

Katharine Browne

Curriculum Vitae

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	Langara College 100 W. 49th Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Y 2Z6, Canada	

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021-present	Researcher, University of Oslo, Norway
2016-present	Permanent Lecturer, Langara College, Canada
2014-2015	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Canada
2012-2014	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo, Norway

EDUCATION

2012	PhD, University of Toronto, Canada
2005	Master of Arts, University of British Columbia, Canada
2003	Honours Bachelor of Arts, University of Toronto, Canada

LEAVES

July 2022- Feb 2023	Full-time parental leave
Sept 2025-April 2026	Part-time leave to care for family member

SUMMARY

My primary research areas are in ethics, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of economics. My work concerns tensions between individual autonomy and the public good, issues of social cooperation and coordination, and democratic rights. My most recent focus is on the ethics of social media, the attention economy, and digital technologies, through the lens of attention and salience. I have a particular interest and demonstrated excellence in teaching for a wide range of courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels. I have recently developed a learning platform on the ethics of attention and digital technologies (www.attentionethics.com). I have served as Chair of my Department and sat on various ethics review boards. I am the co-PI and Principal Researcher on a research project that has been funded through the Norwegian Research Council.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Articles Under Review/In Preparation

- Informed Consent and Mandatory Vaccination (revise and resubmit).
- What is Public Attention? (revise and resubmit)
- The Just Distribution of Public Attention (with Zsolt Kapelner, revise and resubmit)
- Collective Attention: What is it and Why it Matters (under review)
- Informed Consent: From Biomedical Ethics to the Ethics of Attention (in preparation)

Book

Attention Grabbers: Ethical Issues in a Digital World. Under contract with Broadview Press, projected publication 2028.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2026 Browne, K. and S. Watzl. The Attention Market—and What is Wrong with It. *Philosophical Studies* 183(1), 227-257.
- 2019 Cattapan A, **Browne K**, Halperin D.M., Di Castri A., Fullsack P., Graham, J., Langley J.M., Taylor B.A., McNeil SA, S.A. Halperin. Motivation for Participating in Phase 1 Vaccine Trials: Comparison of an Influenza and Ebola Randomized Control Trial. *Vaccine*, 37(2), 289-295.
- 2018 Browne, K. Why Should We Team Reason? *Economics & Philosophy*, 34(2), 185-198.
- 2017 Browne, K. Voluntary Sterilisation and Access to IVF in Québec. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 44(4), 262-265.
- 2017 Browne, K. Reason and Pareto-Optimization. *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 55(2), 196-213.
- 2016 Browne, K. The Measles and Free Riders: California's Mandatory Vaccination Law. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, 25(3), 472-478.
- 2015 Browne, K. Why Governance? A Challenge to Good Governance of Biobanks. *Monash Bioethics Review*, 33(4), 295-300.
- 2013 Browne, K. Two Problems of Cooperation. In *What Makes Us Moral: On the Capacities and Conditions for Being Moral*, eds. Bert Musschenga and Anton Harskamp. Springer Publishers, 31-50.
- 2007 Browne, A., & **Browne, K.** Morality, Prudential Rationality, and Cheating. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, 16(1), 53-62.

Public Philosophy and Other Publications

- 2026 Social Media Bans are a Mistake (In Norwegian: Aldersgrenser i sosiale medier er et bomskudd.) Morgenbladet, 10. April 2026 (Sebastian Watzl, **Katharine Browne**, Louise Clover, Eileen Eldjarn, Zsolt Kapelner, Victor Lange, Harish Pedaprolu und James Williams)

