



Two-Year Report to CAA on the Center for Ethics and Human Values

CEHV Leadership

Director
Don Hubin (Philosophy, emeritus)

Associate Director
Steve Brown

Faculty Steering Committee
Piers Turner (Chair; Philosophy)
Greg Hitzhusen (School of Environment and Natural Resources)
Dana Howard (Division of Bioethics, COM)
Eric MacGilvray (Political Science)
Michael Neblo (Political Science; IDEA)
Pamela Salsberry (College of Public Health)

CEHV Advisory Board

Kate Bartter
(Executive Director, Sustainability Institute)

Trevor Brown
(Dean, John Glenn College of Public Affairs)

Jan Weisenberger
(Senior Associate Vice President for Research, Office of Academic Affairs)

Karla Zadnik
(Dean, College of Optometry)

Overview

In April of 2016 the University Senate by unanimous vote officially approved the Center as a university center reporting to the Provost. The mission of CEHV is to reach across campus and into the community to:

- Raise awareness about, and promote informed and civil discussion of, important ethical issues; and
- Demonstrate the value of ethics for framing productive *interdisciplinary* exchanges that bring together researchers from across the academy to engage different aspects of shared social problems.

These goals reflect Ohio State's commitment to be a national leader in addressing the distinctive challenges facing our democracy and the global community in the 21st century.

Everything that CEHV does is built on an ambitious vision of faculty, staff, and students working together to engage the ethical questions that motivate the research, teaching, and programming that is undertaken at Ohio State. The CEHV steering committee itself includes faculty from many parts of campus: the Departments of Philosophy and Political Science, the School of Environment and Natural Resources, the College of Medicine, and the College of Public Health. In designing our programs we work closely with advisory faculty from many other departments and units (see Appendix A for a list of CEHV personnel and affiliates).

CEHV currently has two large-scale signature programs, each of which reflects and illustrates this interdisciplinary vision:

- [**COMPAS \(Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society\)**](#): an annual, year-long, interdisciplinary, university-wide conversation whose aim is to model civil and informed discussion of a significant and controversial public issue. COMPAS themes have included immigration, sustainability, inequality, religion, and technology. The program typically consists of three conferences, a half-dozen colloquia, an affiliated undergraduate course, one or more keynotes from prominent public intellectuals, and other related events. COMPAS demonstrates the value of ethics for promoting interdisciplinary engagement and highlights the comprehensive scholarly resources that Ohio State has to offer.
- [**CARE \(Conversations About Research Ethics\)**](#): starting in January 2019, in partnership with the Office of Research, CEHV began hosting a monthly series of panel discussions encouraging researchers across Ohio State to reflect on the ethical ramifications of the way they conduct their research. The first three CARE sessions, focusing on conflicts of interest, reproducibility of research, and research in humanitarian crises, drew an audience of 25, 32, and 65, respectively of faculty members from five colleges, including from

Internal Medicine, Arts & Sciences, CCTS, the Institute for Population Research, and others. External speakers for the CARE program also meet in small groups with OSU researchers for further discussion.

More generally, CEHV has established itself as a driver of important and fruitful discussions on campus, hosting or collaborating on many successful and well-attended events. From Fall 2016 through the spring of 2019, CEHV organized ten conferences and more than two dozen other colloquia, panels, or speaker events. (Links to these events can be found [here](#).)

In our aim to promote interdisciplinary exchange and research, we have worked with faculty from seven colleges and more than twenty departments and centers at Ohio State. Our work has supported Ohio State's investment in the Discovery Themes by coordinating with those interdisciplinary programs, especially in the areas of sustainability and data analytics. In doing so, we have shown how the humanities and the sciences can engage each other fruitfully—and that they must do so to solve the challenges we face. Featured speakers have included [Amartya Sen](#) (Nobel Laureate, Economics), [Piper Kerman](#) (author of *Orange is the New Black*), [Frances Fitzgerald](#) (Pulitzer Prize-winning historian), and [Kwame Anthony Appiah](#) (philosopher, novelist, and *New York Times* columnist). Sen's inaugural CEHV Distinguished Lecture in Ethics has garnered more than 14,000 views on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe302zGGRT4>). The philosopher [Elizabeth Anderson's visit](#) to Ohio State as the most recent Distinguished Lecturer in Ethics was featured in the January 7, 2019 issue of the *New Yorker* magazine.

The Center has also become a sought-after partner for prominent campus events and conversations, including regular programs such as the Provost's Discovery Themes Lecturer Program and one-off opportunities such as last year's [panel discussion on the American Talent Initiative with President Drake](#) (please see the [CEHV Annual Progress Report 2017-18](#) for a full accounting of CEHV activities for this period). We have also coordinated regularly with partners such as the Wexner Center for the Arts, University Libraries, the First Year Experience, the Office of Energy and Environment, the Office of Outreach and Engagement, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to support their efforts to highlight ethical issues.

