



PÉTER KAKUK

PHILOSOPHER, BIOETHICIST

CONTACT

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PROFILE

I work at the intersection of philosophy and life sciences, with a focus on humanizing scientific practice and strengthening ethical decision-making.

My background spans academic research, project work, and committee service, alongside voluntary contributions to independent media.

I'm currently focused on health care ethics and law, bioethics, research ethics, scientific integrity, and data governance.

EXPERTISE

Research ethics review processes in biomedical and social sciences. Research ethics and integrity standards and guidelines. Ethics education; online/offline course development and teaching; grant writing and project management.

SKILLS

Highly self-directed, with strong organisational and prioritisation skills.

Proven ability to manage multiple priorities, work under pressure, and meet tight deadlines.

Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills; effective collaborator in cross-functional and interdisciplinary teams.

Strong digital literacy (user-level) across common research and collaboration tools; quick to learn new software, platforms, and applications.

Advanced ability to synthesise and analyse complex information and communicate it clearly and concisely to diverse audiences.

Extensive experience in grant writing, project management, and organising international workshops and conferences.

Demonstrated expertise in qualitative research methods and innovative course design/development.

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, Hungarian, passive German, basic French.

EDUCATION HISTORY

Habilitation in Health Sciences, 2018

institution: University of Debrecen, Faculty of Public Health, Debrecen, Hungary

title: Scientific and research integrity in the medical and health sciences

evaluation: excellent

PhD in Health Sciences, 2009

institution: University of Debrecen, Medical and Health Sciences Centre, School of Public Health, Debrecen, Hungary

evaluation: Summa cum laude

title: The bioethical problem of genetic information and discrimination: The doctrine of genetic exceptionalism in policy debates

MA in Healthcare Ethics and Law, 2005

institution: University of Manchester, Faculty of Humanities, School of Law, Manchester, UK

title: Genetic Determinism in Bioethical Discourse

thesis chapter received first prize of the ESPMH Young Scholar Award, 2006

DIPLOMA (BA & MA) in Philosophy, 1999

institution: Kossuth Lajos Tudományegyetem, Debrecen, Hungary

evaluation: excellent

WORK EXPERIENCE

Central European University, Senior Researcher, 2005-present

List of successfully accomplished projects: EC FP7 project, *NanoPlat*: Development of a Platform for Deliberative Processes on Nanotechnology in the European Consumer Market, 2008-2009; EC H2020 project, *Smart-map*: RoadMAPs to Societal Mobilisation for the Advancement of Responsible Industrial Technologies, 2015- 18; EC H2020, *EnTIRE* (Mapping the Normative framework for Ethics and Integrity of Research) H2020 project (G.A. 741782), 2017-21; EC H2020, ERC Synergy Grant, “Taming the European Leviathan: The Legacy of Post-War Medicine and the Common Good” (854503-Leviathan-ERC-2019SyG/ERC-2019-SyG)

World Health Organization, Consultant, 2021-2025

Contracted BY ERC Secretariat, Health Ethics & Governance Unit during the Covid-19 pandemic, contributed to the development of protocol review process at WHO, provided input into activities related to the engagement of technical units on ethics review, contributed to trainings of HQ ERC members, and assisted with development of guidance materials.

University of Debrecen, Assistant Professor, 2004-2019

Teaching undergraduates and postgraduates, courses on philosophy, ethics and law; Chief of Ethics Teaching, graduate, postgraduate courses, doctoral training. Research projects included: EC “Study on BioPreparedness” coordinator: Inter-University Chair in Law and the Human Genome, Bilbao, Spain, 2010; Identification of Disease Related Genes in the Hungarian Population, TÁMOP-4.2.2.A-11/1/KONV-2012-0031; National Excellence Program, Magyary Zoltán postdoctoral scholarship, “Research ethics and integrity in the life-sciences”, 2012-2013 (TÁMOP 4.2.4.A/2-11-1-2012-0001); COST Action IS1201, Disaster Bioethics, Management Committee Member, Financial Rapporteur. 2012-2016.

VOLUNTARY WORK

Consultant – Debreciner, Strategic Analysis, 2019 - present

In 2019, I co-founded *Debreciner*, an independent regional online journal focused on the public interest. As a member of the leadership board, I contributed to developing the journal’s financial management framework. In a voluntary capacity, I successfully secured funding through a range of national and international grant schemes, totalling €340,000 (gross).

RESEARCH ETHICS AND REVIEW EXPERIENCE

Member of the Hungarian Central Research Ethics Committee, 2014-2020

Appointed as a member of the Hungarian Medical Research. Council’s Scientific and Research Ethics Committee (ETT TUKEB). This is the central REC in Hungary responsible to evaluate multi-site clinical trials, trials with medical devices, non-interventional trials and health sciences research. <https://ett.aeek.hu/tukeb/>

Ethics screening and review for the EC, Independent expert, 2017- present

Contracted by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Research Executive Agency, and the Executive Agency for Small & Medium-sized Enterprises. Research ethics review experience in a diversity of several large scale, multisite, international projects, in the field of health, social science and humanities. Developed experience in the European Commission’s review process, standards and guidelines and the management of online review platforms (SEP).

