

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

“Why Continuing Uncertainties Are No Reason to Postpone Challenge Trials for Coronavirus Vaccines,” with Nir Eyal and Lara Buchak, 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

“Acceptable Risks in Learning Healthcare,” *conditional acceptance at Hastings Center Report*
“Payment is a Benefit and Why It Matters for Pediatric Trials,” *R&R at Bioethics*
“Distinguishing Appropriate and Inappropriate Conditions on Research Participation,” with David Wendler, *under review*

Fellowships and Awards

NIH Intramural AIDS Research Fellowship, 2018-2019

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2015-2016

Presentations (* for peer-reviewed)

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

Presenter, Fogarty Center International Scholar 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, BMC Medical Ethics, Journal of AIDS Research, Nicotine & Tobacco Research

Epistemology: Synthese, Erkenntnis, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly

University Teaching (Instructor)

Introduction to Ethics (x2); Moral Theory (scheduled spring)

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

Other Teaching Experience

Philosophy Mentor, NIH Bioethics Post-Baccalaureate Fellows (2016, 2017, 2018)

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)

Teaching Assistantships

Political Philosophy (writing intensive), for Japa Pallikkathayil, (2015)

Intro to Philosophical Problems (writing intensive), for James Shaw, (2014)

Minds and Machines, for Stephen Makin, (2012)

Philosophy And Public Issues, for Michael Kessler, (2011)

Political Philosophy, for Brett Caloia, (2010)

Concepts of Human Nature, for Karl Schafer, (2009)

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
jrs164@pitt.edu