

Ethics in science: Code of Conduct or Source of Dispute?

A topical discussion on research, rules and philosophy
21st November 2017 – 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the German Embassy Prague

Short summaries of the three planned keynotes, which will be followed by an open debate:

Prof. Dr. Dieter Sturma (University of Bonn / Research Centre Juelich):

Ethical Challenges of the Life Sciences

The life sciences operate at the cutting edge of modern scientific and technological developments. The rapid growth of knowledge attracts vast public attention and is subject of sometimes heated normative debates (e. g. stem cell research, pre-implantation diagnostics, genetic modifications or neurotechnologies).

It is undeniable that the use of methods and technologies in the field of the life sciences often leads to mortal questions which affect our self-understanding as well as the relation between science and human rights.

The keynote will give an overview of the ethical challenges of life sciences and an outline of normative ways to meet these challenges.

doc. PhDr. Irena Parry Martínková, Ph.D. (Charles University Prague):

Fair Play in Sport Education

One area of education that highlights an ethical approach to human development is sport. The keynote introduces the complexity of fair play in sport, describing it with the help of various entertaining examples from contemporary sport. It focusses on three main aspects:

Firstly, it is important to emphasize that the structure of sport enables fair play – sport could not exist without the fairness of the initial conditions specified by the constitutive rules of sport, which provide the structure of sport and competitions.

Secondly, the fairness structure of sport gives rise to the expectation of fair behaviour of the acting athletes and other agents in the context of sport. Without the fairness structure of sport, the fair play of athletes may be compromised.

Thirdly, fairness is discussed with respect to the refereeing of sport competitions.

Mgr. et Mgr. Marek Vácha, Ph.D. (Charles University Prague):

Introduction to Research Ethics

Intelligence and wisdom - from a philosophical perspective those two are rather different properties of a human character.

Unfortunately, scientific misconduct, deliberate data fabrication etc. occur quite frequently in contemporary research in biomedicine.

Surprisingly, they are often made by hard-working, intelligent and ambitious researchers.

Throughout the keynote, some of the most well-known examples of scientific misconduct are presented, attempting to find a solution to this problem. The examples are followed by a more philosophical problem called „bona fide fabrication of data“.