

Digital Society Initiative
Universität Zürich
Rämistrasse 69
8001 Zürich
Schweiz

muriel.leuenberger@uzh.ch
www.murielleuenberger.com
[0000-0002-5427-0108](tel:0000-0002-5427-0108)
philpeople.org
[@Muriel_L](https://twitter.com/Muriel_L)

Muriel Leuenberger

Areas of Research

Ethics of technology / AI, Neuroethics, Medical Ethics, Meaning in Life, Narrativism, Personal Identity, Authenticity, Genealogy

Current Position

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Digital Society Initiative (DSI) and the Center for Ethics (EZEN), Department of Philosophy, University of Zurich

Project in Meaning in Life in the Digital Society.

DSI Bridge Postdoc Fellowship (06/2024 – 05/2028).

Collaborator with the project Bioethics, Justice, and Pandemics, University of Santa Catarina ([BIOJUSPAN](#)), Florianopolis, Brazil.

Education

03/2017 – 06/2021

PhD in Philosophy, University of Basel (CH)

Defense: 30/06/2021

Grade: Summa cum laude (top grade)

Thesis: Authenticity, Narrative and Neural Interventions

Supervision: Prof. Markus Wild (University of Basel),

Prof. Marya Schechtman (University of Illinois at Chicago)

10/2013 – 05/2016

Master of Arts in Philosophy of Science and Technology, Technical University of Munich (DE)

Grade: 1.1 (1 is the top grade)

Master thesis: Deep Brain Stimulation and Authenticity

Supervision: Prof. Stefan Sellmaier (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich), Dr. Tobias Jung (Technical University of Munich)

09/2010 – 07/2013

Bachelor of Science in Nanoscience, University of Basel (CH)

Interdisciplinary program in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics

Grade: 5.0 (6 is the top grade)

Professional Experience

- 06/2024 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Digital Society Initiative ([DSI](#)), Department of Philosophy, University of Zurich.
- 08/2023 – 05/2024 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, The Center for Ethics ([EZEN](#)), University of Zurich.
- 08/2021 – 07/2023 **Member of the [DSI Community Ethics](#)**, Zurich.
- 08/2021 – 07/2023 **Postdoctoral Hosted Research Fellow**, Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics ([OUC](#)), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford.
- 08/2021 – 07/2023 **Affiliated member of the Programme on the Ethics of Behavioural Influence and Prediction ([EBIP](#))**, University of Oxford.
- 08/2021 – 07/2023 **Member of the Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities ([WEH](#))**, University of Oxford.
- 08/2021 – 07/2023 **Affiliated member of the SCR of St Hugh's College**, Oxford.
- 03/2017 – 06/2021 **PhD candidate in philosophy**, University of Basel.
- 08/2019 – 06/2021 **Affiliated member of the Institute for Bio- and Medical Ethics ([IBMB](#))**, University of Basel.
- 06/2018 – 12/2018 **Research residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago**.
- 03/2015 – 06/2015 **Assistant, Ethics in the National Centre of Competence in Research *Molecular Systems Engineering* ([NCCR-MSE](#))**, with Dr. Ralf Stutzki, University of Basel. An internship assessing the ethical challenges of research in this nation-wide research project with close to 100 researchers.

Grants, Awards, Fellowships

- 06/2024 – 05/2028 **Digital Society Initiative Bridge Postdoc Fellowship** (780'000 CHF).
- 08/2023 – 07/2024 **Return grant** of the Swiss National Science Foundation (112'000 CHF).
- 08/2021 – 07/2023 **Postdoc.Mobility grant** of the Swiss National Science Foundation (120'200 CHF).
- 03/2021 **Antelope competitive career program for promising female researchers**, University of Basel (4'000 CHF, funded coaching opportunities).
- 10/2020 **Award for 2020 International Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting Top Abstracts**, [published in AJOB Neuroscience](#).
- 09/2020 – 06/2021 **Grant of the Research Fund for Excellent Junior Researchers** of the University of Basel (37'200 CHF).
- 10/2019 **Award for outstanding poster presentation** at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the International Neuroethics Society, Chicago.
- 06/2018 – 12/2018 **Mobility grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation** for a research residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago (10'400 CHF).
- 02/2017 – 09/2020 **Doc.CH grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation** for a fully funded PhD (205'800 CHF).
- 05/2010 **Honorable Mention at the International Philosophy Olympiad**, Athens.
- 03/2010 **Winner of the Swiss Philosophy Olympiad**, Bern.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Leuenberger, Muriel. "AI Companions and Relational Identity." Under review.

