

Ensure progress has a moral compass



At the Rotman Institute of Philosophy, we apply philosophical insight to today's most urgent scientific, technological and social challenges.

In an era of rapid technological change, environmental crisis and shifting social norms, the need for rigorous, values-driven thinking has never been greater. At Rotman, scientists, philosophers, engineers and health researchers work together to confront the most complex problems of our time. Through this collaboration, we shape public policy, drive innovation and build a more just and sustainable world.

We believe philosophy is not only relevant but essential to:

- **Making AI more ethical:** As artificial intelligence transforms how we live, learn and work, we ensure its development is grounded in ethics and applied responsibly.
- **Improving public health decisions:** From pandemic response to climate-related illness and the mental health effects of social media, our scholars put ethics at the heart of Canada's public health strategy.
- **Tackling science's deepest mysteries:** What is time? Can consciousness be measured? Are there limits to what we can know? We combine philosophy, physics and neuroscience to explore the fundamental nature of reality.

The future we choose begins with the questions we ask. As discovery accelerates, we need more than innovation — we need wisdom.

With your support, we can strengthen interdisciplinary teams that bring philosophers and scientists together to solve society's biggest problems, turning philosophy into action and helping build a more ethical and just world.

“Philosophers at Rotman work with school boards to promote AI literacy, with scientists to redefine fundamental physics, and with policymakers to develop vaccine policy. There is no other institution so committed to bringing deep philosophical insight to bear on complex technical, social, and scientific problems, and no place where research in the humanities is so exciting and impactful.

Dr. Andrew Richmond, Postdoctoral Associate, Rotman Institute of Philosophy

ROTMAN IMPACT: CONNECTING PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE

At the Rotman Institute, we bring together faculty from the sciences and humanities at Western, across Canada and around the world to address some of today's most pressing ethical challenges in medicine and technology.

Ethical neuroimaging after brain injury: At Rotman, neuroscientists, ethicists and healthcare professionals are developing new guidelines for how we diagnose and care for behaviourally non-responsive patients who have suffered brain injury. By combining philosophy, ethics and neuroscience, we are improving diagnostic accuracy, exploring communication via neuroimaging and supporting families facing critical treatment decisions.

Advancing ethical AI governance: Bringing academic and non-academic experts together, the Rotman Institute is helping to shape policies that ensure artificial intelligence is developed and deployed responsibly. This work is informing Canadian and international frameworks that address the social impacts of emerging technologies.

Ethics of clinical trials: A team of ethicists, health and medical scientists are collaborating to lead efforts to create global standards for cluster-randomized pragmatic trials. These studies better reflect real-world medical practice, and Rotman's contributions are helping ensure they remain scientifically rigorous and ethically sound.

Are you all in?
Get in touch.

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