

# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

## 37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

This conference is organized by the [European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare](#), and the [Centre for Social Ethics and Policy, University of Manchester](#). It is supported by the Hallsworth Conference Fund.

The COVID-19 pandemic marked both a societal and academic turning point—simultaneously a period of disruption and a catalyst for rapid development in medicine, ethics, philosophy, and regulation. In the aftermath of COVID-19, significant bioethics topics emerged or gained renewed urgency, e.g. in relation to resource allocation and priority-setting, new stem cell technologies, artificial intelligence, weight loss drugs, and reproductive technologies. The conference welcomes work on these topics in medical philosophy and bioethics. Abstracts addressing any of the issues mentioned below will be favoured, although work on other topics is also very welcome.

### **New challenges to the concepts of health and disease**

- Long COVID
- One health approach
- Overweight and obesity
- Mental health and psychiatry

### **Clinical decision making**

- Philosophical analysis of clinical decision making
- Philosophical analysis of risk
- Unproven medical interventions

### **Research ethics**

- Ethical issues in new trial designs
- Research ethics in crisis situations
- Incentives to research participation
- The interface between research ethics and research integrity

### **Public health ethics and pandemic preparedness**

- Moral limits of markets in healthcare
- Vaccine distribution and equity
- Ethical preparedness
- Access to essential medicines in low- and middle-income countries
- Health and military crises

### **Weight-loss drugs**

- Advances in weight-loss medications
- Cosmetic weight loss vs. obesity treatment
- Equity and affordability

### **Reproduction**

- New reproductive technologies
- Access to reproductive technologies
- Surrogacy
- Prenatal and newborn screening
- Reproductive tourism

### **Interdisciplinarity**

- The contribution of philosophy to interdisciplinary collaboration
- Challenges in collaborations with social scientists and legal scholars
- The contribution of philosophy to policymaking

### **New stem cell technologies**

- Embryo models
- Neural organoids
- Artificial gametes

### **Artificial intelligence**

- The status of AI output
- Algorithmic bias
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Health data and AI development
- Responsibility for AI error
- AI as a tool in medical philosophy and ethics

### **Resource Allocation and Priority-Setting**

- Triage in crisis situations
- Distributive justice and healthcare rationing
- Justice and end-of-life decision-making

# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## Organization

The registration process, the call for abstracts, the development, and the publication of the announcements of the programme as well as the mailings to participants will be taken care of by the ESPMH Secretariat in Dublin, Ireland.

### ESPMH Secretary:

Prof. Bert Gordijn  
Secretary of the ESPMH ([www.espmh.org](http://www.espmh.org))  
Institute of Ethics, Dublin City University  
All Hallows Campus, Senior House, S212,  
Dublin 9, Ireland  
E: [bert.gordijn@dcu.ie](mailto:bert.gordijn@dcu.ie)

### Local Conference Coordinators:

The Centre for Social Ethics and Policy (CSEP),  
Department of Law, School of Social Sciences,  
University of Manchester  
<https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/csep/>

### Contact person:

Prof. Søren Holm  
E: [soren.holm@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:soren.holm@manchester.ac.uk)

## Important dates

**1 March 2025**

Deadline for submission of abstracts

**1<sup>st</sup> half of March 2025**

Selection of abstracts

**1<sup>st</sup> half of April 2025**

Draft programme

**15 May 2025**

Deadline for early bird registration  
and payment

## Language

The language at the conference will be **English**.



# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## The Centre for Social Ethics and Policy

The Centre for Social Ethics and Policy (CSEP) was established in 1986 as an interdisciplinary centre for research and education in medical ethics and law. The four founders were Professor John Harris (medical ethics), Professor Margaret Brazier (medical law), Professor Tony Dyson (social theology), and Dr Mary Lobjoit (medicine).

The first students were admitted to the MA in Health Care Ethics and Law in 1988, and CSEP now runs MA, MSc, and LLM courses in health care ethics and law both on campus in Manchester and by Distance Learning.

CSEP also runs an active PhD program in Bioethics and Medical Jurisprudence.

CSEP is one of the largest interdisciplinary research centres in medical ethics and law in Europe with more than 10 permanent academic staff members, including 7 full professors.

Current research in the centre spans the range from philosophy of medicine, through many aspects of medical ethics, to medical law and mental health law.

