

MELISSA MOSCHELLA

The Catholic University of America
School of Philosophy
moschella@cua.edu

Aquinas Hall 100
620 Michigan Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20064

CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America (2013-present)

- Undergraduate Courses: Biomedical Ethics, Contemporary Moral Issues, The Classical Mind, The Modern Mind, Human Action and Government
- Graduate Courses: The Beginning and End of Human Life: Ethical and Metaphysical Controversies, Contemporary Natural Law Theory

Adjunct Professor of Medical Ethics, Columbia Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dept. of Medicine (January 2019-present)

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics (Dept. of Medicine), Columbia Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (2017-2018; co-taught a medical ethics elective and founded/directed the Center for Biomedical Ethics in the Dept. of Medicine)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Princeton University, Dept. of Politics (Spring 2018, co-teaching a graduate seminar on “Law, Morality and Sexuality” with Robert George)
- Myser Fellow, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture (2014-2015)
- Thomas W. Smith Post-Doctoral Research Associate, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University (2012-2013)
- Lecturer, Manhattanville College, Dept. of Philosophy (Fall 2012, teaching Ethics)

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Ph.D. in Politics, June 2012

- Fields: Political Theory, Public Law, Early Modern Political Philosophy
- Dissertation: *Parental Rights in Education*

Università della Santa Croce, Rome, Italy; Licentiate *summa cum laude* in Philosophy, 2007

- Thesis: “Personal Identity, Embodiment and Social Structures: Towards a Revised Aristotelian Approach”

Harvard University, A.B. *magna cum laude* in Social Studies, 2002

- Honors Thesis: “Rousseau and the Despotism of Unbridled Freedom”

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Moral and political philosophy, applied ethics (especially biomedical ethics), natural law ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of law, philosophy of the human person, history of philosophy

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

To Whom Do Children Belong? Parental Rights, Civic Education and Children's Autonomy (Cambridge University Press, 2016)

EDITED JOURNAL ISSUES

"Brain Death and Human Organismal Integration: A Symposium on the Definition of Death," special issue of *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 41, 3 (June 2016)

REFEREED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"The Human Organism is Not a Conductorless Orchestra: A Defense of Brain Death as True Biological Death," *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* (forthcoming)

"Sexual Identity, Gender and Human Fulfillment: Analyzing the 'Middle Way' between Liberal and Traditionalist Approaches," *Christian Bioethics* (forthcoming)

["Brain Death and Organ Donation: A Crisis of Public Trust,"](#) *Christian Bioethics* 24, 2 (June 2018) 133–150

["Gestation Does Not Necessarily Imply Parenthood: Implications for the Morality of Embryo Adoption and Embryo Rescue,"](#) *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 92, 1 (Winter 2018) 21-48

["Complexity of Defining Death: Death is Not the Absence of All Biological Life,"](#) *Journal of Medical Ethics* 43, 11 (Nov 2017) 754-755

["Beyond Equal Liberty: Religion as a Distinct Human Good and the Implications for Religious Freedom,"](#) *Journal of Law and Religion* 32, 1 (March 2017) 123-146

"Human Nature and Human Dignity: Voegelin and Contemporary Natural Law in Dialogue," *Concepts of Nature: Ancient and Modern*, ed. R.J. Snell and Steven F. McGuire (Lanham, MA: Lexington Books, 2016), p.63-70.

