



## Programme

Linz, Austria

June 30 – July 4  
2025

# Summer School 2025: Bioethics in Context XII

Nature and Normativity



### **Summer School Bioethics in Context XII: Nature and Normativity**

*The aim of Integrative Bioethics is to address bioethical questions and problems from a broader, overarching perspective. One such aspect is certainly the relationship between nature and normativity. A normative statement expresses the relationship between human beings and the world, as well as that between human beings themselves. The current public debates on the ecological crisis are marked by distinctive normative references. Furthermore, recent discussions on environmental ethics have been characterised by opposing justifications of normative claims (e.g. pathocentrism vs. anthropocentrism, etc.). All these references and debates presuppose a kind of 'self-normativity' of nature that human action ought to respect. But the question arises as to what extent can such a self-normativity of nature even be justified? Seen from the perspective of a scientific and technical approach to nature, the idea of something natural inherently possessing a kind of selfhood is excluded from the outset. Here, natural existence is reduced to mere material for arbitrary purposes and manipulations. So, what justifies normative claims about human action in relation to nature if they go beyond the horizon of utility calculations?*

*The summer school addresses, on the one hand, fundamental questions such as these by drawing on key insights and forms of argumentation from philosophy. On the other hand, it will also provide an opportunity to take up this topic with reference to concrete phenomena and questions from the horizons of the natural and social sciences. To what extent are normative determinations to be found in the individual scientific and technical references to nature, e.g. in recourse to 'normality' or to 'norm values' and in the distinction between health and illness? Finally, is there a message of Integrative Bioethics that can take account of these far-reaching connections when bioethical decisions are made?*

### **Blended Intensive Programme Partnership (Erasmus+)**

*The summer school will – for the third time since its inception – also include a virtual component. This year the virtual component will take the form of a preparatory session in which the participants already get the opportunity to delve deeper into the main topic 'Nature and Normativity'. The virtual component is scheduled for 20th of June 2025. The participation is mandatory for students who attend the summer school.*



# Summer School – Bioethics in Context XII: Nature and Normativity

hosted by the Catholic Private-University Linz, Austria  
**30 June – 4 July 2025**

funded by  
ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programmes

## Schedule

- Plenary lectures: 45-60, min. 15 minutes discussion
- Student presentations: 45 minutes per person, 30 min. presentation, 15 min. discussion



## Friday, 20 June

15.00 - 17.30 Virtual component:  
discussion of selected texts

## Sunday, 29 June

Arrival

## Monday, 30 June

09.00 - 09.30 Opening: Welcome address **Rector Prof. Dr. Michael Fuchs**,  
Introductory remarks **DDr. Max Gottschlich**

09.30 - 10.45 **L1 Prof. Dr. Stavroula Tsinorema (Crete):**  
The Normative and the Natural. A Critique of Contemporary  
Naturalisms from the Standpoint of "Reason's Demand of Unity"

Coffee break

11.00 - 13.00 Seminar 1  
**Stavroula Tsinorema: Normativity, Agency, Nature**

13.00 - 14.15 Lunch break

14.15 - 15.30 **L2 Prof. Dr. Michael Fuchs (Linz):**  
The Naturalness of Nature

Coffee break

15.45 - 17.00 **L3 Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Jurić (Zagreb):**  
American Nature Thinking from Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman and  
Muir to Leopold and Potter



## Tuesday, 1 July

- 09.00      **Excursion to St. Florian Monastery (Bus)**  
**Departure from Linz**
- 10.00 - 11.15      **L4 Prof. Dr. Marko Kos (Zargeb):**  
The New Technological Condition. Questioning the Future of  
Human Experience and Nature
- 11.15 - 12.30      **L5 PD Dr. Christian Erk (St. Gallen):**  
Nature and Normativity in (Classical) Natural Law Theory
- 12.30 - 13.45      Lunch break in St. Florian

## Cultural programme

- 14.00      Organ audition (world famous "Bruckner-organ")
- 14.45 - 16.45      Guided tour
- 17.15      Departure (Bus)
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## Wednesday, 2 July

- 09.00 - 10.15      **L6 Prof. Dr. Valentina Kaneva (Sofia):**  
Nature, Ethics, and Value Controversies in Environmental Ethics
- Coffee break
- 10.30 - 11.45      **L7 PD Dr. Marcus Knaup (Hagen/Freiburg):**  
Orientation Towards Nature. The Significance of "Nature" for  
Integrative Bioethics
- 11.45 - 13.30      Lunch break
- 13.30 - 15.30      Student Presentations 1+2 (parallel sessions)
- Coffee break
- 15.45 - 17.00      **L8 Prof. Dr. Miltiades Vantsos (Thessaloniki):**  
The Normative Nature of Orthodox Bioethics and its Limits
- 17.00 - 19.00      Seminars (parallel sessions)  
Seminar 2: **Helge Köttgen:** Logic/Metaphysic and Nature  
Seminar 3: **Michael Spieker:** Nature and Spirit (Hegel)
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## Thursday, 3 July

