INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Enhancement: Cognitive, Moral and Mood

14 - 16 MAY 2013 • BELGRADE
The Center for the Study of Bioethics (Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade) and the Oxford Centre for Neuroethics (University of Oxford) are jointly organizing an international conference “Enhancement: Cognitive, Moral and Mood”. Co-organizers are the Center for the Promotion of Science and the Center for the Development of Liberalism, with the support of the Center for Ethics, Law and Applied Philosophy. The conference will be aimed at exploring a variety of topics in the enhancement debate, with an added emphasis on moral enhancement. The event will take place in Hotel Park, Belgrade, on 14-16 May 2013.

Conference Theme and Purpose

One of the most prominent themes in bioethics is human enhancement. Enhancement is uncontroversial in principle. There is nothing contentious in the aspiration to enhance someone’s cognitive abilities. The thesis about cognitive enhancement becomes controversial when it is assumed that means leading to it may be biomedical and that it is morally justified to use them for non-medical purposes, i.e. with the aim to enhance normal functioning. Proponents of bio-medical enhancement, however, have also developed differing positions among themselves.

One of them deals with the issue of the relationship between cognitive and moral enhancement by bio-medical means. In recent years, this latter type of enhancement has assumed center-stage in the enhancement debate. Ingmar Persson and Julian Savulescu have argued that humanity is in need of an enhancement of its moral character by bio-medical means in order to lower the probability of self-annihilation or a milder form of what they call “ultimate harm”. They claim that cognitive enhancement has increased the probability of causing significant harm through the creation of ever more powerful technology. One of those who have disputed their position is John Harris, who believes that cognitive enhancement is largely sufficient for enhancing the morality of humans, while moral bio-enhancement might compromise their freedom.

It is primarily these issues that will be debated during the first day of the conference. The audience will have the opportunity to hear an elaboration of the first position by Julian Savulescu. John Harris will make the case for the second perspective. The debate will be joined by Peter Singer, Ingmar Persson, Nicholas Agar, Tom Douglas and others who have defended specific positions in the discussion on moral enhancement. The second day of the conference will be opened by a speech of Peter Singer, who will address the issue of the enhancement of human happiness. The panels during the second and third day will largely focus on various forms of enhancement and discuss their usefulness and moral justification.
Envisioned Conference Results

One envisioned result of the conference dialogue is a further development and clarification of various perspectives on enhancement, primarily on moral enhancement. It remains to be seen to what extent this result will imply the discovery of new common ground among the proponents of various positions or develop their debate in the direction of a multiplication and deepening of existing differences. But no matter whether some of the differences among the positions will be relaxed or deepened, the enhancement debate itself will acquire additional content. In that sense, this debate will be enhanced itself. Furthermore, by exploring the idea of moral enhancement as a possible companion to other forms of enhancement, the conference will contribute to the search for a moral justification of human enhancement.

Another envisioned result of the conference will be the publication of the edited volume “Enhancing Enhancement”. In this volume the conference participants will have the opportunity to publish the papers they presented at the conference or other texts that foster the enhancement debate.

Conference Participants

The organizers:

Vojin Rakić
(Center for the Study of Bioethics, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade)

Julian Savulescu
(Centre for Neutoethics, Oxford University)

Other participants will include prestigious scholars like:

Peter Singer (Princeton University),
John Harris (University of Manchester),
Ingmar Persson (Goteborg University, Oxford University),
Nicholas Agar (Victoria University of Wellington),
Tom Douglas (Oxford University),
Stefan Sorgner (University of Erfurt),
Rob Sparrow (Monash University),
James Hughes (Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut),
Katrien Devolder (Ghent University, Oxford University),
Jovan Babić (University of Belgrade),
Veselin Mitrović (University of Belgrade),
Aleksandar Fatić (University of Belgrade),
Aleksandar Damjanović (University of Belgrade),
Maartje Schermer (Erasmus University),
Farah Foquart (Ghent University),
Sarah Chan (University of Manchester),
Ayesha Ahmad (University College of London),
Bennett Foddy (Oxford University),
Tomislav Bracanović (University of Zagreb),
Nebojša Lalić (University of Belgrade),
Tomislav Janović (University of Zagreb),
Michael Barilan (Tel Aviv University),
Jonathan Pugh (Oxford University),
Owen Schaefer (Oxford University),
Hannah Maslen (Oxford University),
Chris Gyngell (Australian National University),
Dušanka Krajnović (University of Belgrade),
Zoran Todorović (University of Belgrade).
TUESDAY, 14 MAY

08.30 – 9.00 / Opening addresses

09.00 – 12.00 / Panel I
Discussion of the thesis “Moral Enhancement should not be pursued because it is a threat to Freedom”
• Chair: Vojin Rakić, University of Belgrade
• Papers:
  Julian Savulescu, Oxford University, *Negative*
  John Harris, University of Manchester, *Affirmative*
• Discussant: Peter Singer, Princeton University

12.00 – 14.00 / Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 / Panel II
Moral Bioenhancement: Can it Offer Anything Valuable in the Future?
• Chair: Julian Savulescu, Oxford University
• Papers:
  Ingmar Persson, Goteborg University and Oxford University
  *Autarchy and enhancement*
  Nicholas Agar, University of Wellington
  *Against moral bioenhancement*
  Vojin Rakić, University of Belgrade
  *Voluntary moral bioenhancement and the creation of post-persons*

16.00 – 16.30 / Coffee Break

16.30 – 17.45 / Panel III
Moral Enhancement and Virtues
• Chair: Ingmar Persson, Goteborg University and Oxford University
• Papers:
  Stefan Sorgner, University of Erfurt
  *Moral enhancement as obstacle to the good life: Only prisoners and “saints” might love it*
  James Hughes, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut
  *Enhanced moral character requires multiple virtues*

20.00 / Dinner
PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY

09.00 – 10.00
Keynote speech / Peter Singer, Princeton University
What are acceptable ways of making people better and happier?

