



**CIVIS Blended Intensive Programme:
The science, ethics, and governance of human genome editing 2023.
(University of Tübingen)**

Explore the ethical implications of Human Genome Editing, including the scientific and medical possibilities, various ethical approaches and options for effective governance and regulation.

Overview of event: The last decade has seen a dramatic increase in the pace of scientific development of genome editing technologies, particularly highlighted by the advances enabled by CRISPR-Cas9. One area of immense potential is the use of genome editing technologies in humans. Alongside the potential benefits, there are a number of ethical and legal issues that arise, posing challenges for the development of robust governance of this technology. This Blended Intensive Program will explore the ethical implications of this emerging technology, noting the scientific and medical possibilities, and the various ethical and legal approaches and implications as well as the options for its effective governance and regulation.



This Blended Intensive Program will combine lectures (virtual 12th June – 10th July 2023; in-person 27th-31st July 2023) by experts in the field, alongside extensive interactive deliberative workshops, a one-day symposium, as well as activities around Tübingen's historic Old Town (including a visit to the [German Castle where DNA was first discovered](#)).

Main topics addressed during the course:*

- A brief history of human genome-editing
- The science and potential of genome editing (and related technologies) in research and human therapeutics
- The ethics of genome editing - moral distinctions and red lines
- Genome editing and social justice
- Translational ethics: from bench to the bedside
- New genomics or old eugenics
- Feminist perspectives on genome-editing
- Genome editing, diversity and disability
- European law and governance of human genome-editing
- Public engagement and the calls for consensus
- Novel issues: e.g. Non-identity problem; Patents and ethical licencing; Disease prevention; Incidental enhancements



Introducing the Instructors*

Members of the "Ethics of Genome Editing" (EGE) Research Unit and the International Center for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW) (IZEW), University of Tübingen

- Dr. Oliver Feeney (EGE)
- Katharina Trettenbach (EGE)
- Dr. Uta Müller (IZEW)
- Prof. Robert Ranisch (EGE Head & Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Potsdam)

Visiting lecturers in ethics and governance

- Dr. Greg Bognar (Stockholm University)
- Prof. José María Carrascosa (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
- Dr. Aurélie Mahalatchimy (Aix-Marseille Université)
- Dr. Emilian Mihailov (University of Bucharest)

Members of the Gene and RNA Therapy Center (GRTC), Tübingen

- Prof. Julia Skokowa (University Hospital Tübingen)
- Prof. Dr. Ulrich Lauer (University Tübingen)
- Dr. Dr. med. Reka Haraszti (University Tübingen)

Virtual Part: Virtual sessions (2 hour online talks and discussion sessions)* during:

week starting June 12: 'Introduction to the Programme & topic'.

week starting June 19: 'Introduction to the Science'.

week starting June 26: 'Introduction to the Ethics'.

week starting July 3: 'Introduction to the Law and Governance'.

week starting July 10: 'Building capacities (argumentation, public speaking, presenting)'.

Physical Part: The physical event will take place in the Konferenzzentrum University of Tübingen – 27th-31st July 2023, and will be a mix of lecture & deliberative workshops under the following themes*.



Thursday 27th July – 'The Science - current and future possibilities'

Friday 28th July – 'Ethical and social justice issues arising from human genome editing'

Saturday 29th July – 'Law, Governance & Public Engagement'

Sunday 30th July – 'Tübingen City of Ethics' (incl. walking/boating tour, Castle Museum visit)

Monday 31st July – Student presentations

Visiting Students - Erasmus Funding Eligibility: To be eligible

for your selected CIVIS programme, you must be a fully enrolled student at your CIVIS home university at the time you will be undertaking the programme. Check the following link for the eligibility criteria:

<https://civis.eu/en/qanda-for-civis-courses>

To apply: Good level of English required (min. B2). Interested students should prepare a one-page motivation letter & a short one-page academic CV. For more details and for the link to fill in your online application form, go to: <https://civis.eu/en/civis-courses/the-science-ethics-and-governance-of-human-genome-editing>. Make sure to apply **no later than 28 February 2023**.

Before applying, please contact the Programme co-ordinator, Dr Oliver Feeney: oliver.feeney@uni-tuebingen.de (Ethics of Genome Editing Research Unit, supported by the Dr. Kurt und Irmgard Meister-Stiftung and the Hans Gottschalk-Stiftung).

* Provisional – subject to change

Organising Committee: Oliver Feeney (BIP Coordinator), Greg Bognar, Emilian Mihailov, José María Carrascosa, Julia Skokowa, Aurélie Mahalatchimy, Robert Ranisch, Uta Müller, Garðar Árnason, Hans-Jörg Ehni.