

UC San Diego

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Institute for Practical Ethics



INSTITUTE FOR PRACTICAL ETHICS

SCIENCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

The Institute for Practical Ethics (IPE) is an initiative of UC San Diego's School of Arts and Humanities, blending top-tier ethics scholarship with cutting-edge science – combined, a science for the common good. By opening the institute, UC San Diego has formally engaged in the pursuit of becoming a leading voice on the ethics and social impact of new scientific discoveries. Doing so requires leveraging the unique strengths of UC San Diego in the humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, life sciences and engineering.

We are all excited about the scientific and technological innovation that takes place at UC San Diego and other research institutions. Ingenious mechanical devices make our lives easier, new medical research furthers human health and relieves suffering, and more basic science shows us how the natural world operates.

Yet we must always keep in mind that our scientific and technological activity serves our society, and the best way to ensure this is by examining the social implications and ethics of new science and innovation.



EXPLORATION AND IMPACT

*The Institute for Practical Ethics combines scholarship in the humanities and social sciences with work in the physical and life sciences, aiming to advance campus, national and international debates about the ethics and social implications of science, technology, engineering and medicine. The following themes are but a few examples of how we explore the **ethics and social implications** of research conducted here at UC San Diego and elsewhere.*

ENVIRONMENT

Climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and more all raise ethical, philosophical and social questions. What does justice demand in the face of climate change? What do we value in biodiversity? How can we better achieve environmental justice? New technology and knowledge allow novel possibilities for dealing with some of these problems, from geoengineering the climate to using genetic engineering in conservation. The Institute for Practical Ethics holds scholarly events and supports scholars working on these questions.

DATA SCIENCE

Information on all members of society now exists in various databases, and the ability to analyze enormous amounts of data is reshaping how governments, businesses and other entities make decisions. However, ethical standards for data designed for a precomputer age are of limited utility, and the use of “big data” raises a host of social and ethical questions.

To address these questions, the Institute for Practical Ethics hosts the Working Group on Data Analytic Governance and Accountability to understand how these powerful tools work and to ensure that they are applied in ways that enhance rather than curtail human agency, social justice, democracy and economic development.

ACTIVE GENETICS

Recent breakthroughs in gene editing that change the population of animals make it clear there are both powerful opportunities to alter genes for the common good and substantial ethical considerations that must be addressed.

The Institute for Practical Ethics completed a project with the UC San Diego Tata Institute for Genetics and Society that included activities such as the Ethics of Active Genetics Working Group, workshops on the ethics of active genetics, and the training of scientists.

PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITIES

UC San Diego invites alumni and friends invested in the results of ethical inquiry to consider support of the Institute for Practical Ethics generally or to one of the following targeted opportunities.

STUDENT SUPPORT

IPE Graduate Fellowships

Since 2018, IPE has engaged more than 35 PhD fellows in research advancing understanding in each of our core themes. A gift of \$40,000 will cover a fellowship for one top student. A gift of \$1 million will endow a named fellowship in perpetuity.

Ethics Bowl

Each year IPE funds a team of undergraduates to compete in the national Ethics Bowl. A gift of \$5,000 supports a single year's event. A gift of \$100,000 will endow the program in perpetuity.

IPE Graduate Essay Prize

To stimulate and draw attention to important new work in the field by our students, IPE will run a yearly essay competition for best and most impactful article in ethics and social impact of science or technology. A gift of \$4,000 will underwrite one year of the competition. A gift of \$80,000 will endow the program in perpetuity.

VISITING AND POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS

Renowned faculty and postdoctoral scholars from counterpart institutions seed our work at UC San Diego with a range of perspectives constructively shaped by difference – different regions, academic influences and scholarly biographies. Endowment or expendable support of visiting scholars will heighten the institute's standing and impact.

IPE Postdoctoral Scholar

With a gift of \$80,000, a donor may support a one-year postdoctoral scholarship in an IPE research theme of their choosing.

IPE Visiting Scholar

With a gift of \$25,000, a donor will support a one-year visit of a prestigious scholar whose work aligns with one or more IPE research themes.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Supporting the Institute for Practical Ethics' internal grant award program provides UC San Diego faculty with resources for independent, creative inquiry. Previous funded projects include exploring questions around big data and privacy in historically marginalized communities, the utility of scientific research prioritizing rigor, impacts of algorithms and big data on culture, and more.

LECTURES IN ETHICS AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Events spotlighting visiting scholars connect collaboration and conversation at UC San Diego with experts around the world on the institute's exploration themes. Donors endowing lectures in one or more themes with a gift of \$100,000 or more will be recognized accordingly.



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visionary donors help us unleash a diverse
community of doers: those who imagine
unexpected answers that can transform
humanity for the better. Together, we
foster bold scholars, researchers, healers,
entrepreneurs and creators. Because here,
breaking new ground is the norm —
and people are the point.

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