["The Wrongness of Third-Party Assisted Reproduction: A Natural Law Account,"](#) *Christian Bioethics* 22, 2 (2016) 104-121

["Integrated But Not Whole: Applying an Ontological Account of Human Organismal Unity to the Brain Death Debate,"](#) *Bioethics* 30, 8 (Oct. 2016) 550-556

["Deconstructing the Brain Disconnection-Brain Destruction Analogy and Clarifying the Rationale for the Neurological Criterion of Death,"](#) *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 41, 3 (June 2016) 279-299

"Brain Death and Human Organismal Integration: A Symposium on the Definition of Death," *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* (2016) 41 (3) 229-236 (Introduction to special issue)

"Symposium on the Definition of Death: Summary Statement," *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* (2016) 41 (3) 351-361 (co-authored with Maureen Condic)

["Rethinking the Moral Permissibility of Gamete Donation,"](#) *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* 35, 6 (2014) 421-440

[“Natural Law, Parental Rights and Education Policy,”](#) *American Journal of Jurisprudence*, 59, 2 (Dec 2014) 197-227

[“Natural Law”](#) (co-authored with Robert George), *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Second Edition, 2015

[“Social Contract Theory and Moral Agency: Understanding the Roots of an Uncaring Society,”](#) in *Caring Professions and Globalization: Philosophical and Practical Perspectives*, ed. Ana Marta Gonzalez and Craig Iffland, Palgrave MacMillan, 2014, p. 87-116

[“Personal Identity and Gender: A Revised Aristotelian Approach,”](#) in *Gender Identities in a Globalized World*, ed. Ana Marta Gonzalez and Victor Seidler, Humanity Books, 2008, p. 75-108

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Rivka Weinberg, *The Risk of a Lifetime: How, When and Why Procreation May Be Permissible*, *The Public Discourse*, July 29, 2016

Review of Natalia Petrzela, *Classroom Wars* (Oxford University Press, 2015), *American Political Thought* (Summer 2016) 534-537

Review of Tom Koch, *Thieves of Virtue: When Bioethics Stole Medicine* (MIT Press, 2012), *Review of Politics* 75 (2013)

SELECTED NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“Embryology and Science Denial” (with Patrick Lee), *The Public Discourse*, Nov. 8, 2017, <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2017/11/20449/>

“Charlie Gard Case Threatens All Parents,” *USA Today*, July 16, 2017, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/07/16/charlie-gard-parents-right-decide-melissa-moschella-column/478860001/> (Print version published on July 17, 2017.)

“Parental and Governmental Authority in Medical Decisions: The Tragic Case of Charlie Gard,” *The Public Discourse*, July 10, 2017, <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2017/07/19726/>

“A Bipartisan Case for School Choice,” *The Public Discourse*, May 1, 2017, <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2017/05/19144/>

“The Whom Do Children Belong? How Same-Sex Marriage Threatens Parental Rights,” *The Public Discourse*, October 5, 2015, <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/10/15407/>

“A Time for Heroism,” *The Public Discourse*, August 6, 2014, <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2014/08/13486/>

“The Rights of Children: Biology Matters,” *The Public Discourse*, February 20, 2014, <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2014/02/11620/>

“To Whom do Children Belong?” *The Public Discourse*, April 16, 2013, <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2013/04/9880/>

“The HHS Mandate and Judicial Theocracy,” *The Public Discourse*, January 3, 2013, <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2013/01/7403/>

“Religious Freedom’s Legal and Moral Basis,” *The Public Discourse*, July 24, 2012, <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2012/07/5899/>

“Religious Freedom Under Fire,” *The Public Discourse*, July 23, 2012,
<https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2012/07/5897/>

“Taking (Conscience) Rights Seriously,” *The Public Discourse*, June 11, 2012,
<http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2012/06/5603>

“Does Sex Ed Undermine Parental Rights?” (co-authored with Robert George), *The New York Times*, October 19, 2011; <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/19/opinion/does-sex-ed-undermine-parental-rights.html>

SELECTED LECTURES/CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

“[Trapped in the Wrong Body? Transgender Identity Claims, Body-Self Dualism, and the False Promise of Gender Reassignment Therapy](#),” Invited Lecture, St. Vincent College, Center for Political and Economic Thought, April 6, 2016.

“Is Brain Death Really Death?” Invited lecture, The Catholic University of America, School of Philosophy Fall Lecture Series, November 16, 2018.

