Sem 2 PHIL3051

Contemporary Topics in Applied Ethics will be broken into 3 sections - Animal Ethics with Jane Johnson, Artificial Intelligence with Paul Formosa and Uterus Transplantation with Mianna Lotz.

In the section on animal ethics we will focus on relational approaches to nonhuman animals, examining the distinctive features and advantages of a relational approach, in addition to the particular challenges it presents. Our inquiries will be guided by readings from key texts by feminists like Cora Diamond and Lori Gruen, as well as thinkers within the political turn such as Sue Donaldson and Will Kymlicka.

In the module on Artificial Intelligence (AI), we will consider some of the important ethical issues raised by the increasing use of AI in society. Issues we may cover include: different ethical principles and frameworks for thinking about AI; algorithmic bias and fairness; explainability of and responsibility for decisions made by AI; and the moral status of advanced AI-powered technologies, such as social robots.

Uterus transplantation is the newest emerging mode of assisted reproduction, and it raises many complicated and interesting ethical questions about parenthood, rights, gender norms, and procreation. We start by considering broader arguments and issues in reproductive and procreative ethics, then examine uterus transplantation itself. In doing so we evaluate the main alternatives to uterus transplantation, as well as questions of justice around who – if anyone – should have access to this high-cost high-risk reproductive modality.