

# Interdisciplinary Thematic Institutes

<b>LETHICA</b>	Interdisciplinary thematic institute on Literature, Ethics and Arts
Link to the other PIA project(s)	IDEX
Scientific / societal challenge(s)	Ethics lays at the core of many contemporary situations: from social justice issues to key economical, ecological and cultural challenges, or from international relations to technological developments in health and life sciences. LETHICA will create new interdisciplinary gateways and synergies between arts, literature and human sciences on the one side, healthcare and life sciences on the other.

## Key figures

Nb of permanent scientists	70	Nb of research units involved	8
Major Prizes / Awards	3 members of the French Academic Institute (institut universitaire de France), 3 USIAS fellows, 1 USIAS chair, 2 “hope of the University of Strasbourg” Prizes, 1 Guy-Ourisson Prize, 1 Louis-Marin Prize, 1 Maurice-Rapin Prize (Medical Ethics), 1 Pierre-Georges Castex Prize, 1 Marie-Curie Seal of Excellence, 8 idex funding granted to Lethica members (over the last 5 years)		
Nb of doctoral schools involved	4	Nb of faculties/schools involved	5
Nb of students trained over 9 years			
Master level	210	PhD level	45

## Strategic partnerships

Institutional partners	
International academic partners	High school of Pedagogy in Lausanne, Universities of Basel and Zürich (Switzerland) ; Universities of Bologna, Lisbon, Moscow, Mumbai, Dakar (Master Erasmus Mundus Consortium) ; Universities of Udine, of L’Aquila (Italy), Universities of Mons & Liege (Belgium), Universities of Oxford & Glasglow (England), Universities of Freiburg, Göttingen & of Wolfenbüttel (Germany) ; Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland) ; Universities of Dschang, Libreville, Ouagadougou (Africa); Okayama University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Tokyo University of Science (Japan) ; University of Indiana, Cornell University (USA)
Incl. EUCOR	“Interdisciplinary ethics” trilingual program in the Ethics master-degree, common to the Universities of Strasbourg, Freiburg and Basel from September 2020 onward (EUCOR)
Socio-economic partners	Horizome (Strasbourg)



Historical approaches ~ Intercultural perspectives ~ Ethics in artistic research ~ Ethics & Therapeutics



## Scientific summary

LETHICA is a scientific network committed to exploring the following questions: how do the arts and literatures inform and reconfigure past and contemporary ethical debates? How do they help publicize their main issues and thus foster general public understanding? How do they reveal continuities or, on the contrary, significant breaks and differences between various cultures and historical periods on crucial ethical debates?

As a thematic interdisciplinary institute bringing together scholars in visual and plastic arts, drama and film studies, French and Comparative literatures, studies in European and Eastern languages and literatures, theology, sociology, philosophy and medical studies (especially geriatric medicine), LETHICA has selected four major contemporary issues, which will be explored in the long term, alternatively or consecutively, and which will give way to interdisciplinary programs and specific topics of investigation. Those four major themes are the issues of “triage”, “moral revolutions”, “secrecy and transparency”, and “case making and caring”. We will also work according to four general perspectives: “historical approaches”, “intercultural outlooks”, “artistic research” and “ethics-therapeutics joint”.

## Educational and training program

Undergraduate level	Master degree in Ethics, pooling of seminars (with the Master-Degrees in Arts, European Literary Cultures (Erasmus Mundus), French and Comparative literatures, and Multilingualism-Interculturality)
Postgraduate level	Pooling of research seminars ; creation of a specific University Diploma, open to graduates, PhD Students and lifelong learning ; doctoral summer schools

## Innovative Training activities *(incl. hands-on training, facilities used and flagship actions in Research based teaching & learning)*

LETHICA will implement a full-fledged interdisciplinary approach, mutualizing the skills and questionings of domains I (arts, literatures & human sciences) and III (health & life sciences), by multiplying collaborations through common training and research programs, particularly relating to its four main topics selected. It will embrace a retrospective dynamic (considering the impact of research on training, and the impact of training on research), thanks to the support of research engineers from the Unistra’s Institute for the Development of Innovative Pedagogy (IDIP). It will focus on research-creation, encouraging creative initiatives and creative analytical practices such as serious games, writing workshops, art competitions, literary and scenographic contests, performances.

## International attractiveness for master & PhD students, post-docs, chairs

LETHICA will grant annual doctoral and biannual postdoctoral contracts, aimed at attracting international young researchers, in synergy with the University of Strasbourg’s international doctoral program (<http://cde.unistra.fr>). International doctoral summer schools will also be organized, pertaining to the four selected topics and to other ethical issues reassessed through arts and literatures. Internship bonuses will be granted each year, and scholarship grants will also be endowed to outstanding students attending the Ethics Master Degree or the European Literary Cultures Erasmus Mundus Master Program. LETHICA will also develop programs of creative residences and cycles of lectures by internationally renowned writers, artists and scholars, which may take the institutional form of annual chairs.