The Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics issues a Grand Challenge to every new student who comes to USC: to engage with, understand and internalize the timeless values at the core of our humanity.

In this effort, the Institute collaborates with departments, professional schools and programs across the university to bring students and faculty together with authors and artists, philosophers and practitioners, and the ethical voices of our time.

Helping students acquire values of moral discernment, love of truth and beauty, understanding of self, and respect for and appreciation of others.
Thank you for your support of the Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics and our programs. Since Dr. Norman Levan generously endowed the institute in 2007, we continue to grow in our mission with a larger ethics teaching program, our new Levan Undergraduate Scholars Program, ongoing thematic workshops, philosophical coffeehouse conversations on issues of the day, essay competitions, films and speakers.

Each year we select a theme to streamline our events and programs. This year it’s “Reimagine Responsibility: Turning Timeless Values Into Timely Action.” This theme was selected to link to our ongoing partnership with the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs and the three-year scholars project to reimagine a global ethic. Highlights of our thematic events included a lecture by Professor Martha Nussbaum of the University of Chicago on the new religious intolerance, a roundtable with Oxford University Professor David Rodin on rethinking the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), and a packed-house screening of the documentary The Interrupters with director Steve James and two former gang members from Chicago who work with violence intervention group, Ceasefire.

I recently selected a group of ten exceptional undergraduate students to serve as our first class of Levan Undergraduate Scholars, and I continue to be amazed at the caliber of our students here at USC. I am grateful for the meaningful Levan collaborations with philosophy professors Edwin McCann and Sharon Lloyd, and James Collins of the Classics Department.

I encourage you to visit our website for more information about our programs and partnerships, and to contact us with any ideas you may have for ways we can work together. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lyn Boyd-Judson, Ph.D.
ETHICAL VOICES OF OUR TIME

LEVAN ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

MARTHA NUSSBAUM, “THE NEW RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE: OVERCOMING THE POLITICS OF FEAR”

Thursday, April 11, 4PM Welcome Reception, 5PM Lecture
(Doheny Memorial Library 240)
(Hosted by the USC Dornsife Departments of Classics, Philosophy, Religion and Political Science)

Professor Nussbaum is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, appointed in the Law School and Philosophy Department of the University of Chicago. She is an associate in the Classics Department, the Divinity School, and the Political Science Department, a member of the Committee on Southern Asian Studies and a board member of the Human Rights Program. She has taught at Harvard, Brown, and Oxford Universities. From 1986 to 1993, Dr. Nussbaum was a research adviser at the World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki, a part of United Nations University. She has chaired the Committee on International Cooperation and the Committee on the Status of Women of the American Philosophical Association, and currently chairs the APA’s Committee on Public Philosophy.


VISIONS AND VOICES

REBECCA SKLOOT: “THE ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF MEDICAL DISCOVERY: LESSONS FROM THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS”

Thursday, April 4, 4PM (Health Sciences Campus, Mayer Auditorium)

Rebecca Skloot is an award-winning science writer whose work has been widely anthologized. Her debut book, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, took more than a decade to research and write, and instantly became a New York Times best seller. The book tells the story of a young black woman who died of cervical cancer in 1951 and left behind an inexplicably immortal line of cells known as HeLa. Harvested without her knowledge or consent, Henrietta Lack’s cells contributed to scientific advancements as varied as the polio vaccine, treatments for cancers and viruses, in vitro fertilization and our understanding of the impact of space travel on human cells. The story is also about her children, who were later used in research without their consent and who have never benefited from the commercialization of HeLa cells, though the cells have helped biotech companies make millions of dollars. Part detective story, part scientific odyssey and part family saga, Immortal Life raises fascinating questions about race, class and bioethics in America.