“To Whom do Children Belong? Parental Rights, Religious Community, Civic Education and Child Autonomy,” Invited lecture followed by panel discussion, University of Pennsylvania, Program for Research on Religion & Urban Civil Society, October 25, 2018

“Aristotelian Metaphysics and Brain Death: Can Ancient Metaphysics Justify Modern Medical Practice?” Panel Organizer and Speaker, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Oct. 20, 2018

“Reproductive Technologies and Human Dignity,” Yale University, Invited speaker for Vita et Veritas Conference, Sept. 29, 2018

“Why Religion Deserves Special Legal Protection,” Invited seminar leader, Religion and Public Life Seminar sponsored by the Baylor in Washington Program, July 12, 2018

“Reproductive Technologies and Human Dignity,” Harvard Law School, Invited presentation for international seminar on “New Challenges for Law: Human Dignity, Transhumanism and New Technologies,” sponsored by Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University, June 22, 2018

“To Whom Do Children Belong? A Defense of Parental Rights,” United Nations, Invited speaker for conference on “The Impact of Good Parenting on Children and Society: The Many Benefits of Nurturing Children’s Integrity in the Home,” sponsored by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN and the Universal Peace Federation International, June 1, 2018.

“Making Men Moral: Public Morality, Liberty and Law,” Invited Panelist, Princeton University, James Madison Program Annual Conference, May 19, 2018.

“Are Humans Merely Sophisticated Algorithms?” Columbia University, Invited panelist for event sponsored by the *Columbia Science Review*, April 3, 2018

“Will Science Remain Human?” Invited discussant for Social Trends Institute Meeting, Campus Biomedico, Rome, Italy, March 4-6, 2018.

“Natural Law and Basic Human Goods,” Invited presentation for panel on the new *Cambridge Companion to Natural Law Jurisprudence*, James Madison Program for American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University, Dec. 8, 2017

“Third Party Assisted Reproduction: Does Donor Conception Violate Children’s Rights?” Columbia University Medical Center, Invited speaker for Program in Women and Children’s Bioethics Seminar Series, sponsored by the Departments of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dec. 7, 2017.

“The Human Organism is Not a Conductorless Orchestra: A Defense of Brain Death as True Biological Death,” Invited presentation at conference on “Brain Death: New Questions for Philosophy and Theology,” hosted by Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University Medical Center, Dec. 1, 2017

“Is Brain Death Really Death?” Invited lecture, Baylor University Honors College, Nov. 10, 2017

“Brain Death, Organ Donation, and the Dead Donor Rule: Contemporary Controversies,” Invited lecture, Trent Center for Bioethics, Duke University and School of Medicine, Nov. 7, 2017

“Brain Death, Organ Donation, and the Dead Donor Rule,” invited lecture, NYU, Bellevue General Internal Medicine Conference, Oct. 12, 2017

“Parental Rights and the Well-Being of Women and Children,” Invited Presentation at United Nations, Side-event for Commission on the Status of Women, Mar. 21, 2016.

“Living as a Christian Family in a Culture of Unbelief: The Importance of Parental Rights,” Invited Lecture, Archbishop’s Lecture Series, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, Feb. 11, 2016.

“Donor Conception and the Right of Children to be Loved by their Biological Parents,” Invited Speaker, St. John’s University, Speculative Ethics Forum, Dec. 5, 2015.

“Traditional Marriage: What It Is, Why It Matters, and the Consequences of Redefining It” Invited Speaker, The Cosmos Club, Nov. 12, 2015.

“Human Ecology and the Family: The Conditions for Authentic Human Development,” Invited Speaker, *Laudato Si’* and the Protection of Our Common Home: Faith and Science in Dialogue, Conference co-sponsored by the USCCB and The Catholic University of America, Oct. 26, 2015.

“Is Mandatory Autonomy Education in the Best Interests of Children?” American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Oct. 10, 2015.

“Marriage and the Law,” Invited Speaker, Franciscan University, Sept. 18, 2015.

