

Yaoundé Seminar: “Ethics, Public Policy, and Health”

August 24 - 29, 2020

Catholic University of Central Africa, Yaoundé (Cameroon)

Sponsored by: Ethics and Public Policy Laboratory (EthicsLab) of the Université Catholique d’Afrique Centrale in Yaoundé, Harvard University Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Rutgers University Center for Population-Level Bioethics, Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics, University of Geneva Institute for Ethics, History and the Humanities, Stanford University McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society, University of St. Gallen Competence Center for African Research, Université du Québec à Rimousky Groupe de recherche en Ethique Ethos

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS NOW OPEN

Submission deadline: April 20th, 2020

We will accept abstracts on a rolling basis

We are pleased to announce a call for abstracts for the 6th annual Yaoundé Seminar, on the topic “**Ethics, Public Policy, and Health.**” Yaoundé is an international, invitation-only seminar that brings doctoral students and early career faculty together with distinguished scholars to explore a topic at the intersection of ethics and public policy, while encouraging greater discourse between scholars working in Africa and the global west and north. For more information:

<https://ethicslabucac.net/calls>

2020 Keynote speakers:

James Wilson (UCL)
Christine Straehle (University of Hamburg)
Sridhar Venkatapuram (King’s College London)
Caesar Atuire (University of Ghana) TBC
Samia Hurst (University of Geneva) TBC
Shlomi Segall (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) TBC
Additional TBC

Topic Description: Health and health care make a significant contribution to what we can do and be in our lives. Today, equipped with knowledge about the medical, social, and behavioural determinants

of health, we have an unprecedented opportunity to achieve healthy conditions of life for broad and diverse populations. Conversely, through inaction or inattention we risk adding to health and social inequalities that arise between individuals, groups, and states, and may leave populations less healthy than they otherwise could be. The policies that state-actors adopt with respect to health and health care have a key role to play in negotiating between these alternate futures. Yet even with the best will possible, public policymakers, particularly in developing nations, must grapple with complexities introduced by limited resources, weak institutions, global power structures, complex relationships with international and private health actors, and local traditions and values, in steering a course forward.

This raises several questions of ethics, public policy, and health: what do state actors owe their populations with respect to securing healthy conditions of life? How should public policies be structured to efficiently promote and fairly distribute population health? And how should the particular histories, cultures, values, institutions, partnerships, and socioeconomic realities of developing nations inform answers to these questions?

We invite contributions from different theoretical perspectives, and we plan to approach these questions both from the perspective of analytical political philosophy, ethics, rights-based frameworks, and from the perspective of non-Western traditions, e.g. African philosophy. Suggested topics include (this list is not meant to be exhaustive):

- conceptualization of health, health inequity, and disease
- justice in health and healthcare, ideal and non-ideal theory
- the content and role of human rights for health
- responsibilities of states, individuals and global actors in securing health for a population
- limits to state power and respecting individual rights in population health policy
- methods for ethical priority setting and rationing of scarce resources in health systems
- moral obligations of those who work for the health sector
- tensions between universal ethical ideals and culturally specific values in health
- relevance of cultural diversity and values pluralism for ethical health policy
- ethics of various health-relevant topics, e.g., social determinants of health, health system design, health innovation and technology, health workforce development and regulation, research regulation (including standards for studies/trials in African states), response to epidemics and pandemics, climate change, and economic development, etc.

Submission guidelines:

The Yaoundé Seminar organising committee invites PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and early career faculty at African and non-African Universities to submit abstracts (400-500 words) on themes related to the conference's topic. Graduate students finishing their Masters degree and planning to start a PhD will also be considered as auditors and should email us their CV along with their abstract.

Abstracts should be submitted via email to thierry.ngosso@unisg.ch , berry@hcp.med.harvard.edu, jennifer.mike@aun.edu.ng, and thalia.porteny@tufts.edu by April 1, 2020. Applications and presentations can be either in English or in French, but speaking French is not a requirement to attend the event. The keynote presentations will be in English. Applicants will be selected on the basis of the quality of their abstract and its alignment with conference themes, as well as potential to contribute productively to the seminar and to the development of their field. Applicants should expect to be informed of their acceptance by April 20, 2020.

For more information: <https://ethicslabucac.net/calls>

About the Yaounde Seminar:

The Yaoundé Seminar is an international and interdisciplinary conference held annually since 2012 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The aim of the Yaoundé Seminar is to train a diverse new generation of scholars and contribute to the development of ethics as an inclusive field in discourse with public policy, with particular focus on creating relationships between African and non-African scholars and supporting ethics training and capacity in Africa. Seminar participants, including PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career faculty, attend presentations by distinguished scholars in the field, present their own research in moderated panels and seminars, and receive one-on-one mentorship on their research projects, in addition to building community through shared meals and experiences in Cameroon. The seminar typically lasts for a full week with 4 days of seminar activity and 1 day of organized tourism.

Accepted participants must pay a fee of \$400 (faculty and postdocs at non-African Universities), \$300 (students at non-African Universities), \$150 (faculty and postdocs at African Universities), or \$100 (students at African Universities) to cover the costs of accommodations, meals, and workshop materials, and must also pay for their own travel to Yaounde (Cameroon).

A limited number of fee waivers and travel scholarships are available for scholars from African Universities. Applicants should indicate their suitability for a waiver/scholarship in their application materials.

2020 Organizing Committee:

Thierry Ngosso, Ph.D., Ethics and Public Policy Laboratory (EthicsLab), Université Catholique d'Afrique Centrale

Kelsey N Berry, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School, Center for Bioethics

Jennifer Mike, Ph.D., American University of Nigeria

Thalia Porteny, Ph.D., Tufts University, Lab for Ethics, Aging, and Community Health.