In addition to COMPAS and CARE, CEHV has developed other programs, including:

- **Distinguished Lecturer in Ethics:** now in its 3rd year, this lecture series brings leading scholars who have made a public impact to give a major address to a general audience. Following the inaugural CEHV Distinguished Lecture by [Amartya Sen](#) in the spring of 2017, we presented [Jan-Werner Müller](#) and [Elizabeth Anderson](#).
- **ETHOS (Ethics THroughout Ohio State):** a program for students and the general public featuring video interviews with OSU researchers from a variety of disciplines which highlight the ethical concerns that motivate their scholarship. Interviews have been conducted with Ratan Lal and with Lonnie and Ellen Mosley-Thompson. [The ETHOS video with Ratan Lal](#) has been published.

- **Ethics Circle:** a faculty, staff, and graduate student development program, involving an incentivized year-long fellowship program in which fellows work with CEHV faculty on ethics-related projects and meet with other fellows on a monthly basis. We hope to align this program with UITL efforts, particularly its teaching endorsement program. This program would launch next fall if CEHV funding is renewed.
- **Maximin:** an online, map-based educational tool which allows students and the general public to visualize data that facilitates understanding of and engagement with global ethical challenges. The online tool is at the beta stage, but the Maximin program already runs regular “Giving Games” events through an affiliated undergraduate organization which focuses on global poverty relief efforts.

Evaluative Criteria and Benchmarks

The proposal to establish the Center identified two evaluative criteria and related metrics upon which the Center’s progress would be judged.

- ***Establishing a Community of Researchers Focused on Ethical Issues:*** The Center for Ethics and Human Values should increase interdisciplinary collaboration on research related to ethical issues, both between faculty affiliated with the Center and between those faculty and other OSU researchers not affiliated with the Center.

Metrics: Success in achieving this goal can be evaluated using data from Academic Analytics, which provides reliable individual-level data on collaborative publications and grant awards. We would look for four or five such collaborations over a three- to five-year period.
- ***Contribution to the Discovery Themes Initiative:*** Many of the issues that motivate the need for the Center lie at the heart of the Discovery Themes Initiative, and proposed programs of the Center should make a significant contribution to the University’s commitment to that initiative.

Metrics: Success in achieving this goal will be measured by the number of CEHV events that are related to the Discovery Themes initiative, attendance at those events, and the involvement of OSU Discovery Themes faculty in organizing and attending these events.

The strong focus of the Center in its first three years has been on the second of these two objectives and, more generally, contributing to the University’s goals of promoting civil and informed discussion of controversial issues that raise foundational moral issues. There have, though, been positive indications of the Center’s contribution to the “establishment of a community of researchers focused on ethical issues”. The following are illustrative.

- In his two-year tenure here as a post-doctoral researcher on the ethics of sustainable development, Corey Katz organized three interdisciplinary workshops and monthly brown bag talks on climate ethics and sustainability. These events drew colleagues from a wide variety of OSU units including SENR, Political Science, Law, and Philosophy to discuss their own research in an interdisciplinary context.
- As a result of his affiliation with CEHV, Piers Turner, Chair of the CEHV Faculty Steering Committee, is an active member of an interdisciplinary team focusing on data ethics through the Program on Data and Governance. This team includes Dennis Hirsch (PI, Law; CEHV affiliate), Aravind Chandrasekaran (Fisher College of Business), Srinivasan Parthasarathy (Computer Science), and Tim Bartley (Sociology, Wash U). This program has received two grants:
 - *Big Data Risk Management: An Interdisciplinary Analysis* (Dennis Hirsch, PI). Funded by The Risk Institute at The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business. \$30,000. Co-Investigator, 2018-2019.
 - *Ethical Review of Data Analytics Projects: Transformations in the Corporate Governance of Data Science* (Dennis Hirsch, PI). Funded by Facebook. \$25,000. Co-Investigator, 2017-2018.
- The 2016-17 Inequality COMPAS led a collaboration among political scientists Michael Neblo, William Minozzi and others to research and report on OSU undergraduates' attitudes toward economic inequality. This research project, working through the First Year Success Series office, resulted in the first edition of *COMPAS Points*: <https://cehv.osu.edu/compas-points>.

Well before its formal establishment, the Center, then an Innovation Group, was, in the words of former Vice Provost Mike Boehm, “the moral engine of the Discovery Themes Initiative.” By focusing on the moral issues that underlie and cut across the various Discovery Themes areas, the Center’s events construct a valuable bridge between those areas of research.

