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Canadian Bioethics Blog

An Adventure in Open Access Bioethics Publishing: BioéthiqueOnline One Year On...

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The editors have aimed high and created a rigorous manuscript review process equal to that of established academic journals. We have moved to full peer-review for submitted articles, in part because of the credibility that this would bring to our journal and because we realized that funding support was invariably tied to this type of journal structure (Williams-Jones, et al. 2012). What makes our journal different, though, is both our philosophy and focus on transparency. First, we actively support authors and mentor junior scholars who may be new to academic publishing, throughout the publication process. When we receive a manuscript with potential but that is not yet ready for primetime, detailed feedback is provided in order to help authors improve their manuscript. Second, we have opted for a fully transparent (i.e., non-blinded) evaluation and review process. On the grounds that transparency is the first step towards building trust and credibility in academic research and publication, the names of editors and peer-reviewers involved in the evaluation of each manuscript are disclosed to authors during the review process, and are listed at the top of the final published paper. We think that both these innovations make *BioéthiqueOnline* particularly responsive to the needs of scholars (Smith et al. 2013).

More than simply an academic journal run off a website, *BioéthiqueOnline* publishes diverse forms of bioethics scholarship from across the full range of specialties in the field, including but not limited to: clinical ethics, research ethics, public health ethics, technology ethics and professional ethics. To date, the journal has published 23 papers in the form of cases studies, commentaries, articles, reviews (e.g., of books, events, films, Lévesque 2013) and a conference proceeding, alongside a regular stream of job postings, seminars and conference announcements. These papers range from the conceptual (e.g., an examination of the epistemological and methodological underpinnings of bioethics: Lalancette-Fortin 2012) and empirical (e.g., a comparison of conflict of interest policies and practices: Mathieu et al. 2012; Hughes 2013) to the detail-oriented (e.g., an analysis of some ambiguities in the TCPS2: Durand & Fortin 2012; Caillé & Beauregard 2013). And to help bridge the counterproductive English-French language divide that is present in Canadian bioethics, all papers are published in their language of submission with bilingual abstracts.

Since January 2013, the journal has received more than 800 unique visitors per month, largely from the US and Canada but also from Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, demonstrating an international reach. To improve its visibility and to ensure the long term stability of publications, the journal is now archived through [Papyrus](#), the Institutional Open Access repository of the Université de Montréal, indexed on the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) and by [Google Scholar](#), and currently in review for listing on [PubMed-NLM](#).

Unafraid to dream large, we have in one year made great strides towards our dream of creating a successful and innovative place for the rapid dissemination of Canadian and international bioethics scholarship. With a pipeline full of stimulating manuscripts, and with the continued and enthusiastic support of members of the Canadian and international bioethics communities, *BioéthiqueOnline* is on track for a successful future! So please consider our journal as a possible venue in which to [submit your research and reflections](#), and so contribute to building a national and international dialogue in bioethics.

Publications

Articles

- Mathieu, G.; Smith, E.; Potvin, M-J & Williams-Jones, B. [Conflict of Interest Policies at Canadian Universities and Medical Schools: Some Lessons from the AMSA PharmFree Scorecard](#) *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/13
- MacDonald, C. & Williams-Jones, B. [Nothing New \(Ethically\) Under the Sun: Policy & Clinical Implications of Nanomedicine](#) *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/11
- Behrmann, J. [Bioethics in Health Policy Development: A Primer for Decision-Makers](#) *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/8 (not peer-reviewed)
- Baret, L. [Public Health Genomics : une forme de rhétorique ?](#) *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/5 (not peer-reviewed)

Commentaries

- Lalancette-Fortin, J-S. [La pratique de la bioéthique : quel horizon méthodologique?](#) *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/18
- Laliberté, M. [Le débat démocratique en neurosciences : possible et nécessaire](#) *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/17

Reviews

- Zaffran, M. [L'éthique à l'écran. Compte-rendu de *What's Good on TV?* - *Understanding Ethics Through Television*, de Jamie Watson et Robert Arp, et de *Seeing the Light - Exploring Ethics Through Movies*, de Wanday Teays](#) *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/21
- Gillespie, L-A. [Ethics at War: Review of Elizabeth Scannell-Desch and Mary Ellen Doherty, *Nurses in War: Voices from Iraq and Afghanistan*](#) *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/19

Case Studies

- Hughes, D. Les conflits d'intérêts des groupes de défense de patients financés par l'industrie pharmaceutique : le cas du remboursement public des médicaments *BioéthiqueOnline* 2013, 2/1
- Laliberté, M. & Dyer, J-O. L'utilisation du TENS en physiothérapie : la situation particulière des soins palliatifs oncologiques *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/20
- Mathieu, G. Conflict of Interest in University Technology Transfer *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/16
- Durand, C. & Fortin, M.-C. Un projet de recherche exempté d'évaluation éthique : Réflexions et questionnements sur l'article 2.1 de l'Énoncé de politique des trois Conseils *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/15
- Vandeveld, S. & Toupin, R. Archéologie amérindienne au Québec : intérêts divergents et collaboration fragile entre archéologues et communautés autochtones *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/14
- Snyder, J. & Crooks, V.A. Guidelines for Reducing the Negative Public Health Impacts of Medical Tourism *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/12
- Williams-Jones, B. Reference Letters and Conflict of Interest: A Professor's Dilemma *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/10
- Williams-Jones, B. University Textbooks: An Acceptable Conflict of Interest? *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/9
- Laliberté, M. La gestion de l'Avastin par le bioéthicien : transfert d'une responsabilité politique? *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/7
- Williams-Jones, B. Choosing Thesis Juries: The Costs of Taking a Strict Line on Conflicts of Interest *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/6
- Williams-Jones, B. Somatic Cell therapy: A Genetic Rescue for a Tattered Immune System? *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/4
- Smith, E.; Martin, C.; Behrmann, J. & B. Williams-Jones Bob and Jane go to Argentina: The Ethics of Cross-Border Care *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/3
- Behrmann, J. & C. Olivier Allergy Refugees: Should They Stay or Should They Go? *BioéthiqueOnline* 2012, 1/2

Letter to the Editor

- Caillé, J. & Beauregard, G. Un projet de recherche exempté d'évaluation éthique : une suggestion de clarification sur le processus d'évaluation éthique *BioéthiqueOnline* 2013, 2/2

Conference Proceedings

- Bélisle Pipon, J-C; Boëls, N.; Caillé, J. Réflexions sur la pratique de la bioéthique *BioéthiqueOnline* 2013, 2/3

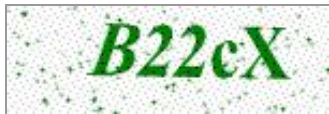
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