Leuenberger, Muriel. "Bioinformation and Identity Interests: A Book Review of Emily Postan's *Embodied Narratives*." Under review.

Leuenberger, Muriel. Forthcoming. "Duties to the Unified Self." *The Monist*.

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2024. "Technology, Personal Information, and Identity." *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology* 28(1): 22-48. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5840/techn202437195>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2024. "Track Thyself? The Value and Ethics of Self-knowledge Through Technology." *Philosophy and Technology* 37(13): 1-22. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13347-024-00704-4>

Iftode, Christian; Zorila, Alexandra; Vica, Constantin; Leuenberger, Muriel. 2023. "A life of our own': why authenticity is more than a condition for autonomy". *The Journal of Value Inquiry*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10790-023-09967-0>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2022. "Memory Modification and Authenticity: A Narrative Approach." *Neuroethics* 15: 1-10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12152-022-09489-9>
Fifth most downloaded paper in 2022 in the journal *Neuroethics*.

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2021. "Losing Meaning: Philosophical Reflections on Neural Interventions and their Influence on Narrative Identity." *Neuroethics* 14: 491-505. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12152-021-09469-5>
In the top 10 most accessed papers in 2021 in the journal *Neuroethics*.

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2021. "Why Authenticity Hinges on Narrative Identity." *American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience* 12 (1): 43 - 45. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21507740.2020.1866109>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2021. "What is the Point of Being your True Self? A Genealogy of Essentialist Authenticity." *Philosophy* 96 (3): 409-431. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0031819121000012>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2020. "In Defense of Narrative Authenticity." *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 29 (4): 656 – 667. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0963180120000407>

Book Chapters

Leuenberger, Muriel. Forthcoming. "Should you let AI tell you who you are and what you want?" In: *Living with AI: Moral Challenges*. Edited by David Edmonds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2023. "Authenticity in the Ethics of Human Enhancement." In: *Routledge Handbook on the Ethics of Human Enhancement*. Edited by Marcello Ienca and Fabrice Jotterand. London: Routledge. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003105596-12>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2023. "A Narrative Pattern-Theory of the Self." In: *Personhood, Self-Consciousness, and the First-Person Perspective*. Edited by Markus Hermann. Paderborn: Brill mentis. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30965/9783969752906>

Academic Blog Articles and Commissioned Articles (editor reviewed)

“From Experience to Insight – the Personal Dimension of Philosophy.” [Blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 05/2023.

“Who gets to be a Person?” [Blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 01/2023.

“The Authentic Liar.” 2024. *Think*, 23(67): 27-30. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1477175623000465>. An adapted version of this text is published as a [blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 01/2023.

“Simulate Your True Self.” 2023. *Think*, 22(64): 35-38. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1477175623000076>. An adapted version of this text is published as a [blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 12/2022.

“Track Thyself? Personal Information Technology and the Ethics of Self-knowledge.” [Blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 06/2022.

Peer-Reviewed Conferences

Relational Identity and AI Companions. AI Ethics & Human-Computer Interaction Conference, University of Graz (AUT), 03/2024.

How Direct-to-Consumer Neurotechnology Affects Identity. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the International Neuroethics Society, Montreal (CA), 11/2022.

Technology, Personal Information and Identity. Presentation at the Ethics of Socially Disruptive Technologies 2022 Conference, Oegstgeest (NL), 10/2022.

