

# Announcement

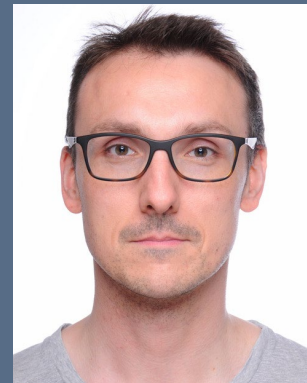
CELLS RESEARCH SEMINAR  
WINTER SEMESTER 2024/2025



**Alexander Christian, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**

**Monday, 4 November 2024, 10.15-11.45am s.t.**

Alexander Christian is a Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, where he leads a cross-faculty program on the ethics of science and bioethics. His research focuses on good scientific practice in biomedical research, science denialism, and the ethical regulation of CRISPR/Cas technologies.



## Deliberating the ethical limits of biomedical research

This talk examines recurring calls for research bans and moratoria within specific fields of biomedicine, such as gain-of-function research, human germline editing, and xenotransplantation. While acknowledging the crucial role of ethical deliberation in these controversial areas, the talk argues that current debates are often unproductive due to systemic issues that undermine good research governance. These issues include unquestioning appeals to authority, undue moral deference to a narrow range of epistemic expert, limitations on open dialogue, insufficient representation of diverse stakeholders, undisclosed conflicts of interest, and unchecked epistemic egoism.

The talk will be structured as follows: First, it provides a concise overview of the rationale behind demands for limiting research in the aforementioned areas of biomedicine. Second, it identifies and analyzes the recurring issues that affect these debates and hinder good research governance. Finally, it proposes a framework for deliberating ethical limits in biomedical research, emphasizing transparency, inclusivity, and robust ethical analysis that extends beyond mere appeals to authority and expertise. This framework will be accompanied by concrete suggestions for its practical implementation.

**ROOM 1930.A001 (Otto-Brenner-Str. 1)**