10.00 – 10.20
Discussion keynote speech/ Nicholas Agar, University of Wellington

10.20 – 11.00
General discussion / moderated by Jovan Babić, University of Belgrade

11.00 – 11:30 / Coffee Break

11.30 – 14.00 / Panel IV
Towards a New Culture of Enhancing Humans and Human Reproduction
• Chair: John Harris, University of Manchester
• Papers:

  Tom Douglas, Oxford University
  *Neuroenhancements in Crime Prevention*

  Katrien Devolder, Ghent University
  *Procreative altruism: Beyond individualism in reproductive selection*

  Rob Sparrow, Monash University
  *Egalitarianism and Moral Enhancement*

  Mima Fazlagić, Cryo Save Belgrade
  *Stem cells and regenerative medicine in the service of enhancement of the quality of life and health*

  Bennett Foddy, Oxford University
  *The right and wrong of growing old*

14.00 – 15.30 /Lunch

15.30 – 18.00 / Panel V
Enhancement: General Concepts
• Chair: Tom Douglas, Oxford University
• Papers:

Jovan Babić, University of Belgrade  
_Enhancement and Freedom_

Ayesha Ahmad, University College of London  
_Distinctions of “artificialness” in moral enhancement and their impact for the future of human culture/s_

Sarah Chan, University of Manchester  
_Cognitive enhancement, creative beneficence and the cross-species problem_

Michael Barilan, Tel Aviv University  
_Why it is impossible to enhance human beings and how is this impossibility relevant to the “enhancement” debate?_

Jonathan Pugh, Oxford University  
_Enhancing autonomy through the use of cognitive enhancements_

20.00 /Dinner
THURSDAY, 16 MAY

8.30 – 10.00 / Panel VII
Regional Bioethics 1: “Integrative Bioethics”
• Co-chairs: Aleksandar Damjanović and Zoran Todorović, University of Belgrade
• Papers:
  Nebojša Lalić, University of Belgrade
  Tomislav Bracanović, University of Zagreb
  Tomislav Janović, University of Zagreb
  Aleksandar Dobrijević, University of Belgrade

10.00-10.15 / Coffee break

10.15 – 11.45 / Panel VII
Regional Bioethics 1: “Integrative Bioethics” (continuation)
• Co-chairs: Aleksandar Damjanović and Zoran Todorović, University of Belgrade
• Papers:
  Tomislav Janović, University of Zagreb
  Nenad Cekić, University of Belgrade
  Sandra Radenović, University of Belgrade

11.45 – 13.15 / Lunch

13.15 – 14.45 / Panel VIII
(New) Perspectives on Moral Enhancement
• Co-chairs: Aleksandar Fatić and Aleksandra Damjanović, University of Belgrade
• Papers:
  Maartje Schermer, Erasmus University, and Farah Foqueart, Ghent University
  Veselin Mitrović, University of Belgrade
  Hannah Maslen, Oxford University

14.45 -15.00 / Coffee Break
15.00 – 16.30 / Panel VIII
(New) Perspectives on Moral Enhancement (continuation)
• Co-chairs: Aleksandar Fatić and Aleksandra Damjanović, University of Belgrade
• Papers:
  Owen Schaefer, Oxford University  
  *Indirect Moral Enhancement*
  Chris Gyngell, Australian National University  
  *Cognitive Diversity and Moral Enhancement*
  Ivan Mladenović, University of Belgrade  
  *The Enhancement Debate and Deliberative Democracy*

16.30 – 17.30 / Panel IX
Cognition, Morality and Mood in Psychiatry
• Co-chairs: Ayesha Ahmad, University College of London
• Papers:
  Aleksandar Damjanović, University of Belgrade  
  *Ethical challenges of modern psycho-pharmacotherapy*
  Aleksandar Fatić, University of Belgrade  
  *The intentionality of madness: checking the cognitive issues in DSM-based diagnosis*

17.30 – 18.00 / Coffee Break

18.00 – 19.00 / Panel X
Regional Bioethics 2: Variae
• Co-chairs: Dragoslav Marinković, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts
• Papers:
  Zoran Todorović, University of Belgrade  
  *Cognitive enhancement: "of mice and men"*
  Dušanka Krajinović, Andrijana Milošević, University of Belgrade  
  *Do ethics committees contribute to a morally enhanced health care system in Serbia?*
  Milijana Djerić, University of Belgrade  
  *Euthanasia in Serbia: in need of enhanced debate and regulation*

*Alternative option for those who are interested in sightseeing
16.30–19.30
Short guided sightseeing of Belgrade for international participants of the conference*

20.00
*Farewell banquet for participants of the conference*
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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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