

# **Godfrey Okoye: The Ethical University. Transversal Values across Faculties and Departments on all Levels**

**Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu/Nigeria  
Public Lecture, 11 May 2023, Peter Mbah Lecture Hall.**

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# My Background

- Prof. of Ethics and Globethics Chair at the Directorate of Ethics at GOUNI, Nigeria, since 2017.  
<https://www.gouni.edu.ng/directorate-of-ethics/>
- President and Founder of Globethics (with Msgr Prof. Obiora Ike, as Director until Dec 2022)  
[www.Globethics.net](http://www.Globethics.net)
- Professor of Ethics in Basel/Switzerland (emeritus) and Visiting Professor in UK, China, Russia (on hold)
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# 1. Options of Ethics in a University

Options/ Menu	UNI NN	GO UNI			
1. No interest in and emphasis of ethics		NA			
2. Ethics as voluntary course for undergraduate students					
3. Ethics as compulsory course for undergraduate students		X			
4. Ethics as compulsory course for postgrad students per faculty					
5. Ethics trainings for Leadership and teaching staff		(X)			
6. Ethics support for Admin + infrastructure employees					
7. Social/environmental engagement in society					
8. Ethics Directorate/Center to initiate and supervise transversal ethical university on all levels and activities		X			
9. Ethics Benchmarking and Ranking of the University		X			

