

Larisa Svirsky
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(301) 807-0523

Employment:

2023-2025. Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Ethics at University of Toronto
2022-2023. Tutor, Cambridge Coaching
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: ethics, moral psychology, bioethics, public health ethics, social philosophy

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

Publications:

Svirsky, L. (forthcoming). Forgiving for one’s own sake. In G. Gardner & M. Bez (Eds.), *The philosophy of sexual violence*. Routledge.

Svirsky, L. Fried, M., Kim, M., MacEwan, S., Richards, N., Zettler, P., & Howard, D. (2026). Reasonable Exceptions from Unreasonable Policies: Long-Term Opioid Therapy and Opioid Treatment Agreements. *Bioethics*.

Stroud, S., & **Svirsky, L.** (2025). Weakness of will. In *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/weakness-will/>

Fried, M., Joshi, S., Thomas, N., Richards, N., **Svirsky, L.**, Zettler, P., & Howard, D. (2025). Treatment agreements do not change clinicians’ permissive attitudes of cannabis use among patients on long-term opioid therapy. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 40(7), 1687-89.

Svirsky, L. (2025). Review of *The Occasional Human Sacrifice: Medical Experimentation and the Price of Saying No*. *Bioethics*.

Svirsky, L. (2025). The relational aspect of agent regret. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 25(2), 44-46.

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. (2023). Responsibility and the prospect of punishing children. In W. Thompson & J. Tillson (eds.), *Pedagogies of Punishment: The ethics of discipline in education*. Bloomsbury.

Svirsky, L., Howard, D., & Berman, M. L. (2023). E-cigarettes, the FDA, public health, and harm reduction: A response to the open peer commentaries. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 23(1), W1-W4.

Beck, A. S., **Svirsky, L.,** & Howard, D. (2022). ‘First do no harm’: physician discretion, racial disparities and opioid treatment agreements. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 48(10), 753-758.

Svirsky, L. (2021). Opioid treatment agreements and patient accountability. *Hastings Center Report*, 51(4), 46-49.

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). Holding responsible reconsidered. *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 34(4), 321-339.

Svirsky, L. (2020). Responsibility and the problem of so-called marginal agents. *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 6(2), 246-263.

Works in Preparation for Publication (available upon request):

“I Treated Myself Like I Knew I Would: Proleptic Shame and Recovery from Addiction”

“Being on the Safe Side: Suicide Assessment and Clinical Relationships”

“The Second-Personal Significance of Trauma”

“Trauma Recovery and Broadening Tunnel Vision”

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”

WOGAP 25th Anniversary Conference, MIT (June 2025)

Colloquium, University of Utah (February 2025)

Colloquium, University of Vienna (December 2024)

East-West Philosophers’ Conference, University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa (May 2024)

Ethics@Noon, Centre for Ethics at University of Toronto (October 2023)

NUSTEP, Northwestern University (June 2022)

“I Treated Myself Like I Knew I Would: Proleptic Shame and Recovery from Addiction”

Ethics@Noon, Centre for Ethics at University of Toronto (October 2024)

“Forgiving for One’s Own Sake”

Setting Things Right, MANCEPT Workshop in Political Theory (September 2024)

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)

“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)

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

“Opioid Treatment Agreements – Clinician Perspectives and Ethical Challenges”

Engaging Ethics in a Polarized World, The Ohio State University (September 2023)

“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)

Selected 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)

Teaching Experience:

As Instructor of Record

University of Toronto, St. George Campus – Toronto, ON

PHIL 2145S – Graduate Seminar in Bioethics: Responsibility in Medicine Spring 2025
(cancelled for administrative reasons)

ETH 401H1Y – Seminar in Ethics 2023-24

PHIL 388H1S – Literature and Philosophy Spring 2024

Brandeis University – Waltham, MA

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)

Summer 2010

Summer Programs (gifted students from grades 7-10) -- Santa Cruz site

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	

Selected Additional Courses I Could Teach:

Public Health Ethics
 Social Philosophy
 Philosophy of Psychiatry

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

Ella Miller (undergraduate honors thesis)	2021-22
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Other Academic Employment:

Research Assistant to Prof. Dorit Bar-On	2012-2013
Research Assistant to Prof. L.A. Paul	Fall 2015
Tutor, Varsity Tutors	2017-2018

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	2013-2026
Transformative Experience Working Group	2015-17
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities	2019-present
Canadian Philosophical Association	2024-2025

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)
 Co-Organizer, Radical and Critical Approaches to Mental Health Workshop (2024)
 Program Committee, Canadian Philosophical Association (2024-5)
 Reviewer for *Mind*, *BMC Medical Ethics*, *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*, *Law and Philosophy*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Journal of Public Health Policy*

References:

Susan Wolf

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 Philosophy
 UNC – Chapel Hill
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Dana Howard

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 and Department of Philosophy
 The Ohio State University
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Owen Flanagan

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 Duke University
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Micah Berman

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 Public Health and College of Law
 The Ohio State University
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Mariska Leunissen (teaching reference)

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