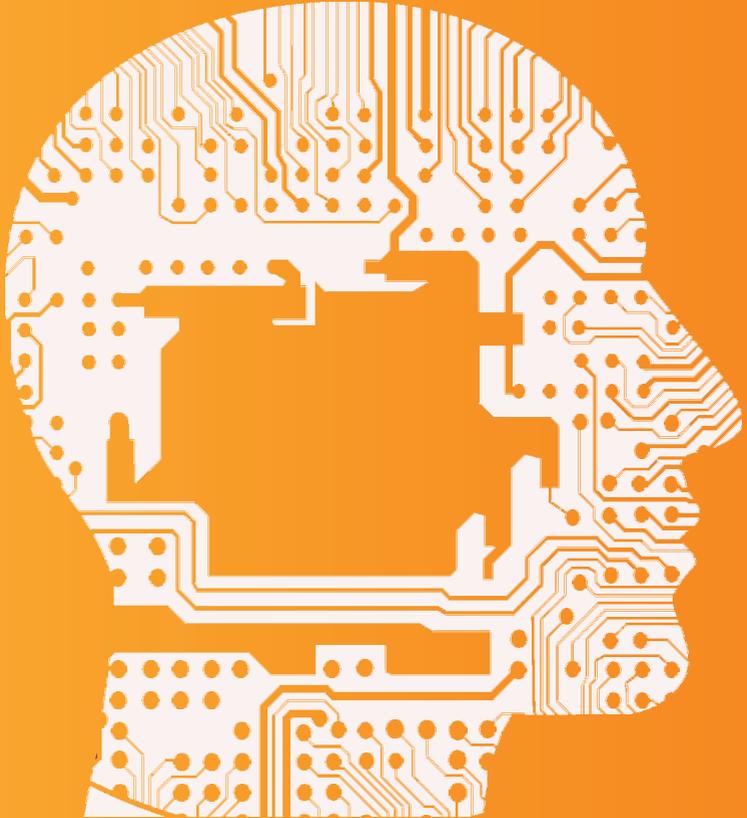# FUTURE THINKING

PRESHIL PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE 2019

SPEAKERS

PROFESSOR JULIAN SAVULESCU • PROFESSOR SUSAN WOLF • CARLEY TONOLI

ELLEN BROAD• DR ELIZA GODDARD • THE PHILOSOPHY CLUB

HOSTED BY

DR LENNY ROBINSON-MCCARTHY • PRESHIL, THE MARGARET LYTTLE MEMORIAL SCHOOL

PRESHIL

COURAGE
TO
QUESTION

ABOUT PRESHIL

The Preshil Mission

At our core remains an unshakeable commitment to encouraging all children to challenge themselves to achieve their own goals and to be respected as individuals in their own right. It is a commitment to our children to be nurtured and challenged in an atmosphere that inspires creativity and independent thinking in all areas of life and does not, overtly or subtly, use competition or punishment to motivate through the fear of failure. As global citizens we encourage an awareness of world issues and encourage effort to make a positive difference. We believe that education should prepare students to be thoughtful, peace-loving and active citizens of the world.

Preshil will remain a school that puts kindness, compassion and social relationships at the centre of its operations.

Preshil has long had a deep commitment to the teaching of Philosophy, from the earliest years of school to the senior years of VCE - and now as a part of the International Baccalaureate.

We believe the world needs creative thinkers – people willing to challenge convention and do things differently, to think critically and to make ethical judgements. Particularly now, as we face a rapidly changing global landscape, it's imperative our children grow up with a curiosity about the world and have an appetite for independent learning and true moral agency.

Mindless compliance, conformity and passive obedience are no longer useful tools for learning, or for citizenship.

The School's motto "Courage" underpins our commitment to ensuring our students have the "Courage to question".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that Preshil welcomes you to our fourth philosophy conference, 'Future Thinking.' Over the course of the morning and afternoon you will have the opportunity to hear from some incredible philosophers and thinkers, to ask questions and to engage in discussion and debate on a range of important issues relating to technology. In particular, we invite you to consider the role technology will play in how we think about our future selves and what emerging technology means for what we consider a good life to be.

While these issues are of particular relevance to the new Year 12 Philosophy curriculum, they are also issues we all must address as we move into a brave new world characterized by rapid change and an impending sense of emergency regarding the preservation of our planet. We need to think now about the world we want in the future if we want a future at all. Where we stand on technology and what we do with it is vitally important.

