

Dr Richard B. Gibson

BA(Hons); MA; PhD; FHEA

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Research interests: bioethics, applied ethics; ethics of emerging technology, medical humanities, jurisprudence, disability studies

Education

PhD in Bioethics & Medical Jurisprudence, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK (*February 2021*)

MA in Bioethics & Society, King's College London, London, UK (*December 2015*)

BA(Hons) in Philosophy, The University of the West of England, Bristol, UK (*June 2013*)

BTEC in Animal Management, South Devon College, Paignton, UK (*May 2009*)

Academic appointments

Visiting Scholar, University of Texas Medical Branch (*October 2021 – Present*)

News Analyst, DePauw University (*June 2021 – Present*)

Manchester Access Programme Tutor, University of Manchester (*March 2021 – September 2021*)

Teaching Associate in Bioethics, University of Manchester (*November 2020 – September 2021*)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Manchester (*September 2018 – November 2020*)

Widening Participation Fellow, University of Manchester (*October 2019 – July 2020*)

Visiting Scholar, The Hastings Center (*June 2019 – July 2019*)

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Gibson, R.B. (2023) 'Body Integrity Dysphoria and Medical Necessity: Amputation as a Step Towards Health' *Clinical Ethics*, [online first]: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14777509231160398>

Gibson, R.B. (2023) 'The Desirability of Difference: Georges Canguilhem and Body Integrity Identity Disorder' *The Journal of Medicine & Philosophy*, 47(6): 711-722

Gibson, R.B. (2022) 'The Cryonic-Refugee: Appropriate Analogy or Confusing Rhetoric?' *The New Bioethics*, 28(2): 97-115

Gibson, R.B. (2021) 'Elective Amputation and Neuroprosthetic Limbs' *The New Bioethics*, 27(1): 30-45

Gibson, R.B. (2020) 'The Epidemiology of Moral Bioenhancement' *Medicine, Health Care & Philosophy*, 24: 45-54

Gibson, R.B. (2020) 'No Harm, No Foul? BIID and the Metaphysics of Harm in GBH' *Medical Law International*, 20(1): 73-96

Gibson, R.B. (2020) 'Elective Impairment minus Elective Disability: The Social Model of Disability and Body Integrity Identity Disorder' *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 17: 145-155

Gibson, R.B. (2018) 'Graphic Illustration of Impairment: Science Fiction, Transmetropolitan and the Social Model of Disability' *Medical Humanities*, 46: 12-21

Gibson, R.B. 'Normality and Disability in H.G. Wells' The Country of the Blind' *Journal of Medical Humanities* (Forthcoming)

Peer-reviewed journal articles in preparation

Gibson, R.B. 'Is it Time for Social Conscription?' (Under review)

Gibson, R.B. ‘Extreme Altruism, Psychopathy, and Accountability (Under review)

Gibson, R.B. ‘Body Integrity Dysphoria and Amputations’ (Under review)

Gibson, R.B., Romanis, E.C. & Herridge, V. ‘Are Artificial Wombs up to the Mammoth Task of De-extinction?’ (In preparation)

Gibson, R.B. & Nguyen, T. ‘Deepfakes and Documentaries: Enhancing Storytelling or Eroding Confidence’ (In preparation)

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Epistemological Quandary of Therapeutic, Healthy Limb Amputation’ (In preparation)

Editor-reviewed peer commentaries

Gibson, R. (2018) ‘The Democratization of Facial Feminization Surgery and the Removal of Artificial Barriers’ *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 18(12): 29-31

Gibson, R.B., & Campo-Engelstein, L. ‘Artificial Womb Technology and the Restructuring of Gestational Boundaries’ *The American Journal of Bioethics* (Forthcoming)

Gibson, R.B. ‘An Immortal Ghost in the Machine?’ *AJOB Neuroscience* (Forthcoming)

Book chapters in preparation

Gibson, R.B. (2024) ‘Disability in the Neuroprosthetic Age’ in *Un/Stable Bodies: Shifting Embodiment and the Law*, edited by de Marcilla Musté, M.G. & Mahmoud, Z.

