

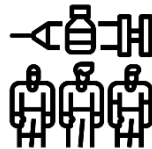
In this feature, our team provides you with an overview of the most recent publications in the field of bioethics, with a particular focus on contributions coming from (or having relevance for) Switzerland.

Buona lettura! Bonne lecture ! Viel Spass beim Lesen! Enjoy the reading!

The editors: Andrea Martani, and Maddalena Favaretto

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PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS



“Solidaristic behavior and its limits: A qualitative study about German and Swiss residents’ behaviors towards public health measures during COVID-19 lockdown in April 2020”

In the hardest moments of the pandemic, public authorities often referred to the need for solidarity by citizens, both as an attitude to deal with the pandemic, but also as a justification for the restrictive measures imposed by governments. Solidarity, however, is a multifaceted concept, which concerns both the relations amongst citizens and those between citizens and institutions. In this study, the authors explore the concept of solidarity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, by analysing interviews with Swiss and German resident conducted during the first lockdown in both countries. In their analysis, they show how the framework of solidarity can be used to investigate (and also be itself refined) the views that participants had about interpersonal (e.g. friends), group (e.g. young vs old) and contractual (e.g. government) relations.

Hangel N, et al. Solidaristic behavior and its limits: A qualitative study about German and Swiss residents’ behaviors towards public health measures during COVID-19 lockdown in April 2020. *SSM- Qualitative Research in Health*. 2022. doi: [10.1177/20552076221074488](https://doi.org/10.1177/20552076221074488)

CLINICAL ETHICS



“Fair access to assistive technology? Gaps in transition from invalidity to old-age insurance in Switzerland”

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal neurodegenerative disease and in the majority of cases its onset lies between 50 and 70 years for patients. This age-period corresponds for many people to the transition from work-life to pension, which in Switzerland determines also an automatic change in the

social insurance schemes that protects against disability. Poppe and colleagues explain that these two insurance schemes are very different in terms of benefits, thus determining an ethically-troubling situation: if someone is diagnosed with ALS just-before or just-after having transitioned from one insurance scheme to the other, s/he will receive substantially different social assistance. The authors highlight why this is problematic from a bioethical perspective and suggest a better way forward.

Poppe C, Martani A, Schweikert K, Wangmo T. Fair access to assistive technology? Gaps in transition from invalidity to old-age insurance in Switzerland. *Swiss Medical Weekly*. Available [here](#).

AI ETHICS



“Re-focusing explainability in medicine”

The technological developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) have raised high expectations towards their application in healthcare. However, ethical dilemmas concerning the explainability of AI systems call for caution in the use of AI in the clinics. But what exactly explainability means in this field is hugely contested, thus generating a stalemate in respect to how this concept should be applied by AI developer. To escape this conundrum, Arbelaez Ossa and colleagues suggest to conceptualise explainability for AI in healthcare by considering doctors’ and patients’ needs in terms of understanding, rather than mathematical or algorithmic understandings of the concepts.

Arbelaez Ossa L, Starke G, Lorenzini G, Vogt JE, Shaw DM, Elger BS. Re-focusing explainability in medicine. *Digit Health*. 2022 Feb 11;8:20552076221074488. doi: [10.1177/20552076221074488](https://doi.org/10.1177/20552076221074488)