

# NEWSLETTER

Issue #1, October 31, 2017

## The Research Cluster for Applied Ethics Vytautas Magnus University

The Research Cluster for Applied Ethics (RCAE) is an interdisciplinary group of experienced scholars coming from different disciplines such as philosophy, law, education, social work, and informatics. The members of the cluster share a strong interest in the field of applied ethics and collaborate together in order to conduct research on ethical issues that sit at the intersection of the particular areas of expertise. The RCAE has over 24 inter-/national collaboration partners from a broad range of countries which allows for international collaboration whenever necessary. The research cluster has been promoting research in applied ethics in Lithuania by hosting regular academic events such as international workshops, conferences, and lectures. Our members regularly publish their findings at international leading journals.

### MEMBERS

John-Stewart Gordon  
(Head)

Paulius Astromskis

Vladislav V. Fomin

Edita Gruodyte

J.D. Mininger

Kestutis Mosakas

(Research Assistant)

Jonas Ruskus

Charles Szymanski

Vilma Zydziunaite

Vainius Volungevicius  
(Ph.D.-candidate)

### RECENT HONOURS AND AWARDS

John-Stewart Gordon  
(fellowships):

Visiting professor at the  
universities of Oxford  
(2017), Toronto (2018), and  
Maynooth (2018)

#### **Project: On Moral Expertise**

Prof. Gordon is currently working on a project on moral expertise. He attempts to provide a deep analysis of the notions of moral expertise and moral experts against the background of the contemporary debate by taking into account the contributions of Chinese philosophy and Plato's and Aristotle's views on moral expertise and moral experts. The general idea is to enrich the current debate by going back to Ancient Greek ethics and Chinese philosophy. His research is funded by the Straniak Stiftung.

#### **Project: Responsible Standardization of 'Smart' Infrastructure and Applications**

The primary goal of this project is to lay out the groundwork for 'Responsible Standardization' of smart technologies. The main need for RS comes due to the interoperability requirement for the smart systems, as well as the numerous security and privacy concerns of data and communication that need to be addressed before smart technologies become truly all-embracing. The interdisciplinary endeavour required by the project is expected to bring together researchers, scholars and practitioners from RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation), Standardization Research (SR), Applied Ethics and from the field of 'Smart Systems' (SS). The project will involve a number of international workshops, one of which will be held in Kaunas. The RCAE

members that will work on the project include prof. Fomin, prof. Gordon, and dr. Astromskis.

#### **Project: Study of the Integrity between Future Law, Ethics, and Smart Technologies**

Some of the aims of this project are to determine theoretical provisions and issues related to the transformation of ethics and law in relation to information technologies and robotics and prepare research methodology for the said issue; to substantiate the guidelines for legal regulations of information technologies and robotics that would increase the well-being of society without violating its fundamental values; to prepare the legal and ethical study modules for the improvement of qualification competences of information technologies and robotics. The project is expected to promote international exchange of the scientific ideas, researchers and students by developing a specialized network of students and researchers specializing in the field of ethical and legal research with focus on smart technologies. The main researcher of the project is dr. Astromskis

#### **Special Issue: Ethics of Aging**

The journal *Bioethics*, which is one of the leading journals in the field, is currently preparing a special issue under the guest editorship of prof. Gordon exploring the many issues related to the important topic of aging.

## CFP: The Applied Ethics Award

The RCAE has recently announced a call for papers for the Applied Ethics Award of the RCAE. The three best participants will be able to present their papers at a workshop. The main prize for the winning submission is 400 Euros (sponsored by the RCAE and prof. Gordon). For more details, please find the event poster on our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/researchgroupappliedethics/](https://www.facebook.com/researchgroupappliedethics/)

or at our regular webpage:

[www.applied-ethics.com](http://www.applied-ethics.com)

## Notable Activities: Consulting the Government on Education and Human Rights

Prof. Ruskus, a member of the RCAE, has been involved in consulting the Ministry of Education and Science on inclusive education. He consults the ministry through the National Agency for School Evaluation, as well as at the School Improvement Center. He is also a social consultant of the parliament member Justas Dziugelis on the issues of human rights and a consultant on the rights of the disabled at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

## Philosophy in Lithuania

### The Academy of Philosophy

The Academy of Philosophy is an educational philosophy-oriented institution in Kaunas. Having started off as a syllabus of the philosophy department of VMU, the academy is now an independent institution working towards advancing philosophical research and promoting philo-

sophical discussions. The academy hosts weekly lectures and seminars (in Lithuanian) that explore both classical and contemporary philosophical writings. Most recently, there have been lectures and seminars on the works of authors like M. Heidegger, R. Rorty, H. Putnam, A. Badiou, and W. V. O. Quine. For more information, see their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/filosofijosakademija/>

as well as their main website:

<http://filosofijosakademija.lt/>

## CFP: The Young Scholar Publication Contest

The Lithuanian Fellowship of Philosophy has announced a publication contest for all MA and PhD students that belong to the fellowship (one can find information on how to become a member on their official webpage: <http://filosofai.lt/kaip-tapti-nariu/>). Eligible for the contest are any kind of philosophical articles published in academic journals (either foreign or Lithuanian ones) that were published in 2016. The winning prize is 150 Euros. Please see their website for more information.

## Event(s): World Philosophy Day

This year on the 16th of November World Philosophy Day will be celebrated. In the past, different universities in Lithuania (including VMU's notable "Walk of Philosophers" in 2010) organized events in celebration of the day. While there have been no official announcements regarding the World Philosophy Day from Lithuanian universities so far, make sure to be on the lookout for new information coming out to see if any kind of celebration of the day is going to take place.

## EVENTS

### Talks

John-Stewart Gordon:

On Moral Experts (October 19, 2017, Oxford University)

On Moral Experts (October 25, 2017, University of Leeds)

Paulius Astromskis:

In Critique of RoboLaw: the Model of SmartLaw (Date to be announced, University of Leeds)

## JOIN OUR ACADEMIC EVENTS

Please make sure to follow us on our Facebook page, as well as to check our main website, for our regular events, which include but are not limited to workshops, public lectures, and conferences.

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/researchgroupappliedethics/>

Our main website: <https://www.applied-ethics.com/>