

Dr Isra Black

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1. Areas of specialisation

Health law; normative jurisprudence; applied philosophy; bioethics

2. Areas of competence

Criminal law; public law; tort law; human rights (law and philosophy); moral and political philosophy

3. Current employment

- 2023- UCL (University College London)
Faculty of Laws
Associate Professor in Law (1.0 FTE)
Research Impact & Engagement Lead
- 2021- **Lecturer in Law (1.0 FTE)**
2023 **Research Impact & Engagement Lead**

4. Selected previous employment

- 2016- University of York
2021 York Law School
Lecturer in Law (1.0 FTE)
Academic, Research and Teaching career pathway

5. Postgraduate education

- 2016 King's College London
PhD Law and Ethics
Pass without corrections
Thesis: 'Better off dead? Best interests physician assisted death'
Examiners: Professor Emily Jackson and Professor Richard Huxtable
Supervision: Professor Penney Lewis and Dr John Stanton-Ife
Funding: Arts and Humanities Research Council (£60,000)
- 2009 King's College London
MA Medical Ethics and Law
Distinction; Sir Eric Scowen Prize for Best Student

6. Publications

6.1. Current work

1. Isra Black, 'Asymmetry of adolescent decision-making capacity and rational choice' in Lisa Forsberg, **Isra Black**, Anthony Skelton, Jonathan Herring (eds), *Consenting children: autonomy, well-being, responsibility* (Proceedings of the British Academy/OUP)
2. Anthony Skelton, Lisa Forsberg, **Isra Black**, 'The sharing of normative powers: a (reluctant) welfarist defence' in Lisa Forsberg, **Isra Black**, Anthony Skelton, Jonathan Herring (eds), *Consenting children: autonomy, well-being, responsibility* (Proceedings of the British Academy/OUP)
3. Isra Black, 'Physician-assisted death through the medical exception'
4. **Isra Black** and Ralf Jox, 'Two kinds of uncertainty about stopping eating and drinking'

6.2. Journal articles

1. **Isra Black**, Lisa Forsberg, Anthony Skelton, 'Transformative experience and capacity to refuse of life prolonging treatment' (2023) 139(Oct) Law Quarterly Review 654-680

2. Callum Ross, Penelope Brown, Christian Brown, Arun Chopra, Gwen Adshead, Derek Tracy, Kevin Towers, Colin McKay, **Isra Black**, Lisa Forsberg, 'COVID-19 Vaccination in those with mental health difficulties: A guide to assist decision-making in England, Scotland, and Wales' (2022) 62(4) *Medicine, Science and the Law* 275-282; <https://doi.org/10.1177/00258024221086054>
3. Anthony Skelton, Lisa Forsberg, **Isra Black**, 'Overriding adolescent refusals of treatment', (2021) 20(3) *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 221-247; <https://doi.org/10.26556/jesp.v20i3.965>
4. Isra Black, 'Novel beings and assisted nonexistence' (2021) 30(3) *CQHE* 543 (special issue on *Regulating the Tyrell Corporation*); doi:10.1017/S0963180120001085
5. Isra Black, 'Refusing Life Prolonging Medical Treatment and the ECHR' (2018) 38(2) *OJLS* 299; doi:10.1093/ojls/gqy009

Learning impact: Cited in Jonathan Herring, *Medical Law and Ethics* (8th edn, Oxford University Press 2020)

