

Digital Society Initiative  
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## 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	<b>Postdoctoral Researcher</b> , Digital Society Initiative ( <a href="#">DSI</a> ), Department of Philosophy, University of Zurich.
08/2023 – 05/2024	<b>Postdoctoral Researcher</b> , The Center for Ethics ( <a href="#">EZEN</a> ), University of Zurich.
	<b>Member of the <a href="#">DSI Community Ethics</a></b> , Zurich.
08/2021 – 07/2023	<b>Postdoctoral Hosted Research Fellow</b> , Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics ( <a href="#">OUC</a> ), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford. <b>Affiliated member of the Programme on the Ethics of Behavioural Influence and Prediction (<a href="#">EBIP</a>)</b> , University of Oxford. <b>Member of the Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities (<a href="#">WEH</a>)</b> , University of Oxford. <b>Affiliated member of the SCR of St Hugh’s College</b> , Oxford.
03/2017 – 06/2021	<b>PhD candidate in philosophy</b> , University of Basel.
08/2019 – 06/2021	<b>Affiliated member of the Institute for Bio- and Medical Ethics (<a href="#">IBMB</a>)</b> , University of Basel.
06/2018 – 12/2018	<b>Research residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago.</b>
03/2015 – 06/2015	<b>Assistant, Ethics in the National Centre of Competence in Research <i>Molecular Systems Engineering</i> (<a href="#">NCCR-MSE</a>)</b> , 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 and Honors

09/2025 – 08/2029	<b>Ambizione</b> grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation (576'900 CHF).
12/2024	Ranked 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the application process for the Professorship in Philosophy and Blockchain, University of Lucerne.
06/2024 – 05/2028	<b>Digital Society Initiative Bridge Postdoc Fellowship</b> (780'000 CHF).
08/2023 – 07/2024	<b>Return grant</b> of the Swiss National Science Foundation (112'000 CHF).
08/2021 – 07/2023	<b>Postdoc.Mobility grant</b> of the Swiss National Science Foundation (120'200 CHF).
03/2021	<b>Antelope competitive career program for promising female researchers</b> , University of Basel (4'000 CHF, funded coaching opportunities).
10/2020	<b>Award for 2020 International Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting Top Abstracts</b> , <a href="#">published in AJOB Neuroscience</a> .
09/2020 – 06/2021	<b>Grant of the Research Fund for Excellent Junior Researchers</b> of the University of Basel (37'200 CHF).
10/2019	<b>Award for outstanding poster presentation</b> at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the International Neuroethics Society, Chicago.
06/2018 – 12/2018	<b>Mobility grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation</b> for a research residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago (10'400 CHF).
02/2017 – 09/2020	<b>Doc.CH grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation</b> for a fully funded PhD (205'800 CHF).

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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

Leuenberger, Muriel. Forthcoming. "The Need for Cultural Diversity in Neuroethics." *Neuroethics*.

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2025. "Duties to the Unified Self." *The Monist*. 108(1): 36-46.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/monist/onae028>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2024. "Bioinformation and Identity Interests: A Book Review of Emily Postan's *Embodied Narratives*." *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-024-10384-6>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2024. "Technology, Personal Information, and Identity." *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology* 28(1): 22-48. <https://doi.org/10.5840/techné202437195>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2024. "Track Thyself? The Value and Ethics of Self-knowledge Through Technology." *Philosophy and Technology* 37(13): 1-22. <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*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10790-023-09967-0>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2022. "Memory Modification and Authenticity: A Narrative Approach." *Neuroethics* 15: 1-10. <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. <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. <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. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0031819121000012>

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

## Book Chapters

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2024. "Should you let AI tell you who you are and what you want?" In: *AI Morality*. 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.: <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.

<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, 02/2023.

“The Authentic Liar.” 2024. *Think*, 23(67): 27-30. <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, 2/2023.

“Simulate Your True Self.” 2023. *Think*, 22(64): 35-38. <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

*The Value of Authenticity for Meaning in Life and Implications for Novel and Emerging Technologies.* Presentation at the Jülich Speaker Series in the Philosophy of Technology, Forschungszentrum Jülich (online), 11/2024.

*Meaning in Life, Authenticity and Technology.* Presentation at the research seminar on AI ethics, Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität, München (GE), 11/2024.

*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 Bradly (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

05/2024 – present	Deputy representative of young scientists (Mittelbau) in the appointment procedure of the Professor in Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Zurich.
03/2022 – present	Elected member of the International Neuroethics Society ( <a href="#">INS</a> ) 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 the research retreat 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

09/2024 – 12/2024	<i>Philosophie des Digitalen (Philosophy of the digital)</i> . Designed and taught module for the DSI Minor Digital Skills Master Program, University of Zurich.
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 *Locke, Hume and Shepherd on Personal Identity* 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

*KI und Selbstwissen*. Presentation at the pedagogical college Zug (PH Zug) as part of a training day on AI usage. PH Zug, 01/2025.

*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 responsible 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*, *Bioethics*, *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 a 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 “ <a href="#">Offener Hörsaal</a> ” 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