“How Same-Sex Marriage Threatens Parental Rights,” Invited Panel Presentation, James Madison Program Conference on Law and the Culture of Liberty, Princeton University, May 17, 2015.

“What’s Wrong with Reproductive Technologies?” Invited Plenary Speaker, University Faculty for Life Conference, June 2015.

“What’s Sex Got To Do With It? Two Competing Visions of Marriage and Sexuality,” Invited Lecture, Marquette University, April 29, 2015.

“Marriage: What It Is and Why It Matters,” Invited Lecture, University of Notre Dame, April 23, 2015.

[“What’s Wrong with Reproductive Technologies?”](#) Invited Lecture, Brigham Young University, March 20, 2015.

[“Derechos de los Padres-Derechos de los Hijos,”](#) Invited Lecture, Universidad CEU San Pablo (Madrid), Instituto de Estudios de la Familia, September 25, 2014.

“Deconstruction the Brain Disconnection-Brain Destruction Analogy and Clarifying the Rationale for the Neurological Criterion of Death,” Symposium on the Definition of Death, The Catholic University of America, June 3, 2014.

“Beyond Equal Liberty: Religion as a Distinct Human Good and the Implications for Religious Freedom,” Invited Speaker, Conference on the Scholarship of John Finnis, James Madison Program, Princeton University, March 27, 2014

“Body-Soul Unity and the Ethics of Artificial Reproductive Technologies: Why Children Have a Right to be Loved by their Genetic Parents,” Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference, November 2013

“Defending the Conscience Rights of Parents in Moral and Religious Education,” Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference, November 2011

“Parents’ Rights and Children’s Autonomy: Friends or Foes?” James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions Seminar, Princeton University, September 2011

“The Biological Basis of Parental Rights in Education,” James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions Seminar, Princeton University, May 2011

Invited Discussant, Social Trends Experts Meeting on “Being Human in a Consumer Society,” Barcelona, April 2011 (interdisciplinary meeting of approximately 25 select scholars)

Invited Discussant, Social Trends Experts Meeting on “Care and Professions in a Globalized World,” Barcelona, November 2009

“Personal Identity and Gender,” Social Trends Institute Experts Meeting on “Gender Identities in a Globalized World,” Barcelona, October 2006

ACADEMIC HONORS/AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

Myser Fellowship, University of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, 2014-2015

Thomas W. Smith Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University, 2012-2013

University Center for Human Values Graduate Prize Fellowship, Princeton University, 2011-2012

James Madison Program Graduate Fellow, Princeton University, 2011-2012

University Center for Human Values Merit Prize, Princeton University, 2007-2008

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching for *Continental Political Thought*, Derek Bok Center, Harvard University, 2002

Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard University, 2002

ACADEMIC SERVICE (The Catholic University of America)

Website Committee, School of Philosophy (2018-2019)

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, School of Philosophy (2016-2017)

Graduate Comprehensive Exam Committee, School of Philosophy (2015-2017)

Placement Committee, School of Philosophy (2013-2017)

Faculty Advisor for The Anscombe Society (2014-2017)

Frequent collaboration with Office of Public Affairs in responding to media requests

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*

Scientific Committee, Springer book series, "Human Perspectives in Biomedicine and Technology"

University Faculty for Life, Board Member (2016-2017)

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities

American Catholic Philosophical Association

The James Madison Society

Referee for: *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, *Bioethics*, *Review of Politics*, *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Law and Religion*, *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, *Christian Bioethics*, *The Linacre Quarterly*, *The Thomist*, *The Catholic University of America Press*

SELECTED TELEVISION AND RADIO APPEARANCES

NPR, [Kojo Nnamdi Show](#), Aug. 10, 2015

The Stossel Show, Fox Business and Fox News, May 15 and 18, 2014

PBS, Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, Feb. 14, 2014

EWTN News Nightly, frequent contributor

LANGUAGES

Professional Use: Spanish, Italian

Academic Use: French, Latin, Ancient Greek