

# Prenatal Testing, Disability, and the Ethical Society

Reflections Following *Crowter*

Conference  
4–5 March 2022  
In person & online

St Stephen's House,  
16 Marston Street,  
Oxford OX4 1JX

This conference will address debates sparked by the recent *Crowter* case which concerned the law on abortion on the grounds of disability (*R (Crowter) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care* [2021] EWHC 2536 (Admin)). It will include a panel featuring Heidi Crowter and others involved in the case, as well as presentations on the law, theology, philosophy, and medical practice, and will highlight specific and broader issues relating to the case. It will address questions such as:

How the current law on abortion discriminates on the basis of disability, and the challenges involved in addressing this problem

How it might be possible to both reduce discrimination on the basis of disability, and support the interests and autonomy of pregnant women

What are the perspectives of some people living with conditions which can be detected through prenatal testing, and of their families, on the current law, and on the practice of prenatal testing

What are the characteristics of an ethical society that can honour and respect disabled people

## Confirmed speakers

**Heidi Crowter, Máire Lea-Wilson, James Carter, Liz Crowter, Lynn Murray**

The speakers will take part in a panel featuring discussions about their involvement in the case. Also participating in person or by video link:

- **Dr Margaret B. Adam**, Visiting Tutor, St Stephen's House, University of Oxford, and **Dr Sarah Conrad Sours**, Associate Professor of Religion, Huntingdon College (Alabama)
- **Professor Brian Brock**, Professor of Moral and Practical Theology, University of Aberdeen
- **Professor Roger Brownsword**, Professor of Law, King's College London
- **Dr Elizabeth Corcoran**, MRCPsych, Chair of the Down's Syndrome Research Foundation UK, and **Colette Lloyd**, speech and language therapist, and campaigner for greater understanding of Down Syndrome
- **Professor Stanley Hauerwas**, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor Emeritus of Divinity and Law, Duke Divinity School
- **Professor Jonathan Herring**, DM Wolfe-Clarendon Fellow in Law, Exeter College, Oxford, and Professor of Law, University of Oxford
- **Professor Joshua Hordern**, Professor of Christian Ethics, Harris Manchester College, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford
- **Professor Chris Kaposy**, Associate Professor of Bioethics, Memorial University
- **Dr Heloise Robinson**, Lecturer in Law, Oriel College, and Wadham College, University of Oxford
- **Professor Katrina Scior**, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Stigma Studies, University College London
- **Dr Marie Tidball**, Founding director and coordinator of the Oxford University Disability Law and Policy Project
- **Dr Sarah C. Williams**, Research Professor in the History of Christianity, Regent College, University of British Columbia
- **Professor John Wyatt**, Emeritus Professor of Neonatal Paediatrics, Ethics & Perinatology, University College London



Register at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/prenatal-testing-disability-and-the-ethical-society-tickets-241443763797](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/prenatal-testing-disability-and-the-ethical-society-tickets-241443763797)

This conference is organised by the Edward King Centre at St Stephen's House, University of Oxford, and by Dr Heloise Robinson, Lecturer in Law, Oriel College, and Wadham College, University of Oxford. For further information, please contact [andreas.wenzel@ssho.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andreas.wenzel@ssho.ox.ac.uk) or [heloise.robinson@oriel.ox.ac.uk](mailto:heloise.robinson@oriel.ox.ac.uk).