Book reviews in preparation

Gibson, R.B. Review of *Novel Beings: Regulatory Approaches for a Future of New Intelligent Life*, edited by Lawrence, D.R. and Sarah, M. *Medical Law International*

Opinion-editorials

Gibson, R.B. ‘Nueva Pescanova and the Ethics of Octopus Farming’ *The Prindle Post* (21st March 2023) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2023/03/nueva-pescanova-and-the-ethics-of-octopus-farming/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Whole Body Gestational Donation’ *The Prindle Post* (22nd February 2023) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2023/02/whole-body-gestational-donation/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘ChatGPT and Deception’ *The Prindle Post* (24th January 2023) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2023/01/chatgpt-and-deception/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘A Game Worth Dying For?’ *The Prindle Post* (29th November 2022) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/11/a-game-worth-dying-for/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Is the Open Road Really That Open?’ *The Prindle Post* (4th November 2022) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/11/is-the-open-road-really-that-open/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Too Clever for Our Own Good? Moral Bioenhancement and Existential Harm’ *The Prindle Post* (18th October 2022) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/10/too-clever-for-our-own-good-moral-bioenhancement-and-existential-harm/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘National Debt and Longtermism’ *The Prindle Post* (27th September 2022) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/09/national-debt-and-longtermism/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Can Human-Grown Organs De-Liver?’ *The Prindle Post* (14th September 2022) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/09/can-human-grown-organs-de-liver/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Animal Ethics of OrganEx’ *The Prindle Post* (19th August 2022) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/08/the-animal-ethics-of-organex/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Gene Drives and the Desire for Control’ *The Prindle Post* (26th July 2022) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/07/gene-drives-and-the-desire-for-control/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Bye Bye Balance: Dobbs and the Erosion of Compromise’ *The Prindle Post* (27th June 2022) <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/06/bye-bye-balance-dobbs-and-the-erosion-of-compromise/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Treating Psychopathy?’ *The Prindle Post* (9th June 2022) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2022/06/treating-psychopathy/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Cosmic Horror of HP Lovecraft and SGR A*’ *The Prindle Post* (19th May 2022) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2022/05/the-cosmic-horror-of-hp-lovecraft/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Pascal’s Wager of Cryopreservation’ *The Prindle Post* (26th April 2022) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2022/04/the-pascals-wager-of-cryopreservation/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Totalitarianism of the Borg’ *The Prindle Post* (30th March 2022) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2022/03/the-totalitarianism-of-the-borg/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Elective Disability and Body Integrity Dysphoria’ *The Prindle Post* (9th March 2022) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2022/03/elective-disability-and-body-integrity-dysphoria/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Heartless Matter of Organ Transplantation and COVID Vaccination’ *The Prindle Post* (2nd February 2022) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2022/02/the-heartless-matter-of-organ-transplantation-and-covid-vaccination/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Colston Four and the Rule of Law’ *The Prindle Post* (12th January 2022) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2022/01/the-colston-four-and-the-rule-of-law/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Should Clinicians Have Soapboxes?’ *The Prindle Post* (30th November 2021) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2021/11/should-clinicians-have-soapboxes/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘COP26: What’s the Point?’ *The Prindle Post* (5th November 2021) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2021/11/cop26-whats-the-point/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Making the Best of a Bad Situation: Russia and the Energy Crisis’ *The Prindle Post* (18th October 2021) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2021/10/making-the-best-of-a-bad-situation-russia-and-the-energy-crisis/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Who’s Harmed by Abortion?’ *The Prindle Post* (29th September 2021) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2021/09/whos-harmed-by-abortion/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Texas Heartbeat Act and Linguistic Clarity’ *The Prindle Post* (7th September 2021) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2021/09/the-texas-heartbeat-act-and-linguistic-clarity/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Politically Great and the Morally Good’ *The Prindle Post* (17th August 2021) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2021/08/the-politically-great-and-the-morally-good/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Will the Real Anthony Bourdain Please Stand Up?’ *The Prindle Post* (26th July 2021) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2021/07/will-the-real-anthony-bourdain-please-stand-up/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Time for Social Conscription?’ *The Prindle Post* (18th June 2021) <https://www.prindlepost.org/2021/06/time-for-social-conscription/>

