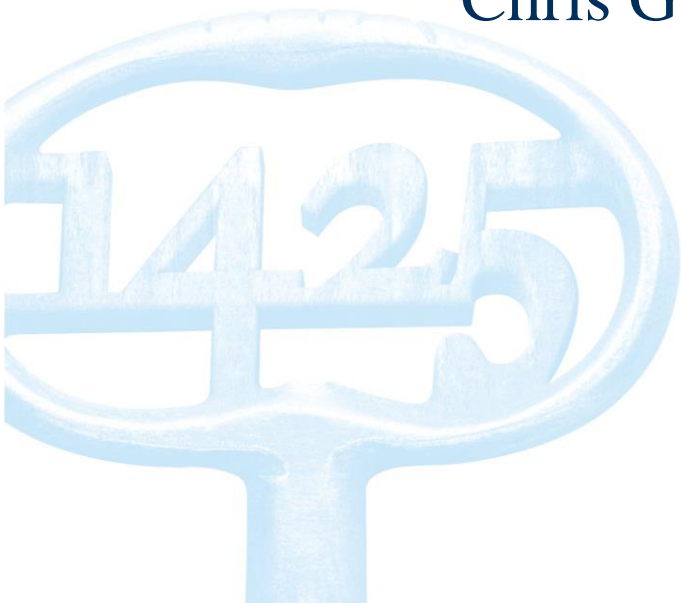


8-11 July 2025
Leuven, Belgium

SUMMER COURSE

Ethics in Dementia Care
11th Edition

Course Coordinator
Chris Gastmans, PhD



STAFF

Organised by Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law
Faculty of Medicine
KU Leuven, Belgium

Staff	<p>Chris Gastmans, PhD Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, KU Leuven</p> <p>Tijs Vandemeulebroucke, PhD Sustainable AI Lab, Institute of Science and Ethics, University of Bonn, Germany</p> <p>Jared Howes, MA Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, KU Leuven</p> <p>Lieve Van den Block, PhD End-of-life Care Research Group, University of Brussels & Ghent University</p> <p>Baldwin Van Gorp, PhD Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven</p> <p>Jeroen Luyten, PhD Leuven Institute for Healthcare Policy, KU Leuven</p>
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CENTRE FOR BIOMEDICAL ETHICS AND LAW

The Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law is composed of a team of experts in medical ethics and medical law. The Centre aims to provide education, conduct research, and offer scientific and societal services in these fields. Established in 1986, it will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2026.



BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The number of persons with dementia is expected to rise significantly in the coming years. This growing prevalence, along with the treatment and care for people with dementia, raises numerous important ethical questions and responsibilities. What do we think of the quality of life of people with dementia, and what are our views on their end-of-life care? What are our perspectives on vulnerability and dignity in the context of dementia? What do we consider to be 'good care' and 'a good death' for persons with dementia?

The aim of this course is to foster discussions on foundational, clinical-ethical and organisational-ethical approaches to dementia care. Specifically, the course objectives are:

- (1) To analyze key concepts central to dementia care ethics, such as care, the human person, vulnerability, and dignity. This will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical and ethical foundations of dementia care practices.
- (2) To educate participants on a range of ethical issues that are central to contemporary debates in dementia care, including the use of electronic tracking devices, robotics, sexual expression, advance care planning, euthanasia, and other end-of-life issues. These topics will be explored from both philosophical-ethical and empirical-ethical perspectives.
- (3) To introduce participants to the viewpoints of various stakeholders in dementia care, including patients, relatives, nurses, physicians, institutional managers, and society at large.
- (4) To facilitate exchanges among national and international experts regarding ethics in dementia care.

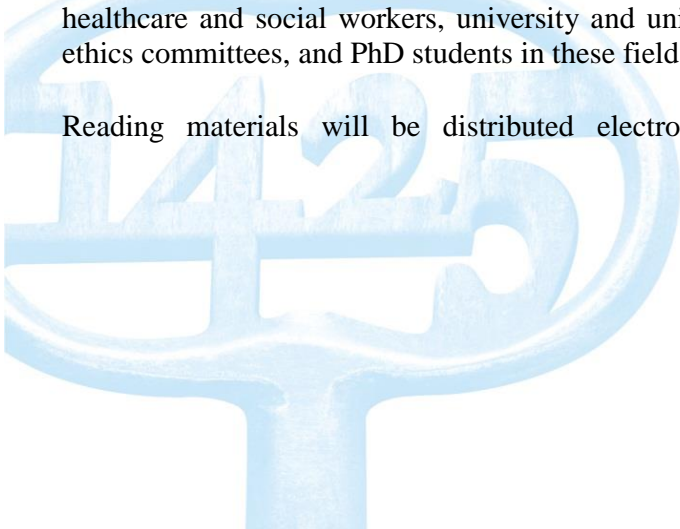
FORMAT

This course adopts an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating philosophy, theology, medicine, social sciences, nursing, as well as both normative and empirical ethics. Throughout the course, national and international experts will deliver presentations on a range of ethical topics related to dementia care. Ample time will be allocated for in-depth discussion and interaction. The language of instruction will be English.

PARTICIPANTS

The course is designed for participants from diverse professional backgrounds, including healthcare administration, medicine, nursing, psychology, social work, philosophy and theology. It is open to healthcare and social workers, university and university college staff, members of patient associations, ethics committees, and PhD students in these fields.

Reading materials will be distributed electronically prior to the start of the summer course.



