

# SOLIDARITY BELONGING AND CARE

## THIRD ANNUAL JONATHAN MONTGOMERY LECTURE CENTRE FOR HEALTH, ETHICS AND LAW (HEAL)

This lecture proposes that health care and public health would benefit from ethical discourse critically focused on relational practices. Such an ethical discourse arises out of recent moral and political philosophy in areas such as critical theory, care theory, feminism, and hermeneutics. The concept of a “practice” can be used to counter the undue individualism of much work in health ethics by prompting the examination the formation of patterns of agency over time rather than limiting itself to particular decisions and choices evaluated at a given moment. Looking at practices diachronically rather than at decisions synchronically permits an understanding of structured injustice and

institutionalized power that often eludes theories of ethical choice or decision focusing on the rights and obligations of individual agents. The lecture goes on to argue that central to an ethics of relational practices are the just recognition of membership in communities of equal dignity and liberty and the just mutuality in societies of interdependence and respect. Just recognition of membership and just relationships of mutuality are moral values and modes of agency that are manifested in social practices such as solidarity, belonging, and care. This sheds light on the importance of these concepts and practices in the domain of health policy and public health.



**Bruce Jennings** is Adjunct Associate Professor at Vanderbilt University, Senior Fellow at the Center for Humans and Nature, and Senior Advisor and Fellow at The Hastings Center. In addition to authoring numerous books and articles on ethical issues in public policy, he is Editor-in-Chief of *Bioethics*, 4th Edition, 6 vols. (2014). Entitled *The Encyclopedia of Bioethics* in previous editions, this is the standard reference work in the field. His most recent book is *Ecological Governance: Toward a New Social Contract with the Earth* (2016).

**Speaker:** Professor Bruce Jennings  
**Date:** 15 January 2018  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Venue:** Lecture Theatre H,  
Building 02a/2077,  
Highfield Campus

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