Arts and Bioethics Performances

Two-hour Session for the Croatian 9th World Congress of Bioethics Sept ‘08
Title of Session: Arts and Bioethics—Challenging Ideas and Cultures

An invitation to present

The Arts Bioethics Network will be launched at the 9th World Congress of Bioethics in Croatia www.bioethicsworldcongress.com in a 2-hour session in which artists from various genres will present work that has a bioethics &/or human rights theme. The performances and presentations may include any of the following: dance, dramatic performance, poetry recitations, short films, music, & readings from fiction. The presentations will be followed by a brief statement by some of the presenters on their intentions & the power of their chosen medium in presenting the issue(s) inherent in their work.

The Co-ordinators of the Arts Bioethics Network have established a process for identifying a representative selection of the performance pieces offered to the Croatian Congress. Specific artists will be invited to present brief examples of their work, and members of the IAB and the wider network of bioethics, including the medical humanities, are encouraged to offer work. All identified pieces will be subject to a process of selection. The criteria for selection include: works that have a bioethics and/or human rights theme; and works that express the challenge of ethics and human rights in an increasingly cross-cultural world.

Please send expressions of interest with a brief description (1 page max) of your work & any supporting material (eg photos &/or videos)—as Email attachment—to Arts Bioethics Network Coordinators:

c.kuppuswamy@sheffield.ac.uk

pmacneill@med.usyd.edu.au

The statement should describe the work and its relation to human rights and/or bioethics, your intentions, and the power of your chosen medium in presenting the issue(s) inherent in your work. Please include: Name of Presenter(s); Contact Person; Institutional Affiliation; Contact E-mail; Contact phone number(s); and Duration of performance. Supporting material not to exceed 8 MB.

Rationale

The aim of the Arts Bioethics Network is to increase contribution of the arts to bioethics. The Network is founded on the belief that the arts enrich bioethical discourse and open up new and creative approaches to bioethical issues. By facilitating an arts and performance session, the Network aims to open a wider avenue for contributions from many cultures. The particular aims of the Network are to:

1. promote critical engagement between artists and non-artists
2. encourage and facilitate the publication of scholarly articles in journals, on arts-bioethics issues
3. serve as a forum for reporting of arts events which explore bioethics issues
4. engage in dialogue through personal experiences in artistic explorations.

Works of art: paintings, photos, posters and installations

Works of art, such as paintings, photos, posters and installations, are also sought for display in Congress venues throughout the Congress. The artists will be invited to discuss their work during the Congress at specified times. Please send expressions of interest (as above).
Papers with an Arts Bioethics Theme

It is also recognized that some textual expression of ideas would support the aims of the Arts Bioethics Network. For this reason we are inviting papers that discuss the arts and bioethics. This theme covers both theoretical papers and papers discussing the use of arts in health practice and in teaching. Those who wish to present a paper, with an Arts-Bioethics theme, are invited to send an Abstract of the paper to the Congress Organisers by: 1st March 2008.

Either: complete the on-line Registration Form on http://www.bioethicsworldcongress.com/ ‘Call for Abstracts’ /Click ‘Call for Abstracts theme submission’—please note: deadline extended to 1st March ’08. Or send Email attachment to General Secretary: Iva Sorta-Bilajac <isorta@medri.hr>. The Abstract should include: Title; Theme within Arts-Bioethics (whether theoretical paper; &/or relating to arts in health practice; and/or teaching—and brief description); Author(s); Preferred style of presentation (Oral presentation, Poster, Panel); Short summary (max 400 words); Keywords (max 2); Contact Person; Institutional Affiliation; Contact E-mail; Contact phone number(s).

Presenters of papers with an Arts-Bioethics theme, accepted by the Congress Organisers, are invited to print additional copies of their papers for distribution at the Arts and Bioethics Session.

Format of the Arts and Bioethics Session:

Duration of session—2 hours.

Brief welcome and introduction: 5 mins
12 performance pieces. Duration of the 12 pieces—8 minutes on average: 95 mins
10 minutes for 5 concluding brief statements from presenters: 10 mins
Conclusion: 10 mins
120 mins

Co-ordinators of the Arts Bioethics Network:

Dr Chamu Kuppuswamy, Lecturer at the School of Law, University of Sheffield. Chamu researches in bioethics and international law issues. She has an emerging research interest in cultural rights, particularly in the use of Arts in Bioethics to explore hitherto scarcely explored cultural ideas and to compare them with ‘mainstream’ bioethical thinking. Chamu presented (with her sister) a dance performance at the 12th Australasian Bioethics Conference in 2004. She presented on education and bioethics at the 1st UNESCO arts education conference at Lisbon in 2006. Chamu is on the organising team of Café Scientifique, Sheffield which promotes public engagement with science, frequently featuring bioethics topics.

Associate Professor Paul Ulhas Macneill, Centre for Values, Ethics & the Law in Medicine (VELiM), University of Sydney. Paul has a long-standing interest in the Arts. He was instrumental in establishing the Drama Action Centre in Sydney in 1980; leader of the Caravan Theatre Clown Troupe in the first Sydney Festival in 1979; a member of the Boston Health Players (presenting ‘Shelley’s Brain’, by George Annas) in 1987; presenter of ‘Red-blooded Ethics’: a solo performance piece, at the University of Bristol Centre for Ethics in Medicine, in 1997, and at the Australasian Bioethics Association Conference in Tasmania, in 1998; presenter of ‘Cyborg futures: beyond bodies and beyond ethics’, a solo performance piece that explored the issue of ‘human as machine’ at the 7th Annual Conference of the Australian Institute of Health Law and Ethics, Newcastle (Australia), June, 2002. He was President of the World Bioethics Congress in 2004 and supported the inclusion of performance pieces by Aboriginal Australians as a part of the program. Paul will be living in Zagreb for 12 months from June 2008, and will assist in receiving and arranging for mounting of paintings, photos, and installations. He can assist with receiving materials needed for the performance pieces.