



UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA



Observatori de  
Bioètica i Dret  
Universitat de Barcelona

# Bioethics and Law Observatory

Research, training  
and transfer centre

The Bioethics and Law Observatory is a research centre of the University of Barcelona which carries out its activities with an interdisciplinary and secular perspective since 1995. Its members understand that bioethics, and specifically discussing the ethical, legal and social implications of biotechnology and biomedicine, requires a plural approach to the issues as well as solid scientific knowledge concerning the specific development analyzed. In order to study the contemporary conflicts that arise from most technical and scientific breakthroughs, the Bioethics and Law Observatory's project offers a flexible analytical approach based on the respect for all recognized human rights.

The work of the Bioethics and Law Observatory has had a relevant impact on the regulation of bioethical issues both at the national and regional level.

## Research, training and knowledge transfer

Since the first edition of the Master in Bioethics and Law in 1995, the Bioethics and Law Observatory has developed many academic and professional activities, such as:

- Teaching bioethics from a pluralist and multidisciplinary perspective.
- Working on public dissemination of opinions issued by its interdisciplinary team of experts.
- Analyzing the implications of bioethical questions for public policy.
- Building networks with other centres, associations and international networks in Europe, IberoAmerica and Canada.
- Producing technical advice and customised training for a variety of organizations, both public and private.

More information at:

<http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es>

# UNESCO CHAIR IN BIOETHICS

The Unesco Chair in Bioethics of the University of Barcelona was created in 2007.

Its work is based on the experiences gained by the Bioethics and Law Observatory of the University of Barcelona in the fields of research, training and knowledge, through the establishment of recognized scientific networks.

It is the only Unesco Chair in Bioethics in Spain, and one of only ten Unesco Chairs in Bioethics existing around the world. It is also part of the global UNITWIN Network of Unesco Chairs, the Catalan Group of Unesco Chairs and the Global University Network for Innovation.

## Objectives

- To contribute to a global, plural and multidisciplinary discussion on the principles and fields of study of bioethics.
- To promote research, training and dissemination in the field of bioethics through a system of integrated activities.
- To facilitate collaboration among researchers and professors of universities and institutions of higher education at the international level.
- To ensure transfer of the Bioethics and Law Observatory's experience when it comes to researching and teaching Bioethics to developing countries, through shared methodologies and training activities.

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/unesco](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/unesco)



## María Casado

- Full Professor at the University of Barcelona.
- Head of the Centre of Research Bioethics and Law Observatory of the University of Barcelona.
- Director of Unesco's Chair in Bioethics of the University of Barcelona (UB).
- Founder and director of the UB's master's degree in Bioethics and Law: Health and Biotechnology issues.
- Philosophy of Law; Moral and Politics Professor at the University of Barcelona.
- Coordinator of the Consolidated Research Group "Bioethics, Law and Society" of the Generalitat of Catalonia (2014 SGR-558).
- Head of the research line "Bioethics and Law" within the European doctorate programme "Law and Political Science" of the Faculty of Law of the University of Barcelona.

# RESEARCH

Since 2005, the Bioethics and Law Observatory has developed its activities, building on the consolidated research group "Bioethics, Law and Society" of the Catalan government.

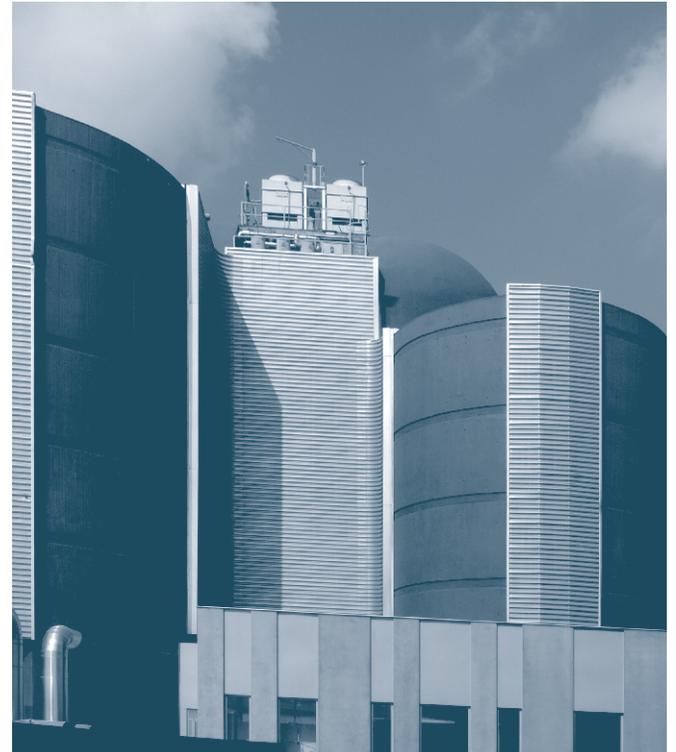
## Research Projects

For more than two decades, the Bioethics and Law Observatory has opened new research lines in its field of study and has successfully managed to have a relevant impact on bioethical thinking.

