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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: The Ethicist and the Art of Discourse Ethics and Casuistry

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

1) The role of an ethicist in an institutional review board (IRB) is to protect the subjects, by identifying ethical issues raised by research projects. He must make sure that all laws and ethical standards governing research are applied. He must also create ethical research guidelines, whose synthesis will enhance consistency of decisions, facilitate research management, and promote justice among researchers. This approach comes from the Jonson's and Toulmin's casuistry.

2) The ethicist, however, doesn't hold a monopoly on ethics: we don't need philosophy to know that we can be honest, good, even wise and virtuous (Kant, Grounding of the Metaphysics of Morals). Habermas' discourse ethics suggest the ethicist compares his views with other members of the IRB, each able to freely express views in order to reach a rational consensus.

3) Ethicist's work is not limited to discussions at IRB meetings. He also plays an active role upstream and downstream research. Upstream, while meeting with the investigators before the submission of their project to an IRB to identify ethical issues and find solutions (e.g. discussion about justice or about communicating the eventual research results to the subjects). Downstream, while working with a contract specialist in regards to a drug not yet commercially available at the end of the study.

In short, the ethicist must obtain a consensual decision (identifying ethical issues, creating norms, using the art of discourse ethics and casuistry). His work is similar to Plato's weaver in Stateman: a person who groups various patterns to form a finished artwork.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

L'éthique de la discussion théorie et pratique au sein d'un CÉR (Discourse Ethics in an IRB).
<http://ethique/msss.gouv.qc.ca> (publication et ressources-centre documentaire-journées d'études-
MSSS-JOURNEESACTES 2006, P.143-156.)

La règle juridique et le souci éthique, (The Rule of Law and Ethical Concerns) Des cas qui sont posés au
CÉR du CHU Sainte –Justine, centre hospitalier universitaire mère-enfant).
<http://ethique/msss.gouv.qc.ca> (publication et ressources-centre documentaire-journées d'études-
MSSS-JOURNEESACTES 2004, p.95-98.)

L'harmonisation du droit et de l'éthique en recherche pédiatrique : la «jurisprudence» du comité
d'éthique de la recherche du CHU Saint-Justine.

(The Harmonization of Law and Ethics in Pediatric Research: "jurisprudence" of the CHU Sainte-Justine
Ethics Committee with Geneviève Cardinal) in Recherche clinique avec les enfants : à la croisée de
l'éthique et du droit Belgique, France, Québec, Les presses de l'Université Laval, Anthémis, Québec et
Louvain-la-Neuve 2009, p. 443-453.

Others Publications

« Les juristes et l'émergence des normes en bioéthique », *Philosopher*, N° 22, 1998, p. 105-119.

« La notion de "conflit moral" selon Bernard Williams », *Philosopher*, N° 21, 1998, p. 45-78.

« Les métaphores de la maladie », *Philosopher*, N° 20, 1997, p. 41-73.

« La notion de "personne" selon Lucien Sève », *Philosopher*, N° 17, 1995, p. 263-280.

«Cancer, vérité et adolescence» (en collaboration), *Archive de l'éthique*

clinique, I, 1994, Centre de bioéthique, Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal, p. 155-162.

« Les séquences d'ADN peuvent-elles être brevetées », *Philosopher*, N° 14, 1993, p.51-63.

« Le fascisme et le nazisme », in *Idéologie et régimes politiques*, Ottawa, MGL, 1992, p. 551-616.

« Philosophie et bioéthique : le statut de l'embryon et les seuils », *Philosopher*, N° 11, 1991, p. 173-184.

« Bioéthique, droit et philosophie », entretien avec Jean-Louis Baudoin», *Philosopher*, N° 8, 1991 p. 13-
23.

1989

Éthique et politique, *Liberté et pouvoir* (en collaboration avec P-A. Pruvost), Gaétan Morin, 1989, 312
p. (responsable de la mise en œuvre du volume)

Parole et pouvoir, *Figure du chef amérindien en Nouvelle-France*, L'Hexagone,, 1986, p. 320 p. (nouvelle
édition 2007)

Mr. Jean-Marie Therrien obtained his Ph.D in Philosophy and a Graduate Diploma specialized in
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Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes No