



## Introduction

The Economics for the Anthropocene (E4A) project is a SSHRC-funded partnership between the University of Vermont, York University, and McGill University. The project is premised on the idea that the normative disciplines, including economics, finance, law, governance, and ethics, are no longer adequate for navigating the Anthropocene. It seeks to re-ground these disciplines informed by the pre-analytic vision of ecological economics, insights from contemporary science, and traditional wisdoms.

The Ethics Research Group is a group within E4A that seeks to foster ongoing collaboration and exploration of topics related to ontology and ethics. The E4A Ethics Research Group hosts an ongoing speaker series and two workshops per year: a Spring workshop in person, and a Fall workshop remotely. These workshops will bring together diverse practitioners and scholars to explore central questions related to ethics, ontology and ways of knowing, and stimulate ongoing collaboration and thought.

## Activities of the E4A Ethics Research Group

### 1. Guest Lecture & Discussion Series

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The Ethics Research Group hosts an ongoing speaker series and discussion on the year's themes. These are held every 4-6 weeks through an online platform, with each lasting 1.5 – 2 hrs. The lunchtime discussion series explores questions of ethics, ontology, and ways of knowing in the Anthropocene through stimulating conversations with leaders in thought and practice. These discussions are hosted in person at McGill University, but participants are also able to join remotely.

In 2016-2017, the ethics group hosted talks and debates featuring: Eduardo Kohn (Anthropology As Cosmic Diplomacy: Toward an Ecological Ethics for the Anthropocene); Peter Brown and Steve Quilley (debate on Liberty in the Anthropocene); Marcello di Paola and Dale Jamieson (Politics of the Anthropocene; Virtue Ethics); and Zoe Todd (Indigenizing the Anthropocene).

In 2017-2018, the ethics group hosted talks and debates featuring: Peter Brown (Framing the problem: ethics towards a mutually enhancing human-Earth relationship); and J. Baird Callicott (The Temporal and Spatial Scales of Ethics in the Anthropocene). These will continue to be cohosted with various partners in 2018.

### 2. Workshops

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The E4A Ethics Research Group hosts two workshops per year: a Spring workshop in person, and a Fall workshop remotely. These workshops will bring together diverse practitioners and scholars to explore central questions related to ethics, ontology and ways of knowing, and stimulate ongoing collaboration and thought.

Spring 2016 Workshop: The Spring workshop, titled *Ethics in the Anthropocene* was held March 17-18, 2016.

Fall 2016 Workshop: The Ethics Research Group hosted a workshop on *Ethics and Ontology in the Anthropocene* September 22, 2016 in Montreal, Quebec.

## E4A Ethics Research Group – January 2018

Spring 2017 Workshop: The Spring workshop, titled *Ethics in the Anthropocene: A search for common ground* will tentatively be held April 10-11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. What common ground can provide foundations for ethical theory and practice to improve the human-Earth relationship in the coming decades? This workshop will seek to identify common ground among ontology, epistemology and ethics in the Anthropocene, and will help participants develop material for future publication.

Table 1. Activities of the Ethics Research Group

Activity	Type	Date	Objectives/outcomes	# participants
Ethics in the Anthropocene	Workshop, McGill	Mar 17-18, 2016	Brought group together, identified common interest and goals, themes and questions	total 17, incl. 6 remote
Ontology & Ethics in the Anthropocene	Workshop, McGill	Sept 22	Explored ontology and ethics in the Anthropocene; several collaborators prepared material, group discussions	total 13, incl. 8 remote
Eduardo Kohn	Speaker & discussion series, McGill	Nov 9, 2016		total 14, incl. 4 remote
Steve Quilley & Peter Brown	Speaker & discussion series: debate, McGill	Jan 23, 2017		total 23, incl. 13 remote (and up to an additional 14 more remote to make total up to 37)
Marcello di Paola	Speaker & discussion series, McGill	Feb 23, 2017		8, incl. 4 remote
Zoe Todd & Kirsten Anker	Speaker & discussion series, McGill	Mar 23, 2017		11 in person, many remote
Ethics in the Anthropocene: A Search for Common Ground	Workshop, McGill	Apr 10-11, 2017		18, incl. 7 remote
Peter Brown	Speaker & discussion series, McGill	Oct 5, 2017		10, incl. 4 remote
J. Baird Callicott	Speaker & discussion series, McGill	Oct 26, 2017		15, incl. 10 remote