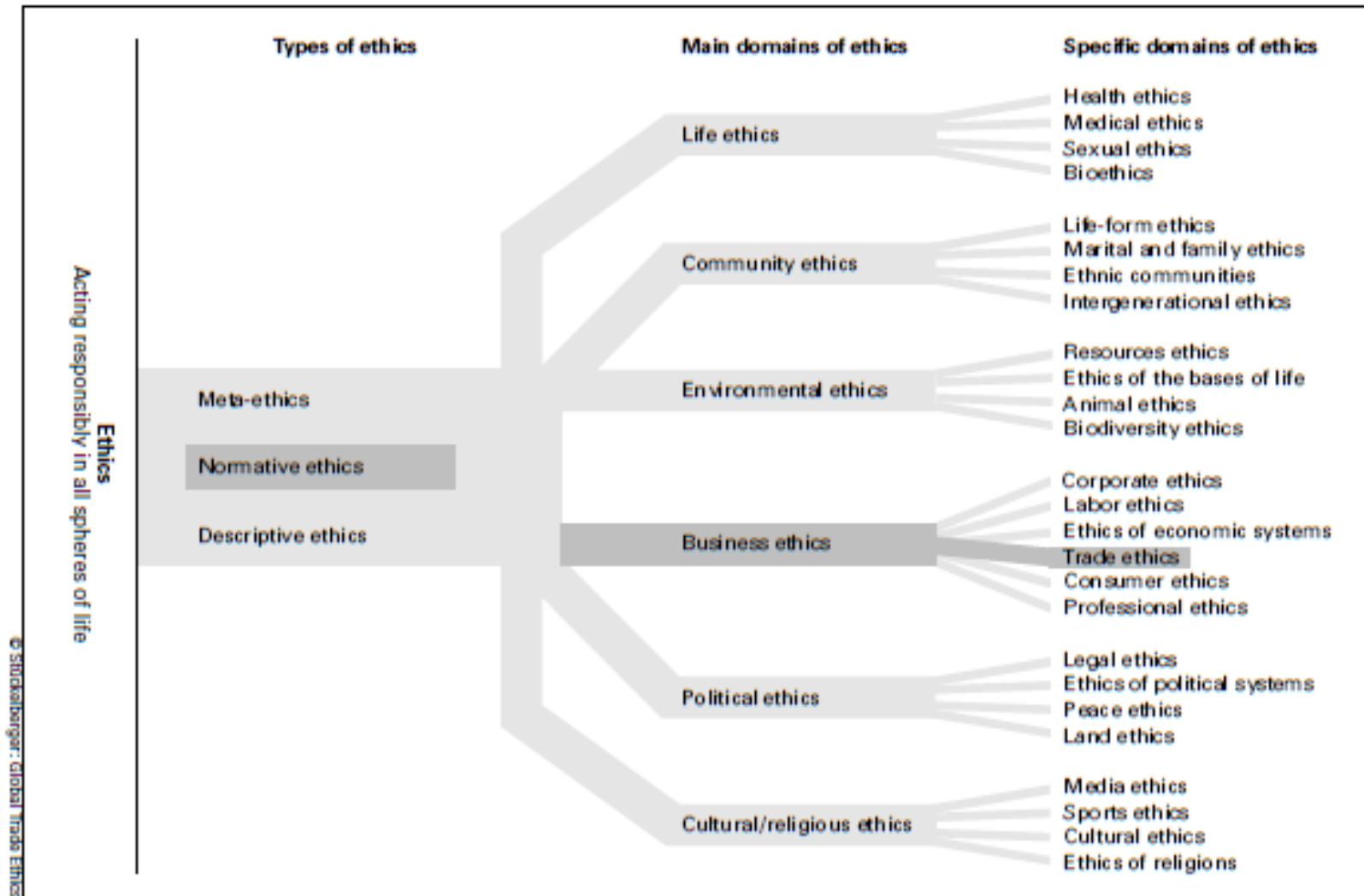
## 2.1 What is Ethics? 3 I-Levels

**Moral:** existing values and norms as orientation for decisions and behavior

**Ethics:** critical adaptation of values and norms as orientation for decisions and behavior in changing context.

- 1. Individual Ethics:** me: behavior as individuals
- 2. Interpersonal Ethics:** me-you: behavior in direct interactions between individuals/groups
- 3. Institutional Ethics:** we-structure: behavior influenced by laws, institutions, structures.

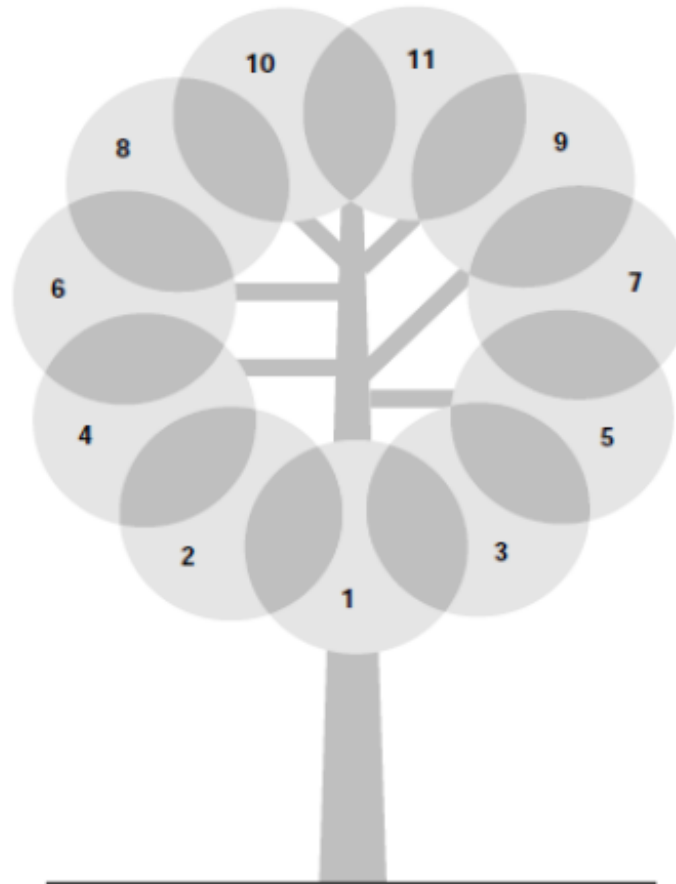
# 2.2 What is Ethics? Manifold Topics



## 2.3 The Tree of Values and Virtues for an Ethical University

### Values

1. Responsibility
2. Freedom
3. Justice
4. Equity
5. Peace
6. Security
7. Community
8. Inclusiveness
9. Participation
10. Forgiveness
11. Stewardship



### Virtues

1. Integrity
2. Compassion
3. Care
4. Transparency
5. Accountability
6. Reliability
7. Respect
8. Humility
9. Courage
10. Gratitude
11. Generosity

## 3.1 The Ethical University: a Holistic Approach.

- ❖ **All target groups:** teachers, students, parents, donors, financial partners, builders, legislators, security, suppliers.
- ❖ **All faculties/departments**
- ❖ **All special units/centers**
- ❖ **All campuses,** old and new
- ❖ **All levels** from Senat to cleaner
- ❖ **All Research/Publications**
- ❖ **All Partners**



## 3.2.1 Example Universidad de los Andes Peru: Ethics Across the University

### Curriculum & Instruction

- Promotes the integration of ethical reflection in all disciplines and areas of study, with the aim of forming ethical and responsible citizens.