6. **Isra Black** and Asgeir Helgason, 'Using motivational interviewing to facilitate death talk in end-of-life care: an ethical analysis' (2018) 17 *BMC Palliative Care* 51; doi:10.1186/s12904-018-0305-5
7. Ralf J Jox, **Isra Black**, Gian Domenico Borasio, and Johanna Anneser, 'Voluntary stopping of eating and drinking: is medical support ethically justified?' (2017) 15(1) *BMC Med* 186; doi.org/10.1186/s12916-017-0950-1
8. **Isra Black** and Lisa Forsberg, 'Would it be ethical to use motivational interviewing to increase family consent to deceased solid organ donation?' (2014) 40(1) *Journal of Medical Ethics* 63-68; doi:10.1136/medethics-2013-101451
9. Penney Lewis and **Isra Black**, 'Adherence to the Request Criterion in Jurisdictions where Assisted Dying is Lawful? A Review of the Criteria and Evidence in the Netherlands, Belgium, Oregon and Switzerland' (2013) 41(4) *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 885-898; doi.org/10.1111/jlme.12098
- Impact:** Cited by a) Government of Canada, 2016. *Legislative Background: Medical Assistance in Dying (Bill C-14, as Assented to on June 17, 2016)*; b) Oireactas Committee on Justice, 2017. *Assisted dying regimes: briefing note*; c) Government of Western Australia, 2019. *Ministerial Expert Panel on Voluntary Assisted Dying: Final Report*
10. Penney Lewis and **Isra Black**, 'Reporting and scrutiny of reported cases in four jurisdictions where assisted dying is lawful: a review of the evidence in the Netherlands, Belgium, Oregon and Switzerland' (2013) 13(4) *Medical Law International* 221-239; doi:10.1177/0968533213508973

Impact: Cited by a) Scottish Parliament Information Centre, 2015. *Assisted dying and suicide in other jurisdictions*; b) Oireactas Committee on Justice, 2017. *Assisted dying regimes: briefing note*

6.3. Edited book

11. Lisa Forsberg, **Isra Black**, Anthony Skelton, Jonathan Herring (eds), *Consenting children: autonomy, well-being, responsibility* (Proceedings of the British Academy) (under contract)

6.4. Contributions to edited books

12. **Isra Black** and Lisa Forsberg, 'What criminal law theory can teach us about the realm of health law' in Atina Krajewska and Jean McHale (eds) *Reimagining Health Law* (Edward Elgar 2024)
13. Lisa Forsberg, **Isra Black** and Mariel Piechowicz, 'Ethical issues in the practice of motivational interviewing' in Antoine Douaihy, Thomas M Kelly, and Melanie A Gold (eds), *Motivational Interviewing: A Guide for Medical Trainees* (OUP) (forthcoming)
14. Isra Black, 'A pro tanto moral case for assisted death' in Sue Westwood (ed), *Death Rights: Regulating the End of Life* (Routledge 2021)
15. Isra Black, 'Patients, physicians, and law at the end of life in England and Wales' in Ruth E Board, Michael I Bennett, Penney Lewis, John Wagstaff, Peter Selby (eds), *Choices in End of Life Care for Cancer Patients* (EBN Health 2020)

16. **Isra Black** and Lisa Forsberg, 'Ethical Challenges in the Applications of Motivational Interviewing in HIV Care' in Antoine Douaihy and K Rivet Amico (eds), *Motivational Interviewing in HIV Care* (OUP 2020)

6.5. Case commentary

17. Isra Black, 'Existential Suffering and The Extent of the Right to Physician Assisted Suicide in Switzerland: *Gross v Switzerland*' (2014) 22(1) Medical Law Review 109-118; doi:10.1093/medlaw/fwt038
Isra Black, 'A postscript to *Gross v Switzerland*' (2014) 22(4) Medical Law Review 656; doi:10.1093/medlaw/fwu035; *Addendum following ECtHR Grand Chamber judgment*
Impact: a) Cited by Government of Canada, 2016. *Legislative Background: Medical Assistance in Dying (Bill C-14, as Assented to on June 17, 2016)*; b) Victoria State Government, 2017. *Ministerial Advisory Panel on Voluntary Assisted Dying: Final Report*
18. Isra Black, 'Suicide assistance for mentally disordered individuals in Switzerland and the State's positive obligation to facilitate dignified suicide: *Haas c Suisse*' (2012) 20(1) Medical Law Review 157-166; doi:10.1093/medlaw/fwr033

6.6. Other

19. Isra Black, 'An advance decision to refuse treatment following the permanent loss of capacity to refuse life sustaining treatment and commentary' *Manuscript for edited book that failed to fruit. Available on website:* israblack.com/papers.html

