



FREE SEMINAR SERIES

Ethics: is there a right and wrong?



Crossroads Church
220 Church Street, Palmerston North
Wednesdays 2.15 – 4.00pm

This seminar series, organised by U3A Manawatu, is funded by Eastern & Central Community Trust, and is open to the public.

This series looks at aspects of behaviour, can we determine and apply criteria so as to act “correctly”?

May 8th: Towards more fortunate experiments

Dr Brian Finch, Former Director of Ethics, Massey University

How does society ensure that the quest for new knowledge is conducted responsibly and ethically? Are sets of rules or sets of principles more productive? How can institutions ensure that research does not cause unintended harm to participants? In this talk the development of research ethics and the current processes will be explained and the challenges in the area will be explored.

May 15th: Does religion provide an adequate basis for morality?

Dr Chris van der Krogt, Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities, Massey University

Religions typically claim to offer instruction on how people should conduct their lives, and the western monotheistic traditions in particular hold that God has provided humankind with specific moral guidance. In practice, the faithful have to supplement religious revelation with moral reasoning of their own both to fill gaps in the revelation and to explain away moral perspectives that no longer seem acceptable.

May 22nd: Assessing ethical conundrums in UN peacekeeping

Dr Bethan Greener, Associate Professor in the Politics programme, Massey University

Scandals have arisen in UN peacekeeping, with failure to protect populations and accusations of abuses. This has challenged the UN ideal of ‘neutrality’ and ‘impartiality’, and risked the chance of mission success. Discussion of some of the challenges is followed by coverage of two recent initiatives to improve UN peacekeeping practices. How and why were these developed? What might this mean for the future of UN peacekeeping?

May 29th: Ethics in health – a cultural perspective

Dr Geoffrey Kira, Senior Lecturer, School of Health Sciences, Massey University

Ethics in health is paramount. Our health system is such that the health professional has an authority over the patient or client. Therefore, it is incumbent on the health professional to behave ethically. In NZ, there are professional codes of conduct and there is the NZ Health and Disabilities Act. In this presentation, Geoff will also address health ethics from a te ao Māori (Māori worldview) perspective.

Admission Free: Gold coin for tea/coffee and biscuits.

Crossroads Church is situated opposite the Railway Land close to the Church Street-Cook Street corner. There is ample parking alongside the church, and in Church Street.