**Have you ever wondered:**

**Where does life begin and end?**

**Should we fear machines in a terminator way?**

**How far should human enhancement go?**

In the tekethics project you will get to know background information on these difficult but also fascinating topics and you will be able to discuss these topics with others, moderated by a prestigious researcher in this field.

*What you will learn*

Bioethical questions have a crucial role both in people’s personal choices and in the political domain.

* The task of this course is to introduce you to the main controversies in contemporary bioethics, especially to those concerning the intersection between ethics and technology.
* At the end of the course, you will be equipped with the conceptual tools required to understand the main debates in ethics and technology and the most relevant positions in the debate.
* Hopefully, you will be also able to take your own stance on these subjects.

To this purpose, we need your active engagement in this course, so to ensure a development of the discussion in line with what you will find most intriguing, challenging and worth of attention of the topics chosen.

Video

*Organisation of the course*

The design of the course is a mixture between individual reading session and group discussions, which is open for everybody. All you need is access to a computer with a current browser, an Internet connection, and, of course, a desire to learn. In order to be able to gain the whole learning experience, you will have to register to the discussion forum under community.tuhh.de. However, if you are only interested in the content, you are able to just take part in the reading sessions, without being registered.

Zeitstrahl-Grafik

For each release we will provide the exact link to the contents and the discussion here.

As you see this course is organised around four themes.

We will start with AI and robotics, to then move to the debate on human enhancement. Next, we will look into the link between [genetic] engineering and environmental ethics and, lastly, we will consider the implications that developments in neuroscience are having for notions of responsibility in law. Particular attention will be paid to the “controversies” over these topics, and different examples will be brought forth so to ensure a lively and up to date discussion with and between students.

For each topic we will provide you a literature review, including the main sources you should consider in the discussion. Thus it is necessary, that you first get familiar with the content we provide on each topic, before taking part in the discussion.

The course will be rolled out in an open discussion forum, installed at the University of Technology in Hamburg. Thus as mentioned before we need you as active participants reflecting on the topics and contents and trying to take your own stance in the discussion.

**About us**

The tekethics Team produces open educational material concerned with bioethical issues, moderates and supports the discussion around these difficult but also fascinating topics. It is an open learning project of [Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH)](https://www.tuhh.de/) in cooperation with the IMT School for Advanced Studies in Lucca and the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights in Rome funded by the [Hamburg Open Online University (HOOU)](http://www.hoou.de/).

Publisher and instructor: Dr. **Mirko Daniel Garasic**

Hello everybody,

My name is Mirko Garasic and I’m a Visiting Professor in Neuroethics at IMT School for Advanced Studies, Lucca and a Research Scholar at the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights in Rome. Here I’m involved with the Horizon 2020 Project on Informed Consent and Clinical Research.

My research background is as diverse as the discipline on bioethics is. I hold a Ph.D. in Political Theory from LUISS University, Rome. Since the beginning of my Ph.D., I have worked in **four continents** and **published in five**:

* in *2009*, I was a Visiting Scholar at the Ethox Centre at the University of Oxford,
* while in *2010* I spent a semester at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai.
* In the following academic year in *2011*, I was at Yale University and Hastings Center Visiting Scholar thanks to a Fulbright Scholarship.
* Previously I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Tel Aviv University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Monash University.



I love the diversity and the numerous possibilities of this specific field of research, where I am part of a broad network of researcher. For example, I’m a member of the Italian Society of Analytic Philosophy and the International Research Network on Religion and Democracy.

Also this diversity can be seen in the numerous bioethical and biopolitical projects, I am currently working on, focusing on for example human enhancement, male circumcision, hunger strikes, and neuroethics, just to mention some of them.

Have a closer look in the following journals, in order to find out more about my research:

* American Journal of Bioethics,
* BMC Medical Ethics,
* Medicine,
* Health Care,
* Philosophy,
* Topoi
* The Hastings Center Report.

My first book “Guantanamo and Other Cases of Enforced Medical Treatment - A Biopolitical Analysis” has received a good response from the public and, among other contexts, been recently discussed by international scholars in the Journal of Medical Ethics. I am also looking forward to the discussion with you!

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