

Robert Steel

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Areas of Specialization:

Bioethics, Moral & Political Philosophy, Epistemology

Areas of Competence:

Meta-Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science

Employment

Assistant Professor - Department of Philosophy, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2020-current

Postdoctoral Fellow - Center for Population-Level Bioethics, Rutgers University, 2019-2020

Postdoctoral Fellow - Department of Bioethics, National Institutes of Health, 2016-2019

Education

University of Pittsburgh - Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2016

Stanford University - B.A. in Philosophy with Honors, 2008

Publications

“Compulsory Research in Learning Healthcare: Against a Minimal Risk Limit,” in *Hastings Center Report* (forthcoming)

“Payment is a Benefit and Why It Matters for Pediatric Trials,” in *Bioethics* (forthcoming)

“Why Continuing Uncertainties Are No Reason to Postpone Challenge Trials for Coronavirus Vaccines,” with Lara Buchak and Nir Eyal, in *Journal of Medical Ethics* (2020)

“Reconceptualizing Risk-Benefit Analyses: the Case of HIV Cure Research,” in *Journal of Medical Ethics* (2020)

“Risk Limits in Fair Subject Selection” commentary in *American Journal of Bioethics* (2020)

“Anticipating Failure and Avoiding It,” in *Philosophers’ Imprint*, (2018)

“Against Right Reason,” in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, (2018)

“Blinds and Research Risks,” case commentary with Marion Danis in *American Journal of Bioethics*, (2018)

Manuscripts

“Risk Dilution: Or, How to Run a Minimal Risk HIV Challenge Trial,” under revise and resubmit at *Journal of Applied Philosophy*

Fellowships and Awards

NIH Intramural AIDS Research Fellowship, 2018-2019

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2015-2016

Presentations (* for peer-reviewed)

“Vaccines,” *roundtable discussion, UNO College of Arts and Sciences Virtual Seminar Series* (2021)

“Upper Limits on Permissible Risk in Human Subjects Research,” *panel presentation at the American Society of Bioethics and the Humanities* (2020)*

“Pain, suffering, and the (ir)relevance of human flourishing to health care justice: a debate,” *debate at the American Society of Bioethics and the Humanities* (2020)*

“Third Party Risk in Research: Moving Forward on Terminology, Justifications, and Participant Protections,” *panel presentation at the World Congress of Bioethics* (2020)*

“Acceptable Risks in HIV Cure Research” *brown bag talk at the NIH Division of AIDS* (2019)

“Testing Transmission-Blocking Vaccines in Children” *paper presentation at the American Society of Bioethics and the Humanities* (2019)*

“The Risk/Benefit Challenge to HIV Cure Research,” *presentation for the Bioethics Interest Group, National Institutes of Health* (2019)

“Nonclinical Benefit in HIV Cure Research,” *opening panel remarks at the Regulation of Clinical Research Related to HIV Cure Conference* (2018)

“Assisted Reproduction in a World of Adoptable Children,” *paper presentation at the American Society for Bioethics and the Humanities* (2017)*

Clinical Experience

Acted as Fellow on Call for the NIH Clinical Center Ethics Consultation Service (2017, 2018)

Shadowed NIH Clinical Center Ethics Consultation Service (2016)

Shadowed Clinical Rounds: *Psychiatric Consultation Service, Undiagnosed Disease Program, Pain & Palliative Care*

Shadowed IRB meetings: *CNS White, NHGRI*

Service

Organizer & Moderator, UNO Ethics of Medicine Lecture Series (2021):

January: “The Ethics of Enrolling Minors in Vaccine Trials”

February: “Should Health Professions Students Receive Priority Access to the COVID-19 Vaccine?”

March: “Fair Enough? Measuring the Fairness of Healthcare Triage Policies.”

April: “Putting Parents on a Pedestal: Testimony, Admiration, and Reproductive Decision-Making.”

Presenter, NIH Bioethics first year fellows seminar series (2019, 2020, 2021)

Presenter, Fogarty Center International Scholars Orientation (2018)

Presenter, NIH Chaplaincy Interns (x2), (2017)

Volunteer Teacher, Jessup Prison Scholars Program (2017)

Epistemology Paper Session Chair, APA Eastern Meeting (2017)

Referee—

Bioethics: Bioethics, Journal of Applied Philosophy, BMC Medical Ethics, Journal of AIDS Research, Nicotine & Tobacco Research

Epistemology: Synthese, Erkenntnis (x2), Pacific Philosophical Quarterly

University Teaching (Instructor)

Human Values in Medicine (x2); Philosophy of Medicine (fall 2021)

Introduction to Ethics (x2); Ethical Theory (spring 2021)

Introduction to Ethics (x2); Health Justice (fall 2020)

Other Teaching Experience

Co-designed and Co-Taught a Bioethics Course at the Jessup Maximum Security Prison in Maryland, Offered Through the Jessup Prison Scholars Program (2017)

Designed and Taught a Normative Theory Class for the Educational Program for Gifted Youth at Stanford, High School Program (2011 & 2012)

References

David DeGrazia - Elton Professor of Philosophy, George Washington University; Research Bioethicist, National Institutes of Health Clinical Center Department of Bioethics
david.degrazia@nih.gov

Christine Grady - Chief, National Institutes of Health Clinical Center Department of Bioethics, Head, Section on Human Subjects Research
cgrady@nih.gov

Karl Schafer - Professor of Philosophy, University of California at Irvine
schaferk@uci.edu

James Shaw - Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
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