

Larisa Svirsky
larisasvirsky@brandeis.edu
www.larisasvirsky.com

Employment:

2021-. Lecturer, Brandeis University Philosophy Department

2019-2021. Postdoctoral Scholar

Project: *Regulating Addiction: Paternalism, Stigma, and Health Disparities*

The Ohio State University College of Public Health/Center for Bioethics at OSU Medical Center

Education:

Ph.D., University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill 2019
Dissertation Title: “Responsibility and Relationship”
Committee: Susan Wolf (chair), Owen Flanagan, Douglas MacLean, Ryan Preston-Roedder, Ram Neta

M.A., University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill 2014
Thesis Title: “When You Must Take Responsibility Though You’re Not to Blame”
Committee: Geoffrey Sayre-McCord (chair), Susan Wolf, Matthew Kotzen

M.A., Tufts University 2011
Philosophy

B.A., Simmons College 2009
Majors: Philosophy and Psychology Minor: Studio Art

Areas of Specialization: ethics, moral psychology, bioethics, philosophy of psychiatry

Areas of Competence: philosophy of law, ancient philosophy, feminist philosophy

Publications:

“First, Do No Harm: Physician Discretion, Racial Disparities, and Opioid Treatment Agreements,” (with Adrienne Beck and Dana Howard) 2021, *Journal of Medical Ethics*

“Opioid Treatment Agreements and Patient Accountability,” 2021, *Hastings Center Report*

“E-cigarettes and the Multiple Responsibilities of the FDA,” (with Dana Howard and Micah Berman) 2021, *American Journal of Bioethics*

“Holding Responsible Reconsidered,” 2020, *Public Affairs Quarterly*

“Responsibility and the Problem of So-Called Marginal Agents,” 2020, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*

“Weakness of Will” (with Sarah Stroud), 2019, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Works in Preparation for Publication (available upon request):

“Forgiving for One’s Own Sake”

“The Second-Personal Significance of Trauma”

“Responsibility and the Prospect of Punishing Children” (forthcoming in *Pedagogies of Punishment*, eds. Winston Thompson and John Tillson)

Empirical Research Collaborations:

With Martin Fried, Dana Howard, Nicole Thomas, and Patricia Zettler:

“Living Up to the Terms of Opioid Treatment Agreements: Shared Accountability and the Physician-Patient Relationship in the Midst of a Public Health Crisis”

Making a Difference Grant (Greenwall Foundation, finalist)

With Martin Fried, Dana Howard, Nathan Richards, Nicole Thomas, and Patricia Zettler:

“Stigma, Trust, and the Physician-Patient Relationship: A mixed methods study of how physicians use and perceive opioid treatment agreements for long-term opioid therapy”

The Ohio State University Addiction Innovation Initiative Seed Grant (awarded, \$49,900) with additional support from the OSU Drug Enforcement and Policy Center (\$5,000)

Awards and Honors:

ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowship, university-wide nominee	2021
UNC Distinguished Dissertation Award, departmental nominee	2020
Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2018-19
Poetry Residency at Vermont Studio Center	2016, 2017
Craig T. Newman Fellowship (UNC)	2013 – 2014
Horace Williams Fellowship (UNC)	2012 – 2013
Agora Award for Excellence in Philosophy (Simmons College)	2009
Honors Program (Simmons College)	2005 – 2009

Selected Presentations:

“The Second-Personal Significance of Trauma”

Tufts-Brandeis MAP Graduate Conference (co-keynote speaker, Spring 2022)

“Forgiving for One’s Own Sake”

NUSTEP, Northwestern University (May 2022)

Varieties of Moral Address Workshop (April 2021)

Colloquium, University of Toronto (March 2021)

Colloquium, University of Alabama (February 2021)

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting (April 2020, cancelled)

PPE Society Annual Meeting (March 2020)

“E-cigarettes and the Multiple Responsibilities of the FDA” (with Dana Howard & Micah Berman)

The Ohio State University Center for Bioethics, Grand Rounds (June 2021)

“Opioid Contracts and Patient Accountability” (with Martin Fried)

OSU Medical Ethics Conference (October 2019)

“Holding Responsible Reconsidered”

Blame, Punishment, and Health Workshop, Rutgers University Camden (April 2019)

“Responsibility and the Problem of So-Called Marginal Agents”
Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania (February 2019)
McCoy Center for Ethics in Society Junior Scholars Workshop, Stanford University (June 2018)

“Responsibility as a Relational Property”
Social Ontology, Tufts University (August 2018)

“Responsibility and Recovery”
Ethics and Mental Health, Viterbo University (April 2017)

“Practical Defects of the Perceptive Soul”
40th Ancient Philosophy Workshop, UT Austin (February 2017)

“Why Ascriptions of Responsibility Matter in Eating Disorder Treatment and Recovery”
International Social Philosophy Conference, Quinnipiac University (July 2013)
Workshop on Gender and Philosophy, MIT (October 2012)
UNC Philosophy of Psychiatry Research Group (September 2012)

“Necessary Conditions for Skepticism”
Brandeis Graduate Student Conference: Intersections with Philosophy of Language (March 2010)

Comments and Discussion:

Brief Commentary on Travis Rieder’s *In Pain*
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (October 2019)

Participant: AAPT Teaching and Learning in Philosophy Workshop
UNC Chapel Hill (February 2019)

Invited Participant: Scaffolding Responsibility Workshop
Princeton University (November 2018)