Blog entries

Gibson, R.B. ‘Vision for the Current Events in Public Philosophy Series’ (10th October 2022) *Blog of the APA* <https://blog.apaonline.org/2022/10/10/vision-for-the-current-events-in-public-philosophy-series/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The ethics of OrganEx’ *Journal of Medical Ethics Blog* (12th August 2022) <https://blogs.bmj.com/medical-ethics/2022/08/12/the-ethics-of-organex/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Can a Global Vaccine Strategy Prioritizing Covid-19 Variant Hotspots be Ethical?’ *Bioethics Today Blog* (14th January 2021) <http://www.bioethics.net/2021/01/can-a-global-vaccine-strategy-prioritizing-covid-19-variant-hotspots-be-ethical/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘The Happy Life of Bob's Burgers’ *Philosophy and Pop Culture Blackwell Series Blog* (24th September 2020) <https://andphilosophy.com/2020/09/24/the-happy-life-of-bobs-burgers/>

Gibson, R.B. ‘Covid-19 and the Refutation of Normality’ *Bioethics Today Blog* (14th April 2020)
<http://www.bioethics.net/2020/04/covid-19-and-the-refutation-of-normality/>

Teaching

Teaching responsibilities at the University of Texas Medical Branch

Instructor of record

‘Frontiers of Bioethics’ PhD and MD-PhD students (2021 – 2022)

Small group preceptor

‘Interprofessional Education’ PREP, BA, MD and PhD students (2022 – 2023)

‘Ethics of Scientific Research’ PREP, BA, MD and PhD students (2022 – 2023)

‘The Goals of Medicine’, ‘Team Dynamics’, ‘Bias & Judgment’, ‘End-of-Life’ 2nd year MD students (2022 – 2023)

‘Introduction to Bioethics’, ‘Informed Consent and Capacity’ ‘Disability & Quality of Life’ 1st year MD students (2022 – 2023)

Class lecture

‘Defining Death’ PhD and MD-PhD students (September 2022)

‘Nonmaleficence’ PhD and MD-PhD students (November 2021)

Workshop leader

‘Writing Skills’ PhD and MD-PhD students (March 2022; December 2022)

Teaching responsibilities at the University of Manchester

Instructor of record

‘Ethics, Genetics, and Genomics’ MA, LLM and PGDip students (2020 – 2021)

‘Global Health Law & Bioethics’ MA, LLM and PGDip students (2020 – 2021)

‘Introduction to Philosophy’ Pre-university sixth-form students (2019 – 2020)

Teaching assistant

‘Jurisprudence’ LLB, BA, BSc and BASS students (2018 – 2021)

Mentorship of students and trainees

‘Dissertation Project’ MA Students (2020 – 2021)

Teaching responsibilities at other institutions

Class lecture

‘End-of-life and Posthumanism’ MA students, The University of Montreal (March 2022)

Affiliations

Higher Education Academy Fellowship (2022 – present)

Scholarships and grants

Association for Practical & Professional Ethics Conference Grant (2023) - \$100

Association for Practical & Professional Ethics travel grant to cover some of the costs of presenting a paper at the 32nd Annual APPE International Conference

Society for Applied Philosophy Postgraduate Travel Grant (2019) - £528

Society of Applied Philosophy travel grant awarded to cover some of the costs of presenting a paper at 4S 2019