7. Policy engagement

1. Response to Govt of Jersey public consultation on 'Assisted dying in Jersey' (2022)
<<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/Appendix%20B%20-%20assisted%20dying%20consultation%20phase%20%20stakeholder%20individual%20responses.pdf>>
Impact: a) Cited by Govt of Jersey, 2023. *Assisted Dying in Jersey Phase 2 Consultation Feedback Report*.
2. **Isra Black** and Lisa Forsberg, Response to Department of Health and Social Care consultation on 'Making vaccination a condition of deployment in older adult care homes' (2021)
<<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/making-vaccination-a-condition-of-deployment-in-older-adult-care-homes>>
3. Lisa Forsberg, **Isra Black**, Thomas Douglas, 'Covid 19 Vaccine Certification', Written evidence to the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (2021)
<<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/438/covid-19-vaccine-certification/>>
4. Melanie Collard, **Isra Black**, Lisa Forsberg, Henrique Carvalho, Anastasia Chamberlen, 'Covid-19 and the criminal law', Written Evidence to the House of Commons Justice Select Committee (2021)
<<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/25592/pdf/>>
5. Subject matter expert for the Government of Jersey's Citizen's Jury on Assisted Dying (2021). [Video](#). [Slides](#)
6. Lisa Forsberg, **Isra Black**, Thomas Douglas, and Jonathan Pugh, 'Compulsory vaccination for Covid-19 and human rights law', Written evidence to the UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights (2020)
<<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/9253/pdf/>>
7. Penney Lewis and **Isra Black**, 'The effectiveness of legal safeguards in jurisdictions that allow assisted dying', Briefing Paper for the Commission on Assisted Dying (2012) *Commissioned*. <<https://is.gd/pYOVJ6>>
Impact: Cited by a) The Commission on Assisted Dying, 2012. *The current legal status of assisted dying is inadequate and incoherent*; b) Giddings, L and McKim, N., 2013, *Voluntary Assisted Dying: A Proposal for Tasmania*; c) Scottish Parliament Information Centre, 2015, *Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill*; d) Government of Canada, 2016. *Legislative Background: Medical Assistance in Dying (Bill C-14, as Assented to on June 17, 2016)*; e) Victoria State Government, 2017. *Ministerial Advisory Panel on Voluntary Assisted Dying: Final Report*; f) Oireactas Committee on Justice, 2017. *Assisted dying regimes: briefing note*

8. Presentations

8.1. Peer-reviewed

1. **Isra Black** and Lisa Forsberg, 'Is consent a necessary condition for the lawfulness of medical interventions' (2023) Karolinska Institutet Medical Ethics Conference
2. Isra Black, 'Asymmetries of adolescent decision-making capacity and rational choice' (2022) Society of Legal Scholars Conference
3. Isra Black, 'Non-physician-assisted-suicide and the challenges of institutionalisation' (2019) Ethical Issues of Non-Physician Assisted Suicide, University College Dublin
4. Isra Black, 'Transformative experience and adolescent capacity to refuse life-prolonging medical treatment' (2017) International Conference on End of Life II
5. Anthony Skelton, Lisa Forsberg, and **Isra Black**, 'Adolescent refusals of life-prolonging medical treatment: a welfarist proposal' (2017) Society for Applied Philosophy
6. **Isra Black**, Lisa Forsberg, and Anthony Skelton, 'Transformative experience and adolescent capacity to refuse life-prolonging medical treatment' (2017) Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics
7. Anthony Skelton, Lisa Forsberg, and **Isra Black**, 'Adolescent refusals of life-prolonging medical treatment: a welfarist proposal' (2017) Canadian Philosophical Association
8. **Isra Black**, 'The permissibility of palliative care for individuals who voluntarily stop eating and drinking' (2016) International Society of Utilitarian Studies (ISUS) Conference XIV
9. **Isra Black** and Ralf Jox, 'When and how I shan't live: decisions to refuse life prolonging medical intervention and article 8 ECHR' (2015) Society of Legal Scholars Conference
10. **Isra Black** and Ralf Jox, 'When and how I shan't die: advance decisions to refuse treatment as a human right' (2015) WG Hart Legal Workshop on 'Law and the Ageing of Humankind'
11. Isra Black, 'Best interests (physician) assisted death', (2014) Society of Legal Scholars Conference
12. **Isra Black** and Lisa Forsberg, 'Increasing Family Consent to Deceased Solid Organ Donation using Motivational Interviewing', (2012) Third International Conference on Motivational Interviewing
13. Lisa Forsberg and **Isra Black**, 'Workshop: The Ethics of Motivational Interviewing II', (2012) Third International Conference on Motivational Interviewing
14. Lisa Forsberg and **Isra Black**, 'Workshop: Motivational Interviewing and Medical Ethics', (2010) Second International Conference on Motivational Interviewing