Participant: Mind Value, and Mental Health Summer School in Philosophy of Psychiatry
St. Hilda’s College, Oxford (July 2017)

Comments on Etye Steinberg’s “Reflection and Responsibility for the Self”
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting (January 2016)

Comments on Shane George’s “Can Coherentism Solve the Regress Problem for Autonomy?”
Central States Philosophical Association Meeting (October 2014)

Teaching Experience:

As Instructor of Record

Brandeis University – Waltham, MA

PHIL 16a – Introduction to Ancient Philosophy Spring 2022
PHIL 114b – Topics in Ethical Theory: Abnormal Moral Psychology

PHIL 125B – Philosophy of Law Fall 2021
PHIL 148A – Free Will and Responsibility

UNC Chapel Hill – Chapel Hill, NC	
PHIL 280 – Morality and Law	Spring 2018
PHIL 210 – Ancient Greek Philosophy	Spring 2017
PHIL 165 – Bioethics	Summer 2015
PHIL 160 – Introduction to Ethics	Spring 2015
As Teaching Assistant	
UNC Chapel Hill – Chapel Hill, NC	
PHIL 112 – Making Sense of Ourselves, Prof. C.D. C. Reeve	Fall 2014
PHIL 155 – Introduction to Mathematical Logic, Prof. Keith Simmons	Spring 2014
PHIL 160 – Introduction to Ethics, Prof. Geoffrey Sayre-McCord	Fall 2013
Tufts University – Medford, MA	
PHIL 24 – Introduction to Ethics, Prof. David Denby	Spring 2011
PHIL 3 – Language and Mind, Prof. Daniel Dennett	Fall 2010
Center for Talented Youth (Johns Hopkins University) -- Santa Cruz site	Summer 2010
Summer Programs (gifted students from grades 7-10)	
Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to Logic	
Simmons College – Boston, MA	
Writing Assistant for freshman honors learning community:	Fall 2007
HON 101 - Democracy, Justice, and the Individual, Prof. Diane Raymond &	
HON 102 - Democracy, Education and Economics, Prof. Masato Aoki	
Advising	
Brandeis University – Waltham, MA	
Ella Miller (undergraduate honors thesis)	2021-22
Aran Szostak (MA thesis, second reader)	2021-22
Other Academic Employment:	
Research Assistant to Prof. Dorit Bar-On	2012-2013
Research Assistant to Prof. L.A. Paul	Fall 2015
Professional Memberships and Research Groups:	
Workshop on Gender and Philosophy (MIT)	2010-12
Expressive Communication and Origins of Meaning Research Group (UNC)	2012-14
Philosophy of Psychiatry Research Group (UNC)	2012-15
North American Society for Social Philosophy	2013-14
American Philosophical Association	2013-present
Transformative Experience Working Group	2015-17
International Social Ontology Society	2018
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities	2019-present

Professional Service:

Chapel Hill Colloquium Committee (2014, 2016)

UNC Undergraduate Committee (2014-16)

UNC Diversity Committee (2014-15)

Graduate Representative on Hiring Committee (2016-17)

Reviewer for *Mind*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*, *AMA Journal of Ethics*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*

References:**Susan Wolf**

Edna J. Koury Distinguished Professor of Philosophy

UNC – Chapel Hill

(919) 962-3315

susanw@email.unc.edu

Micah Berman

Associate Professor

The Ohio State University

(614) 688-1438

berman.31@osu.edu

Dana Howard

Assistant Professor

The Ohio State University

(818) 404-4475

howard.1146@osu.edu

Douglas MacLean

Professor

UNC – Chapel Hill

(919) 843-4500

maclean@unc.edu

Owen Flanagan

James B. Duke Professor of Philosophy

Duke University

(919) 660-3056

ojf@duke.edu

Mariska Leunissen (teaching reference)

Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies

UNC – Chapel Hill

(919) 962-2280

mleunissen@unc.edu

Graduate Coursework

Metaphysics and Epistemology

Epistemology
Transcendental Arguments*
Talking about Nothing: Numbers, Hallucinations, and Fictions*
Causal Inference*
Formal Epistemology
David Lewis

Value Theory

Ethical Theory
Contemporary Virtue Ethics
Meta-Ethics

Philosophy of Humor
Responsibility
Death
Moral Psychology
The Philosophy of Bernard Williams*
Objectivity in Ethics*

History and Philosophy of Science

Aristotle's Biology
Science before Newton's Principia
Newton's Principia

Philosophy of Mind

Action, Expression, and Meaning
Experience, Time, and Self

History of Philosophy

Quine from Early to Late
Early Modern Philosophy
Plato's Republic
Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations
Locke and Kant
Aristotle on Moral Responsibility (independent study)

Logic

Introduction to Logic
Mathematical Logic
Gödel Theory

*audited

Instructor

Stephen White
Berislav Marusic
Jody Azzouni
Patrick Forber
Matthew Kotzen
Sara Bernstein

Avner Baz
Christiana Olfert
Geoffrey Sayre-McCord
& Simon Blackburn
Matthew Kotzen & Ram Neta
Susan Wolf
Ryan Preston-Roedder
Susan Wolf
Susan Wolf & Doug MacLean
Susan Wolf & Doug MacLean

Mariska Leunissen
George Smith
George Smith

Dorit Bar-On
L.A. Paul

George Smith & Jody Azzouni
Christiana Olfert
C.D.C. Reeve
Alan Nelson
Alan Nelson
Mariska Leunissen

George Smith
Thomas Hofweber
Keith Simmons