

Saving Humans: Risk, Intervention, Survival

Theme Leaders: **Professor Heather Widdows** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/widdows-heather.aspx>), **Professor Paul Jackson** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/government-society/jackson-paul.aspx>) and **Professor Nick Wheeler** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/government-society/wheeler-nicholas.aspx>)



'Saving Humans' is an innovative and timely theme which consolidates existing University research agendas, provides opportunities for creating novel and exciting partnerships, transcends divides between arts, social sciences and natural sciences and, most importantly, addresses broader issues of social, political and moral concern for humanity's future.

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Original: Saving Humans

Read the **Vice-Chancellor's foreword** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/original-online/articles/vc-foreword-saving-humans.aspx>) in the latest issue of 'Original'.

Bringing together research

The Saving Humans theme will bring together researchers from across the university and beyond to investigate these and other pertinent questions. It will consider a number of possible threats:

- Health threats, for instance, from infectious disease and pandemics or from failure to protect current health public goods (such as anti-biotic resistance) or from technological development.
- Environmental threats, for instance, from climate change, from resource scarcity (such as food and clean water), from earthquakes and floods and from man-made environmental threats, such as industrial pollution and desertification.
- Security threats, for instance, from war, conflict and terrorism of all forms, including weapons of mass destruction (from nuclear to chemical to biological) and from all scales of conflict, as well as the consequences of conflict, including increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons, migration and trafficking and the increased risks to individual security, which make rape, violence and other forms of exploitation more likely.

Saving Humans will consider how life can be protected and promoted by a variety of factors. In particular it will consider:

- Intervention by states;
- Intervention by the international community of states;
- Intervention by international organizations and/or non-governmental organisations;
- Intervention by individuals as individuals.

For further information on this theme please contact the theme leaders or Sue Gilligan: s.gilligan@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:s.gilligan@bham.ac.uk>).