

**33rd EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
ON PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE
PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS AT THE EDGE
OF MEDICINE**

**7 – 10 August 2019
Oslo, Norway**

This conference will be organised by the [European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare](#) and the [Centre for Medical Ethics, the Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo](#). We may think we know what the terms ‘medicine’ and ‘health care’ denote and what activities should be classed as falling under each of them. Yet both medicine and health care have fuzzy borders in themselves and also overlap with other areas of human activity, e.g. in relation to the legal system or the cosmetic industry. This raises philosophical questions about how we should understand activities that are ‘at the edge of medicine’ and ethical questions about how we should evaluate such activities. Should the ethics of medicine supply the guiding principles or should activities at the edge be governed by other considerations. It is questions like these that we would like to explore in the conference. Abstracts addressing any of the issues mentioned in the headings below from a philosophical and/or ethical perspective will be favoured, although work on other topics can also be submitted.

Borderline conditions

- New concepts of disease, illness, or sickness
- The co-production of concepts of human malady
- Between esthetics and ethics
- Identity-related conditions
- Diagnostic creep, overdiagnosis
- Medicalization

Clinical Ethics

- Non-hospital/health care settings
- Involvement of patients, relatives, and other parties
- Relation between professionalism and ethics
- Handling suffering without knowledge (of etiology or effective treatment)

Health systems

- Resource allocation and ‘non-medical’ conditions
- Resource allocation and non-medical services (e.g. dentistry etc.)
- Professional dominance vs other stakeholder dominance
- AI for diagnosis and treatment decisions

Moral residue

- Moral dilemmas
- Moral failure
- Moral disagreement
- The problem of resolution in moral discourse
- Tragic choices

Non-medical interventions

- Cosmetic surgery
- Female genital mutilation
- Male circumcision
- Sports medicine
- Medical enhancement

Refugees and asylum seekers

- DNA-testing, ethics and migration
- Age determination in refugee children
- Refugees’ access to health care
- Domestic violence among asylum seekers

Expanding sciences and disruptive technologies

- Robotics, machine learning, and intelligent systems
- Sensor and monitoring technology
- Gene editing, gene drives
- DTC genetic testing
- Genetics testing and indigenous populations
- Citizen science

Important Dates

1 March 2019:	Deadline for submission of abstracts
1st half of March 2019:	Selection of abstracts
2nd half of March 2019:	Draft programme
15 April 2019:	First deadline for registration and payment

Language

The language for the conference will be English.

Organization

The registration process, call for abstracts, development of the programme, publication of programme announcements and mailings to participants will be taken care of by the ESPMH Secretariat in Dublin, Ireland.

ESPMH Secretary:

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Local Conference Coordinator:

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University of Oslo

The University of Oslo (UiO) is Norway's oldest institution for research and higher education, with 28,000 students and 6,000 employees. UiO celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2011, and today has 8 faculties, 2 museums and several centers. As a classical university with a broad range of academic disciplines, UiO has top research communities in most areas. UiO focuses on research-based education and attracts highly qualified students from all over the country. UiO is the highest ranked institution of education and research in Norway - and one of the World's Top 100 universities, according to the Shanghai World Ranking. Four scientists affiliated with the University of Oslo have been awarded Nobel Prizes for their research, and one for his efforts to promote peace.

More information: <https://www.uio.no/english/>

Centre for Medical Ethics

The Centre for Medical Ethics (CME) is a part of the Institute of Health and Society at the Faculty of Medicine. CME works with research, teaching and dissemination within the field of medical ethics. This entails everything from concrete ethical dilemmas regarding individual patients, to research ethics and theoretical ethics and philosophy of medicine and healthcare. CME has about 25 employees, including professors, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, PhD-students, emeriti and administrative staff. CME was founded in 1989 and celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

There are three prioritized areas of research: 1) philosophy and ethics of medicine and the health care sciences and services, 2) science ethics and medical and health research ethics, and 3) ethics in health care: clinical ethics and health care priority setting. Research topics under priority area 1 include empathy and moral sensitivity; moral residue, moral distress and fallibility; collective evil and ethical subjectivism; the concepts of health and disease; philosophy of health sciences and technology; futile treatment; over diagnostics; the didactics of bioethics; epistemic and ethical aspects of knowledge production, diagnosis systems, and biotechnology. Research topics under priority area 2 include scientific misconduct; research integrity; health technology assessment; international research ethics; the ethics of post-trial access. Research topics under priority area 3 include clinical ethics support, end of life care ethics, advance care planning, informed consent, coercion, involvement of relatives and priority settings.

