

# Biological Futures

in a GLOBALIZED WORLD

## Spring Quarter 2013 Colloquium Series

### Stewardship...of what, by whom, in whose interests?

**Monday, May 20, 12:00 - 1:30 pm**

Simpson Center for the Humanities, Communications 202

Lunch will be provided; please RSVP to [suzelong@uw.edu](mailto:suzelong@uw.edu) by **Thursday, May 16** to be sure you get the sandwich of your choice!

Stewardship has been embraced and contested as a norm of ethical conduct in a range of fields. It has a long history in environmental ethics, and has more recently got uptake in the context of medical research where it informs the design and management of tissue banks, and in archaeology where it is the cornerstone of the Ethics Principles adopted by the Society for American Archaeology in the mid-1990s. Join our panelists for discussion of how ideals of stewardship have evolved over time; why they are attractive, what their critics object to and, crucially, what difference they make to practice.

- **Environmental ethics:** **Steve Gardiner** and **Lauren Hartzell Nichols** (Department of Philosophy, Program on Values and Program on the Environment) *will discuss controversies surrounding the concept of environmental stewardship from the perspective of environmental ethics.*
- **Biomedical research:** **Wylie Burke** and **Kelly Edwards** (Department of Bioethics and Humanities, School of Medicine) *will consider ways of thinking about the stewardship of medical information and biological samples and consider their implications for health care and biomedical research.*
- **Stewardship ideals in archaeology:** **Alison Wylie** (Departments of Philosophy and Anthropology) *will discuss why it's contentious when archaeologists claim stewardship responsibility for the archaeological record.*



Gardiner



Hartzell Nichols



Burke



Edwards



Wylie

**Please see following pages for abstracts and panelists' bios.**

Background readings are posted on the Spring Colloquium GoPost:

<https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/aw26/32579/>

*For more information about this colloquium  
and the Biological Futures in a Globalized World initiative, please visit*

<http://tiny.cc/biological-futures>

## **BFGW Stewardship Colloquium: About the panelists**

**Wylie Burke MD PhD** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Washington, Adjunct Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, and Member of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. She received a PhD in Genetics and an MD from the University of Washington. Her work focuses on the ethical and policy implications of genetic information in research, medical care and public health. Dr. Burke directs the University of Washington Center for Genomics and Healthcare Equality. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine and past President of the American Society of Human Genetics.

**Kelly Edwards** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Washington School of Medicine and core faculty for the Institute for Public Health Genetics, and an Acting Associate Dean in the University of Washington Graduate School. She received an M.A. in Medical Ethics and a PhD in Philosophy of Education from the University of Washington, Seattle. Her work incorporates communication and public engagement as an ethical obligation for clinicians and scientists. She is the Director of the Ethics and Outreach Core for the NIEHS-funded Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health and also is Co-Director of the Regulatory Support and Bioethics Core for the Institute for Translational Health Sciences (CTSA), and lead investigator with the NHGRI-funded Center for Genomics and Healthcare Equality.

**Stephen M. Gardiner** is Professor of Philosophy and Ben Rabinowitz Endowed Professor of Human Dimensions of the Environment at the University of Washington, Seattle. His main research interests are in global environmental problems such as climate change, environmental ethics and global political philosophy, and Aristotelian virtue ethics. He is the author of *A Perfect Moral Storm: the Ethical Tragedy of Climate Change* (Oxford, 2011), the coordinating co-editor of *Climate Ethics: Essential Readings* (Oxford, 2010), and the editor of *Virtue Ethics: Old and New* (Cornell, 2005). His articles have appeared in journals such as *Ethics*, the *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, and *Philosophy and Public Affairs*. He is currently co-editing the *Oxford Handbook on Environmental Ethics* with Allen Thompson.

**Lauren Hartzell Nichols** began her interdisciplinary training in environmental studies at Connecticut College. While she originally thought she wanted to be an environmental scientist, Lauren quickly discovered her love and talent for philosophy. She double majored in the science track of the environmental studies major as well as in philosophy so as to prepare herself for a career in environmental ethics. Lauren completed her Ph.D. in the philosophy department at Stanford University, where she recruited climate scientist Stephen Schneider to serve on her dissertation committee. Lauren's work addresses the ethical challenges climate change poses. In particular, she addresses the complexity of ethical decision making in the face of significant, intergenerational risks. She is currently completing a book with the working title, "A Climate of Risk: Precautionary Principles, Catastrophes, and Climate Change." Lauren enjoys teaching courses that expose students to the ethical complexities of environmental problems.

