

Josephine Johnston (University of Otago, New Zealand)

Kia ora koutou! I'm Josephine Johnston, a bioethics researcher and medical law lecturer from Aotearoa/New Zealand. I'm an interdisciplinary and collaborative bioethicist with training in law and bioethics. I am passionate about the value that bioethics can bring to the huge range of challenges in health and wellbeing.

For most of my career, I have worked in North America—at the University of Minnesota, Dalhousie University, and since 2003 The Hastings Center, where I led the research department for ten years. I returned home to Aotearoa/New Zealand in late 2020. I now split my time between a part-time lectureship at the University of Otago, where I have the privilege of teaching medical law to half our country's future doctors, and a part-time Senior Research Scholar position at Hastings. I have colleagues and connections around the world and thrive on exposure to new ideas. I'm especially proud of the junior researchers I am fortunate to mentor, write, and publish with. My own work focuses on issues of fairness and meaning in reproductive medicine, genetics, and neuroscience, but I have worked behind the scenes to increase attention in bioethics to racism and other systemic injustices.

I am a strategic thinker, a good listener, and a hard worker. Through my work at Hastings and as a school trustee, I understand the responsibilities of Boards of Directors. I love meeting new colleagues and am deeply optimistic that our field can bring new ways of thinking to persistently difficult issues in health and healthcare, while also helping societies, families, and individuals use emerging technologies wisely. I know first-hand that bioethics is local, national, and international—and that we all have much to learn from each other. It would be my privilege to help IAB advance and promote the work of bioethics around the globe.