

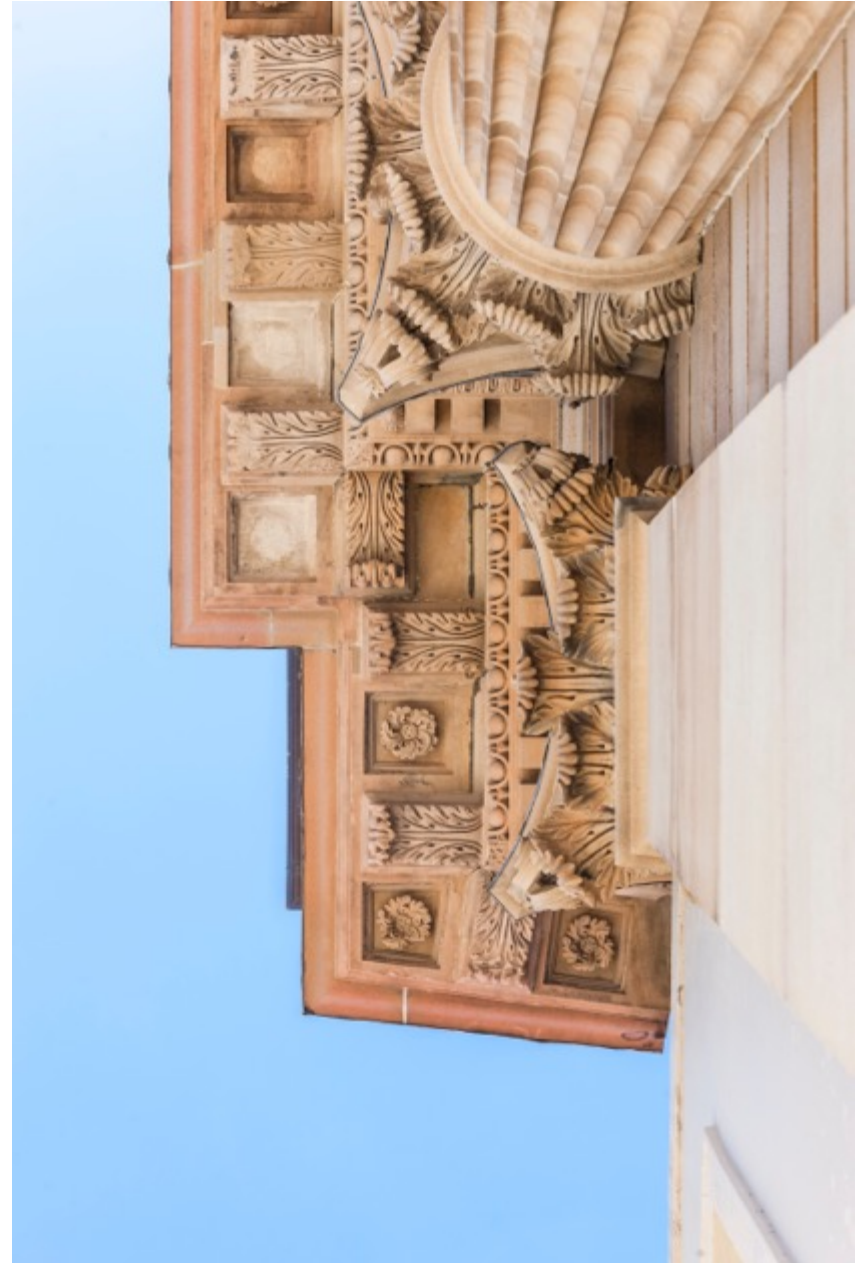
BIOETHICS & COVID-19

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What is ethics?

Focus on particular kinds of reasons

- *Justificatory* reasons are particularly important
- What we ought to do
- E.g. We should aim at just outcomes

What is Bioethics?

– Bio-ethics:

1. Global ethics
2. Public health ethics
3. Clinical ethics
4. Research ethics
5. Link to environmental ethics

1. Global Ethics

A pandemic

Spread of disease – with a global focus

- Not just an outbreak**
- Many different national responses**
- Need coordinated action of national states**
- International Health Regulations (2005)**

2. Public Health Ethics

A focus on populations – not just individuals

Collective action – co-ordinated by the state

– Role of state and public health:

- Protection**
- Prevention**
- Planning**

2. Public Health Measures

- **Surveillance**
- **Restrictions (quarantine, isolation, distancing, closing borders etc)**
- **Testing, contact tracing, follow up**
- **Not just liberty, privacy etc**

2. Public Health Ethics: Impact

Distribution of benefits and burdens?

- Protect those at greatest risk: elderly, chronic disease**

Making restrictions ‘liveable’

- Social, economic, mental health implications etc.**

Making disadvantage worse?

- Migrants**
- Prisons etc.**

3. Clinical Ethics

Resource allocation: e.g. ventilators, intensive care beds

Options?

- Treat equally**
- Produce best outcomes (efficiency)**
- Priority to disadvantage**

4. Research Ethics

Vaccines

Treatments

Faster approvals? How should we think about risk?

5. Link to Environmental Ethics

- **SARS-CoV-2 – origins and One Health**
- **How should we balance health and economic considerations?**
- **How should we think of the issues of intergenerational justice?**
- **Can we learn lessons for the future from environmental gains from the restrictions?**

Conclusions

SARS-CoV-2 virus is not just a big outbreak

- Transform all of our lives**
- Our capacity to respond is not equal**
- Concern for others**
- Growth in solidarity**

Bioethics – a broad field

Focus on conditions for flourishing lives

Many bioethical questions to discuss

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