- 2026 Attention is Power. (In German: [Aufmerksamkeit ist Macht. Und die müssen wir brechen](#).) *Die Zeit*, 10. March 2026 (Sebastian Watzl, **Katharine Browne**, Louise Clover, Eileen Eldjarn, Zsolt Kapelner, Victor Lange, Harish Pedaprolu und James Williams)
- 2024 Browne, K Digital technology in the classroom: what happens to our attention? (In Norwegian: Digital Teknologi i Klasserommet: Hva skjer med oppmerksomheten vår?) *Religion og Livssyn*, 2024 (1), 49-53.
- 2023 **Browne, K.**, Thorstad, L., and Watzl, S. (2023). "Attention workers: Rise up" (In Norwegian: "Oppmerksomhetsarbeider, reis deg – og bla opp") *Klassekampen*, 21.11.2023.
- 2023 **Browne, K.** Attention, Ethics, and the Digital World. Digital Learning Resource. (www.attentionethics.com). (Also available in Norwegian as "Etikk, oppmerksomhet og den digitale verden" and developed with a focus on Norwegian high school students)
- 2022 Browne, K. [Vaccination and the Freedom to Choose](#). *Humanist Perspectives*, Issue 220.
- 2022 Browne, K. Comments on Mandatory Vaccination. Salongen
- 2021 Browne, K. [The Moral Status of Animals in Science](#). *Defining Moments Canada, Insulin 100* (online public education project).
- 2020 Browne, K. [The Power of "We" in the Time of COVID-19](#). *Humanist Perspectives*, Issue 213.
- 2018 Tangwa, G. B., **Browne, K.**, & Schroeder, D. Ebola Vaccine Trials. In *Ethics Dumping: Case Studies in North-South Research Collaborations*. Springer Publishers, 2018: 49-60.
- 2016 Browne, K. [Vaccine Injury Compensation and the Common Good](#). *Impact Ethics: Making a Difference in Bioethics*.
- 2015 Browne, K. [Voluntary Sterilization, Personal Responsibility, and IVF Coverage](#). *Impact Ethics: Making a Difference in Bioethics*.
- 2015 Browne, K. [Measles, Vaccination, and the Tragedy of the Commons](#). *Hastings Bioethics Forum*.
- 2014 Browne, K. [The Cost of Paying for Performance](#). *Impact Ethics: Making a Difference in Bioethics*.

Edited Volumes

- 2026 **Browne, K.**, Kitsik, E., and Watzl, S (eds.). [Collective Attention](#), special issue of *Synthese*

Policy Contributions

- 2026 [Social Media Bans and the Ethics of Attention](#), Policy Brief submitted to the Norwegian Government and other policy makers (March 2026)
- 2014 **Browne, K.**, Petropanagos, A., and S. Copeland. Submitted Recommended Amendments to the 1974 UNESCO Declaration on the Status of Scientific Researchers.

Dissertation Monograph

- 2012 Browne, K. Reason, Evolution, and the Possibility of Cooperation.

SELECTED TALKS

- 2026 "Capturing Public Attention: Why Agenda Setting and Collective Attention Matter for Democracy," Attention Dialogues: Panel Discussion with Zsolt Kapelner and Mathea Slåttholm Sagdahl, Oslo, Norway, October 27, 2026.
- 2026 "Justice in Public Attention" (joint work with Zsolt Kapelner), SAFI 7th Annual Conference: Enabling Democracy, Bonn, Germany, October 1, 2026.
- 2025 "Justice in Public Attention" (joint work with Zsolt Kapelner), *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society International Meeting*, London, England, July 2025
- 2025 "Attention, Ethics, and Democracy" Museum of Cultural History Center of Excellence Workshop, Oslo, March 2025
- 2025 "The Nature of Public Attention" (keynote talk), CELIA workshop, University of Bayreuth, Germany, upcoming February 2025
- 2024 "What is Collective Attention?" Saliency in Society: the Nature and Ethics of Collective Attention, University of Vienna, December 2024.
- 2024 "What is Collective Attention?" Centre for Philosophy and the Sciences (CPS) Lunch Forum, University of Oslo, Norway, December 2024.
- 2024 "Collective Attention: What It Is and Why It Matters" MANCEPT workshops, Group Agency in Political Theory Panel, University of Manchester, England, Sept 4-6 2024
- 2024 "Attention, Ethics, and the Digital World," (with Line Horgen Thorstad) UiO Åpen Dag, University of Oslo, Norway, March 2024
- 2023 What is Wrong with How Attention is Commodified? University of Bayreuth, Philosophy Research Forum, Bayreuth, Germany, November 2024
- 2023 "Attention, Ethics, and the Digital World," Pedagogy Day, University of Oslo, Norway.
- 2023 "Paying with Attention: Ethical Issues in the Attention Economy." Keynote address, Model European Parliament Baltic Sea Region, Utøya, Norway.
- 2023 "The Commodification of Attention," Ethics of Socially Disruptive Technologies Research Programme, Netherlands (online) April 2023.
- 2022 Comments on Matthew Rachar's "Conditional Intentions and Shared Agency", APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, Canada April 2022.
- 2022 "The Commodification of Attention," Practical Philosophy Group, Oslo, Norway
- 2022 "The Case Against Mandatory Vaccination", Filosofisk Fredagsseminar, Oslo, Norway
- 2022 "Vaccination and the Freedom to Choose." Centre for Philosophy and the Sciences, University of Oslo, February 2022.
- 2019 "Vaccination, Nudging, and Team Reasoning." CVBE Lab Meeting. LMU Munich, Germany, March 2019
- 2017 "Vaccination and the Common Good." CSMN Closing Conference, University of Oslo, Norway
- 2016 Shots All Around: The Problem of Vaccination Compliance." Langara College Philosophers' Jam Public Dialogue Series, Vancouver, Canada, November 2016