8.2. Invited

1. 'One gauge, two services? Govert den Hartogh's dual-track assisted death' (2023) The Ethics of End of Life Decisions, University of Amsterdam
2. 'Asymmetries of adolescent decision-making capacity and rational choice' (2023) Medical Law and Ethics Discussion Group, University of Oxford
3. 'Asymmetry of capacity to consent or to refuse treatment and rational choice' (2022) Centre for Ethics in Medicine, University of Bristol
4. Isra Black and Lisa Forsberg, 'The Realm of Health Law' (2020) Re-imagining Health Law workshop, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham
5. 'Motivational interviewing: ethics and informal caregiving' (2019) Informal caregiving at the end of life seminar, Institute for bio- and medical ethics, University of Basel
6. 'Overriding adolescent refusals of treatment' (2019) Practical philosophy and political theory seminar, Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science, University of Gothenburg
7. 'Patients, physicians and law at the end of life in England and Wales' (2019) An International Perspective on Choices in End of Life Care for Cancer Patients, Association of Cancer Physicians

8. 'Transformative experience and adolescent capacity to refuse life-prolonging medical treatment' (2019) CELLS seminar, Durham Law School, Durham University
9. 'Transformative experience and adolescent capacity to refuse life-prolonging medical treatment' (2019) Medico-legal research cluster seminar, Leicester Law School, University of Leicester
10. 'Asymmetry of minor decision-making capacity and rational choice' (2019) Children's consent: Philosophy and law in conversation, Exeter College, University of Oxford
11. 'Transformative experience and adolescent capacity to refuse life-prolonging medical treatment' (2019) Medical Law and Ethics at the End of Life, Trinity College Dublin/University College Dublin
12. 'Novel beings and end-of-existence decision-making' (2018) Regulating the Tyrell Corporation: Company Law and the Emergence of Novel Beings, Wellcome Trust
13. 'Physician-assisted death through the medical exception' (2018) Lawyers Without Borders Student Division, University of Aberdeen
14. 'Transformative experience and adolescent capacity to refuse life-prolonging medical treatment' (2018) Ethox Centre, University of Oxford
15. 'Conscience, Closeness, and Best Interests' (2018) Accommodating Conscience Research Network, University of Strathclyde
16. 'Transformative experience and adolescent capacity to refuse life-prolonging medical treatment' (2017) YLS Super-relaxed research seminar, York Law School
17. 'Refusing medicine as a human right' (2016) Practical philosophy and political theory seminar, Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science, University of Gothenburg
18. 'Voluntary stopping of eating and drinking and the permissibility of palliative support' (2016) Higher Seminar, Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University
19. 'Physician assisted death through the medical exception' (2016) Seminar, Stockholm Centre for Healthcare Ethics
20. 'Refusing medicine as a human right' (2015) Public Lecture, Institute of Ethics, History and Theory of Medicine/Philosophy Department, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
21. 'Best interests physician assisted death' (2015) Work in Progress Seminar, Uchiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford
22. 'Best interests physician assisted death' (2015) Department of Philosophy Seminar, Linköping University
23. 'Best interests physician assisted death' (2015) Health Ethics and Law Seminar, University of Southampton
24. 'Best interests (physician) assisted death' (2015) Seminar, Institute of Ethics, History and Theory of Medicine, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
25. **Isra Black** and Lisa Forsberg, Plenary Session: 'How can we distinguish between ethical and unethical applications of MI?' (2014) Fourth International Conference on Motivational Interviewing
26. 'An Assisted Dying (Scotland) Act and criterion expansion' (2014) The Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill: Does Scotland Need to Legislate?m Mason Institute (University of Edinburgh)/Ampersand Advocates symposium
27. 'The Legal Regulation of Assisted Dying in England and Wales and Europe' (2013) Royal College of Anaesthetists
28. 'Legal Aspects of Suicide in Palliative Care' (2012) St Christopher's Hospice
29. 'Criminal Law Prohibitions on Assisted Dying' (2011) King's Think Tank