Duty to Self-Track? Personal Information Technology and the Duty of Self-knowledge. Presentation at the MANCEPT workshop on Duties to Oneself, Manchester (GB), 09/2022.

A Narrative Pattern-Theory of the Self. Presentation at the Heidelberg Workshop on Personhood, Self-Consciousness, and the First-Person Perspective, Heidelberg (GE), 08/2022.

Memory Modification and Authenticity: A Narrativist Approach. Presentation at the International Neuroethics Society 2021 Annual Meeting, online, 11/2021.

Memory Modification and Authenticity: A Narrativist Approach. Presentation at the Generative Episodic Memory: Interdisciplinary perspectives from psychology, neuroscience and philosophy Ph.D. symposium, online, 02/2021.

Neural Interventions and the Narrative Self: Why Means Matter for Meanings. Presentation at the International Neuroethics Society 2020 Annual Meeting, online, 10/2020.

Deep Brain Stimulation: Two Kinds of Effects on Authenticity. Presentation at the workshop *The Ethics of Experimental Deep Brain Stimulation – Future Directions*, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford (UK), 01/2020.

Neural Interventions – Shaking the Foundations of Authenticity. Poster presentation at the International Neuroethics Society 2019 Annual Meeting, Chicago (USA), 10/2019.

Narrative Authenticity and Deep Brain Stimulation. Presentation at SINE – INS 11th International Scientific Conference on Neuroethics, San-Raffaele University, Milan (IT), 5/2019.

Invited Talks

Die Auswirkungen sozialer KI auf unsere Identität. Philosophische Gesellschaft Zürich (CH), 03/2024.

What determines the magnitude of a mental interference? Bodily and Mental Integrity and Autonomy Workshop, Oxford (UK) (online), 12/2023

Cultural diversity is crucial for (neuro)ethics? Round table discussion at ICONE - International Conference on Neuroethics: From North to South, Diversity and Inclusion in Neuroscience and Neuroethics, Coimbra (PRT), (online), 11/2023.

Technology and the Pursuit of Self-knowledge. XXVI International Philosophy Colloquium Unisinos University Brazil, Artificial Intelligence: The Present and the Future, Brazil (online), 11/2023.

Self-knowledge through tracking and profiling - ethical considerations. Philosophy & Ethics Seminar of the Eindhoven Technical University, Eindhoven (NL) (online), 10/2023.

Identity, Meaning in Life and Technology. Workshop on Political Hope, Technology & Digital Transformation, Bonn (GE), 06/2023.

The value and ethics of self-knowledge through technology. Bucharest-Oxford-Singapore Conference on Applied Ethics, University of Bucharest, Bucharest (ROU), 05/2023.

Conversation at the book launch of *Embodied Narratives: Protecting Identity Interests through Ethical Governance of Bioinformation* with the author Emily Postan and John Appleby, Masen Institute, Edinburgh (UK), 03/2023.

How Personal Information Technology Impacts Identity. Research Seminar of the Institute of Philosophy of Mind and Cognition, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taipei (TWN), online, 12/2022.

Duties to the Unified Self. Research Seminar of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford (UK), 11/2022.

Bernard Williams & the demands of authenticity. Bernard Williams Virtual Workshop with Matthew Bradley (Oxford), online, 01/2022.

Fictions and the Narrative Self. Workshop on *Varieties of Non-Propositional Content* with Elisabeth Camp (Rutgers), University of Basel, 6/2019.

Genealogy and Rousseau's Second Discourse. Workshop on *The Contingent World: Genealogy, Epistemology, Politics* with Amia Srinivasan (Oxford), University of Basel, 6/2018.

Institutional Responsibilities

03/2022 – present	Elected member of the International Neuroethics Society (INS) Membership Committee.
04/2020 – 10/2020	Representative of the Ph.D. students and assistants in an evaluation panel for the promotion of a professor at the University of Basel.
09/2015 – 06/2016	Member of the planning commission for study grants of the Munich Center for Technology in Society.
07/2014 – 04/2015	Organization committee for seminar days of the degree course.
09/2012 – 09/2013	Member of the audit committee of the Society of Nanoscience Students at the University of Basel.