- 2016 "Participant Motivations to Enroll in the Canadian Ebola Vaccine Trial." International Bioethics Retreat, Paris, France, July 2016
- 2015 "Why Participate in an Ebola Vaccine Trial?" Global Forum on Bioethics in Research Meeting, Annecy, France, November 2015
- 2015 Young Researcher's Challenge, commentary on the work of David Sloan Wilson, Peter Turchin, and Robert Frank, "Cultural Evolution and the Welfare of Nations," Arne Næss Symposium, University of Oslo, Norway, October 2015
- 2015 "Motivations to Participate in Phase I Vaccine Trials." Canadian Immunization Research Network/Canadian Centre for Vaccinology Research Education Series, Isaak Walter Killam (IWK) Health Centre, Halifax, Canada, October 2015
- 2015 "Rules of Rationing and Cooperation" (with Alister Browne). 26th Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Conference, Winnipeg, Canada, May 2015
- 2014 "Should We Become Team Reasoners?" Collectivity – A Conference on Different Aspects of Collectivity, University of Bristol, United Kingdom, September 2014
- 2013 "Team Reasoning, Cooperation, and Social Policy." Third Conference of the European Network on Social Ontology (ENSO III), University of Helsinki, Finland, October 2013
- 2013 "Yes We Can! Team Reasoning and the Possibility of Cooperation" (poster). The Second Århus-Paris Conference on Coordination and Common Ground, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, June 2013
- 2013 "Uniting Cooperation, Rationality, and Evolution." Cooperation: Why, How, and With Whom? Conference, University of Århus, Denmark, April 2013
- 2013 "The Possibility of Cooperation in Theory and Practice." Ideals and Reality in Social Ethics Conference, University of Wales, Newport, Wales, March 2013
- 2011 "Two Problems of Cooperation." What Makes Us Moral? Conference, VU University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 2011
- 2010 "Letting People Ask to Die." 21st Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Conference, Kelowna, Canada, June 2010
- 2009 "A Darwinian Theory of Games." 150 Years After Origin: Biological, Historical, and Philosophical Perspectives, Victoria College, University of Toronto, Canada, September 2009
- 2008 "The Ethics of Commercial Surrogacy." 19th Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Conference, St. John's, Canada, June 2008

TEACHING

Summary of Pedagogical Experience:

I have been responsible for all aspects of curriculum design and teaching of courses for a range of undergraduate and graduate courses. I have taught more than 1500 students in both traditional classroom and online settings. I have experience teaching problems-based, interdisciplinary, as well as historically-oriented courses in philosophy. I have also developed and taught (individually and in teams) graduate courses on special topics at the intersection of ethics, public policy, philosophy of mind, philosophy of biology, social/political philosophy, economics, and evolutionary biology. I have informally mentored several students. I have served as an informal mentor to several students, for whom I have written letters of reference. Many of these students have gone on to pursue advanced-level study in philosophy, healthcare, and jurisprudence. I have

also developed a web-based educational platform that introduces students to ethical issues in new digital technologies.

Undergraduate and Graduate Teaching

University of Bamberg

- Ethics & Public Policy (Advanced undergraduate/MA Seminar)
 - Fall 2022

Langara College

- Introduction to Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy (1st year course designed for students new to philosophy)
 - Fall 2025 (x 2 = 2 sections of this class; 40 students per section); Summer 2021 (x2); Fall 2020; Summer 2020; Fall 2019 (x4); Fall 2018 (x2); Fall 2017; Spring 2017 (x3); Fall 2016 (x2); Spring 2016 (x2)
- Biomedical Ethics (1st year course, core curriculum for Nursing students)
 - Fall 2020 (x2); Summer 2020 (x2); Summer 2019 (x2); Summer 2018 (x2); Spring 2016; Spring 2017
- Social and Political Philosophy (2nd year course for students with a background in philosophy)
 - Fall 2020; Fall 2018
- Ethics (2nd year course for students with a background in philosophy)
 - Fall 2017
- Critical Thinking (1st year course designed for students new to philosophy)
 - Spring 2016
- Knowledge and Reality (1st year course designed for students new to philosophy)
 - Fall 2025 (x2); Summer 2021 (x2); Summer 2020; Summer 2019 (x2); Summer 2018 (x2); Fall 2017 (x2); Fall 2016 (x2)