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm

Associate Member, European Network of Research Ethics Committees, 2014-present

Joined EUREC as an affiliated member and participating in their activities. Experience regarding the international diversity of research ethics review processes and evaluation practices. Knowledge about the laws and regulations of research activities on an international scale. Tools and initiatives for best practices in research ethics screening, wide network of research ethics experts. <http://www.eurecnet.org/>

Researcher, Disaster Bioethics project (COST Action IS1201), 2012-2015.

Vice-chair Research Ethics working group, and Management Committee Member, Financial Rapporteur. Published a systematic review of research ethics guidelines for disasters. Participated in the development of ethics guidelines with the WHO and other

international agencies. Constructed research ethics case studies to develop ethical reflection skills for disaster responders

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/IS1201/#tabs|Name:overview>

Declaration of Helsinki, Hungarian translations (WMA, DoH, 2013, and 2025)

Organized an expert group to provide a high-quality translation for the latest version of the DoH 2013 and 2025, participated in the translation and published a commentary on the relevance of DoH 2013 and 2025 n ethics standards and review processes.

<https://www.wma.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Hungarian-DoH-2013.pdf>

<https://www.wma.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Hungarian-DoH-2024-.pdf>

Researcher, EnTIRE - H2020 project, 2017-21.

Mapping the Normative Framework for Ethics and Integrity of Research. Conducted a systematic review on research ethics (RE) and research integrity (RI) cases. Conducted a systematic review on casuistry, on case analyses methods and tools for RERI assessments. Constructed a range of scenarios regarding RERI for educational purposes

Founder, The Embassy of Good Science, 2019

Participated in the international research consortia to establish an innovative wiki-based community platform. Platform inspires researchers to foster trust and support the research community to take better care of science, to actively participate with taking control. The platform gives space for discussion and reflection, collections of guidelines and laws, a diversity of cases, scenarios and casuistry, training tools and materials.

https://embassy.science/wiki/Main_Page

Participated in several relevant REC trainings

Ethics and Genetics, Advance Course, Catholic University of Nijmegen, 2000.

Biotechnology Ethics Advanced Course, Bioethed Consortium, Vilnius, 2007. Research Integrity Workshop, organized by European Molecular Biology Organization, 2019. Ethics Review Training, organized by the European Commission, Brussels, 2016.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Former President (2019-2024), currently Treasurer (2026-), European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care www.espmh.org

Founder and Vice-Chair, Bioetika Fórum, Hungarian bioethics network

Editorial tasks

Medicine Health Care and Philosophy, (Springer-Nature) associate editor, 2014-present; Meditor, (Hungarian journal for applied ethics) 2012-2014; Ethics & Bioethics (in Central Europe), 2017-2019; Biopolitics, Ethics and Law, book series editor, CEU Press and Amsterdam University Press, 2026-

Reviewer

BMC Medical Ethics, Journal of Medical Ethics, Medicine Health Care and Philosophy, Science and Engineering Ethics, Ethics & Bioethics, Lege Artis Medicinae, Medical Education

Membership

European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC), European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care (ESMPH), International Association of Bioethics (IAB)

Committee work

Member of the Hungarian Medical Research Council (Scientific and Research Ethics Committee), 2014-2020; Member in the Clinical Ethics Committee of the Medical Centre, University of Debrecen, 2015-2019, Member in the ELSI Panel of the National Genomics and Technology Platform, Hungary, 2010; Member in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Faculty of Public Health, University of Debrecen, 2014-2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Developed and delivered a broad portfolio of bioethics and professional ethics teaching at the University of Debrecen (2001–2019) across undergraduate medical and health science programs (Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Analysts), in both Hungarian and English. Courses included Bioethics, Dental Ethics, Ethics in Pharmacy, Bioethical Case Seminars, and Research Ethics/RCR education, plus innovative electives such as Bioethics on Films. Also taught at MSc/MA and postgraduate levels (2005–2019), including Methods in Bioethics (Ethics MA), Ethical Issues in Health Care Management, Biotechnology Ethics (developed), Health Care Ethics and Law (Health Policy MSc), and Ethics in Medical Rehabilitation.

Supervised more than 20 BA and MA and PhD students' thesis research projects. Regularly invited to participate in the residency education of doctors (12 hours, 6 lectures on medical and research ethics. Developed an online (Moodle) course module for this continuous ethics training. Invited to talk about specific ethics issues in Medical Conferences that has a continuous education status (Inner Medicine, and Debrecen Nephrology Days). Experienced in degree programme management and coordination: ethics, bioethics courses in the medical and health sciences programs, including the ethics courses of the doctors' residency training education. Contributed to textbooks or teaching materials.

EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Doctoral Committee of Health Sciences at the University of Debrecen assessed nearly two decades of educational performance during the habilitation procedure in 2017. Demonstrated a wide range of educational activities, realizing innovative methodologies and teaching skills. Students' assessment of teaching performance was above 4.5 in the 5-grade scale (for both the Hungarian and the English program). Habilitation was evaluated as excellent.

PUBLICATIONS

Google scholar <https://scholar.google.hu/citations?user=vRd3e68AAAAJ&hl=hu>

ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6817-5697>