

# Barbara Muraca: Why protect nature? The multiple values of human-nature relationships and their relevance for policy

**Date:** January 25, 2023

**Time:** 20:00 – 21.30

**Location:** Zoom

**Sign-up:** [eva.hijlkema@univie.ac.at](mailto:eva.hijlkema@univie.ac.at)

**Barbara Muraca is an Professor of Philosophy at The University of Oregon. Her research focuses on Environmental and Social Philosophy, Process Philosophy, and Political Ecology. Prior to working at University of Oregon she was Assistant Professor of Environmental and Social Philosophy at Oregon State University and Senior Researcher (Post-Doc) at the Center for Advanced Studies 'Post-growth Societies' at the Institute of Sociology of the University of Jena, Germany. From 2014 to 2020 she was co-director of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy (IAEP). Since Summer 2018 she is a Lead Author of the IPBES assessment on multiple values of nature (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).**

## **Abstract:**

For decades the question about why nature should be protected has had two different answers: because nature matters for its own sake (intrinsic value), independent of how it affects people, or because of the benefits people derive from interacting with nature (instrumental value). While the first perspective rejects instrumental justifications for conservation and considers anthropocentrism as part of the problem, the second one highlights anthropocentric arguments and employs economic valuation to assess the importance of ecosystems to people. But does it have to be one or the other? Recent research suggests a third possibility: protecting nature because of the meaningful relationships that connect people to nature, and to each other through nature. These so-called relational values remain anthropocentric, but are not instrumental justifications for conservation. Since its development, the relational value framework has proven relevant for policy and in valuation studies across disciplines and has been adopted by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The lecture will present the policy relevance of this old debate in environmental ethics and embed it into the way in which IPBES operates at the global level.

# Student Colloquium on Decision Principles in Ethics

**Date:** January 26, 2023

**Time:** 11.30 – 14.45

**Location:** Hörsaal 3F (NIG)

**As a part of the research seminar ‘Decision Principles in Ethics’ the students will host a colloquium on ethical decision-making and its shortfalls in real scenarios. Please be invited to join!**

## **Schedule:**

**11.30 – 12.00 Pauline de Ronde and Julia Leturio:** *Should medical AI always be supervised by humans?*

**12.00 – 12.30 Ida Miczke and Jakob Lissy:** *How to choose whom to treat: triage planning during the Covid-19 pandemic*

**12.30 – 13.00 Ekkehard Tenschert and Felix Servus:** *How to judge someone’s estimated developmental capacities?*

**13.00 – 13.15 Break**

**13.15 – 13.45 Silvia Schori:** *An ethical dilemma with child labour in Senegal*

**13.45 – 14.15 Eduard Mastalski and Egzona Bokshi:** *The Covid-19 lockdown through an ethical framework*

**14.15 – 14.45 Eva Hijlkema:** *Is there a case for favouring evidence-backed choices over and above expected value?*

*Pauline de Ronde and Julia Leturio: Should medical AI always be supervised by humans?*

*Ida Miczke and Jakob Lissy: How to choose whom to treat: triage planning during the Covid-19 pandemic*

*Ekkehard Tenschert and Felix Servus: How to judge someone's estimated developmental capacities?*

*Silvia Schori: An ethical dilemma with child labour in Senegal*

*Eduard Mastalski and Egzona Bokshi: The Covid-19 lockdown through an ethical framework*

*Eva Hijlkema: Is there a case for favouring evidence-backed choices over and above expected value?*

infinitesimal certain loss vs. probable win

But

Is there a case for favouring evidence-backed choices over and above expected value?

Intervention = choice / decision

Habit?

Case = grocery market

Next week in class. 11.30-13.00 and 13.15 until 14.45 (3 presentations per session)

Write a paper

Question at the end: challenge to the listener: does someone have an example of this problem in real life?

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