University of Oslo

- PhD Seminar: Forging Sustainable Modernity: The Nordic Model and Beyond
 - September 18 - September 22, 2017, co-taught with David Sloan Wilson and Nina Witoszek.
- PhD Seminar: Cultural, Economic, Evolutionary Perspectives on Global Challenges
 - September 18 - October 2, 2015, co-taught with David Sloan Wilson and Nina Witoszek. Lectures by Robert Frank, Peter Turchin, and David Sloan Wilson.
- MA Seminar: The Social Animal: Evolution, Sociality, and Cognition
 - Fall 2013, co-taught with Sebastian Watzl

University of Toronto

- Bioethics (2nd year course)
 - Spring 2012; Summer 2012
- Ethics: Death and Dying (3rd year course)
 - Summer 2009

Learning Resource Development*Ethics, Attention, and the Digital World*

An online textbook-style resource that introduces students to central ethical issues that emerge in relation to new digital technologies. Developed in collaboration with Line Horgen Thorstad (IFIKK, UiO), Sebastian Watzl (IFIKK, UiO), and Tone Hagerup (HF, UiO) chiefly for the Norwegian high school curriculum, but also suitable for university education.

- *English version:* Ethics, Attention, and the Digital World
web address: <https://www.attentionethics.com/>
- *Norwegian version:* Etik, oppmerksomhet og den digitale verden
web address: <https://www.attentionethics.com/no>

LEADERSHIP, FUNDING, & OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS*Leadership & Commissions of Trust*

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| 2021-present | Co-PI and Principal Researcher of NFR-funded research grant “Salient Solutions”
<i>Responsible for overseeing the activities of the project and coordinating with various collaborators.</i> |
| 2018-2020 | Interim Chair, Department of Philosophy, Langara College, summer semesters
<i>Responsible for overseeing the activities of the Department. Served as a first point of contact for faculty and student concerns.</i> |
| 2018-2020 | Articulations Officer, Department of Philosophy, Langara College, summer semesters
<i>Responsible for evaluating course-transferability between the study programs at Langara College and other higher education institutions, including the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University.</i> |
| 2019 | Member, Langara Faculty Review Committee
<i>Performance review for a junior faculty member</i> |
| 2018-2022 | Member, Langara Research Ethics Board, Langara College
<i>Participated in reviews of various research proposals</i> |
| 2016-2020 | Faculty Sponsor, Langara Student Philosophy Club
<i>Served as student-appointed faculty liaison between the student-run club and the Department of Philosophy.</i> |
| 2015 | Member, Research Ethics Board, Isaak Walton Killam (IWK) Health Centre
<i>Participated in reviews of various research proposals</i> |
| 2015 | Scientific Officer, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation Peer Review Committee
<i>Served as member of review committee for funding applications</i> |

2010-2012 Member, Canadian Council on Animal Care
Attended regular meetings and contributed to ethical review and development of standards for use of animals in research

Project Acquisition, Fellowships & Grants

2021 Salient Solutions: responding ethically to the attention crisis, Norwegian Research Council (project number 315373, SAMRISK-2 ‘Samfunnssikkerhet og risiko’ funding scheme), awarded 01/2021 (co-applicant with Sebastian Watzl). Amount: NOK 11 000 000 (5 years of funding). Role: co-PI and Principal Researcher

2016 UBC Clinical Ethics Fellowship (declined to take up position at Langara College)

2015 Conference Travel Grant, Dalhousie University. Amount: \$500 CAD

2014 Sub-Investigator, Patient Motivations to Participate in Phase I (Ebola and influenza) Vaccination Trials, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University. Amount: \$16,000 CAD.

2008-2011 Conference Travel Grants (various), Department of Philosophy and School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto. Amount: \$ 2000 CAD total (approx.)

