Wednesday, 5 November 2025

From 4.00pm Reception

4.30pm Welcome & Introduction

4.40 – 5.55pm

Organoids Across the Translational Spectrum: Models, Medicine, and Mechanisms

Sarah Diner, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute for Medical Humanities, University of Bonn

On the Moral Status of Human Brain Surrogates (online)

Karola Kreitmair, Associate Professor of Medical History and Bioethics, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin – Madison

5.55 – 6.05pm Break

6.05pm *Contested Organoids – Potential, Sentience and Precaution*

Søren Holm, Professor of Bioethics, Centre for Social Ethics and Policy, Department of Law, University of Manchester

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

Registration is free.

If you would like to attend the conference in person, **please email** annett.schmidt@ukbonn.de.

Arrival:
Tram Stop: “Museum Koenig”
Bus Stop: “Bonn Schederstraße”

Contact:
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Organoids in Translation:

Ethical Landscape & Legal Challenges

5-7 November 2025

TRANSLATIONAL MODELS CONFERENCE

University of Bonn

IMPULSE – Adenauerallee 131
53113 Bonn

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Thursday, 6 November 2025

9.30am Opening

9.45am *Still on Consciousness in Human Brain Organoids — and Why It Remains So Divisive*

Andrea Lavazza, Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy at Pegaso University, Senior Research Fellow, Centro Universitario Internazionale, Arezzo

Moderated by Nurida Boddenberg, University of Bonn

10.30 – 11.00am Coffee Break

11.00am – 12.30pm

Are Human Brain Organoids Legal Persons or Property, and Why Does It Matter?

Joshua Jowitt, Senior Lecturer, Newcastle Law School

On a Quest to Uniformity: Striving for Regulation

Hannes Wolff, Legal Research Officer, Federal Constitutional Court of Germany

Moderated by Tommaso Bruni, Independent Researcher

12.30 – 1.30pm Lunch Break

1.30pm *Ethical Governance of Organoid Research: Public Engagement, Trust and Democratic Science*

Gardar Árnason, Professor of Philosophy, University of Akureyri, Iceland

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

Thursday, 6 November 2025

2.30 – 3.45pm Panel Discussion

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

Oliver Brüstle, Professor, Director Institute of Reconstructive Neurobiology, University Hospital Bonn

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

Søren Holm, Professor of Bioethics, Centre for Social Ethics and Policy, Department of Law, University of Manchester

Andrea Lavazza, Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy at Pegaso University / Centro Universitario Internazionale, Arezzo

Moderated by Sarah Diner, University of Bonn and Joshua Jowitt, Newcastle Law School

3.45 – 4.15pm Coffee Break

4.15 – 5.45pm

Factors Shaping the Public's Epistemic and Moral Attitudes towards Engineered Neural Systems (online)

Lomax Boyd, Assistant Research Professor, Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University

Beyond Animal Testing? Ethical Futures, Organoids and the Rise of New Approach Methodologies (online)

Amy Hinterberger, Department of Bioethics and Humanities, University of Washington

Aleksandra Stelmach, University of Exeter

Moderated by Andrew Barnhart University of Bonn

Get-Together

Friday, 7 November 2025

9.00am *Protection, Use and Status of Stem Cell Models from the Perspective of German Constitutional Law*

Lara Wiese, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute for Social and Health Law, Ruhr-University Bochum

9.20 – 10.50am

Austria: Leading Scientific Research vs. Regulatory Standstill

Karl Stöger, Professor of Medical Law, Institute for Constitutional and Administrative Law, University of Vienna

From Cells to Rights? Navigating the Legal Landscape of Organoids in Swiss Law

Inesa Fausch, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Basel

Moderated by Paul Bidmon Ruhr-University Bochum

10.50 – 11.20am Coffee Break

11.20 – 12.50pm

Integrating Ethics into Organoid Science: Towards a Justice-driven Approach

Anja Pichl, Research Associate, University of Potsdam, Faculty for Health Science Brandenburg

Anticipating Down-Syndrome Associated Alzheimer's: Organoids, AI, and Relationship-Centered Predictive Medicine

Andrew Barnhart, Postdoctoral Reseacher, Department of (Social-) Ethics, Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Bonn

Moderated by Bert Heinrichs, University of Bonn / Research Center Jülich

12.50pm Closing Remarks & Goodbye

Sarah Diner, University of Bonn

1.00pm End of the Conference