Socrates once described philosophy as 'the finest work in the world.' We hope that during today's conference you will have the opportunity to engage in this fine work.

Please enjoy.

PROGRAM

SUSAN WOLF
Meaning in Life and the Objectivity of Value

9:15 - 10:05

ELLEN BROAD
Rousing the weary giants of Flesh and Steel

10:10 - 11:05

THE PHILOSOPHY CLUB
Screening of COI stimulus

11:05 - 11:10

Morning Tea

11:10 - 11:30

THE PHILOSOPHY CLUB
Transhumanism COI

11:35 - 12:45

PHILIP ETHERINGTON
The Sample Exam: Implications for teaching and assessing

Lunch

12:45 - 13:35

CARLEY TONOLI
Future War: Faceless Warriors and Empty Battlefields

13:35 - 14:30

ELIZA GODDARD
Technology and Identity: Ethical grounds for innovation in emerging health technologies

14:30 - 15:25

Afternoon Tea

15:25 - 15:40

JULIAN SAVULESCU
Moral Machines

15:45 - 16:40

LENNY ROBINSON-MCCARTHY
Inaugural Preshil Philosophy Writing Prize & Closing Remarks

16:40 - 17:00

PROFESSOR SUSAN WOLF
MEANING IN LIFE AND THE OBJECTIVITY OF VALUE

ELLEN BROAD
ROUSING THE WEARY GIANTS OF FLESH AND STEEL

Professor Susan Wolf is the Edna J Koury Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

She has held previous positions at Harvard, the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University.

Her area of specialisation is ethics and her interests include moral psychology, value theory and normative ethics.

She is the author of five books and numerous articles, including her widely regarded essay 'Moral Saints.'

Her essay 'Meaning in Life' is included on the current VCE Philosophy prescribed text list.

Living a meaningful life is different from living a happy one, but what it means for a life to be meaningful is a matter of debate. I believe (and shall try to convince you) that meaning comes from engaging in projects of worth – activities that you love and that are worthy of love. This implies that meaning has both a subjective and an objective aspect, related in appropriate ways.

Ellen returned to Australia from the UK in late 2016, where she was Head of Policy for the Open Data Institute (ODI), an international non-profit founded by Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Sir Nigel Shadbolt. While in the UK Ellen was also ministerial adviser on data to senior UK cabinet minister Elisabeth Truss. She has held roles as Manager of Digital Policy and Projects for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (Netherlands) and Executive Officer for the Australian Digital Alliance, and is currently Head of Technical Delivery, Consumer Data Standards for CSIRO's Data61. She is an independent consultant on data sharing, open data and AI ethics, and a member of the Australian government's Data Advisory Council. She is the author of Made by Humans: the AI Condition (Melbourne University Publishing, 2018) and has written about data for publications including The Guardian, New Scientist and Griffith Review. A board game about data she created with Jeni Tennison, CEO of the Open Data Institute, is being played in 19 countries.

Twenty five years ago John Perry Barlow launched his Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace, shunning government intervention into life online. How has it matured with age? What challenges confront us today as our offline and online lives blend together? Ellen examines recent developments in AI and automation, emerging social contracts in cyberspace and considers the society we want to shape for the future.

THE PHILOSOPHY CLUB
TRANSHUMANISM

THE PHILOSOPHY CLUB

CARLEY TONOLI
FUTURE WAR: FACELESS WARRIORS AND EMPTY BATTLEFIELDS

The Philosophy Club believes that critical engagement with ideas is vital for democratic citizenship.

The Philosophy Club partners with schools to build a culture of enquiry, argument, reflection and metacognition. It runs prize-winning workshops for primary and secondary students, as well as highly-regarded PD programs that provide teachers with practical tools to extend students' thinking. Using the tools of collaborative dialogue, the club help both students and teachers develop a sophisticated range of dispositions and skills that are foundational for their success as learners, as active citizens, and as thoughtful individuals.

Carley Tonoli is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, based in the Philosophy Program.

Her research focuses on the ethics of emerging technologies, and her current work looks at emerging military technologies, their ethical implications, and potential consequences for humanity and the future of war. Carley's research is informed by her previous work and studies in the fields of applied ethics, IT, journalism, and communications.