Society for Social Studies in Science 4S Travel Grant (2019) - \$550

Society of Social Studies in Science travel grant awarded to cover some of the costs of presenting a paper at 4S 2019

Institute of Medical Ethics Postgraduate Conference Attendance Grant (2019) - £500

Institute of Medical Ethics travel grant covering the costs of presenting a conference paper at the 33rd annual European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare conference

The University of Manchester Faculty of Humanities School of Law Scholarship (2017) - £56,000

The University of Manchester funded PhD studentship based in the School of Law in the "Centre for Social Ethics and Policy" hub

Recent & upcoming presentations

2023

Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference ‘Cryopreservation: A Matter of Life *and* Death?’
Ulster University, Derry-Londonderry, UK (April 2023)

Department of Bioethics and Health Humanities Seminar ‘The Elephant in the Womb: A Bioethics
Blueprint for De-extinction Using Ectogestation’ *University of Texas Medical Branch, USA (March 2023)*

32nd Annual APPE International Conference ‘Extreme Altruism, Psychopathy, and Accountability’
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Portland, USA (March 2023)

2022

NEXUS Philosophy Society ‘Body Integrity Dysphoria and Healthy Limb Amputation: Medicine or
Mutilation?’ *Texas A&M, USA (November 2022)*

Department of Bioethics and Health Humanities Seminar ‘Cryopreservation: Hype or Hope?’ *University
of Texas Medical Branch, USA (November 2022)*

World Congress of Bioethics ‘A National (Health) Service: Is it Time for Social Conscription?’ *University of
Basel, Switzerland (July 2022)*

World Congress of Bioethics ‘Frosty the No Man? Cryopreservation, Artifice, and Status’ *University of
Basel, Switzerland (July 2022)*

45th Annual ASLME Health Law Professors Conference ‘Alive, Dead, or Something Else? Challenging
Law’s Mortal Dichotomy’ *Arizona State University, USA (June 2022)*

Great Lakes Philosophy Conference ‘Off with their Leg! Body Integrity Identity Disorder and Elective
Amputation’ *Siena Heights University, USA (April 2022)*

International Health Humanities Consortium Conference ‘The Morality out of Space’ *Massachusetts
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, USA (March 2022)*

2021

The 95th Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society & the Mind Association ‘The Cryonic-Refugee:
Appropriate Analogy or Confusing Rhetoric?’ *University of Hertfordshire, UK (16th July 2021)*

Postgraduate Bioethics Conference ‘The Cryonic-Refugee: Appropriate Analogy or Confusing Rhetoric?’
University of Liverpool, UK (24th June 2021)

Centre for Social Ethics & Policy BMJ Day ‘The Cryonic-Refugee: Appropriate Analogy or Confusing
Rhetoric?’ *University of Manchester, UK (26th May 2021)*

2019

Northern Bioethics Network ‘A Leg to Stand On? Theories of Health, Normality, & Body Integrity Identity Disorder’ *University of Manchester, UK* (8th November 2019)

4S 2019 New Orleans ‘A Leg Up? Neuroprosthetics, Elective Amputations, and Body Integrity Identity Disorder’ *Society for Social Studies of Science, New Orleans, USA* (7th September 2019)

European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare Annual Conference ‘A Leg Up? Neuroprosthetics, Elective Amputations, and Body Integrity Identity Disorder’ *University of Oslo, Norway* (9th August 2019)

Visiting Scholar Symposium ‘No Harm, No Foul? Body Integrity Identity Disorder and the Metaphysics of Harm in GBH’ *The Hastings Center, USA* (17th June 2019)

Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference ‘No Harm, No Foul? Body Integrity Identity Disorder and the Metaphysics of GBH’ *University of Leeds, UK* (3rd April 2019)

2018

Centre for Social Ethics & Policy Senior Seminar Series ‘What Sorts of Beings Matter? A Nihilistic Response Paper to the “Problem” of Novel Beings’ *University of Manchester, UK* (5th December 2018)