The centre is part of the Department of Law.





# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester can trace its history back to 1824 and the foundation of the Mechanics' Institute in the city. In 1851 the local businessman John Owens left money in his will to found a new college, which subsequently grew and became the Victoria University of Manchester in 1903. The University merged with the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) in 2004 to form The University of Manchester.

The University is now one of the largest research-intensive universities in the UK, with more than 40,000 students. It is a campus university centred on Oxford Road.

The University has several famous alumni, including Ludwig Wittgenstein, who studied for an (unfinished) doctorate in aeronautical engineering 1908-1911.

Other famous, former students and staff members include the mathematician and code-breaker Alan Turing, the physicist Ernest Rutherford, the development economist Arthur Lewis, and the lawyer and suffragette Christabel Pankhurst.



# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## Registration

Registration takes place online at the ESPMH homepage ([www.espmh.org](http://www.espmh.org)).

To avail of the early bird registration fee (see below) registration should be completed, and the registration fee should be paid, no later than **15 May 2025**.

Fees are higher after that date. The fee should be paid to the ESPMH Treasurer (details provided on the online registration form).

## Abstract booklet, programme, papers

All participants will be provided with a programme as well as an abstract booklet at the registration desk. The programme will also be made available online well in advance.

Full manuscripts of presented papers can be submitted for publication in the ESPMH journal "Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy. A European Journal". Participants are invited to read the instructions for authors on the website of the journal and to submit an appropriately prepared article online for review (see: <http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/applied+ethics/journal/11019>).

## Registration fee

A reduced registration fee is applicable for participants who are members of the ESPMH.

**The registration fee for PARTICIPANTS covers:** the welcome reception (Wednesday), two lunches, the refreshments during breaks, the conference dinner (Friday) and an abstract booklet.

### **Paid before 15 May 2025:**

ESPMH member:	€ 450
Non-member:	€ 500

### **Paid after 15 May 2025:**

ESPMH member:	€ 520
Non-member:	€ 570

**The registration fee for ACCOMPANYING PERSONS covers:** the welcome reception (Wednesday) and the conference dinner (Friday).

**Paid before 15 May 2025:** € 100

**Paid after 15 May 2025:** € 120



# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## Getting to Manchester

### By air

By air via Manchester airport.

There are direct connections to the centre of Manchester by tram (every 12 minutes) or by train (approx. every 15 minutes).

It takes about 15 minutes to get to the centre of Manchester by train, and costs 5-6 GBP for a single trip. The tram takes a little longer but costs a little less.

Tickets for either can be purchased from ticket machines on the platforms (which accept debit- and credit-cards, banknotes, and coins).

A taxi from the airport to the centre of Manchester is approximately 30 GBP.

### By train

Manchester is served by two main-line railway stations, Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Victoria. Both are located in the city centre.

As a rule, Piccadilly serves UK destinations south of Manchester, and Victoria serves destinations to the north.

Timetable, ticket prices and booking are available at:

<https://www.thetrainline.com/>

## Public transportation in Manchester

All **buses** in Manchester are part of the Bee Network. Single tickets valid for 1 hour on any bus are GBP 2.00 and a 1-day ticket is GBP 5.00. Tickets can be bought from the driver by card or cash.

**Trams** in Manchester have a separate ticketing system. Tickets are bought from ticket machines on the platforms, and the cost depends on the number of zones needed.

For more information: <https://tfgm.com>

# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## While in Manchester

The centre of Manchester is very compact and easily walkable. It is not particularly known for its architectural beauty since most old buildings were either destroyed during World War II or demolished in the 1950s and 60s. The Town Hall is, however, a fine example of the gothic revival style and the Manchester Central Library an interesting neo-classical rotunda built in the early 1930s. Whitworth Street retains some excellent 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century redbrick architecture.

**Manchester** has a number of museums with free admission. These include the Manchester Museum (history and natural history, just across the road from the conference venue), the Whitworth Art Gallery, the Manchester Art Gallery, the Science and Industry Museum, the People's History Museum, and a little further afield in Salford Quays the Imperial War Museum North (designed by Daniel Libeskind). The deep red sandstone John Rylands Library, located on Deansgate, is well worth a visit. The Manchester Jewish Museum in the old Spanish and Portuguese synagogue is also worth a visit, but charges an admission fee.