### Research & Academic work

- Promotes applied ethics research in different areas of knowledge and fosters dialogue and critical reflection about ethics in the academic work.

### Institutional culture

- Seeks to foster a culture of ethics in the university through the promotion of ethical values and behaviors, and by creating spaces for ethical discussion and reflection.

### Social responsibility

- Seeks to involve the university community in mission-oriented actions that contribute to sustainable development and social welfare.

Author: Prof. Juny Montoya Vargas, Universidad de Los Andes, Globethics 2023:  
**Transversal Ethics: A Model for Higher Education Institutions**

## 3.2.2 Example Universidad de los Andes Peru: Ethics Across the University

### Ethics Learning Outcomes ELO: Dimensions

#### Personal

- Addresses the ethical values and principles in the private life of students (i.e., self knowledge and self-care).

#### Academic

- Focuses on ethics in research and learning (i.e., academic integrity and research ethics).

#### Professional

- Addresses ethics in the exercise of the profession (i.e., professional deontology, professional dilemmas).

#### Citizenship

- Focuses on social responsibility and active participation in society (i.e., human rights, sustainability).

## 4. Personal and Spiritual Level

- Character education
- Daily university prayer
- Dress code
- Councelling (personal pastoral and psychological support for students)
- Time of teachers for individual dialogues with students

## 5.1 Ethics Subjects per Faculty

### GOUNI Faculties of

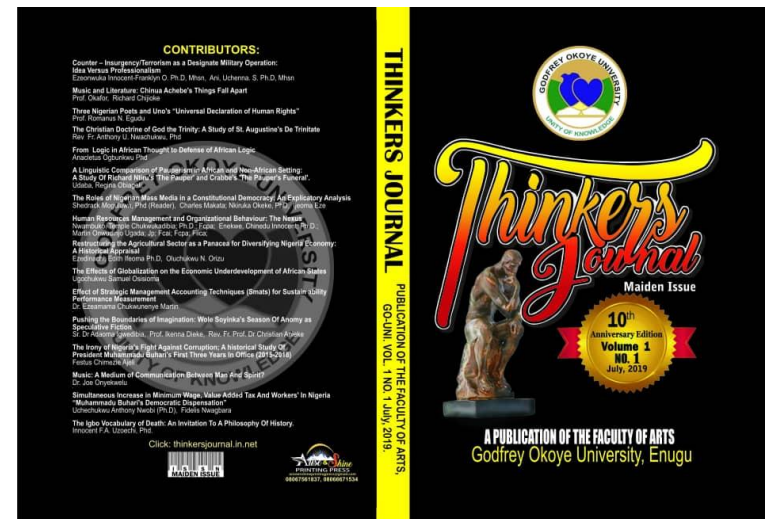
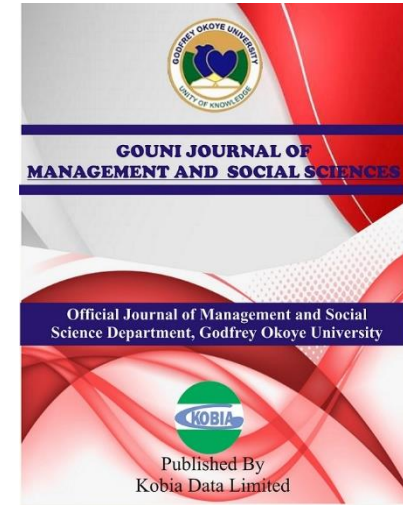
- Arts: e.g. aesthetics and ethics, ethics and beauty
- Education: e.g. character education, integrity ethics, intergenerational ethics
- Management and Social Sciences: e.g. business ethics, finance ethics, media ethics
- Natural Sciences and Environmental Studies: e.g. environmental ethics, technology and ethics, AI ethics
- Law: e.g. law and ethics, corruption, prison ethics
- Medicine: e.g. bioethics, medical ethics, health ethics