9. Media

1. Anthony Skelton, Lisa Forsberg, and Isra Black, 'Overriding Adolescent Refusals of Treatment' [*Ethics in the News*](#) (19 April 2022)
2. Lamiat Sabin, 'Covid vaccine 'to be made mandatory for NHS workers' despite fears over healthcare staff shortages' [*The Independent*](#) (5 September 2021)

3. Lisa Forsberg, Anthony Skelton, and Isra Black, 'We Should Vaccinate Children in High-income Countries Against COVID-19, Too' [Ethics in the News](#) (28 August 2021)
4. Erin Dean, 'Could coronavirus vaccination become compulsory for nurses?' [Nursing Standard](#) (23 June 2021)
5. Lisa Forsberg and Isra Black, 'No jab, no job? Vaccination requirements for care home staff' [Ethics in the News](#) (16 June 2021)
6. 'TTV Evening News'; *ITV* (16 Jun 2021) *Interview on mandatory vaccination for Covid-19 for care home workers*
7. 'Mid-morning on BBC Radio York' *BBC Radio York* (16 June 2021). *Interview on mandatory vaccination for Covid-19 for care home workers*
8. Sarah Turnidge, 'Influencer video full of untrue vaccine claims' [Full Fact](#) (30 April 2021)
9. Jacqui Wise, Covid-19: Is the UK heading towards mandatory vaccination of healthcare workers? [BMJ](#) (21 April 2021)
10. Sarah Turnidge, 'Is there a precedent for mandatory vaccines for care home workers?' [Full Fact](#) (26 March 2021)
11. 'Mid-morning on BBC Radio York' *BBC Radio York* (24 March 2021). *Interview on mandatory vaccination for Covid-19 for care home workers*
12. Isra Black and Lisa Forsberg, 'Inoculate to Imbibe? On the Pub Landlord Who Requires You to be Vaccinated against Covid' [Ethics in the News](#) (3 March 2021)
13. 'Mid-morning on BBC Radio York' *BBC Radio York* (4 Feb 2021). *Interview on mandatory vaccination for Covid-19*
14. Sam Shead, 'What people might not be allowed to do if they don't get vaccinated' [CNBC](#) (6 Jan 2021)
15. Laurie Clarke, 'Would a mandatory Covid-19 vaccine be ethically justified?' [New Statesman](#) (16 Dec 2020)
16. Tom Swarbrick, 'Experts tell MPs compulsory Covid vaccines can be made legal' [LBC](#) (11 Nov 2020)
17. Grace Rahman, 'The government is not proposing to make a Covid-19 vaccine mandatory' [Full Fact](#) (11 Nov 2020)
18. Sirin Kale, 'This Man Wants Doctors To Euthanize Him Because He Can't Accept His Sexuality' [Broadly](#) (10 Jun 2016)
19. 'Most people want it, but the UK isn't ready to legalise assisted dying' [The Conversation](#) (28 May 2015)
20. 'Britain's assisted dying bill reaches the Lords as opinion remains divided' *Voice of Russia* (18 July 2014)
21. 'Assisted suicide bill is laudable, but poorly drafted' [The Conversation](#) (25 March 2014)
22. 'Right-to-Die Campaign: Hope for 'Martin' after Court Rejects Lawful Euthanasia in Nicklinson-Lamb Case?' [International Business Times](#) (2 Aug 2013)
23. 'Tony Nicklinson's legacy lives on in right-to-die campaign' *King's College London* (5 Sept 2012)
24. 'Tony Nicklinson: Can Law Change on Assisted Dying and Protect Vulnerable?' [International Business Times](#) (24 Aug 2012)
25. 'Mark O'Donnell Show' *BBC Radio Wiltshire* (23 Aug 2012). *Interview on assisted death*
26. 'Tony Nicklinson: Judiciary Should Stop Looking to Parliament for Legal Change' [International Business Times](#) (20 August 2012)