CME has the responsibility for national coordination and professional development of clinical ethics committees and other forms of clinical ethics support related to patient care in Norwegian health trusts/hospitals and in primary health care services. CME's work includes responsibility to supervise, evaluate, and do research related to clinical ethics support.

Registration

A registration form can be downloaded from the ESPMH website (www.espmh.org). This should be completed and returned, and the registration fee should be paid, no later than **15 April 2019** in order to qualify for the early bird registration fee (see below). Fees are higher after that date. The fee should be paid to the ESPMH Treasurer (details provided on the registration form).

Registration Fee

The registration fee for participants covers: the welcome reception (Wednesday), two lunches, the refreshments during breaks, the conference dinner (Friday) and an abstract booklet.

The registration fee for accompanying persons covers: the welcome reception (Wednesday) and the conference dinner (Friday).

A reduced registration fee is applicable for participants who are members of the ESPMH.

Participants:

Paid before 15 April 2019:

ESPMH member: € 440

Non member: € 490

Paid after 15 April 2019:

ESPMH member: € 500

Non member: € 550

Accompanying person:

Paid before	15 April 2019:	€ 100
Paid after	15 April 2019:	€ 120

Getting to Oslo

By air

Oslo Airport, Gardermoen (Norwegian: *Oslo Lufthavn, Gardermoen*; OSL) is the main international airport serving Oslo. The airport is located 19 nautical miles (35 km; 22 mi) northeast of Oslo. The airport is connected to the city center by the high-speed railway Gardermoen Line served by mainline trains (<https://www.nsb.no/en/frontpage>) and airport express train *Flytoget* (<https://flytoget.no/en/>). Normal service frequency is once every ten minutes.

By train and bus

To and from Oslo:

Oslo Central Station (Norwegian: *Oslo sentralstasjon*, abbreviated Oslo S) is the main railway station in Oslo. Here there are connections to the entire rail network in Norway, as well as Sweden and Denmark and further south in Europe. The Swedish train operator SJ provides trains from Stockholm (Sweden) to Oslo: www.sj.se. Passengers from Copenhagen (Denmark) need to change train in Gothenburg (Sweden). The train from Gothenburg is provided by Norwegian State Railways, see www.nsb.no/en/

Oslo Bus Terminal (Norwegian: *Oslo bussterminal*) is the main bus station serving for long-distance buses. It is located beside Oslo Central Station and offers daily departures to Copenhagen and Stockholm.

While in Oslo:

The square in front of the Oslo S is called Jernbanetorget. Oslo S plus Jernbanetorget is Norway's largest transport hub, served by buses, trams and subway. Connection to all six subway lines can be done through Jernbanetorget subway station. Trams and some city buses stop outside the station at Jernbanetorget. Subway (Norwegian: *T-bane*) buses and trams in Oslo are served by the company Ruter. It is considerably more expensive to buy tickets on board than beforehand. For information about tickets and prices, see <https://ruter.no/en/buying-tickets/tickets-and-fares/>

By ferry

Arriving in Oslo by ferry is also an option. There are daily routes from Copenhagen, Denmark (<https://www.dfsseaways.com/>) and from Kiel, Germany. (<https://www.colorline.com/kiel-oslo/ferry-germany-norway>).

Currency

Norske kroner (Norwegian Crown). The value of the Norwegian Crown compared to other currencies varies considerably from one year to another. In November 2018 the exchange rates were:

1\$ = 8.44 NOK 1€ = 9.55 NOK 1£ = 10.74 NOK

Visa

Please contact your local consulate for details.

