model - NaProTechnology Medical Consultant. She is co-author of the book "Cycle féminin au naturel" (2022, Editions Leduc, France). A speaker for students and healthcare professionals, she is also co-founder of the non-profit organization FOCUS Fertilité (2021, France). In 2024, she became a certified speaker for the non-profit organization FACTS About Fertility. Proud of her French, Georgian and Lebanese roots, she now lives in the United States.



Methods of Cycle Observation. An ethical and effective response in Women's Health

Women's rights, specifically in fields like education, equality before the law, health, and fertility, are being emphasized in a significant way. Many stakeholders in this movement ground their work on providing information to the general public, especially to women. However, studies show that ignorance regarding the female cycle and fertility persists. This has major consequences on decisions made by women, and on women's reproductive lives events. Thus, it has been noted that unplanned pregnancies (and abortions) remain frequent, despite widespread contraceptive use. Infertility's prevalence, which was already high in the past years, is increasing. Methods of Cycle Observation (MCOs) are evidence-based methods, scientifically developed and evaluated. They rest upon daily observations of fertility biomarkers. They allow a woman to identify precisely where she is in her cycle. MCOs present four main purposes: monitoring gynecological health, avoiding pregnancy, achieving pregnancy and improving the diagnosis and treatment of the underlying causes of women's health issues and infertility. By involving men alongside women, they enable sharing of the mental load associated with fertility management. We will see how MCOs help respond to women's needs in an ethical, innovative and effective way.



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