By the time it was formally established, the activities of the Center had already contributed significantly to the Discovery Themes Initiative. By that time, the COMPAS program had brought to campus key speakers who have drawn significant audiences to presentations related to various aspects of the Discovery Themes Initiative. For example, COMPAS brought [Jeffrey Sachs](#) to Ohio State in the spring of 2014 to speak about sustainable development. Dr. Sachs’s visit showcased OSU’s Discovery Themes-funded work in Sustainable and Resilient Economies. [John Broome](#), a lead author of the IPCC’s “Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report,” spoke to an audience of nearly 100 faculty and students, many of them leaders of the Discovery Themes Initiative, about the ethics of climate change. He also met with researchers at the Byrd Center while he was here. Andrew Light, a State Department international climate negotiator who was brought here for the fall 2015 COMPAS conference also met with researchers at the Byrd Center. The COMPAS program co-sponsored lectures by [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) and [Cardinal Peter Turkson](#), which also drew attention to the Discovery Themes Initiative.

Since the Center was formally established, it has continued to serve as the moral engine of the Discovery Themes Initiative. In addition to the work of our postdoctoral researcher Corey Katz on

the ethics of sustainable development described already, the following are three leading examples of the ways in which it has accomplished this objective.

- [2018-19 Technology COMPAS](#): This year's COMPAS program, focusing on the ethical implications of technology, included many events contributing to the exploration of ethical implications raised by "big data" and advanced data analytics. The COMPAS program sponsored four conferences: [Fake News](#) (10/19/2018), [Geoengineering](#) (11/16/2018), [Personal Technology](#) (2/15/2019), and [Targeting](#) (3/29/2019).
- [Integrating Philosophical and Economic Perspectives on Well-Being Conference](#) (11/2/2018): This conference, organized by Eden Lin (Philosophy), a Discovery Themes hire made possible by the 2015-16 Sustainability COMPAS, brought leading researchers from philosophy and economics together to address the issue of the nature of well-being, contributing to the objectives of the Sustainable and Resilient Economies Discovery Theme.
- The [ETHOS](#) program, mentioned above, aims to highlight the moral challenges that drive much of the research at Ohio State. Some of the most important challenges underlie the various Discovery Themes initiatives. For example -- keeping in mind both InFACT and the new Sustainability Institute -- [our first video put a spotlight on the work of Professor Rattan Lal](#) on soil and agriculture as a key to promoting sustainability.

Plans for Further Development

CEHV aims to continue its trajectory toward becoming the leading university-wide ethics center in the country while supporting Ohio State's interdisciplinary and public outreach goals. The CEHV steering committee, with input from its advisory board, has developed a 5-year plan to achieve this aim. With continued funding, CEHV will:

- Continue to develop and deliver the programs described above
- Expand the community of researchers, staff, and students collaborating with CEHV
- Continue to serve as a University resource for important conversations and events
- Develop new programs, including:
 - **Postdoctoral Fellowship Program** to train young scholars in applied public ethics
 - **Outreach Program** to reach beyond campus, especially in area schools and civic and faith-based organizations
 - **Ethics Repository** in the OSU Library's Knowledge Bank to serve as a resource for OSU researchers and instructors

Postdoctoral fellowships in applied public ethics

Graduate students are not often taught how to facilitate interdisciplinary conversations and pursue interdisciplinary research. Given our experience fostering productive interdisciplinary conversations, we believe that CEHV could become a leading center for training academics in the

humanities to become engaged scholars capable of doing *public* ethics in a way that reaches beyond the confines of their own disciplines.

CEHV successfully hosted a trial two-year post-doc from 2016-2018, funded by the Office of Energy and the Environment. During his time with us, Corey Katz—who is now a tenure-track faculty member at Georgian Court University in New Jersey—published four articles, organized three well-attended conferences on the ethics of sustainable development, conducted monthly brown-bag discussions bringing together researchers from many departments, worked closely with faculty from the SRE and InFACT Discovery Theme Initiative programs, and taught an applied theory course every semester.

We plan to approach colleges and interdisciplinary research centers, such as the new Sustainability Institute and the Translational Data Analytics program, to secure alternating funding for an ongoing postdoctoral fellowship in applied public ethics.

Outreach Program

CEHV has succeeded in establishing itself as the ethics hub on campus, but there is more that CEHV could do *beyond* campus. In particular, other university ethics centers have effective “ethics in the schools” and prison outreach initiatives. One of the most successful of these was founded by CEHV steering committee member Piers Turner when he was a graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Our leadership also has strong ties to area civic and faith-based communities, many of which have demonstrated significant interest in CEHV’s programming. CEHV could and should become a valuable asset in Ohio State’s public outreach efforts, helping to establish the University as a leader in addressing ethical and social issues in a constructive and non-partisan way with community partners.