10. Grants/scholarships/distinctions

1. Arts and Humanities Research Council (2023) **Recognition of significant contribution to PRC**
2. Lisa Forsberg, Isra Black, Thomas Douglas (2020) UKRI, **Unsuccessful Covid-19 bid** (£137,500). For *Compulsory vaccination and medication in pandemic control: an ethical and human rights law analysis*
3. Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University (2018) **Event Funding** (£1,700). For *Children's consent: Philosophy and law in conversation workshop with Lisa Forsberg, Anthony Skelton, and Jonathan Herring*
4. University of Oxford (2018) **John Fell OUP Research Fund** (£7,500). For *Children's consent: Philosophy and law in conversation workshop with Lisa Forsberg, Anthony Skelton, and Jonathan Herring*

5. Society for Applied Philosophy (2018) **Event Funding (£2,660)**. *For Children's consent: Philosophy and law in conversation workshop with Lisa Forsberg, Anthony Skelton, and Jonathan Herring*
6. York Law School (2018) **Research Cluster Activity Fund (£3,000)**. *For Children's consent: Philosophy and law in conversation workshop with Lisa Forsberg, Anthony Skelton, and Jonathan Herring*
7. Faculty of Law, University of Oxford (2018) **Research Support Fund (£3,000)**. *For Children's consent: Philosophy and law in conversation workshop with Lisa Forsberg, Anthony Skelton, and Jonathan Herring*
8. Wellcome Trust/University of Edinburgh (2016) **Early Career Bursary (£1,000)**. *For travel and registration to attend the International Association of Bioethics Conference 2016. Declined*
9. Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University (2016) **Visiting Fellow**. *Residency for two semesters*
10. Fondation Brocher (2015), **Visiting Researcher**. *Residency from July-August 2015 with Lisa Forsberg and Anthony Skelton*
11. Wellcome Trust (2013) **Small Grant (£3,175)**. *For Postgraduate Bioethics Conference 2013 with Lisa Forsberg and James Wilson*
12. Society for Applied Philosophy (2013) **Event Funding (£1,500)**. *For Postgraduate Bioethics Conference 2013 with Lisa Forsberg and James Wilson*
13. Fondation Brocher (2013) **Visiting Researcher**. *Residency from July-September 2013*
14. Arts and Humanities Research Council (2010) **Doctoral Award (£60,000)**
15. Honourable Society of the Middle Temple (2010) **Master Diplock Scholarship (£4,000)**. *Declined*
16. King's College London (2010) **King's Alumni Bursary (20% of PhD tuition fees)**. *Declined*

11. Other professional activities

Joint Editor-in-Chief, Medical Law International (2024-)

Research Grants Committee, Society of Legal Scholars

Commentaries Editor, Medical Law International (2022-2024)

Peer Review College, Arts and Humanities Research Council (2022-)

Co-convenor, Health Ethics Reading Group (2021-2023)

Associate Member, Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University (2021-)

Member, White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (WROCAH) Thought committee. *The Thought committee is responsible for distributing AHRC doctoral awards to candidates intending to read philosophy, politics, law, and theology at the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield, and York* (2019-2021)

External Examiner, LLM Law, Medicine and Healthcare, University of Liverpool (2020-2022)

Co-convenor, Society of Legal Scholars Health Law section (2018-2020)

Convenor, York Law School *Super relaxed seminar series* and *Health and well-being research cluster* (2016-2021)

Member, Society for Applied Philosophy and Society of Legal Scholars

Peer reviewer: Bioethica Forum, Bioethics, BMC Medical Ethics, BMJ, Health Care Analysis, Journal of Medical Ethics, Journal of Medical Law and Ethics, Medical Law Review, Medical Law International, Modern Law Review, Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, UNSW Law Journal, Bristol University Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press.

Ad hoc peer review, Arts and Humanities Research Council

Co-organiser, *Children's consent: Philosophy and law in conversation workshop* (2019)

Co-organiser, *Postgraduate Bioethics Conference* (2013)