

Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics

Professorship for Medical Ethics

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Head of Division

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Research focus

- Clinical Ethics and Ethics Consultation
- Medicine and Human Rights
- Human Rights in Healthcare
- Global Health Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine

Structure of the Professorship

Professorship: 1

Personnel: 13

- Doctors (of Medicine): 2
- Scientists: 8
(thereof funded externally: 5)
- Graduate students: 20

Special structural features

The autonomous Professorship for Medical Ethics is responsible for management of the Clinical Ethics Committee at UK Erlangen and a Graduate School. The Chair of the History of Medicine and the Professorship for Medical Ethics constitute the Institute for the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics.

Research

The main areas of research are clinical ethics and ethics consultation, medicine and human rights, and global health ethics and philosophy of medicine. The field of clinical ethics deals with foundational ethical questions concerning the adequate care for patients, motivation of the acts of physicians during the daily routine, and conflict situations in hospital and other medical facilities. Central questions are ethical issues at the beginning of life (prenatal diagnosis, pregnancy challenges, neonatology etc.), during a crisis (oncology, genetic advice, psychiatry, transplantation), and at the end of life (advance directives, dementia, terminal care, euthanasia etc.). Some important means of clinical ethics are the analysis of arguments of applied medical ethics and bioethics, advice via ethics committees, and empirical research. The Professorship chairs the Graduate School "Human Rights and Medical Ethics for the Elderly" (Josef and Luise Kraft Foundation), runs the "Forum Medicine and Human Rights" and edits twelve book series.

Clinical Ethics and Ethics Consultation

PI: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, PD Dr. L. Bergemann, Dr. C. Hack, Elisabeth Langmann, M.A.

A main field of expertise of the Professorship for Medical Ethics is research concerning clinical ethics consultation whereby a close cooperation with the Clinical Ethics Committee is given. Theoretical groundwork and documentation of ethics consultation and the evaluation of ethical consultation belong to this field of inquiry. Files of patient's advocates are being dealt with in the project "Clinical Ethics from the Patient's Perspective". Further fields of research, particularly using methods of empirical ethics, are end of life conflicts, e.g. projects on ethical consultation, cultures of dying, and advance directives.

As part of this field of research, an annual "Ethics Day" and an intensive course "Clinical Ethics" (BMBF) were organized, the "Yearbook Ethics in Clinics" and the book series "Clinical Ethics" are being edited.

In context of strategies against the Covid-19-Pandemic the project "Clinical Ethics Consultations in Covid-19. Current and Future Challenges" was funded by the WHO in the year 2020.



Medicine and Human Rights

PI: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, PD Dr. L. Bergemann, Dr. C. Hack, Elisabeth Langmann, M.A.

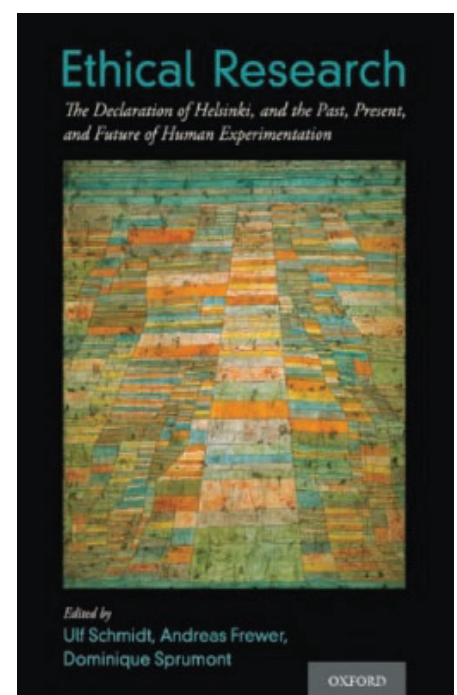
This field of research bears on problems of determining the place of human dignity and human rights in the area of medical and bioethical controversy. The possibilities and limits of a rights-based medical ethics and bioethics are considered from a theoretical perspective and several dimensions of the concepts of human dignity and human rights are studied in this context. In a practical vein, this area of research involves questions of medical investigation and the documentation of human rights violations,

application of the Istanbul Protocol of the United Nations to document torture, but also the participation of physicians in human rights violations. Not least of all, it inquires into the therapy and prevention of human rights violations, such as wartime sexual violence, torture, recruitment of children as soldiers, and female genital mutilation. In connection with this area of research, a public lecture series (in cooperation with "CHREN") is being organized and three academic book series are being edited.