Teaching

03/2023	<i>Identity and Information</i> . MSt in Practical Ethics, Data Ethics module, University of Oxford.
01/2023	<i>Authenticity in Neuroethics</i> . Bioethics Special Study Thread for medical students, University of Oxford.
10/2022	<i>Authenticity in the Ethics of Human Enhancement</i> . MSt in Practical Ethics, Well-being, disability and enhancement module, University of Oxford.
06/2022	<i>Narrative Identity and Neural Interventions</i> . MSt in Practical Ethics, Neuroethics module, University of Oxford.
09/2019 – 12/2019	<i>Das narrative Selbst (The narrative self)</i> . Designed and taught course, proseminar, University of Basel.
03/2018	<i>Ethik für Nanowissenschaftler (Ethics for Nanoscientists)</i> . Guest lecturer, University of Basel.

Organization of Workshops

02/2022, 05/2022, 06/2022	Oxford Uehiro Centre Workshops in Practical Philosophy, co-organized with Aksel Sterri, University of Oxford.
06/2021	<i>Locke, Hume and Shepherd on Personal Identity</i> international workshop with Deborah Boyle, Marya Schechtman and Udo Thiel, co-organized with Manuel Fasko, Jelscha Schmid and Markus Wild, University of Basel (online).

Outreach

Lehrstuhl «KI und Identität». Public talk at the [Zürcher Philosophie Festival](#) about my current research project on AI and identity, Mühle Tiefenbrunnen, Zürich, 01/2024.

Bitesize Ethics: *Track Thyself? The Ethics of Self-knowledge Through Technology*. Public talk as part of the [Bitesize ethics summer programme](#) organized by the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford, 07/2023.

Bitesize Ethics: *Authenticity and Neurointerventions*. Public talk as part of the [Festival of Arguments](#) organized by the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford, 06/2022.

Member of the judging panel for the Uehiro Centre for [Practical Ethics and Responsibility Competition](#), a practical ethics video competition for children in secondary education, University of Oxford, 01/2022.

Die Tiefenhirnstimulation. Article in [fatum](#), a student magazine for philosophy of science, technology and society, Technical University of Munich, 07/2017.

Co-founding and responsibility for graphics of the Science Café [Auf Augenhöhe](#), Munich, 04/2014 – 05/2016.

General Contributions to Science

Referee for *The Monist*, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, *Philosophy & Technology*, *Neuroethics*, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Monash Bioethics Review*, *Medicina Historica*.

Member of an expert workshop to gather input for the development of European guidelines on the use of non-invasive brain stimulation, part of the STIMCODE project (Horizon 2020), online, 11/2022.

How to write a PhD funding application. Presentation with Michael O’Leary in series of events for MA and doctoral students, University of Basel, 11/2019.

Academic Writing with the Mumford Method. Presentation with Nico Müller and Friederike Zenker organized by the student association of Philosophy, University of Basel, 05/2018.

Active Memberships

Since 05/2022	Philosophische Gesellschaft Basel
Since 12/2019	Society for Women in Philosophy Switzerland
Since 07/2019	International Neuroethics Society

Volunteering

- 01/2019 – 09/2021 Volunteer for the Red Cross in a mentorship and integration program supporting refugees and immigrants in various areas such as job search, homework, or learning German.
- 02/2018 – 08/2018 Volunteer for the project “[Offener Hörsaal](#)” supporting refugees and immigrants to access University and contribute to social, professional, and lingual integration.

Personal Skills

- Languages German (native speaker)
Swiss German (native speaker)
English (native level)
French (advanced reading level)
Spanish (basics)
Italian (basics)
Portuguese (basics)
- IT Writing: MS Word, Pages, LyX, Google Docs
Presentations: MS PowerPoint, Keynote, Google Slides
Design: InDesign, Photoshop, Gimp

References

Upon request