

Larisa Svirsky

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Experienced writer and educator with extensive background in biomedical ethics, psychology, and philosophy. I enjoy interdisciplinary collaboration, communication, and creating solutions to hard problems.

Research Experience

University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics

Toronto, ON

Postdoctoral Fellow

August 2023 – July 2025

- Conducted independent projects concerning trauma and recovery, opioid treatment agreements, and shame
- Continued existing collaborations with colleagues from Ohio State concerning the legal landscape for opioid treatment agreements

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

Columbus, OH

June 2019 – June 2021

Postdoctoral Scholar (joint appointment)

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

- Collaborated with faculty in Medicine, Law, Philosophy, and Public Health
- Co-authored a grant proposal for a mixed-methods study about how physicians perceive and use opioid treatment agreements. This proposal was a finalist for the Greenwall Foundation's Making a Difference Grant and received The Ohio State University Innovation Initiative Seed Grant (\$49,900), along with additional funding from the OSU Drug Enforcement and Policy Center (\$5000).
- Completed the CARE (Conversations About Research Ethics) Training Program in the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Attended regular meetings of the Biomedical Sciences IRB & clinical ethics consultation service at OSU Medical Center
- Affiliate of CEHV (Center for Ethics and Human Values) and HOMES (Center for Health Outcomes in Medicine Scholarship and Service)

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

Research Assistant to Prof. Dorit Bar-On

August 2012 – May 2013

- Assisted Prof. Bar-On in preparing a manuscript for presentation
- Completed National Science Foundation training in the Responsible Conduct of Research

Teaching Experience

University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics

Toronto, ON

Postdoctoral Fellow

August 2023 – July 2025

- Designed and taught Philosophy and Literature, ETH401 (Seminar for the Centre for Ethics' undergraduate fellows), and coordinated associated speaker series

Brandeis University

Waltham, MA

Lecturer

August 2021 – December 2021

- Designed and taught: Free Will and Responsibility, Philosophy of Law
- Worked one-on-one with students in office hours to address questions and assist with philosophical writing techniques
- Served as a thesis advisor for undergraduate and MA students

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

Instructor of Record

January 2015 – May 2018

- Designed and taught: Introduction to Ethics, Bioethics, Ancient Greek Philosophy, Morality and Law

Teaching Assistant

August 2013 – December 2014

- Led discussion sections for: Making Sense of Ourselves, Introduction to Mathematical Logic, and Introduction to Ethics

Tufts University

Teaching Assistant

Medford, MA

September 2010 – May 2011

- Led discussion sections for: Language and Mind, Introduction to Ethics
- Coordinated with faculty members and other teaching assistants to ensure consistency in how course material was taught and students were evaluated

Selected Publications and Presentations

Published fourteen papers in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes in philosophy, law, medicine, bioethics, including:

- [Svirsky, L., Howard, D., Fried, M., Richards, N., Thomas, N., & Zettler, P. J. \(2024\). The legal landscape for opioid treatment agreements. *Milbank Quarterly*. 102\(3\), 632-668.](#)
- [Richards, N., Fried, M., Svirsky, L., Thomas, N., Zettler, P. J., & Howard, D. \(2023\). Clinician perspectives on opioid treatment agreements: A qualitative analysis of focus groups. *AJOB Empirical Bioethics*, 15\(3\), 214-225.](#)
- [Svirsky, L., Howard, D., & Berman, M. L. \(2022\). E-cigarettes and the multiple responsibilities of the FDA. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 22\(10\), 5-14.](#)
- [Svirsky, L. \(2020\). Responsibility and the problem of so-called marginal agents. *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 6\(2\), 246-263.](#)

Presented original research in more than twenty-five locations, including:

- “Forgiving for One’s Own Sake”- Setting Things Right, MANCEPT Workshop in Political Theory (September 2024)
- “The Legal Landscape for Opioid Treatment Agreements” - Milbank Quarterly Webinar on State Strategies to Reduce Prescription Opioid Misuse (July 2024)
- “What Are We Agreeing To? Opioid Treatment Agreements and the Physician-Patient Relationship” Colloquium, University of British Columbia (March 2024)

Additional Skills and Professional Service

Skilled with Microsoft Office software, proficient with R

Referee for peer-reviewed journals in philosophy and bioethics

Volunteer assisting with administrative duties (NAMI) and teaching ESL (JVS) (2008-10)

UNC Diversity Committee (2014-15), Colloquium Committee (2014, 2016)

Co-Organizer, Radical and Critical Approaches to Mental Health Workshop (2024)

Program Committee, Canadian Philosophical Association (2024-5)

Awards and Honors

ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowship, university-wide nominee

Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Poetry Residency at Vermont Studio Center

Education

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Ph.D. in Philosophy

M.A. in Philosophy

Chapel Hill, NC

May 2019

May 2014

Tufts University

M.A. in Philosophy

Medford, MA

December 2011

Simmons College

B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology

Magna cum laude

Boston, MA

May 2009