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# Mastertrack **Ethics of Education:** Philosophy, History and Critical Sociology

Masterweek 2024

John Exalto



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Education (schooling, socialization, youth care) is full of ethical and moral dilemmas

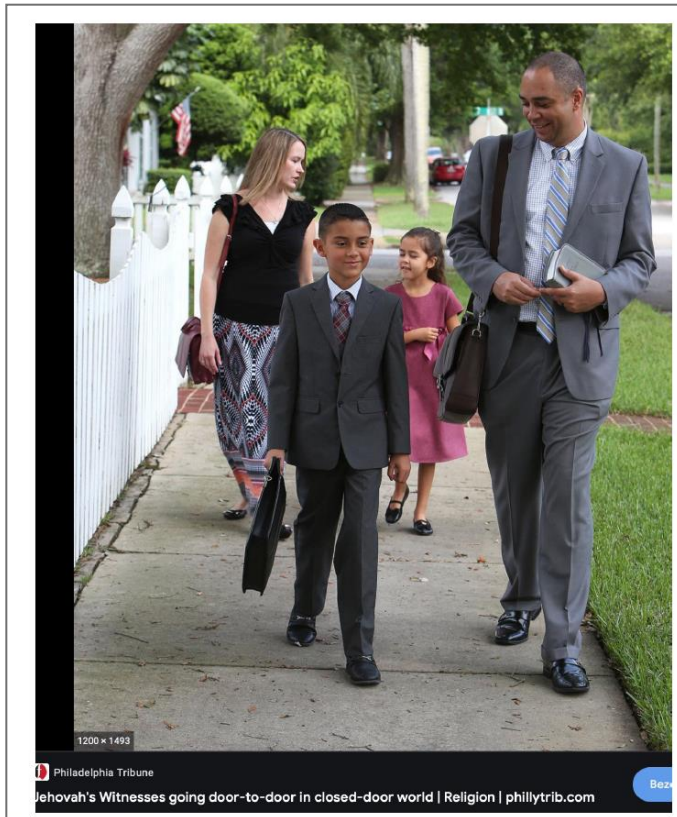
### Mini-matadors train in the art of bullfighting



— Nino, a ten-year-old toreador apprentice of the Nimes bullfighting school, nicknamed El Nino, performs a muleta pass during a beginner's bullfight (becerrada) at the bullring of Bouillargues, near Nimes, Oct. 5, 2013. A muleta is a small cloth attached to a short tapered stick and used by a matador. Jean-Paul Pelissier / Reuters



## Education (schooling, socialization, youth care) is full of ethical and moral dilemmas





# What do you learn?

- › You can use ethical theories and moral models to analyze educational dilemmas and make decisions
- › You can analyze critically (governmental) policies developed for educational and pedagogical fields. You are able to understand the practical implications of such policies.
- › You can place the development of pedagogical and educational fields in a historical perspective as well as understand the influence of their scientific effect on daily practice.
- › You can weigh and justify decisions about education, parenting, child and youth care when rights between different stakeholders are at odds





## The curriculum of the master is divided in three lines

- › **Thematic line** (25 EC): using three perspectives: philosophy (ethics, moral reasoning), law (children's rights) and history (history of 'scientification' and educational policies)
- › **Professionalization line** (10 EC): educational and practical skills (writing reports) and traineeship
- › **Research line** (25 EC): qualitative research course and master thesis



1A	1B	2A	2B
Ethics in Care and Education	In the Best Interest of the Child	<u>Citizenship and Education</u>	Education for a Better World
Domain-specific skills (5)	Expertise, education and psychological practice	Traineeship	Traineeship
Introduction to research thesis	<u>Qualitative Research Methods</u>		
Research proposal	Research proposal	Thesis	Thesis



# Thematic line

Combining philosophy, history, law

- › **Ethics in Care and Education**
  - Ethical theories, moral reasoning, and decision making in educational dilemma's
- › **In the best interests of the child**
  - Moral reasoning and decision making with a focus on the legal aspect in youth care / parenting
- › **Expertise, education, and psychological practice**
  - The interrelation of psychological research and the educational practice (STS)
- › **Education for a better world**
  - Historical perspective on the role of schooling in international societal policies





# Topics

- › Critical thinking
- › Citizenship Education
- › Moral dilemmas in the teaching practice
- › Privatisation in education
- › Inclusive education
- › Medicalisation
- › Scientification and the use of technology (STS, AI)
- › Data-ethics / learning analytics

Example assignment >>>



## Case: Shadow Education

### Scenario 1

Imagine you work at the Ministry of Education and you need to provide the Minister advice on if the government should restrict the private tutoring business in the Netherlands. Would a restriction be necessary or not?

### Scenario 2

Imagine you are part of the Board of a large school; a private tutoring business (already used by some of your students) has offered your school a deal: you buy a contract with them and they will tutor at your school (which means: they will provide extra lessons after school) without any costs for the parents. Would you agree to this or not?



# Professionalization line

## › Professional Skills

- Training in two lines of professional skills
  - Policy & consultancy
  - Teaching & training

## › Traineeship

- Short traineeship (120 hours) in professional setting





# Examples of current traineeships

- › Research on moral issues at the department of social work of the Hanzehogeschool Groningen
- › Research on student's voice in past and present of Montessori education, Saxion Hogeschool Deventer
- › Assisting on academic work for the *Journal of Political Thinking*
- › Co-organizing a summerschool in Uganda on youth, education and work in (post-)conflict areas
- › Assisting on starting up a research project on wartime schooling in past and present in comparative perspective
- › Analyzing transcripts of interviews with professionals on adoption of children of unmarried mothers



# Research line

## › Qualitative research course

- Introduction into a range of qualitative research methods

## › Research thesis

- Examples of research topics:
  - Hannah Arendt's educational ideas in practice
  - Buber, Dewey and Kohnstamm: comparison of their ideas on personality formation
  - UNESCO's role in promoting citizenship education
  - Euthanasia among young people
  - Gender in children's literature
  - Citizenship education in secondary vocational schools



# Practicalities

- › Program of 1 year (fulltime!); however, some students opt to do this in 2 years
- › Meetings will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays
- › Our schedule of classes will be planned as comprised as possible: 2 days in the week
- › Two moments per year to start: September and February
- › Most students start in September
- › Mixed group of around 20 students, both internationals and nationals
- › Team of experts in various fields: history, ethics, pedagogy, social sciences, psychology, anthropology, religious studies...





- › *Good to know for Dutch language students: courses are in English, but exams can be answered in Dutch, as well as papers, traineeship report and thesis can be in Dutch*



# What are you prepared for in the future?

- › Policy & consultancy
- › Teaching & training
- › Writing & research



## After the master...

- › Policymaker and consultant in educational organisations and institutions
- › Project manager or project team member in institutions like UN, UNESCO, Defence for Children ...
- › Teacher at the Hanze Hogeschool in social work / ethics
- › Coordinator educational program at the cinema in Groningen
- › Teacher trainer at NHL Stenden
- › Researcher in vocational education institute (mbo)
- › Consultant on reading promotion at the city library (working together with all kind of educational schools and levels)
- › PhD researcher on social media and youth at the University of Groningen





## Want more information?

- › Do not hesitate to mail the coordinator: [j.exalto@rug.nl](mailto:j.exalto@rug.nl)



## What are the students saying?



- > <https://www.rug.nl/masters/ethics-of-education-philosophy-history-and-law/?lang=en#!contentblock-4>



- › Thank you for your attendance!
- › Questions?