Tuesday, 8 July 2025
Foundational Approaches

9h00-10h30: Dignity-Enhancing Dementia Care
Chris Gastmans

10h30-11h00: Refreshments

11h00-12h30: Dignity-Enhancing Dementia Care
Chris Gastmans

12h30-13h30: Lunch

13h30-15h00: International Perspectives on Vulnerability & Dignity in Dementia Care: Small Group Discussion

15h00-15h30: Refreshments

15h30-17h00: Current Societal Images of Dementia
Baldwin Van Gorp



Wednesday, 9 July 2025
Clinical-Ethical Approaches

9h00-10h30: Advance Care Planning in Dementia Care: What Does Really Work?

Lieve Van den Block

10h30-11h00: Refreshments

11h00-12h30: Advance Care Planning in Dementia Care: Small Group Discussion

Lieve Van den Block

12h30-13h30: Lunch

13h30-15h00: Euthanasia in Persons With Dementia: What Are the Ethical Issues?

Chris Gastmans

15h00-15h30: Refreshments

15h30-17h00: Euthanasia in persons With Dementia: Small Group Discussion

Chris Gastmans



Thursday, 10 July 2025

Organisational- and Clinical-Ethical Approaches

9h00-10h30: The Cost of Dementia Care: Ethics of Resource Allocation

Jeroen Luyten

10h30-11h00: Refreshments

11h00-12h30: The Cost of Dementia Care: Ethics of Resource Allocation

Jeroen Luyten

12h30-13h30: Lunch

13h30-15h00: The Use of Electronic Tracking Devices in Dementia Care: What Are the Ethical Issues?

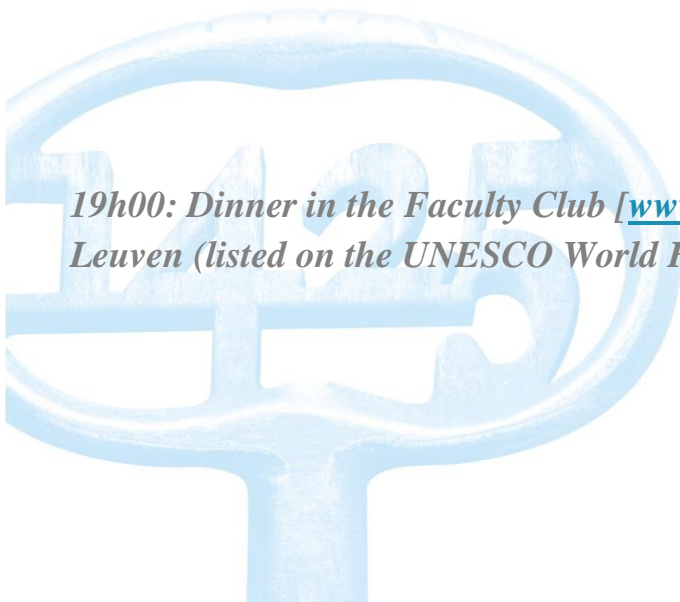
Jared Howes

15h00-15h30: Refreshments

15h30-16h30: The Use of Electronic Tracking Devices in Dementia Care: Small Group Discussion

Jared Howes

19h00: Dinner in the Faculty Club [www.facultyclub.be/en/], Grand Beguinage of Leuven (listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List)



Friday, 11 July 2025
Clinical-Ethical Approaches

9h00-10h30: Socially Assistive Robots in Dementia Care: What Are the Ethical Issues?

Tijs Vandemeulebroucke

10h30-11h00: Refreshments

11h00-12h30: Socially Assistive Robots in Dementia Care: Small Group Discussion

Tijs Vandemeulebroucke

12h30-13h30: Lunch & Goodbye



VENUE

Park Inn by Radisson Leuven Hotel
Martelarenlaan 36
3010 Leuven, BELGIUM

- <http://www.parkinn.com/hotel-leuven>
- info.leuven@parkinn.com
- Tel. 00 32 16 61 66 00

REGISTRATION

The fee for the on-campus course will be € 925 if you register and pay as a participant before May 15th 2025; € 1.025 for registration and payment from May 15th 2025 onwards. Reduced registration fee for participants from Eastern Europe and Low Income Countries is € 725 (before May 15th 2025) and € 825 (from May 15th 2025 onwards). This fee includes tuition and course materials, as well as refreshments, four lunches, and a dinner. Deadline for registration and payment: June 15th 2025. Detailed information on registration and payment can be found at: [Ethics in Dementia Care 11th Edition 2025 – KU Leuven](#) or at www.cbmer.be under [Summer Course](#).

Participants are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Erasmus+ provides funding opportunities for students, trainees, professors, teachers, trainers, staff of education institutions and civil society organizations to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country. For further information please refer to:

- http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm#hp_guide

INFORMATION

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CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN

KU Leuven is the oldest university of the Low Countries. Founded in 1425, KU Leuven has been a centre of learning for six centuries. It grew into one of the largest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a highly ranked university (1st in the Reuters World Ranking of Most Innovative Universities, and 42th in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2021) with such a rich history, KU Leuven has its own dynamic international dimension.

At present, over 65.187 students study at KU Leuven, 14.155 of whom are international students (over 140 different nationalities).

To this day, KU Leuven thrives as a bustling student town with strong international allure, where various cultures meet and experiences are exchanged.

www.kuleuven.be



LID VAN **ASSOCIATIE
KU LEUVEN**