The most memorable projects of the group have dealt with the use of new genetic technologies in the ageing process, the discussion of biomedical issues that arise when dealing with assisted reproductive technology, nanotechnology, forensic use of human DNA, and Big Data in the field of health.

- **BODYBIOLAW:** Social, legal and bioethical implications of the transfers of biological material of human origin.
- **ADNBIOLAW:** Social, legal and ethical implications of obtaining, using and storing human DNA, among other biometric techniques.
- **NANOBIOLAW:** Social, legal and bioethical implications of nanotechnologies.
- **Unresolved issues arising from assisted reproductive technology:** surplus embryos in research, oocytes donation, surrogated pregnancy, sex selection, anonymity and register of donors, databases and insurance issues.
- **Gender and Bioethics.** The autonomy of women when it comes to health.
- **Genetics and Law.** Social, legal and bioethical implications of the use of techniques for the detection of genes associated to Alzheimer's disease and other senile dementias.

All projects have resulted in the publication of either books or journal contributions. Members of the research group have been invited to give lectures and have presented papers at the most prestigious international



conferences, in order to spread the knowledge and conclusions of projects. Also, several Master's and Phd theses have been completed within the framework of specific projects.

## Interdisciplinary Research Program

The Bioethics and Law Observatory offers the opportunity to undertake research visits to both early-stage researchers and post-doc researchers. Visits may be hosted at its headquarters or at any of the academic groups integrated in the network.

More information at:  
[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/research](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/research)

# KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORKS



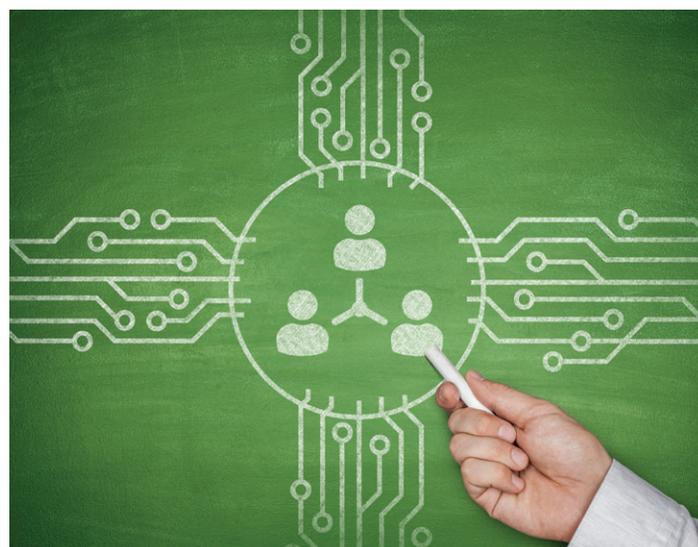
The Bioethics and Law Observatory is part of various networks of knowledge transfer among which it spreads the methodology it has developed in the fields of Bioethics and Human Rights when it comes to researching, teaching and building.

It is present, among others, in the following networks:

- Bioethics and Human Rights Network
- ALFA Network for a Joint Education in Bioethics
- Iberoamerican Network of the International Association of Bioethics
- EuroLatinAmerican Network of Bioethics and Human Rights
- Spanish Universities' Network of Ethics Committees and Public Research Organisms
- UNITWIN Network - Unesco Chairs
- Catalan Unesco Chairs' Networks (Unesco.cat)
- Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI)
- European Association of Global Bioethics

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/networks](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/networks)



# TRAINING

## Master in Bioethics and Law. Health and Biotechnology Issues

The Master in Bioethics and Law is a two-year 120 ECTS master's degree from the University of Barcelona that was first launched in 1995.

It is organized by the Bioethics and Law Observatory and the University of Barcelona's Unesco Chair in Bioethics, and is part of the Integrated Base Program for the Study of Bioethics created under the framework of Unesco's Educational Program. Its faculty includes both renowned professionals and academics.

The Master's goal is to provide up-to-date training in bioethics by means of blended-learning, combining the potential of classroom teaching with the power of online services. Classes are held at the University of Barcelona during a period of two weeks each year, in order to facilitate the attendance of international students.