SHANNON BROWNLEE: “TOO MUCH MEDICINE? HOW OVERTREATMENT, UNNECESSARY CARE AND ECONOMIC INCENTIVES IMPERIL THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM”

Thursday, September 27, 4PM Lecture (Health Sciences Campus, Mayer Auditorium)
(Student lunch with Shannon Brownlee, Thursday, September 27, Noon-1:30PM University Park Campus, University Club)


This two-part Visions and Voices series on medical ethics and humanities was organized by Pamela Schaff (Pediatrics and Keck Educational Affairs), Erin Quinn (Family Medicine) and Lyn Boyd-Judson (Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics). Cosponsored by the Keck School of Medicine’s Program in Medical Humanities, Arts and Ethics, the USC Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics, and the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics.
The Levan Coffeehouse Conversations on Practical Ethics promote ethical discourse at USC by bringing together students and faculty from across schools to discuss ethical issues of practical importance. Coffeehouse Conversations are moderated by Professor Sharon Lloyd.

**MESSINGER OR MENACE: CAN MEDIA STILL ACT RESPONSIBLY?**

Wednesday, February 20, Noon–1:30PM (Ground Zero Café)

In the not-too-distant past, there was a fairly clear line separating journalists from mere consumers of media. With the recent proliferation of media outlets, magnified by the rise of consumer-generated and disseminated “news,” the distinction between reporter and consumer has been blurred, if not entirely obliterated. We are all members of the media. Is an entirely new ethical standard needed?

**Guest Panelists:**
- Geneva Overholser, Director and Professor, School of Journalism, USC Annenberg
- Tom Hollihan, Professor of Communication, USC Annenberg
- Shlomo Sher, Philosophy, USC Dornsife

**ARE WE RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT GRIDLOCK?**

Wednesday, March 13, Noon–1:30PM (Ground Zero Café)

A majority of Americans today report dissatisfaction, even disgust, with Congress, largely because of its perceived inability to pass what all acknowledge to be needed legislation. Yet we are part of the electorate responsible for the composition of our dysfunctional Congress. Is it ethical to vote solely on the basis of our personal interests and our particular ethical or religious values—even as it threatens gridlock in a pluralistic society like ours? Or does morality require us to vote on the basis of our society’s common interest in functioning government in common matters, recognizing that others in our free society will disagree with our personal and particular values, and that ours may lose out?

**Guest Panelists:**
- Nicholas Weller, Assistant Professor, Political Science, USC Dornsife
- John Matsusaka, Vice Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs Professor, Finance and Business Economics, USC Marshall
- Eric Kula, PhD in Political Science, USC Dornsife
- Alida Liberman, PhD in Philosophy, Levan Institute Graduate Ethics Fellow, USC Dornsife

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**LEIAN COFFEEHOUSE CONVERSATIONS ON PRACTICAL ETHICS**

Program Director Sharon Lloyd, Professor of Philosophy, Law and Political Science, USC Dornsife

The Levan Coffeehouse Conversations on Practical Ethics promote ethical discourse at USC by bringing together students and faculty from across schools to discuss ethical issues of practical importance. Coffeehouse Conversations are moderated by Professor Sharon Lloyd.

**“REIMAGINE CITIZENSHIP”**

Wednesday, September 26, Noon–1:30PM (Ground Zero Café)

The sixties saw sit-ins and the burning of draft cards, in the eighties we had economic boycotts of apartheid-era South Africa, while the recent Arab Spring protesters took it to the street with Twitter and other social media. And then there’s WikiLeaks, flash mobs and the Occupy movement. Voting seems almost passé. Are the demands of active citizenship changing?

**Guest Panelists:**
- Niels W. Frenzen, Clinical Professor of Law, USC Gould School of Law
- Ralph Wedgwood, Professor of Philosophy, USC Dornsife
- Ron Osborne, Bannerman Fellow, Politics and International Relations, USC Dornsife
- Scott Lepisto, Ph.D. student, Classics, USC Dornsife
- Michel Martinez, Ph.D. student, Political Science, USC Dornsife

**“MY BODY MADE ME DO IT!”**

Wednesday, October 24, Noon–1:30PM (Ground Zero Café)

Sadness is a medical condition. Addiction is a medical condition. Shyness is a medical condition. Lack of concentration, anxiety, fear, sleeplessness, hyperactivity — it’s as if to lead a successful life, we must first get a medical diagnosis to locate causal factors in toxins and chemical imbalance. Rather than problems to be medicated, are these conditions simply personality features that can be improved by personal effort? What remains of personal responsibility?