There are also a number of possibilities for those interested in football. Manchester is host to the National Football Museum, and stadium tours can be booked at Old Trafford Stadium and at the Etihad Stadium.

Manchester is famous for its many Indian restaurants on the 'Curry Mile' in Rusholme, and for its Chinese restaurants in the city's Chinatown. If you prefer non-Asian food there are plenty of other options in the city centre and in the Northern Quarter across the whole range of price points, although at the moment only one Michelin-starred restaurant.



Manchester has a vibrant LGBTQ+ community, and the 'Gay Village' centred around Canal Street has a large number of bars, clubs and restaurants.

Performing arts venues include the Lowry Centre in nearby Salford, the Royal Exchange theatre and the HOME arts centre in town. The Bridgewater Hall is home to the world-renowned Hallé Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. For more information see:

[www.visitmanchester.com](http://www.visitmanchester.com)

Manchester has been named as one of 25 global destinations to be included in the [Where to Go 2024 list by prestigious US travel publication AFAR](#), has been named in the [New York Times' 52 Places to Go list for 2024](#) and is the only UK city in [National Geographic's influential 'Best of the World' list](#) which annually sets out 25 of the must-see places to visit around the globe.



# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## Currency

The official currency of the UK is the British Pound (GBP).

## Visa

**From April 2025 all visitors to the UK need to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) before they travel.**

This is valid for 2 years and costs GBP 10.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>

## Social programme

(To be confirmed)

## Shopping

In the Manchester city centre, you will find shops that cater to all desires, featuring products from around the world, ranging from exquisite but expensive shops in the Selfridge's department store, to more affordable stores in the Arndale shopping centre.

The Northern Quarter is home to many of Manchester's quirkier independent shops and artists' studios.



# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## Conference venue and accommodation

### Conference venue

The conference will be held in the University Place Building on Oxford Road, in the centre of the Manchester University Campus (number 37 on the interactive campus map)

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/maps/interactive-map/>

### Getting to the venue

The venue is within walking distance of the centre of Manchester (less than 20 minutes). It can also be reached by any bus from Piccadilly Gardens going down Oxford Road.

### Accommodation

Conference participants are responsible for their own accommodation.

### Hotels

There is a large number of hotels in Manchester across the whole range of price points.

If you use a general hotel booking site, you should look for a hotel close to the University's address '**Manchester M13 9PL**'.

The two largest UK budget hotel chains are not listed on all hotel booking sites, but their Manchester hotels can be found at:

#### Premier Inn

<https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/greater-manchester/manchester.html>

#### Travelodge

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/uk/manchester/index.html>

# Bioethics and philosophy of medicine after COVID

13 – 16 August 2025 | Manchester, UK

37<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine & Health Care

## About Manchester and the North-West of England

**Manchester** was settled by the Romans who built a fort on the River Irwell at *Mamucium* in 79 AD. The remnants of the fort are still visible in the Castlefield area of the city, but it was unfortunately bisected and partly destroyed when the world's first passenger railway, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, was built across it in 1830.

Manchester was a small town until the beginning of the industrial revolution, when it began to grow rapidly as a centre for the cotton and mechanical industry. The city played a significant role in the development of the capitalist model of economy, but also in the development of socialist and Marxist thinking. Friedrich Engels lived in Manchester for many years, and the foundations of the gentleman's club he frequented were excavated when the National Graphene Institute building was built at the University.

The Cooperative movement was founded in Rochdale, just north of Manchester, and the first meeting of the Trades Union Congress took place in Manchester.

Manchester lost most of its industry in the 1970s and 1980s and is now very much a post-industrial city.

Many waves of immigration have made the city highly multicultural, and at least 150 different languages are spoken in Manchester.



Manchester is known for its lively music scene, and a couple of not-too-shabby Premier League football teams.

The city of Manchester itself has about 600.000 inhabitants, and the Greater Manchester area around 3 million.

Manchester has a large student population, with the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, and the Royal Northern College of Music all having their campuses on Oxford Road; Salford University is just across the River Irwell.

Manchester is the gateway to the North-West of England, and if you want to extend your stay it is easy to get to interesting cities like Chester, Liverpool, Lancaster or Edinburgh by train, and to the stunning nature in the Peak District and the Lake District.