2006-2009 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), Government of Ontario. Amount: \$45,000 CAD

2005-2009 Graduate Fellowship, University of Toronto. Amount: \$48,000 CAD (declined 2006-9)

2005-2009 Metcalf Fellowship, Boston University, Amount: \$68,000 USD (declined)

Course and Conference Organization

2024 Organizational work for speaker series at Good Attention/Salient Solutions, University of Oslo

2024 Co-Organizer (with Eve Kitsik and Sebastian Watzl), *Workshop on “Salience in Society: The Nature and Ethics of Collective Attention”* (University of Vienna, Austria, December 2024)

2023 Co-Organizer (with Sebastian Watzl, Greg Reichberg, and Ilaria Carrozza), Interdisciplinary Workshop (International Relations, Psychology, Political Science, and Philosophy) on *“Attention Politics: Policies and Strategies”*, Peace Research Institute (PRIO), Oslo

2017 Co-Organizer (with Nina Witoszek and David Sloan Wilson), *Interdisciplinary PhD Seminar: Forging Sustainable Modernity: The Nordic Model and Beyond*. *Responsible for the co-design of the course, coordination of an interdisciplinary and international group of lecturers. I was also involved in teaching the course (see teaching section of CV).*

2015 Co-Organizer (with Nina Witoszek and David Sloan Wilson), PhD Course, *“Cultural, Economic, and Evolutionary Perspectives on Global Challenges,”* University of Oslo. *Responsible for the co-design of the course, coordination of an interdisciplinary group of lecturers and international experts, including David Sloan Wilson, Robert Frank, and Peter Turchin. Also involved in teaching the course (see teaching section of CV).*

- 2014 Co-Organizer (with Sebastian Watzl & Jola Feix), The Social Mind: Origins of Collective Reasoning Workshop, University of Oslo
- 2012-2013 Coordinator, CSMN Colloquium, University of Oslo

Public Outreach

- 2017-2020 Coordinator, Philosophers' Jam Dialogue Series, Langara College
Public philosophy speaker series. I was responsible for organizing speakers, advertising the event, coordinating with the venue, and chairing the discussion.
- 2014-2016 Blog Editor, Impact Ethics: Making a Difference in Bioethics, Dalhousie University.
Interdisciplinary Blog that published interdisciplinary perspectives on issues in healthcare. I was responsible for recruiting authors, reviewing and editing submissions, and publishing blog-style articles from an interdisciplinary group of authors, including philosophers, political scientists, and health care professionals.
- 2015 Organizer, Ethics Film Series (NovelTech Ethics), Halifax Central Library
Part of a public educational outreach initiative, involving a bioethics-related film screening followed by organized discussion with a panel of experts. I was responsible for coordinating all aspects of the event with the library, selecting the film, and inviting speakers.
- 2015 Co-Organizer (with Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives—Nova Scotia): How Do We Make Health Care Accessible for All? Halifax Central Library
Panel discussion for a public audience with various experts from the health sciences. In collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, I was responsible for coordinating the event with the library, inviting speakers, and advertising the event.

Past and Present Collaborations

Project: "Salient Solutions"

- Co-PI and Principal Researcher
- Main Collaborator: Sebastian Watzl (University of Oslo)
- Other Collaborators: Ilaria Carrozza (Peace Research Institute Oslo), Ophelia Deroy (LMU Munich), Robert Frank (Cornell University), Zsolt Kapelner (University of Oslo), Gregory M. Reichberg (Peace Research Institute Oslo), Olivier Roy (University of Bayreuth), David Sloan Wilson (Binghamton University)

Project: "Patient Motivations to Participate in Phase I (Ebola and Influenza) Vaccination Trials." (Interdisciplinary empirical research project with the Canadian Centre for Vaccinology (CCfV), Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia)

- Sub-Investigator
- Main Collaborators: Françoise Baylis (project owner, Dalhousie University, Halifax), Alana Catapan (political science, University of Waterloo)
- Other Collaborators (all from CCfV, Dalhousie University): Scott Halperin, Donna Halperin, Antonia Di Castri, Philippe Fullsack, Janice Graham, Joanne Langley, Beth Taylor, Shelly McNeil

Refereeing

I have acted as referee for the following journals:

- *Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Journal of Medical Ethics, The American Journal of Bioethics, Public Health Ethics, Journal of Social Philosophy, Res Publica*

Professional Certifications

2018 TCPS 2 Core: Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Ethics.
Training Course in Research Ethics.

Languages

English (Native)

French (Intermediate)

German (Intermediate)

Norwegian (Intermediate)