Throughout the past decade, Carley has earned a Bachelor of Communications (PR and Journalism) and a Master's degree in Professional and Applied Ethics. During this time she has also worked for a number of non-profit, government, and charitable organisations in communications, media, and research roles.

The hardest choices require the strongest wills. Avengers: Infinity Wars

Theatres of war are always radically changed by the introduction of new technologies—from guns, tanks and planes, to precision guided missiles, drones, and cyber warfare. Emerging military technologies currently in development are set to transform the battlefields of the future into human-less and humane-less arenas, dominated by robots, autonomous weapons, artificial intelligence, and augmented soldiers. Before we venture further into this novel technological territory, it is vital that we reflect on the nature and ethical principles of war, and how these emerging technologies may erode many of the democratic values we fight to uphold. In this presentation, I will sketch a picture of what future, technologically driven war is expected to look like. Based on this picture, I will highlight a number of ethical, legal, and political issues we must address if we are to embrace these technologies. Is it right for an algorithm to decide to take a life? Who becomes the target when there are no longer live battlefields with opposing armies full of soldiers? Without a human face, does war primarily become an economic battle, where justice and righteousness are at risk of being overcome by wealth of nations?

DR ELIZA GODDARD
TECHNOLOGY AND IDENTITY: ETHICAL GROUNDS FOR INNOVATION IN EMERGING HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

PROFESSOR JULIAN SAVULESCU
MORAL MACHINES

Dr Eliza Goddard is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES), Ethics, Policy and Public Engagement theme, at the University of New South Wales.

Eliza's research focuses on the social and ethical implications of emerging health technologies. Awarded in 2015, her PhD in philosophy explored questions of threats to personal identity from neural implants. Her current research is concerned with the impacts of these technologies for understandings of disability and enhancement, with attention to issues of identity, autonomy and embodiment.

Her publications on prosthetics, identity and disability appear in the journals, *Neuroethics, American Journal of Bioethics Neuroscience* and *Disability and Rehabilitation Technology*. She often writes as interdisciplinary collaborations with scientists and engineers.

Innovations in health technologies improve the well-being of individuals, they may also present challenges to both individual user, and group, identity. How do technologies shape human identity? And, how do assumptions about disability inform the choice and design of emerging health technologies? In this presentation, through examples drawn from medical prosthetics and devices, I explore themes of identity, justice and disability, as well as the possibility for emerging health technologies to both address user needs and positively challenge assumptions about disability.

Professor Savulescu is the is Uehiro Professor of Practical Ethics at Oxford, a Fellow of St Cross College and the Director of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics.

He is also the Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished Visiting Professor at Monash University, the former editor and current board member of the Journal of Medical Ethics and the head of the Melbourne-Oxford Stem Cell Collaboration, which is devoted to examining the ethical implications of cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

Together with Ingmar Persson, he is the author of Unfit for the Future: The Need for Moral Enhancement.

His research interests include: the ethics of genetics, research ethics, new forms of reproduction, such as cloning and assisted reproduction, medical ethics and sports ethics.

A famous dilemma in philosophy asks whether, if you were on an out of control train speeding towards 5 people on the railway line, you should pull a lever to switch to another track where there is only 1 person. Autonomous cars have brought this question, or questions like it, into reality. Faced with a group of pedestrians stepping out into the road, should the car swerve and hit a single cyclist instead? A recent global survey on how cars should balance lives, showed some general preferences: to prioritise human over animal lives, to save more rather than fewer lives, and to save the young over the old. Some were culture-specific. People from southern countries, for example, tended to prioritise the lives of females and the physically fit. Does it matter what the people think when we decide how to programme cars? How should we decide what moral choices machines should make?

DR LENNY ROBINSON-MCCARTHY
PRESHIL

Dr Lenny Robinson-McCarthy has taught Philosophy at Preshil since 2001 and is the school's former International Baccalaureate Diploma Coordinator. Since establishing the VCE Philosophy program at the school she has also worked with the VCAA in the areas of VCE Philosophy curriculum development and assessment and, together with Anna Symes, written Victoria's first VCE Philosophy textbooks. Lenny is a qualified Philosophy for Children educator who, under the auspices of VAPS, has designed and run workshops in Community of Inquiry for both primary and secondary school teachers.

"We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time."

- T.S. Eliot