**Recommendation for GOUNI: 1-2 semester a postgraduate course on Applied Ethics per Faculty subjects as above.**

# 5.2 Research Ethics: GOUNI Journals

## Research Ethics, Plagiarism, Publication Ethics:

- Journal of Science, Engineering and Technology
- International Communication and Social Sciences
- GOUNI Journal of Law
- GOUNI International Journal of Education
- Thinkers Journal (Faculty of Arts)



# 5.3 Publications on Applied Ethics for every Faculty/Department, e.g.:

Law, Education, business, environment, research integrity ,  
leadership etc. Free download: [www.globethics.net/publications](http://www.globethics.net/publications)



**LEADING ETHICAL LEADERS**  
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS,  
BUSINESS SCHOOLS AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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EDITORS : AMÉLÉ ADAMAVI-AND EKUÉ / DIVYA SINGH / JANE USHER

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**LEADERSHIP WITH INTEGRITY**  
HIGHER EDUCATION FROM VOCATION  
TO FUNDING

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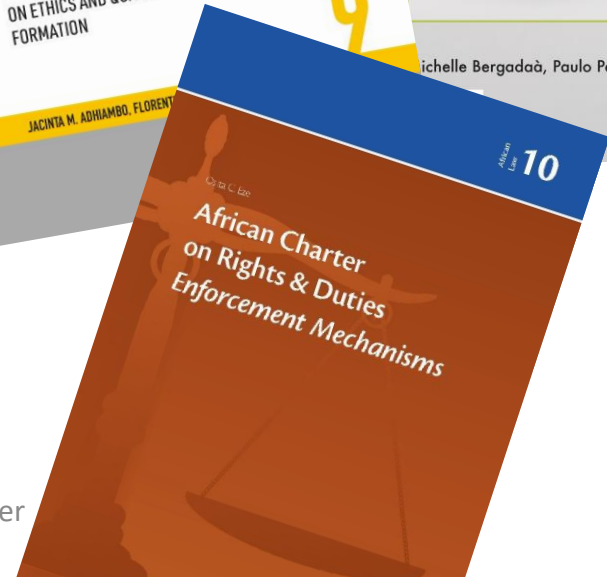
C. STÜCKELBERGER, J. GALGALO, S. KOBIA (EDITORS)



**EDUCATING TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW**  
ON ETHICS AND QUALITY IN PEDAGOGICAL  
FORMATION

JACINTA M. ADHIAMBO, FLORENT

9



**African Charter  
on Rights & Duties  
Enforcement Mechanisms**

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**Academic Integrity**  
A Call to Research and Action

Michelle Bergadaà, Paulo Peixoto (Editors)

Globethics

## 6. Governance Level

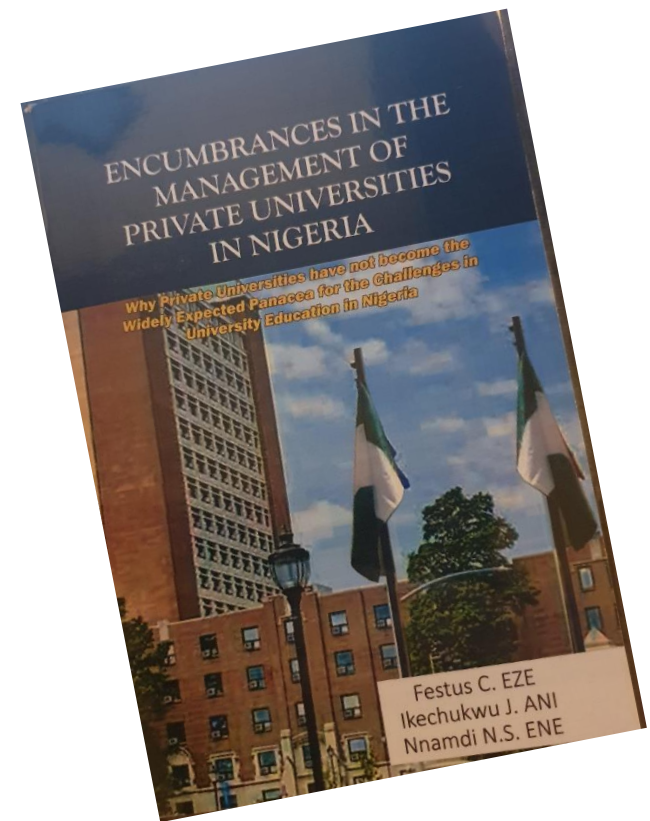
The Governance level plays a decisive role on the further way towards an ethical university:

### Inside the University:

- The Senat
- The VC and DVCs
- The Deans and HODs

### Outside the University

- The Accreditation bodies (NUC)
- the National and State Authorities (funding, legislations)



## 7. Finance

- Sufficient and secured funding is the backbone of each institution. It is at the same time one of the main challenges for most of them.
- If any, most of the unethical behaviors in institutions are linked to money and properties.
- Transparency in financial and material matters is an ethical requirement for an ethical university.