### Program

#### 1st year: Ethical, legal and social aspects

- Ethics and Bioethics
- Legal Basis for Bioethics
- Bioethics and Economy of Health
- Bioethics in Healthcare

#### 2nd year: Health issues and biotechnology

- Voluntary interruption of pregnancy, euthanasia and transplants
- Research, assistive reproduction technology and genetics
- AIDS, disability and mental health
- Environment, computer science and drugs
- Final dissertation (Master's Thesis)

### Addressed to:

It is mainly addressed to health professionals, jurists, professors of philosophy and humanities, journalists,

anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, pedagogues among others.

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/master](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/master)

## Bioethics and Law Association

The Bioethics and Law Association was created within the framework of the Bioethics and Law Observatory, to foster and disseminate a global, plural and conciliatory conception of bioethics and its legal implications. It also contributes to the debate on fundamental issues around health and research.

It brings together students and professors of the Master, and often organizes conferences and sessions on a variety of bioethical issues, including discussions on specific clinical cases, books and other relevant publications.

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/abd](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/abd)



## Master in Food Ethics and Law

Working in the food industry requires professionals from scientific disciplines (such as chemistry, food technology or agricultural engineering, among others) that are able to ensure proper legal compliance of foodstuffs. Moreover, research professionals face regularly a debate on whether the technologies they develop are appropriate or ethical. Accordingly, EU institutions assess the ethical and social implications of any research project that asks for its funding.

The UB master's degree in Food Ethics and Law is a 60 ECTS credit program with a duration of one academic semester and a faculty composed of standing professionals and academics. Organized by the Bioethics and Law Observatory, it provides interdisciplinary training in Law, Public Policy and Ethics for professionals from the food sector.

### Program

- Module I. Introduction to Law
- Module II. Food Law
- Module III. Public Policy and Food Safety
- Module IV. Ethics and Food for Research and Innovation
- Module V. Master's Thesis

### Addressed to

- Graduates from scientific disciplines such as Food Technology, Gastronomy, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, or Agronomy
- Graduates and professionals from other fields such as Law, Anthropology or Journalism, among others, are also welcome to apply

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/food](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/food)

## Phd Research Line "Bioethics and Law"

Since 2008 the Bioethics and Law Phd research line has aimed to provide advanced training for early-stage researchers in bioethics and its relation to human rights, always from an interdisciplinary approach.

Students from different disciplines and backgrounds develop their doctoral thesis under the supervision of a select, multidisciplinary international group of professors and researchers specializing in bioethics and human rights.

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/phd](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/phd)

## Customised Training

The Bioethics and Law Observatory offers customised training for a variety of organisations and institutions. Customised courses in bioethics include both theoretical and practical activities.

- Bioethics for members of ethics committees
- Bioethics for clinicians
- Bioethics for nurses
- Bioethics for pharmacists
- Bioethics for judges and legal professionals
- Healthcare data
- Right to Privacy protection
- Professional deontology
- Ethics and nutrition law

Customised programs, summer university courses and continuing education courses are also offered.

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/training](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/training)

# PUBLICATIONS

## Books and Articles

The results of the Bioethics and Law Observatory's research work are made available through books, book chapters, monographs and scientific papers. The variety of publications and the diversity of approaches used and its contents clearly reflect the multidisciplinary nature of its team's work.

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/documents](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/documents)

## Documents

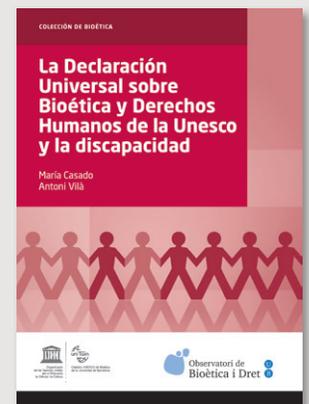
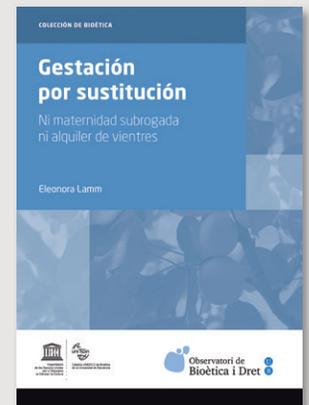
The Bioethics and Law Observatory looks at technical and scientific issues which motivate public debate by publishing Opinion Documents that include the contrasting opinions expressed by the group as well as by its guest experts. The Opinion Documents are the result of analyzing the latest views on a specific issue and producing concrete proposals that are published in a brief, standardised format that is forwarded to the media in order to ensure its impact on public interest issues and public policy.

