

LUNCH SERIES

ETHICS | AI | HEALTH



Giulia Cavaliere

King's College London

**"This is not an abortion".
How To (And Not To)
Theorise on Abortion in Light
of Technological Developments**

4 May 2023

Thursday
12.30 - 1.30 pm
via Zoom

Register here:



<https://eveeno.com/277764801>



Sandra Wachter

University of Oxford

**The Theory of
Artificial Immutability:
Protecting Algorithmic Groups
under Anti-Discrimination Law**

29 June 2023

12.00-1.00 pm



V.i.S.d.P. Eva Maria Hille,
Am Hofgarten 8, 53113 Bonn

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This new lunch series is organized by the team of the Chair of Social Ethics, University Bonn in collaboration with the Transdisciplinary Research Area "Life & Health" (TRA 3), University of Bonn and the Collaborative Research Centre EmpkinS.

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About Giulia Cavaliere

Dr Giulia Cavaliere is a Lecturer in Medical Law & Ethics at the Centre of Medical Law & Ethics at King's College London, which she joined in September 2021.

Prior to this, Giuli spent two years at Lancaster University Medical School, where she worked as a Lecturer in Professional Practice, Values and Ethics. Giuli holds a BA and MA in Philosophy from the University of Bologna and the University of Trento in Italy, and a joint degree in Bioethics from KU Leuven (Belgium), Radboud University (The Netherlands) and the University of Padova (Italy). In 2015, Giuli moved to London to undertake a PhD in Bioethics at the Department of Global Health & Social Medicine at King's College London. Her doctoral research was supported by a Wellcome Trust PhD Studentship. Giuli received her PhD in 2019.

Giuli's background in philosophy and medical ethics shapes her research on ethical and political questions concerning procreative decisions, parental preferences, infertility and reproductive technologies. She adopts a broadly egalitarian perspective, and her work is informed by feminist theory.

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Giulia Cavaliere

King's College London

"This is not an abortion".

How To (And Not To) Theorise on Abortion in Light of Technological Developments

In the past few years, there has been renewed philosophical interest concerning the permissibility of abortion. Certain philosophers have argued that the possibility of ectogestation, i.e., artificial apparatuses that could sustain foetuses outside the maternal environment, calls into question the permissibility of abortion, for the termination of an unwanted pregnancy need not result in the death of the foetus.

In this talk, I respond to two sets of claims that have been advanced concerning the relationship between abortion and ectogestation: that ectogestation represents a “solution” or an “end” to the “problem” of abortion, and that the development of safe and effective ectogestation calls into question the legal and moral permissibility of abortion as we know it. In response to these claims, I defend the view that abortion-cum-ectogestation i.e., the termination of a pregnancy by extraction of the foetus from the pregnant person and its transfer into an artificial womb, is not an abortion at all, and that discussions on the permissibility of this novel possibility ought to be kept distinct from discussions on the permissibility of abortion.

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About Sandra Wachter

Professor Sandra Wachter is Professor of Technology and Regulation at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford where she researches the legal and ethical implications of AI, Big Data, and robotics as well as Internet and platform regulation. Her current research focuses on profiling, inferential analytics, explainable AI, algorithmic bias, diversity, and fairness, as well as governmental surveillance, predictive policing, human rights online, and health tech and medical law.

At the OII, Professor Sandra Wachter leads and coordinates the Governance of Emerging Technologies (GET) Research Programme that investigates legal, ethical, and technical aspects of AI, machine learning, and other emerging technologies.

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Sandra Wachter

University of Oxford

The Theory of Artificial Immutability: Protecting Algorithmic Groups under Anti-Discrimination Law

Artificial intelligence is increasingly used to make life-changing decisions, including about who is successful with their job application and who gets into university. To do this, AI often creates groups that haven't previously been used by humans. Many of these groups are not covered by non-discrimination law (e.g., 'dog owners' or 'sad teens'), and some of them are even incomprehensible to humans (e.g., people classified by how fast they scroll through a page or by which browser they use).

This is important because decisions based on algorithmic groups can be harmful. If a loan applicant scrolls through the page quickly or uses only lower caps when filling out the form, their application is more likely to be rejected. If a job applicant uses browsers such as Microsoft Explorer or Safari instead of Chrome or Firefox, they are less likely to be successful. Non-discrimination law aims to protect against similar types of harms, such as equal access to employment, goods, and services, but has never protected "fast scrollers" or "Safari users". Granting these algorithmic groups protection will be challenging because historically the European Court of Justice has remained reluctant to extend the law to cover new groups.

This paper argues that algorithmic groups should be protected by non-discrimination law and shows how this could be achieved.