Human Rights in Healthcare

PI: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, PD Dr. L. Bergemann, Dr. C. Herrler, Dipl.-Polit. S. Klotz

The project "Human Rights in Healthcare" focuses on highly relevant issues in the intersection of human rights, medicine, and medical ethics. The project deals with conflicting claims to receive support for personal autonomy in healthcare. The general purpose is to better understand the implicit criteria which guide decisions taken in clinical practice and to develop normative criteria based on human rights and medical ethics. Practical examples are studied intensively with issues of dialysis, transplantation, new conflicts arising from international patient mobility, health literacy education, contributions to health empowerment of vulnerable groups and end-of-life-questions. Beyond raising public awareness on complicated and important issues, the aspiration is to provide practical orientation based on ethical principles, internationally binding human rights' norms, and professional experience in the field. The field develops an intensive cooperation between researchers from different disciplines, including medicine, human rights, ethics, law, philosophy, social sciences, political science, and literature studies.



Global Health Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine

PI: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, M.A., PD Dr. R. Erices, Dr. C. Herrler, PD Dr. A. Reis, M.Sc. This field deals with questions concerning the notion "disease" and human aging, moral evaluations of various aspects of human enhancement, preimplantation diagnosis, and deep brain stimulation. In this context, two academic book series are being edited.



Teaching

The Professorship for Medical Ethics contributes with obligatory and facultative subjects to the education of the students. Special units are offered within the Graduate School "Human Rights and Medical Ethics for the Elderly" and the interdisciplinary seminars "Q2" and "Q13". The seminars on "Ethical Communicative Competencies" – with role plays for students and simulated patients, some inter-professional – deserve to be mentioned particularly. This broad offer on the complex ethical questions with the modules "Breaking Bad News", "Talking about Death and Dying", "Intercultural Communication", "Acting at borders – Coping with Dementia" and "Communicative Competencies for Errors in Medicine" is unique at medical faculties in Germany.

Bachelor's and Master's theses and medical or philosophical dissertations as well as "Habilitationen"/PhD studies are supervised.

Prof. Dr. A. Frewer is Senior Advisory Consultant of the World Health Organization (WHO) and gives international lectures as well as courses.

Selected publications

Frewer A. Conflicts of Interest? The World Medical Association, Research Ethics, and Industry in the 1950s and 60s. In: Schmidt et al. (2020). Oxford/New York, pp. 131-166

Frewer A. Ältere Menschen in der Sprache der Medizin. Ethische Fragen von Ausgrenzung und Ageism. In: Gute Behandlung im Alter? (2020), pp. 67-94

Frewer, A. (Hrsg.) Psychiatrie und „Euthanasie“ in der HuPfla. Debatten zu Werner Leibbrands Buch „Um die Menschenrechte der Geisteskranken“. Nürnberg, 2020

Frewer A, Bergemann L, Langmann E (Hrsg.) Unsicherheit in der Medizin. Zum Umgang mit Ungewissheit im Gesundheitswesen. Jahrbuch Ethik in der Klinik, Band 13. Würzburg, 2020

Frewer A, Klotz S, Herrler C, Bielefeldt H (Hrsg.) Gute Behandlung im Alter? Menschenrechte und Ethik zwischen Ideal und Realität. Human Rights in Healthcare 8. Bielefeld, 2020

Jungert M, Frewer A, Mayr E (Hrsg.) Wissenschaftsreflexion. Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven zwischen Philosophie und Praxis. Paderborn

Schmidt U, Frewer A, Sprumont D (Eds.) Ethical Research. The Declaration of Helsinki, and the Past, Present and Future of Human Experimentation. Oxford University Press, Oxford/New York, 2020

Wittwer H, Schäfer D, Frewer A (Hrsg.) Handbuch Sterben und Tod. Geschichte – Theorie – Ethik. 2. Auflage/Second Edition. Stuttgart/Heidelberg, 2020

International cooperations

PD Dr. A. Reis, M.Sc. Health Ethics & Governance Unit, Research for Health Department, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva: Switzerland

Prof. U. Schmidt, PhD., Centre for the History of Medicine, Ethics and Medical Humanities, University of Kent, Canterbury: UK