After each document is published, it is widely distributed in the scientific and professional community and to parliamentary groups. Public presentations and press conferences are also held.

Since 2001, the impact of these Opinion Documents has grown significantly. Specific recommendations from these documents have been included in both national and regional pieces of legislation regarding patient autonomy and other bioethical issues.

More information at:

[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/publications](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/publications)



## Electronic Journal

The *Revista de Bioética y Derecho* (ISSN: 1886-5887) was first created in 2004. It promotes a plural and interdisciplinary conception of bioethics from a human rights perspective.

Together with the journal *Perspectivas Bioéticas* (from FLACSO, published in paper format since 1996), since 2016 this publishing alliance makes it possible for readers to access its contents both online and in print.

Indexed in: DOAJ, SciELO, ERIH PLUS, IBECS, CARHUS Plus+, Latindex, Dialnet, ISOC, RACO, DICE, RESH, CCUC, DULCINEA.

More information at:  
[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/journal](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/journal)

## Open Access

It is currently possible to access the Bioethics and Law Observatory's books, articles and opinion documents from its online library collection without cost.

More information at:  
[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/open-access-books](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/open-access-books)

## Bibliographic Collection of the Bioethics and Law Observatory

The bibliographic collection of Bioethics and Law constitutes a special collection of the Faculty of Law's Library that was created with books donated by the Bioethics and Law Observatory. The collection includes publications on the ethical, legal and social implications of biotechnology and biomedicine, and includes more than 1,000 books and other documents on bioethics and law. The Bibliographic Collection includes significant pieces from numerous Iberoamerican researchers.

More information at:  
[www.bioethicsandlaw.es/bioethics-collection](http://www.bioethicsandlaw.es/bioethics-collection)



# SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

## Scientific Membership

Members are part of diverse Bioethics Committees such as the following:

- Spanish Bioethics Committee
- National Commission for the Forensic Use of DNA
- Ethics Committee of the National Bank of DNA, Salamanca
- Bioethics Committee of Catalonia
- Ethics Committee of Clinical Research, "Hospital Clínic" of Barcelona
- Bioethics Commission of the University of Barcelona
- Healthcare Ethics Committee of the "Hospital Clínic" of Barcelona
- Healthcare Ethics Committee of the "Hospital de Barcelona"
- Commission on Human Reproduction, Grávida, "Assistència Sanitària Col·legial"
- Healthcare College Advising Commission of the Catalan Authority on Data Protection
- Deontological Commission of the College of Physicians of Barcelona
- League of European Research Universities. Expert Group on Research Integrity
- LERU's Expert Group in Ethics' Research in Horizon 2020
- Expert Group in Ethics and Research Integrity. Program "Ciencia con y para la sociedad", Horizon 2020. Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología
- Spanish Committee of the European Project NERRI (Neuroenhancement: Responsible Research and Innovation)
- Big Data Working Group. Center of Excellence in Big Data, Barcelona
- Advisory Committee on judges' training in the field of Bioethics. Bioethics Program, Unesco



## Public Engagement

The Bioethics and Law Observatory and Unesco's Chair in Bioethics promotes a social and informed debate, as well as public participation in the decision-making process when it comes to bioethical issues. It has organized several itinerant exhibitions and virtual initiatives, such as the following:

- Embryos and Medicine in the XXI Century
- Bionetonline
- "Més petit que petit", Nanotechnology to Debate
- Law and Science
- ExpoNANO
- Xplore Health
- EuroStemCell
- Freedom to Decide  
[www.libertatperdecidir.es](http://www.libertatperdecidir.es)

## Consultancy Services

The Bioethics and Law Observatory can provide consultancy services and scientific opinion documents. It also provides support to the University of Barcelona's Bioethics Commission, whose main function is to evaluate the projects that its researchers submit to the different calls at the regional, national and international levels.



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**Social networks**

 [@bioeticaidret](https://twitter.com/bioeticaidret)

 [www.facebook.com/obdub](https://www.facebook.com/obdub)

 [www.linkedin.com/groups/5107517/profile](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5107517/profile)

 [plus.google.com/+ObservatoriodeBioeticayDerechoUBBarcelona/posts](https://plus.google.com/+ObservatoriodeBioeticayDerechoUBBarcelona/posts)

 [www.youtube.com/user/bioeticayderecho](https://www.youtube.com/user/bioeticayderecho)

