

International Symposium “Consent and Privacy”

When we share our personal information with commercial companies through devices such as smartphones, or when we share our genetic information with medical associations for research purposes, there is no doubt that consent and privacy matter. Many related philosophical and ethical questions remain topics of ongoing inquiry: What is the nature of consent and privacy? Why is privacy morally significant? How can consent be morally transformative? How do consent and privacy matter in the use or development of new technologies? Under what conditions can we appropriately consent to share our personal information? Depending on the type of personal information, should the bar for consenting change?

This international symposium aims to address such philosophical and ethical questions about consent, privacy, and their relationship, in relation to the use or development of new technology. Although our particular focus is on issues of privacy and consent in the field of engineering biology, this symposium also covers many other fields and issues in which consent and privacy matter.

Date: March 16-18, 2026

Venue: Kobe University

Organizers: KOBELSI and Innovative Ethics Project, Kobe University

Speakers

Tom Dougherty

Professor

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Charlotte A. Tschider

Professor

Loyola University Chicago School of Law & Beazley Institute for Health Law & Policy

Elizabeth Edenberg

Assistant Professor

Baruch College, The City University of New York (CUNY)

Darrell Rowbottom

Professor

Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University (Hong Kong)

Dan Pallies

Research Assistant Professor

Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University (Hong Kong)

Tsutomu Sawai

Professor (Special Recognition)

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University

Yumi Tomiyama

Associate Professor

Law, Economics and Management, Okinawa University

Masahiko Tsukamoto

Professor

Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University

Togo Tsukahara

Professor

Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University

Keiji Nishida

Professor

Graduate School of Science, Technology and Innovation, Kobe University

Okui Go

Project Assistant Professor

Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University

Tentative Program**March 16 (Mon): Takigawa Memorial Hall**

14:00-14:10 Opening Remark: Takuya Niikawa

14:10-15:40 Keynote: Elizabeth Edenberg

"Consent and Securing Digital Rights"

15:40-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:00 Dan Pallies

"Bioengineering Consent"

March 17 (Tue): Takigawa Memorial Hall

13:00-14:00 Darrell Rowbottom

(TBD)

14:00-14:10 Break

14:10-15:40 Keynote: Tom Dougherty

"Consent to Sharing Information"

15:40-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 Keynote: Charlotte A. Tschider

"Individual v. Collective Benefit: Situating Consent in Healthcare Innovation"

17:30-19:30 Reception

March 18 (Wed): Daisel OI Hall

10:00-11:20 Workshop on Smartglasses and Privacy

10:00-10:25 Masahiko Tsukamoto

10:25-10:50 Togo Tsukahara

10:50-11:00 Commentary: Yumi Tomiyama

General Discussion 11:00-11:20

11:20-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Tsutomu Sawai

"Ethical and Empirical Perspectives on Consent in Human Brain Organoid Research"

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-16:50 Workshop on ELSI for bio-engineering

14:00-14:15 Naoto Chatani, opening remark on ELSI for bio-engineering

14:15-15:15 Keiji Nishida

15:20-16:20: Go Okui

16:20-16:50: General Discussion

16:50 Closing Remark: Takuya Niikawa

Campus Map: Rokkodai 2nd Campus



Takigawa Memorial Hall: Building #100 (circled red)

Daisel OI Hall: Building #70 (circled purple)

Rokkodai 2nd Campus: <https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campus-life/maps/rokkodai2/>

Kobe University: <https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campus-life/maps/about/>