

DIANA BUCCAFURNI

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Academic Positions

Present SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY; Huntsville, TX
Department of Psychology and Philosophy
Visiting Lecturer

2001-Present UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Department of Philosophy
Graduate Instructor

Education

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, PH.D. CANDIDATE, PHILOSOPHY, SPRING 2008

- Dissertation: *Reconsidering the Facilitation of Autonomous Decisionmaking in Genetic Counseling*

Committee: Leslie Francis (chair), Peggy Battin, Bruce Landesman,
Chrisoula Andreou, and Jeff Botkin

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, Microbiology, H.B.S., 1996-2001

Areas of Specialization:

- Biomedical Ethics
- Feminism
- Applied Ethics
- Moral Philosophy

Areas of Competence:

- Research Ethics
- Epistemology
- Business Ethics
- Early Modern

Publications

- “On the Harm of Selective Abortion for Impairment: Offensive Messages and Practical Effects”, revise and resubmit at the *KENNEDY INSTITUTE OF ETHICS JOURNAL*.
- “Kelly’s Request for Breast Augmentation”, *TEACHING ETHICS*, Summer 2007, Volume 7, Number 2, pp. 101-103.
- “I’m Doing the Best I Can: A Legal and Philosophical Analysis”, *MORAL DILEMMAS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE: CASES AND COMMENTARIES*, Becky Cox White and Joel Zimbelman, eds., New York: Pearson Longman, 2005, pp. 95-110. Co-authored with Leslie Francis.
- “Advance Directives and the Problem of Personal Identity”, *Global Virtue Ethics Review*, James S. Taylor, ed., 2004, Volume 5, Number 2, Symposium on Bioethics Part II, http://www.spaef.com/GVER_PUB/index.html.
- “The Problem of Perceptual Relativity”, *PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2003 HUMANITIES GRADUATE CONFERENCE*, Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2003.

⌘ Presentations ⌘

- “The Ethics of Organ Allocation” -- Sam Houston State University, May 2007
- “The Ethics of Organ Allocation” – Walsh University, March 2007
- “Can Selective Abortion Express Disvalue for Persons with Disabilities?: On the Expressive Character of Selective Abortion” – American Society for Bioethics and the Humanities (ASBH), October 2004
- “Can Selective Abortion Express Disvalue for Persons with Disabilities?: On the Expressive Character of Selective Abortion” – Rosenblatt Jr. Speaker Colloquium, University of Utah, September 2004
- “Medical Futility” – with Anton Antommaria at VA Medical Center, Salt lake City, UT, May 2004
- Commentator on Janet Malek’s “The Ethics of Conception and the Possibility of Harm: A Refutation of Parfit”, APA Pacific Division Meeting, March 2004
- “Teaching Bioethics: A Philosopher’s Perspective”, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities-Canadian Bioethics Society Joint Meeting, October 2003
- “The Problem of Perceptual Relativity”, University of Utah Graduate Interdisciplinary Humanities Conference, April 2003
- “The Merits and Demerits of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act”, University of Utah, Philosophy Department, Drugs and Justice Seminar Symposium, Spring 2002
- “The Merits and Demerits of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act”, University of Utah, Philosophy Department, Rosenblatt Jr. Colloquium, September 2002
- “Advance Directives and the Problem of Personal Identity”, University of Utah, Philosophy Department, Death and Dying Seminar Symposium, Fall 2002

⌘ Awards/Fellowships/Grants ⌘

- National Endowment for the Humanities, *Ethics at the End of Life*, Summer 2003
- Departmental Nominee for Ramona W. Cannon Award for Graduate Student Teaching Excellence in the Humanities, Fall 2005
- Steffensen Cannon Graduate Fellowship, 2004-2005
- Marriner S. Eccles Fellowship in Political Economy, 2003-2004
- Scientific Integrity Fellowship, 2001-2002

⌘ Dissertation ⌘

Reconsidering the Facilitation of Autonomous Decisionmaking in Genetic Counseling

Genetic counseling is guided by two principles—value-neutrality (VN) and non-directiveness (ND). These two principles have been selected by practitioners, in part, to facilitate client choice that is self-directed and in accord with clients' values. Given this function, these values work to protect and facilitate autonomous decisionmaking, where autonomy is understood as a negative right to non-interference.

On the presumption that value-neutrality and non-directiveness can be achieved in practice, I argue that VN and ND do not work to secure autonomous decisionmaking. I offer an alternative principle, value-

transparency (VT), in their place. I argue that VT better secures autonomous decisionmaking than VN and ND, where autonomy is understood as a right to non-interference.

While VN and ND are not adequate in meeting their intended goal, I look to the question of whether the end towards which they aim—autonomous decisionmaking—is based on an adequate conception of autonomy. I argue that in order for genetic counseling clients to engage in autonomous decisionmaking, we need to understand autonomy in a positive sense. On a positive conception of autonomy, facilitation of autonomous choice requires active assistance on the part of genetic counselors, over and above adhering to principles that protect against interference. Using Jodi Halpern's model of clinical empathy, I argue that an empathic approach to genetic counseling is the first step to enhancing autonomous decisionmaking.

While an empathic approach is integral to facilitating autonomous decisionmaking, I argue that Halpern's model is not sufficient for achieving this end. I argue that Halpern's account of empathy, coupled with a relational understanding of the self, works to restore and enhance the capacity for autonomy in contexts of dependency, such as the dependency relation between genetic counselor and client.

⌘ Teaching experience ⌘

Lecturer

Sam Houston State University

Death and Dying, Fall 20007

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2007

Instructor (Full responsibility for class)

University of Utah

God, Faith and Reason, Summer 2007

Feminism, Spring 2007

Online Bioethics, Fall 2006

Survey of Philosophy, Summer 2006, Summer 2005

Ethical Dilemmas, Spring 2006

Business Ethics, Fall 2005

Bioethics, Summer 2004

Weber State University

Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2006, Fall 2005, Summer 2004

Utah Valley State College

Ethics and Values, Summer 2003, Summer 2002

⌘ Service ⌘

- LDS Hospital (Salt Lake City) Ethics Committee Member, 2002-2005
- University of Utah, Committee Member for IWSPC: Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference, 2003-Present
- American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Student Co-President, 2003-2004
- Utah Valley State College, 2003 Regional Ethics Bowl Judge, November 2003
- Assistant to Leslie Francis, organized Pacific APA Division 2004 Meeting, Fall 2003
- Philosophy Department Hiring Committee (Graduate Student Member), Spring 2003
- *American Journal of Bioethics*, reviewer, April 2003
- APA Pacific Division Meeting, Session Chair, March 2003

⌘ Relevant Proficiencies ⌘

- *WebCT* proficient (online course development)
- *Blackboard* proficient (online course development)

⌘ References ⌘

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