**Guest Panelists:**
- Erin Quinn, Co-Director, Primary Care Community Medicine Program, USC Keck School of Medicine
“With truths of a certain kind, it is not enough to make them appear convincing; one must also make them felt. Of such kind are moral truths.”

— Montesquieu, Persian Letters

“SPIRIT OF THE LAW”
Cosponsored by the Office of Religious Life
This monthly speaker series features legal professionals discussing how they find meaning and purpose in the law, how they use their law degrees in innovative and creative ways, and how they connect the personal and the professional in their lives.

Jesse Sisgold, Founder of Sisgold PC, Director of Angels at Risk, Director of SOL-LA Music Academy
Janice Kamenir-Reznik, Founding President of Jewish World Watch, Former Lawyer for Reznik & Reznik
Annette Wong, Attorney at Toni J. Jaramilla, PLC, 2012 Graduate of USC Law School
Niels Frenzen, Clinical Professor of Law, Director of USC Law Immigration Clinic, USC Gould School of Law
Robert Rasmussen, Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law, USC Gould School of Law
Alex Lee, Professor of Securities Regulation and Regulatory Law, USC Gould School of Law

“Every Levan Coffeehouse Conversation I’ve attended showed me different perspectives about critical issues, and they all connected back to what I’m studying here at USC! It was a pleasure to meet and network with panelists who are trailblazers in their field.”

— Kaylee Weatherly, Annenberg Graduate Student
“Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to assume responsibility for it, and by the same token save it from that ruin which except for renewal, except for the coming of the new and the young, would be inevitable.”

— Hannah Arendt
USC LEVAN/CARNEGIE GLOBAL ETHICS NETWORK EVENT

Roundtable: “Rethinking the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)”
Wednesday, February 27, 10–11:20 AM (THH 201)
The Levan Institute is a partner of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs in its Global Ethics Network multimedia initiative

Moderator:
>> Steven Lamy, Vice-Dean and Professor of International Relations, USC Dornsife

Panelists:
>> David Rodin, Senior Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict, Carnegie Global Ethics Fellow
>> Edwin Smith, Leon Benv渭 Professor of Law, International Relations and Political Science, USC Gould School of Law
>> Lynn Ta, Human Rights Lawyer, experience in Cambodia
>> Naama Haviv, Jewish World Watch, experience in Congo and Darfur
>> Rebecca Wertman, Undergraduate, School of International Relations, USC Dornsife

GLOBAL JUSTICE COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITY PARIS 8
The Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics has joined in an effort to boost teaching and research collaboration between University Paris 8 and the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. The Levan Institute, along with cosponsors University Paris 8, the USC Center for International Studies and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, will host a series of annual conferences and joint publications to further these efforts.

GLOBAL JUSTICE (II): ETHICS AND PRACTICES OF RESPONSIBILITY (2012)
Hosted by University Paris 8, November 19–20, 2012
Faculty and students from USC, University Paris 8 and University Paris Ouest presented papers and discussed the emerging field of global justice in the social sciences, law, medicine and economics. Speakers discussed the impact of conflicts, human and environmental rights, restorative justice and the reach of international legal institutions.

This two-day workshop addressed topics of common interest around continuing questions of global justice raised by our first collaborative conference in April 2011 hosted by the Levan Institute at USC. We moved beyond describing problems and toward developing themes of responsibility in creating justice and remedying injustice.

DIGITAL MEDIA, LEARNING AND EMPATHY: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN HOWARD GARDNER AND MARY HELEN IMMODINO-YANG
Presenting sponsor: Shoah Foundation Institute
Cosponsors: Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics, USC Center for Excellence in Teaching
Monday, February 11, 6–7:30 PM (Doheny Memorial Library, 240)
World-renowned intellectual Howard Gardener joins USC’s Mary Helen Immordino-Yang in conversation on literacy, learning and emotions in the digital age. Gardner is the John H. and Elisabeth A. Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Immordino-Yang is an assistant professor of education at USC Rossier School of Education, an assistant professor of psychology at the Brain and Creativity Institute and a member of the Neuroscience Graduate Program faculty at the University of Southern California.

