

Navigating Impasses in Bioethics: Rethinking Ill/Health

Day Symposium on Friday 4 December 2015

Venue: St Edmund's College, CB3 0BN Cambridge

- 9.30am
(Okinaga Room) Welcome and Introduction
- 9.40 - 11.10am Session 1
- Thana Campos: *The human Right to Health and the Conflation Problem*
- Jonathan Herring: *Health as Vulnerability; Interdependence and Relationality*
- David Albert Jones: *Jettisoning 'the Sanctity of Life Principle'*
- 11.10 – 11.30 am Coffee break
- 11.30 – 1pm Session 2
- Sally Atkinson: *Health or Illness, Person or Patient: Blurring the Lines in the Development of Pre-Symptomatic Biomarkers for Dementia*
- Gianmarco Contino: *Health Medicalisation and Shared Responsibility*
- Christina Lamb: *Conscientious Objection: Understanding the Right of Conscience in Health and Health Care Practice*
- 1 – 2 pm
(Huddleston Room) Buffet Lunch
- 2 – 3.30 pm
(Okinaga Room) Session 3
- Lidia Ripamonti: *Disabled, Different, or both? Health and Neurodiversity*
- David Elliot: *Defining the Relationship between Health and Well-being in Bioethics*
- Trevor Stammers: *Meaning in Madness? Theological and Personal Reflections on Mental Illness*
- 3.30 – 3.45 pm Final Remarks and Conclusion

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Contemporary discourse in bioethics and healthcare policy frequently arrives at an impasse caused by disagreement, often unspoken, about what constitutes 'health'. Different understandings of 'ill/health' end up conflating different and sometimes contradictory moral considerations, which marring political debate and generates insoluble impasses in policy making. As a result, politicians, academics, health practitioners and patients appear to be speaking different languages and entertaining widely diverse expectations.

Can a single definition of ill/health across different fields be arrived at? The strictly legal definition of the right to health is unworkable, as it involves an even more controversial 'right to happiness'. From a faith perspective, for instance, being healthy does not simply mean the absence of pain. Similarly, mental ill/health in political debates is often addressed as a matter of diversity and equality rather than in terms of disability.

To facilitate this conversation, we will discuss papers focusing on the concepts and definitions of ill/health from different perspectives (legal, medical, ethical, philosophical, and theological), and addressing how a common understanding might facilitate advances in the current healthcare debate.

Participants

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Thana Campos, *Research Associate, Von Hügel Institute, St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge*

Gianmarco Contino, *Associate Faculty Member, MRC Hutchison Cancer Unit, University of Cambridge*

David Elliot, *Research Associate, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge*

David Albert Jones, *Director of The Anscombe Bioethics Centre, Oxford*

Jonathan Herring, *Professor of Law, University of Oxford*

Christina Lamb, *PhD Candidate, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Western University, London, ON*

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