Recommendation: Increase fundraising for adequate funding, especially related to decent staff salaries, and transparent financial reporting.



## 8. Special Services: Directorates

**Special Services** accross the university play also a key role in the implementation of values of the institution:

- Directorate of Ethics and other 23 (!) Directorates: mentorship, parents, entrepreneurship, gender, ICT, interrel. Dialogue, sport, sustainable energy, legal, etc.  
<https://www.gouni.edu.ng/directorates/>
- E.g. Campus Security («GOUNI is a police-friendly university», VC Ch. Anieke on 10 Mai 2023 to the new Police Commissioner of Enugu State at a reception at GOUNI)

# 9.1 Partnerships Ethics

Cooperate with partner institutions who share similar values.



## 9.2 GOUNI Partner: Globethics!

GOUNI is official partner of Globethics, the global network on ethics, based in Geneva and regional offices worldwide, with 200'000 registered participants. [www.globethics.net](http://www.globethics.net) . It offers

- the worldwide largest online ethics library with 3 mio documents for free download. [www.globethics.net/library](http://www.globethics.net/library)
- its academy certified online ethics courses [www.globethics.net/academy](http://www.globethics.net/academy)
- 300+ own publications for free download and options for profs and PhD's to publish at GE [www.globethics.net/publications](http://www.globethics.net/publications)
- A global consortium and customized support for GOUNI to further develop as ethical university. [www.globethics.net/network](http://www.globethics.net/network)
- Prof. Dr. Obiora Ike, Prof. at GOUNI, was its Executive Director 2016-2022.
- Prof Dr Ani Ikechukwu is the Director of the Directorate of Ethics at GOUNI <https://www.gouni.edu.ng/directorate-of-ethics/>
- Prof Dr Christoph Stückelberger holds the Globethics chair at GOUNI and is a supervisor at the Ethics Directorate.

## 10. Benchmarking, Ranking

Ethics Benchmarking measures the ethical standard of an institution in order to discover possibilities of improvement.

Ethics Ranking compares universities in their standards and performance re ethics and sustainability.

GOUNI participates in both efforts, offered by Globethics. More:

<https://www.globethics.net/projects>

# 11. Vision and Reality, Promising and Forgiving

GOUNI has a solid vision and ethical basis.

GOUNI is on the way, to implement step by step its vision and values.

GOUNI has as other universities still manifold challenges, some unethical behavior of individuals and some institutional steps to undertake.

As a Christian University, GOUNI knows that all humans can fail and that only God is perfect. This encourages to work for improvement, but also to ask for forgiveness and to forgive where unethical behavior occurs.

# 12. Summary: Recommendations

## Recommendations for GOUNI:

1. Develop further the holistic approach of GOUNI as Ethical University, through its Directorate of Ethics and by trainings with and decisions of Leadership bodies.
2. Integrate a compulsory postgraduate course on Applied Ethics in each Department on their subjects as above (1-2 semesters à 2h). Option as certified online course, in cooperation with the Globethics Academy.
3. Define at least one Ethical Learning Outcome (ELO) per course assessment and align teaching methods accordingly.
4. Strengthen the capacity for student counselling.
5. Increase fundraising for adequate funding, especially related to decent staff salaries. Provide transparent financial reporting.

# Summary: The Ethical University



«Do it like God: Become Human»

شكراً جداً (Shokran Gidan)

thank you

doo teşekkürler      ngiyabonga      baie

dankie      kealeboga      diolch yn fawr

sanu धन्यद (Danyavad)      mdewo 謝謝 (xiexie)

asante sana      gracias Спасибо (spacibo)

merci imela      danke sosongho

grazie daalu      adube ekushei

obrigado/a oshe      dankjewel

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