TRAGIC ETHICS: WHAT TO DO WHEN GODS SET BAD EXAMPLES, WITH PAUL WOODRUFF
Organized by USC Center for Excellence in Teaching, USC Classics Department, and USC Office of Religious Life
Wednesday, November 28, 4 PM (Doheny Memorial Library 240)
How should we live in light of the fact that we are vulnerable to misery and death, and that we cannot rely on gods to do right by us? Paul Woodruff develops the concept of “judgment” in order to answer this question.

Paul Woodruff is a philosopher and dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He is one of America’s foremost interpreters of Plato, Thucydides and other Greek thinkers from the ancient world. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War.
TEACHING ETHICS PROGRAM
The Teaching Ethics Program (TEP) is an ethics outreach initiative based on the successful USC Dornsife service-learning model developed by the Center for Active Learning in International Studies (CALIS). Through TEP, USC students have an innovative opportunity to respond to the Levan Institute challenge: to engage with, understand and internalize the timeless values at the core of our humanity.

TEP trains undergraduate volunteers each year to introduce competing ethical perspectives and lead ethics case study discussions in local high schools. TEP teams are primarily recruited from philosophy classes, and are supported by USC professors who offer credit options as part of their courses.

“CINEMA OF SUBSTANCE” SERIES
Cosponsored by the USC School of Cinematic Arts

THE INTERRUPTERS
Friday, November 30, 7PM (USC Norris Cinema Theatre)
The evening includes a film screening and discussion with acclaimed The Interrupters director, Steve James and two Chicago members of Ceasefire, Eddie Bocanegra and Ameena Matthews. The documentary tells the moving and surprising stories of three “violence interrupters” who help protect their Chicago communities from the violence they themselves once employed.

5 BROKEN CAMERAS
Monday, February 4, 7 PM (Albert and Dana Broccoli Theatre, SCA 112)
An extraordinary work of both cinematic and political activism, this film is structured around the violent destruction of cameras owned by Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat and follows one family’s evolution over five years of village turmoil.

OEDIPUS TYRANNUS, A PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP
Program Director James Collins, Assistant Professor of Classics, USC Dornsife

Tuesday, December 11, 2PM (Zumberge Hall 352)
First produced around 429 BCE at the City Dionysia in Athens, Sophocles’ much-celebrated Oedipus Tyrannus tells the story of a man who unwittingly commits unspeakable crimes and searches for the culprit. Participants of Greek Tragic Poets (GR345) lead a performance workshop on the play’s themes of responsibility and the virtues of self-possessions and reverence in daily life.

“Ethical dilemmas go straight to the heart and art of weighing tough choices. When students clearly understand the dire trade-offs between competing ethical principles, it’s more than an ‘aha’ moment. It’s a new life skill to tackle complexity and respect diversity.”

— TERESA HUDOCK, TEACHING ETHICS PROGRAM
**USC ANNUAL ETHICS CUP COMPETITION**

The University of California–Santa Cruz hosted the 2012 California Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl on December 1. The Bowl (sponsored by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics), now in its 17th year, combines a competitive tournament with a valuable educational experience for undergrads. Students explore practical ethical problems and improve their ethical reasoning through case analysis and debate competition.

**USC ANNUAL ETHICS ESSAY CONTEST**

The USC Ethics Essay contest aims to recognize the best-written work on ethics by undergraduate USC students. Papers discuss current ethical issues or provide critical case analyses of ethics violations in a professional field.

Awards were granted for each of the following categories:

- **Overall Winner**: Best essay submitted in any category
  - **Winner**: Marissa Roy, "The UN's 8 Millennium Development Goals and the Legal Status of Distributive Justice"

- **Personal Ethics**: Paige Sorrentino, "Dante’s Inferno — Canto 12.5"

- **Professional Ethics**: Uriel Kim, "No More Pointing Fingers: Science and Regulation Needed for Fingerprinting’s Future"

- **Social Justice**: Candice Tardif, "Allergic Inmates: Unheard and Unsafe"

- **Global Ethics**: Francesca Bessey, "Free to Die: The Sexist Paradox of Women’s Suicide Terror"