PhD Completion Seminar: Lauren Notini

Appearance-altering facial surgery on children:
An empirically informed ethical analysis

Lauren’s thesis investigates the ethics of appearance-altering paediatric facial surgeries (PFS) performed for cosmetic and/or psychosocial reasons. Although some PFS have attracted controversy in the ethics literature, little is known about surgeons’ practices and decision-making processes in this area. As part of this project, Lauren interviewed 22 surgeons to investigate how they make decisions about the ethical appropriateness of performing PFS and justify their decisions in ethical terms. She combines this new empirical data with established paediatric bioethical principles and concepts to answer the research question “how should surgeons make decisions regarding PFS?” and make recommendations for clinical practice.

Before beginning her PhD, Lauren completed a Master of Bioethics at Monash University and a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours) at the University of Melbourne. Lauren’s main research interests revolve around issues in paediatric bioethics, particularly the relative roles of children, parents, and healthcare professionals in decisions about children’s healthcare.

RSVP not required. For any enquiries please contact: Ruth Hentschel at CHE-enquiry@unimelb.edu.au or telephone 03 8344 4037, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health