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UNIVERSITY

CENTER *for* BIOETHICS,  
HEALTH & SOCIETY

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BIOETHICS VIRTUAL VISITING SPEAKER LECTURE:

## Public Policy Experiments: Ethical Challenges & Paths Forward

Thursday, 11 November 2021, 4:00-5:00 pm  
via [ZOOM](#)



### Douglas P. MacKay, PhD

Associate Professor of Public Policy, Core Faculty Member, UNC Center for Bioethics,  
Core Faculty Member, UNC Philosophy, Politics, & Economics Program,  
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Governments and non-profit organizations have increasingly turned to randomized controlled trials to evaluate public policy interventions. In this talk, Douglas MacKay identifies some of the principal ethical challenges investigators face regarding the design of these studies, including the fairness of random assignment, the permissibility of research without consent, and the level of care to which participants are entitled. Working through a series of case studies, he defends a set of recommendations for the ethical conduct of public policy experiments.

Douglas MacKay holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Toronto. Prior to joining the Department of Public Policy on July 1, 2013, he completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. He is a Canadian citizen and grew up in northern British Columbia.

The lecture will be presented as a Zoom webinar followed by a live Q&A/discussion.

Attendance is free. Zoom link is [here](#).

For further information please contact [bioethics@wfu.edu](mailto:bioethics@wfu.edu). Website: <https://bioethics.wfu.edu>

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