The number of programs we already have underway, and the voluntary nature of the steering committee’s involvement, means we are currently unable to reach beyond campus to the extent that we would like. A dedicated Outreach & Education Coordinator who is able to focus on developing those ties and communicating our work to the general public would significantly enhance the profile of CEHV and the University on these important issues. The Outreach & Education Coordinator, like the Associate Director, would also be responsible for teaching one course per semester in their area of expertise.

Ethics Repository

The Center will develop and maintain a curated repository of materials that will serve as valuable resources for OSU researchers and instructors. This effort will begin with materials related to the [CARE](#) program, described above. Videos of presentations, together with a list of related research and teaching materials will allow OSU researchers and instructors to quickly identify quality

research on such issues as conflicts of interest, the role of researchers as advocates, the implications of reproducibility problems in research, the ethical concerns of doing research on vulnerable populations, and more.

Beyond the CARE program, the Center aspires to expand the ethics repository to address a wide variety of issues of moral concern that will assist our OSU colleagues in their research and teaching, including in such areas as engineering, sustainable development, data ethics, and more.

Conclusion

We have often been told that if CEHV did not exist, Ohio State would need to create it in order to fulfill its mission as a leading public university. We are proud of the confidence that has been shown in our efforts by our many ongoing partnerships across campus, and we hope to be able to expand and improve those efforts going forward.

We look forward to an opportunity to discuss this proposal with you and seek your guidance on how best to develop CEHV in light of its University-wide mission as well as how we might secure its future for the long-term.

APPENDIX A: CEHV Personnel & Affiliates

CEHV Leadership and Staff

Director, **Don Hubin** (Philosophy, Emeritus)

Associate Director, **Steven Brown** (Ph.D. Philosophy, Ohio State)

Steering Committee Members

Piers Turner (Philosophy), Chair

Greg Hitzhusen (School of Environment and Natural Resources)

Dana Howard (Biomedical Education and Anatomy)

Eric MacGilvray (Political Science)

Michael Neblo (Political Science)

Pamela Salsberry (College of Public Health)

Postdoctoral Fellow on the Ethics of Sustainable Development (2016-18)

Corey Katz (Ph.D. Philosophy, St. Louis University)

Graduate Associates

Christa Johnson (Philosophy) (2016-18)

Lavender McKittrick-Sweitzer (Philosophy)

Administrative Associate (.5FTE)

Allison McCarthy (Ph.D. Philosophy, Ohio State)

CEHV Board of Advisors

Gifty Ako-Adounvo (Assistant Vice Provost for Global Strategies) (2016-2018)

Kate Bartter (Director, Office of Energy and Environment)

Trevor Brown (Dean, John Glenn College of Public Affairs)

Jan Weisenberger (Senior Associate Vice President for Research)

Karla Zadnik (Executive Dean, College of Health Sciences; Dean, College of Optometry)

CEHV Advisory Faculty and Staff

This an alphabetical list of some of the faculty and staff who have an ongoing advisory relationship with CEHV. A more complete list of affiliated faculty can be found on [our website](#).

Cinnamon Carlarne (Moritz College of Law)

Julie Carpenter-Hubin (Assistant Vice President of Institutional Research & Planning)

John Casterline (Sociology, Institute for Population Research)

Peter Chan (Design)

Joyce Chen (Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics)
Jeffrey Cohen (Anthropology)
Mat Coleman (Geography)
Justin D'Arms (Philosophy)
Rachel Dwyer (Sociology)
David Filipi (Director of Film/Video, Wexner Center for the Arts)
Richard Herrmann (Political Science)
Dennis Hirsch (Moritz College of Law, Program on Data & Governance)
Gina Hnytka (Program Director, EEDS and Sustainability Learning and Education)
Casey Hoy (Entomology, InFACT DT Initiative)
Elena Irwin (AEDE, Sustainable & Resilient Economy DT Initiative)
Kathleen Kemp (Director of Marketing Communications, OAA)
Rick Livingston (Humanities Institute)
Raghu Machiraju (Computer Science and Engineering)
Benjamin McKean (Political Science)
Stephen Myers (Horticulture and Crop Science, Associate Vice Provost for Outreach & Engagement)
Arnab Nandi (Computer Science and Engineering)
Alison Norris (College of Public Health)
Alan Randall (Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics)
Marc Spindelman (Moritz College of Law)
Alexander Thompson (Political Science)
Winston Thompson (Department of Educational Studies)
Hugh Urban (Comparative Studies)
Linn Van Woerkom (Physics)
Inés Valdez (Political Science)
Bryan Weaver (Computer Science and Engineering)
Isaac Weiner (Comparative Studies)

Student Interns

Ohio State Undergraduate Interns

Jamie Richards
Caleb George
Joe Kunesh
Angela Barnes
Taylor Golden

High School Intern (CAHSmic Internship eXperience) 2017-18

Casey Everett