



CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**PHILOSOPHY**

**COLLOQUIUM SERIES**



\* All talks will be held on Fridays in Room 218 Paterson Hall at 1:00 pm unless otherwise noted \*

\* Please visit our website at <http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy/> for detailed abstracts \*

**“How can ethics support innovative health care  
for an aging population?”**

**Katherine Wayne**  
**Carleton University**

The rapidly expanding population of older persons presents a global health care challenge—for some, a looming crisis. Developing innovations in health and assistive technology (AT) seem poised to support effective and sustainable health care in the face of this challenge; for instance, costly hospital stays of dementia patients may be minimized with the help of sophisticated home monitoring and geographical tracking systems. While there is currently scant discussion of the ethical issues surrounding AT for older persons with dementia, demands for ethical frameworks that can respond to front-line dilemmas regarding AT development and provision, and interpret how the needs of aging persons themselves are defined throughout this development process, are increasing. I suggest that fulfilling the promises of AT to provide effective and ethically informed solutions requires shifting away from standard bioethical analyses that centralize the principle of respect for autonomy. An autonomy-centric paradigm is dubiously equipped to theorize the foundational ethical issues in dementia care and to guide anti-ageist AT development and implementation. An agency-centered approach to dementia care, which could engage more adaptively with the perspectives and choices of older persons themselves while offering strong support to AT research and stakeholders, may offer an attractive alternative..

**Friday, November 16, 2018**  
**Room: 218 Paterson Hall**  
**Time: 1:00 p.m.**