Social Programme

The welcome reception on Wednesday 7th of August will take place in the conference venue. The Conference dinner on Friday August 9th will be at 'Eckbo selskapslokaler': <http://www.eckbo.no/>. Eckbo is located in the street 'Jegerveien', just a five minutes' walk from Ris metro station (T-bane), see map below. As soon as you disembark Ris station, just follow the main street further up for about 100 meters, and then take to the right when you come to Jegerveien. Eckbo is then on your left-hand side.



Conference venue and accommodation

The 33rd European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care will be held at The University Library in Georg Sverdrup's building. The library is located on the Blindern Campus, close to the main square, Frederikkeplassen, see map below or link.



<https://www.uio.no/english/about/getting-around/areas/blindern/b127/>

You can get to the conference venue by metro (in Norwegian: *T-bane*). Take line 4 or 5 to Blindern Station, which is about ten minutes from the city center. When you disembark at Blindern Station, just follow the street Blindernveien for about 100 meters. Then you cross the park for another 100 meters. Georg Sverdrup's building is the new, modern building you will see in front of you.

Abstract booklet, programme & papers

All participants will be provided with a programme as well as an abstract booklet at the registration desk. The programme will also be made available online well in advance.

Full manuscripts of presented papers can be submitted for publication in the ESPMH journal "Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy. A European Journal". Participants are invited to read the instructions for authors on the website of the journal and to submit an appropriately prepared article online for review (see: <http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/applied+ethics/journal/11019>).

About Norway

Capitol: Oslo, Geographical size: 385,203 km², Population: 5,302,778,

Official language: Norwegian, Political system: Monarchy, Parliamentary system

Monarchy: King Harald V, Prime minister: Erna Solberg

Norway is a Nordic country in the Northwestern part of Europe, and is bordered by Sweden, Finland, Russia and by the Barents Sea, the Norwegian Sea, the North Sea, and Skagerrak. Norway has a huge coastline, including fjords, and is one of Europe's most mountainous countries

Norway has a very high standard of living, and a strongly integrated welfare system. Today, Norway ranks as the second-wealthiest country in the world in monetary value, with the largest capital reserve per capita of any nation. It is the fifth-largest oil exporter and third-largest gas exporter in the world. It is also the world's second-largest exporter of fish. Norway is among the most expensive countries in the world.

The culture of Norway is closely linked to the country's history and geography. Norwegians celebrate their National Day on May 17 (dedicated to the Constitution of Norway from 1814), by participation in or watching the Norwegian Constitution Day parade, consisting mostly of children. Norway has a rich culture and is internationally recognised for its writers, art and music. Norway leads the overall medal tables at the Winter Olympic Games with considerable margin.

Further information:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norway> , <https://www.visitnorway.com/>

About Oslo

Oslo is the capital and most populous city, county and municipality of Norway, with a population of 670 000 (988 000 including the urban area (in 2017)). The city is placed at the northernmost end of the Oslofjord and is surrounded by green hills and forests. Any point within the city is relatively close to the forest (Norwegian: *Marka*). Sognsvann is a lake in *marka* and a popular hiking area. It is located just 45 minutes' walk from the conference venue. Oslo also has a large number of parks and green areas within the city core. The city celebrated its one thousand-year's jubilee in 2000.

Due to the city's northern latitude, there are more than 18 sunshine hours in midsummer. The average temperature in August varies, from 12 °C (54 °F) (low) to 20 C° (69 °F) (high). Anyhow, in August 2018 the temperature in Oslo rose to 34.2 °C (93°F).

All shops and all major taxi companies accept credit and debit cards, but not all credit cards are accepted everywhere. If in doubt, ask in advance. Oslo is considered a safe city. However, you should take normal, sensible precautions to avoid possible theft. Tipping is optional, however, adding 5-10% to the amount is regular practice in restaurants.

Emergency phone numbers: Police: 112; Ambulance: 113, Fire: 110

Further information:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo> , <https://www.visitoslo.com/>