In August 2008, a research group from the Centre for Professional Ethics joined the School of Nursing and Caring Sciences. We are in Brook 317 and on three different continents!

Prof. Doris Schroeder, the Director of CPE, has a joint appointment with the University of Melbourne. Prof. Thomas Pogge's main affiliation is Yale University. Dr. David Coles is also based at the University of Wageningen. Dr. Miltos Ladikas spends part of his time in Berlin and Julie Lucas and Cathy Lennon are the permanent office presence in Preston.

First Nigerian Bioethics PhD

Peter Omonzejele completed his PhD thesis in three years under the supervision of Doris (DoS), Miltos and two colleagues from the Philosophy Section. The thesis was entitled “Protecting Vulnerable Subjects from Exploitation in the Medical Research Context: A Developing World Perspective”. Peter will be the first Nigerian with a PhD in Bioethics.
This year's main event on the GenBenefit project, which looks at benefit sharing with developing countries, was a major international conference in New Delhi co-organised with our Indian partners, the think-tank and government advisory body RIS (Research and Information System for Developing Countries), and the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as the Indian Council of Medical Research. The conference was designed so that GenBenefit researchers could present the project’s research-in-progress to international policy makers and advisors and take their feedback on board. This will help to ensure that the project makes relevant policy recommendations which can be widely disseminated. The event was attended by academic researchers, medical scientists and influential policy makers and advisors from many countries and fora. Participants included previous and current World Trade Organisation negotiators and the two Co-Chairs of the UN Convention on Biodiversity’s Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing.

This year saw the successful completion of a Wellcome Trust funded project on obtaining consent from indigenous peoples. CPE collaborated closely with the University of Cape Town and the San community in the Kalahari and research results will be published in a book by Springer later this year.

*Photo: Project group dissemination at COP9, Bonn, Germany, 2008.*
Support for the International Linkage with China (BILAT SILK) will raise the European Union’s science and technology profile in China through a series of promotional activities to disseminate the EU’s research policies and actions among Chinese scientists and research institutions.

Dr Miltos Ladikas is a partner in a new FP7-funded international project. Bilateral

Strategic partnerships between EU countries and China will be promoted through collaboration schemes and the identification of new activities.

The project is coordinated by the Swedish Governmental Agency For Innovation Systems and other partners include: China Science and Technology Exchange Centre / China- European Union Science and Technology Cooperation Promotion Office, Foundation of Research & Technology Hellas, Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europe.

Innova-P2

The Centre for Professional Ethics is co-ordinating a 3-year international project funded by FP7 with €728,000 called Innova-P2. It aims to amend the current Intellectual Property Rights system in the area of pharmaceutical innovation. Professor Thomas Pogge, Dr Miltos Ladikas and Ms Julie Lucas are working with an international team from 7 countries (UK, France, The Netherlands, Australia, China, India and The Philippines).

Thomas Pogge recently co-authored a book on the Health Impact Fund – a proposal to create an alternative system funded by international governments, where pharmaceutical innovators could choose to register new products and then make these available at cost in order to receive a 10 year reward based on the assessment of the drug’s impact on the global disease burden. Innova-P2 is specifically designed to work along these lines and finalise the suggested IPR reform plan.

The Innova-P2 team includes advisory bodies to the Chinese and Indian governments, as well as the prestigious Australian philosopher Peter Singer.

The inaugural meeting of the project took place in Oslo, 26-27 August 2008, hosted by the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, University of Oslo.
Keziah had helped Doris and her colleagues undertake interviews in the Nairobi slums and was later forced to suspend her studies for financial reasons.

Following the donation, she has just shared the good news that she has passed the fourth year exams and has been allowed to proceed to the final year (year 5). She also reports that she has received ksh100,000 from the University of Nairobi bursary fund.

Doris will meet Keziah in May 2009 at a research visit to Nairobi.

Doris was awarded Queen's College's Sugden Fellowship for 2009. Queen's College is one of the oldest residential colleges of the University of Melbourne. The award of 5,000 to 7,000 AUS$ is given to senior academics and those promoting the Arts. One of the last fellows was the Director of the National Museum in Amsterdam.

Doris will be in Melbourne from February to May 2009.

Meet Our Collaborators

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi is a Senior Fellow at the Indian think tank and government advisory body Research and Information System for the Developing Countries. He has also served as a consultant to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Bank, UN-ESCAP, UNESCO, OECD, the Commonwealth Secretariat, among other organisations. He has been a Fellow at the University of Amsterdam (1996), Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla (2003) and German Development Institute (2007).

His areas of specialisation include trade and economic issues related to technology and innovation and possible linkages with frontier technologies. He is on the Editorial Board of several Biotechnology journals, has authored two books and has published various research articles in prestigious journals.

Sachin’s work with Doris and Miltos started in 2003. Six years later, he is one of CPE’s closest research partners.