

Larisa Svirsky  
[larisa.svirsky@gmail.com](mailto:larisa.svirsky@gmail.com)  
[www.larisasvirsky.com](http://www.larisasvirsky.com)

**Employment:**

2021-2022. 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:** bioethics, public health ethics, moral psychology

**Areas of Competence:** philosophy of psychiatry, philosophy of law, feminist philosophy

**Publications:**

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

“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):**

“The Second-Personal Significance of Trauma”

“Forgiving for One’s Own Sake”

**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”  
NUSTEP, Northwestern University (June 2022)

“Forgiving for One’s Own Sake”  
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”  
40<sup>th</sup> 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**

On leave Spring 2022

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

Fall 2021

**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 Programs (gifted students from grades 7-10)**

Summer 2010

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 &amp;

HON 102 - Democracy, Education and Economics, Prof. Masato Aoki

**Advising****Brandeis University – Waltham, MA**

Ella Miller (undergraduate honors thesis)

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