Centre for Social Ethics & Policy BMJ Day ‘A Body Beyond the Norm: The Reframing of Disability via Science Fiction’ *University of Manchester, UK* (2nd November 2018)

School of Law Annual Conference ‘Body Integrity Identity Disorder, the Normal, and the Pathological’ *University of Manchester, UK* (17th October 2018)

Postgraduate Bioethics Conference ‘Understanding Moral Bioenhancement through Epidemiological Models’ *King’s College London, UK* (24th July 2018)

Human-Technology Relations: Postphenomenology and Philosophy of Technology ‘Can I Amputate my own Leg? The Ethics of Body Integrity Identity Disorder & Neuroprosthetics’ *University of Twente, The Netherlands* (11th July 2018)

Institute of Medical Ethics Summer Research Conference ‘A Leg Up: The Impact of Neuroprosthetics on Healthy Limb Amputation in BIID Cases’ *University of Oxford, UK* (19th June 2018)

Centre for Social Ethics & Policy BMJ Day ‘I Don't Know How These 'No Shins' Got in my Head: Body Integrity Identity Disorder and Neuroprosthetics’ *University of Manchester, UK* (7th May 2018)

Professional activities

Session Chair, 7th Annual Reproductive Ethics Conference
University of Texas Medical Branch (2023)

Guest Editor, Special Issue: ‘Cryopreservation: Hype or Hope?’
The New Bioethics (in preparation)

Series Editor, Current Events in Public Philosophy Blog
American Philosophical Association (September 2022 – present)

Session Chair, 2022 Great Lakes Philosophy Conference
Siena Heights University (April 2022)

Philosophical Bioethics Course Evaluator, School of Law
University of Manchester (2020 – 2021)

Twitter Co-Manager, Centre for Social Ethics & Policy
University of Manchester (2020 – 2021)

PGR Student Representative, School of Law
University of Manchester (2018 – 2020)

Exam Invigilator, Department of Law
University of Manchester (2018 – 2020)

Editor, The Manchester Review of Law, Crime and Ethics
University of Manchester (2018 – 2020)

Sustainability Challenge Facilitator, Directorate for the Student Experience
University of Manchester (2018 – 2019)

Research Ethics Committee Lay Member, Health Research Authority
National Health Service (2015 – 2017)

In addition, I regularly act as a peer reviewer for various bioethics, philosophy, medical ethics, and medical humanities journals.

Additional media and outreach

Podcasts and visual media

Audacious with Chion Wolf, ‘Body Integrity Dysphoria: When being disabled is a desire’ *PBS: Public Broadcasting Service* (16th March 2023) <https://www.ctpublic.org/show/audacious-with-chion-wolf/2023-03-16/body-integrity-dysphoria-when-being-disabled-is-a-desire>

NSFP Podcast ‘Richard Gibson’ *Not Safe for Publication Podcast* (6th June 2020)
<https://soundcloud.com/user-290300378/richard-gibson>

One Minute Thesis ‘Richard Gibson, PhD Doctoral Candidate, On Body Integrity Identity Disorder’
Humanities Research Development (1st November 2019)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xB5_Cl2C4aU

Television commentary

BBC World Service, ‘Cryopreservation: Could reviving frozen bodies create ‘cryonic refugees’ of the future?’ (27th November 2022) <https://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp/science-63712070> - Chinese (other translations include Korean, Arabic, Hindi, Thai, and Sinhala (links available upon request))

Media references to my work

Smith, W.J. ‘After transgender comes “transable” healthy limb amputations’ *The Epoch Times* (2nd February 2021)
https://www.theepochtimes.com/after-transgender-comes-transable-healthy-limb-amputations_3675839.html

Cook, M. ‘After all, what is really wrong with apotemnophilia?’ *BioEdge* (24th January 2021)
<https://www.bioedge.org/bioethics/after-all-what-is-really-wrong-with-apotemnophilia/13670>