

URGENT: Module 1 in Aachen has been cancelled

Ethics of Science and Technology (IDEA League Doctoral School)

Module 1 – RWTH Aachen: Responsibility

Saturday, February 29 – Wednesday, March 4

Location: RWTH Aachen University, Theaterplatz 14, Ground Floor

Coordinators: Prof. Saskia Nagel (RWTH Aachen), Dr. Behnam Taebi (TU Delft)

Saturday, 29.2.2020: Introduction

14.30-15.00	Registration
15.00-18.30	<p>Introduction Prof. Saskia Nagel, Dr. Behnam Taebi</p> <p>Welcome by Prof. Ute Habel (RWTH Vice-Rector for International Affairs), and Dr. Leslie Zachariah (Secretary General, IDEA League)</p> <p>Lecture 1: How does Ethics matter? Introduction to Ethics and Technology. An Ethics Upfront Approach Introduction to Normative Theories and responsibility</p> <p>Prof. Saskia Nagel, Prof. Behnam Taebi</p> <p>In this session, we will focus on three aspects: After discussing generally why ethics matter in engineering and what ethical questions could rise in engineering practices, we first will review several persistent biases about ethics, engineering and engineering ethics and discuss the consequences for practices. Second, we will focus on how ethics matters in engineering, and how it is an essential part of engineering, distinguishing between the two approaches of 'ethics and the individual engineer', and 'ethics and the practice of engineering'. Third, to provide further basics for the school, we will introduce key normative theories and the concept of responsibility to the course.</p>
18.30-21.00	Get together & City Tour

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Sunday, 1.3.2020: Responsibility in research

09.00-09.15	Starting the day: Plan
09.15-10.45	Lecture and exercise 2: How to render your research societally relevant – learnings from transdisciplinary research Prof. Michael Stauffacher There is an increasing need for researchers to demonstrate the practical value of their research for society. I will walk through a 10-step approach to better link research to societal problem solving. The ten questions will guide reflections and discussions around research issues, the societal problems addressed, relevant actors and disciplines, and the purpose and form of the interaction with them.
10.45-11.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.15-12.45	Lecture and exercise 2 (continued)
13.00-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30-16.00	Group Work
16.00-16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30-18.00	Lecture 3: Research Ethics: animal, clinical, human and scientific integrity Prof. Dominik Groß This lecture will point our different aspects of Research Ethics – namely Animal Research Ethics (with a special focus on the 3Rprinciple), Clinical Ethics (with a focus on the difference between ethics commission and ethics committee) and Ethics in Science/ Scientific Integrity (including the topics good scientific practice, scientific fraud and plagiarism). It will provide insights into the fundamental issues of these sub-disciplines.
18.00-18.30	General Discussion and Wrapping up the day
19.00-	<i>Dinner</i>

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Monday, 2.3.2020: Social construction of technology

09.00-9.15	Starting the day: Plan and overview
09.15-10.45	<p>Lecture 4: Social construction of science and technology</p> <p>Prof. Stefano Crabu (PoliMi) Prof. Paolo Volonté (PoliMi)</p> <p>Science and technology do not follow a linear and rational mode of operation, i.e. neutral with respect to values, interests and political positions. This lecture will discuss the social and cultural processes that enable the production of scientific knowledge and technologies. Building on recent work in science and technology studies, we will offer a comprehensive understanding of how scientific knowledge and technologies permeate culture and politics of contemporary societies, and are embedded in social practices, institutions, norms and discourses.</p>
10.45-11.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.15-12.45	Exercise of lecture 4
13.00-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30-16.00	Group Work
16.00-16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30-18.00	<p>Lecture 5: Social construction of science and technology: Gendered perspectives</p> <p>Prof. Carmen Leicht-Scholten (RWTH)</p> <p>This lecture and its associated interactive activities is focusing on gender as dimension to be integrated and reflected within Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). The social construction of gender and its implications for science, technology and innovation will be discussed. Referring on central studies of Gender and STS studies the gendering of scientific knowledge and knowledge production as well as its implications for technologies will be discussed. Introducing case studies of “gendered innovations” will support the understanding from theory to practice.</p>
18.00-18.30	General Discussion and Wrapping up the day
19.00-	<i>Dinner</i>

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Tuesday, 3.3.2020: Reasoning

09.00-9.15	Starting the day: Plan and overview
09.15-10.45	Lecture 6: Moral argumentation under risk and uncertainty Prof. Daniele Chiffi (PoliMi) This lecture will focus on the analysis of different practices of moral argumentation under risk and uncertainty. Starting from specific examples of moral argumentation in science and technology, we will investigate how deductive, inductive and abductive forms of reasoning may cope with risk and uncertainty management. Then, we will explore how fallacies of risk and uncertainty may affect moral argumentation. Finally, we will provide some guidance in framing scientific and technological information for responsible risk and uncertainty communication. Some interactive activities will conclude the lecture.
10.45-11.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.15-12.45	Exercise of lecture 6
13.00-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30-16.00	Group Work
16.00-16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30-18.00	Group Work
18.00-18.30	General Discussion and Wrapping up the day
19.00-	<i>Dinner</i>

Wednesday, 4.3.2020

Wrapping up: insights of this week and the way ahead

09.00-12.00	Project development report from students
12.00-12.30	Next steps to Delft. Farewell Prof. Saskia Nagel (RWTH)
12.30-	<i>Packed-lunch</i>