**Alison Wylie** is Professor of Philosophy and Anthropology at the University of Washington. She primarily works on theoretical and ethical issues raised by archaeological practice, specifically, questions about ideals of objectivity, evidential reasoning, and accountability. Her publications include *Thinking from Things: Essays in the Philosophy of Archaeology* (2002), edited volumes such as *Value-free Science?* (OUP 2007, with Kincaid and Dupré), *Doing Archaeology as a Feminist* (JAMT 2007, with Conkey), *Epistemic Diversity and Dissent* (Episteme, 2006), and *Ethics in American Archaeology* (SAA 2000, with Lynott). Her essays on research ethics in archaeology appear in *Appropriating the Past* (CUP 2013), *The Ethics of Archaeology* (CUP 2012), *The Ethics of Cultural Appropriation* (Wiley 2009), *Embedding Ethics* (Berg 2005), and *Science and Engineering Ethics* (1999).

## **BFGW Stewardship Colloquium: Abstracts and readings**

### **Environmental Ethics & Environmental Stewardship**

**Steve Gardiner and Lauren Hartzell Nichols** (Department of Philosophy, Program on Values and Program on the Environment)

One of the greatest challenges to understanding environmental stewardship is that there is no one agreed upon definition of stewardship in the environmental ethics literature. Perhaps surprisingly, many within the environmental ethics community argue against environmental stewardship because this term has sometimes been associated with anthropocentrism (human-centered value systems), sexism, and/or speciesism. In their presentation, Gardiner and Hartzell Nichols will first discuss the many ways in which environmental stewardship has been understood by the environmental ethics community, focusing on how one's value system affects what stewardship is taken to be. For example, a biocentric value system may think of environmental stewardship as the protection of all living beings whereas an ecocentric value system such as the Land Ethic may think of environmental stewardship as promoting global and local ecosystem integrity. Gardiner and Hartzell Nichols will then discuss a recent paper by Jennifer Welchman in which she proposes a definition of stewardship that she believes promises to offer a constructive way of framing morally decent conduct towards the environment.

#### **Recommended reading:**

- *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* Entry on "Environmental Ethics": <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-environmental/>
- Welchman, Jennifer. 2012. "A Defense of Environmental Stewardship." *Environmental Values* 21(3): 297-316.

### **The Stewardship of Medical Information and Biological Samples**

**Wylie Burke and Kelly Edwards** (Bioethics and Humanities, School of Medicine)

Emerging science requires large-scale data collection efforts. Biorepositories are now routinely developed at the institution, state, and national levels, but effective development and use of these resources requires trustworthy governance. Wylie Burke and Kelly Edwards will discuss how stewardship concepts can be applied in the biomedical research context, and will consider barriers such as intellectual property concerns, conflicting views of data ownership, and the use of anonymization strategies in data management.

#### **Recommended reading:**

- Jeffers, B. R. 2001. "Human Biological Materials in Research: Ethical Issues and the Role of Stewardship in Minimizing Research Risks." *ANS Advances in Nursing Science* 24.2: 32-46. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/offcampus.lib.washington.edu/pubmed/11763368>
- O'Brien, S. J. 2009. "Stewardship of Human Biospecimens, DNA, Genotype, and Clinical Data in the GWAS Era." 10: 193-209. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/offcampus.lib.washington.edu/pubmed/?term=stewardship+and+o'brien>

### **Archaeological Stewardship Revisited**

**Alison Wylie** (Departments of Philosophy and Anthropology)

The Principles of Archaeological Ethics endorsed by the SAA specify that archaeologists should, first and foremost, serve as "caretakers of and advocates for the archaeological record, for the benefit of all people." While this marks a significant break with a tradition of practice that had routinely privileged scientific goals and interests, critics quickly asked "by whose authority," and "to what end"? Challenges from descendant communities, especially Indigenous communities, throw into particularly sharp relief problems inherent in an ethic of stewardship. Are models of joint stewardship viable? Or is stewardship fatally flawed as an ethical ideal when the subject of inquiry is someone else's cultural heritage?

#### **Recommend Reading:**

- Society for American Archaeology, "Principles of Archaeological Ethics" <http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/PrinciplesofArchaeologicalEthics/tabid/203/Default.aspx>
- Alison Wylie. 2005. "The Promise and Perils of an Ethic of Stewardship." In *Embedding Ethics*, ed. L. Meskell and P. Pells. New York: Berg, pp. 47-68.