

“Organoids in Translation: Ethical Landscape & Legal Challenges”

Conference Dates: 5-7 November 2025

Venue: IMPULSE, Adenauerallee 131, 53111 Bonn, Germany

Wednesday, 5 November 2025

From 4.00pm Reception

4.30pm Welcoming & Introduction

4.40pm Sarah Diner, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Medical Humanities, University of Bonn/UKB “Organoids Across the Translational Spectrum: Models, Medicine, and Mechanisms”

5.10pm Karola Kreitmair, Associate Professor of Medical History and Bioethics, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin – Madison “On the Moral Status of Human Brain Surrogates” (online)

5.55pm Short Break

6.00pm Søren Holm, Professor of Bioethics, Centre for Social Ethics and Policy, Department of Law, School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester „Contested organoids – Potential, Sentience and Precaution“

Moderated by Charlotte Gauvry, Center for Science and Thought, University of Bonn

Thursday, 6 November 2025

9.00 – 10.30am

Matthias Braun, Chair for Social Ethics, University of Bonn, “Self Fulfilling Predictions? The case of translational models to predict patients’ preferences”

Andrea Lavazza, Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy, Pegaso University, Senior research fellow, Centro Universitario Internazionale, Arezzo, Italy: “Still on Consciousness in Human Brain Organoids – and Why It Remains So Divisive”

Moderated by N.N.

10.30 – 11.00am Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30am

Joshua Jowitt, Senior Lecturer, Newcastle Law School, England “Are Human Brain Organoids Legal Persons or Property, and Why Does It Matter?”

Hannes Wolff, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Legal Research Officer, Federal Constitutional Court of Germany “On a Quest to Uniformity: Striving for Regulation”

Moderated by Lara Wiese, Ruhr-University Bochum

12.30 – 1.30pm Lunch

1.30pm Gardar Árnason, Professor of Philosophy, University of Akureyri, Iceland “Ethical governance of organoid research: Public engagement, trust and democratic science”

Moderated by Mariacarla Gadebusch Bondio, Director Institute for Medical Humanities, University Hospital Bonn

2.30 – 3.45pm Panel Discussion

Ana Ivonne Vazquez-Armendariz, Jr. Prof. Argelander-Professor for 'Organoid Biology', University of Bonn

Bert Heinrichs, Professor for Ethics and Applied Ethics at the Institute for Science and Ethics, University of Bonn / Institute for Neuroscience and Medicine (INM-7), Research Center Jülich

N.N./N.N.

3.45 – 4.15pm Coffee Break

4.15 – 5.45pm

Lomax Boyd, Assistant Research Professor, Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University “Factors shaping the public’s epistemic and moral attitudes toward engineered neural system” (online)

Amy Hinterberger, Department of Bioethics and Humanities, School of Medicine, University of Washington/Aleksandra Stelmach Business School, University of Exeter “Beyond Animal Testing? Ethical Futures, Organoids and the Rise of New Approach Methodologies” (online)

Moderated by Andrew Barnhart, University of Bonn

Friday, 7 November 2025

9.00am Lara Wiese, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Social and Health Law, Ruhr-University Bochum “Protection, use and status of stem cell models from the perspective of German constitutional law”

9.20 – 10.50am

Karl Stöger, Professor of Medical Law at the Institute for Constitutional and Administrative Law, University of Vienna “Austria: Leading Scientific Research vs. Regulatory Standstill”

Inesa Fausch, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Basel: „From cells to rights? Navigating the legal landscape of organoids in Swiss law”

Moderated by Paul Bidmon, Ruhr-University Bochum

10.50 – 11.20am Coffee Break

11.20 – 12.50am

Anja Pichl, Research Associate, University of Potsdam, Faculty for Health Science Brandenburg: "Integrating Ethics into Organoid Science: Towards A Justice-oriented Approach"

Andrew Barnhart, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of (Social-)Ethics at the Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Bonn “Anticipating Down-Syndrome Associated Alzheimer’s: Organoids, AI, and Relationship-Centered Predictive Medicine”

Moderated by Bert Heinrichs, Professor for Ethics and Applied Ethics at the Institute for Science and Ethics, University of Bonn / Research Center Jülich

12.50 Closing Remarks & Goodbye

13.00 End of the Conference

Funded by the Transdisciplinary Research Area (TRA) Individuals, Institutions and Societies (University of Bonn) as part of the Excellence Strategy of the federal and state governments.