09.00 - 10.15 **L9 Prof. Dr. Michael Spieker (Munich):**  
Natural Normativity: "Socio-ecological transformation" and  
„Sittlichkeit" as Concepts of Integrative Bioethics

Coffee break

10.30 - 12.30 Student Presentations 3+4 (parallel sessions)

12.30 - 13.45 Lunch break

13.45 - 15.00 **L10 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vassil Vidinsky (Sofia):**  
Homo Sapiens Technicus as a Mediator between  
Nature and Normativity

Coffee break

15.15 - 17.15 Student Presentations 5+6 (parallel sessions)

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## Friday, 4 July

09.00 - 10.45 **L11 Prof. Dr. Thomas S. Hoffmann (Hagen):**  
The Dialectic of Normativity and  
Non-normativity of Nature

Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30 Closing discussion, wrap-up

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Monday, 30 June	Tuesday, 1 July	Wednesday, 2 July	Thursday, 3 July	Friday, 4 July
<b>09.00 - 09.30</b> Opening: Welcome address (Rector Prof. Dr. Michael Fuchs), Introductory remarks (DDR. Max Gottschlich)	<b>09.00 - 10.00</b> Departure from Linz - Excursion to St. Florian Monastery (Bus)	<b>09.00 - 10.15</b> <b>L6 Prof. Dr. Valentina Kaneva:</b> Nature, Ethics, and Value Controversies in Environmental Ethics	<b>09.00 - 10.15</b> <b>L9 Prof. Dr. Michael Spieker:</b> Natural Normativity: "Socio-ecolo- gical transformation" and "Sittlichkeit" as Concepts of Integrative Bioethics	<b>09.30 - 10.45</b> <b>L11 Prof. Dr. Thomas S. Hoffmann:</b> The Dialectic of Normativity and Non-normativity of Nature
<b>09.30 - 10:45</b> <b>L1 Prof. Dr. Stavroula Tsinorema:</b> The Normative and the Natural. A Critique of Contemporary Naturalisms from the Standpoint of "Reason's Demand of Unity"	<b>10.00 - 11.15</b> <b>L4 Prof. Dr. Marko Kos:</b> The New Technological Condition. Questioning the Future of Human Experience and Nature			
<b>11.00 - 13.00</b> Seminar 1: Stavroula Tsinorema: Normativity, Agency, Nature	<b>11.15 - 12.30</b> <b>L5 PD Dr. Christian Erk:</b> Nature and Normativity in (Classical) Natural Law Theory	<b>10.30 - 11.45</b> <b>L7 PD Dr. Marcus Knaup:</b> Orientation Towards Nature. The Significance of "Nature" for Integrative Bioethics	<b>10.30 - 12.30</b> Student Presentations 3+4 (parallel sessions)	<b>11.00 - 12.30</b> Closing discussion, wrap-up
<b>13.00 - 14.15</b> <b>Lunch break</b>	<b>12.30 - 13.45</b> <b>Lunch break in St. Florian</b>	<b>11.45 - 13.30</b> <b>Lunch break</b>	<b>12.30 - 13.45</b> <b>Lunch break</b>	
<b>14.15 - 15.30</b> <b>L2 Prof. Dr. Michael Fuchs:</b> The Naturalness of Nature	<b>14.00 - 16.45</b> Cultural programme - 14:00 Organ audition (world famous "Bruckner-organ") - 14:45-16:45 Guided tour (library, Anton Bruckner's crypt, etc.)	<b>13.30 - 15.30</b> Student Presentations 1+2 (parallel sessions)	<b>13.45 - 15.00</b> <b>L10 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vassil Vidinsky:</b> Homo Sapiens Technicus as a Mediator between Nature and Normativity	
<b>15.45 - 17.00</b> <b>L3 Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Jurić:</b> American Nature Thinking from Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman and Muir to Leopold and Potter	<b>17.15</b> Departure (Bus)	<b>15.45 - 17.00</b> <b>L8 Prof. Dr. Miltiades Vantsos:</b> The Normative Nature of Orthodox Bioethics and its Limits	<b>15.15 - 17.15</b> Student Presentations 5+6 (parallel sessions)	
		<b>17.00 - 19.00</b> Seminars (parallel sessions) - Seminar 2: <b>Helge Köttgen:</b> Logic/Metaphysic and Nature - Seminar 3: <b>Michael Spieker:</b> Nature and Spirit (Hegel)		



## Contacts:

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