

YASHAR SAGHAI

Researcher

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

CURRENT POSITIONS

WORK HISTORY



I am a Research Scholar and Associate Faculty at the [Berman Institute of Bioethics](#), Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD), and a Senior Scholar at the [Millennium Project: Global Futures Studies and Research](#) (Washington, DC). I hold a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Georgetown University and graduate degrees in Philosophy and Medical Ethics from the University of Paris.

My interdisciplinary and, often, collaborative research in practical ethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of science deals with "real world" issues and focuses on food systems, futures studies, health, behavioral economics, and cognitive psychology.

(Updated: September 10, 2017)

Areas of Specialization

Practical ethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of science with a focus on:

- Global food systems (food ethics)
- Futures studies (prediction or anticipation of possible futures through methods such as trend extrapolation; modeling; scenarios)
- Health (public health ethics; research ethics; biomedical ethics)
- Behavioral economics and cognitive psychology, their normative foundations and policy implications

Areas of Competence

- History of bioethics
- History of modern philosophy
- Science and technology studies
- Theory of history and historiography

Research Scholar and Associate Faculty

July 2016-Present

The Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics

- Principal Investigator on the "Ethics, Politics, Knowledge and Our Planet's Food Futures" Project (May 2016-April 2017) (see GRANTS section)
- Independent research on food ethics, the philosophy of futures studies, and bioethics

Senior Scholar

August 2017-Present

Millennium Project: Global Futures Studies and Research

- Research on methods for predicting, exploring or anticipating possible futures in non-profit global participatory think tank ([Millennium Project](#))
- Application of futures methods, such as trend extrapolation, [State of the Future Index](#), Delphi, and scenario-planning in collaboration with [Jerome Glenn](#) (Executive Director and co-founder), [Theodore Gordon](#) (Senior Fellow and co-founder), and [Elizabeth Florescu](#) (Director of Research)

Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University

January 2013-June 2016

Hecht-Levi Post-Doctoral Fellow

- Director of the "Global Food Ethics" Project [see GRANTS section]
- Independent research on food ethics and bioethics

Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University

December 2010-February 2012

Research Specialist

"Research and Treatment in Comparative Effectiveness, QI and IND Research" Project:

- Goal: investigating the conceptual, moral, and regulatory dimensions of the research-practice distinction in healthcare and public health
- Funder: National Institutes of Health (Challenge Grant in Health and Science Research Award)
- Team:
 - Co-Principal Investigators: Tom L. Beauchamp, Ruth R. Faden, Steven Goodman, Nancy Kass, Peter Pronovost, and Sean Tunis
 - Staff: Dan O'Connor, Yashar Saghai, Danielle Whicher
- Responsibilities included:
 - Co-writing two articles with project team members and staff
 - Archival research on the historical origins of the research-practice distinction (National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, Bioethics Archives, Bioethics Research Library, Georgetown University)

Georgetown University

2006-2010

Research Assistant

Tom L. Beauchamp, Summer 2010

- Editorial assistance in preparing the *The Oxford Handbook on Animal Ethics* (OUP, 2011)

Madison Powers, Summer 2009

- Literature review of recent work on global justice

Robert M. Veatch, Summer 2008

- Archival research on the history of the Hippocratic oath in preparation for Gifford lecture, published as *Hippocratic, Religious, and Secular Medical Ethics: The Points of Conflict* (Georgetown University Press, 2012)

Tom Beauchamp, August 2007

- Editorial assistance in preparing the sixth edition of *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* (OUP, 2009)
- Editorial assistance in preparing the new critical edition of David Hume's *A Dissertation on the Passions* and *A Natural History of Religion* (Clarendon, 2008)

Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University

Spring 2010

Web Project Manager

Responsibilities included:

- Managing the work of Kennedy Institute of Ethics faculty and technical staff building new website
- Generating content for new website

**Georgetown University (Department of
Philosophy and Kennedy Institute of Ethics)**

2005-2012

Ph.D. in PhilosophyDissertation title: *The Ethics of Public Health Nudges*

- Dissertation defense passed with Distinction
- Committee:
 - Co-advisors: Margaret Olivia Little and Madison Powers
 - Readers: Robert M. Veatch, Peter A. Ubel (Duke University), Daniel Andler (University of Paris-IV-Sorbonne)

Dissertation abstract:

There is growing interest in using non-coercive interventions to promote and protect public health, in particular “health nudges.” Behavioral economist Richard Thaler and law scholar Cass Sunstein coined the term nudge to designate influences that steer individuals in a predetermined direction by activating their automatic cognitive processes, while preserving their freedom of choice. Proponents of nudges argue that public and private institutions are entitled to use health-promoting nudges because nudges do not close off any options. Opponents reply that the nudgee has no opportunity to deliberate over her choice. The nudger controls the nudgee, who has no real freedom of choice.

In my dissertation, I salvage the concept of nudge from the charge that it merely pays lip service to freedom of choice, offer an alternative account of the moral import of nudges for the evaluation of public health policies, and provide an ethical framework for their justified use.

My argument proceeds in four steps. First, I argue that nudging mechanisms often involve some form of incomplete deliberation, and do not always bypass deliberation. Second, I maintain that nudges preserve freedom of choice because they preserve the choice-set and are substantially noncontrolling. I show that the debate over nudges is plagued by confusion between real nudges, which are easily resistible and therefore substantially noncontrolling, and influences that are not easily resistible yet activate the same cognitive mechanisms as nudges. Third, I reject the view that nudges are systematically preferable to more controlling influences, even when they interfere with non-consequential liberties. I show that the principle of the least restrictive alternative often invoked in public health ethics is applied with too wide a scope. Fourth, I argue that paternalism is not central to the ethics of public health nudges. Rather, the substantive problem with nudges is that their overall cumulative effect might weaken our decisional capacities or undermine their proper exercise. This is a reason to limit recourse to certain nudges. I finally show, contra certain Kantians and Millians, that we have no perfect duty to engage or enhance decisional capacities.

- Coursework:
 - Courses taken for credit, including courses on analytic philosophy in the Department of Philosophy; courses on practical ethics and political philosophy at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics; a one-semester Clinical Practicum at the Georgetown University Hospital (in particular, chronic diseases) through the Center for Clinical Ethics
 - Courses audited covered cognitive sciences and health psychology

**University of Paris-XII-Créteil Henri Mondor
Medical School**

2001-2002

**Graduate Certificate in Medical Ethics (Diplôme
Universitaire)**

Thesis title: *The Healthcare Proxy: Ethical Issues and Foresight Study on
Advanced Directives (La personne de confiance : Enjeux éthiques et étude
prospective sur le mandat en matière de santé)*

- Academic advisor: Suzanne Rameix
- One-year interdisciplinary training in a medical school
- Research for thesis included fieldwork with patients suffering from dementia and interviews with their healthcare providers
- Audited courses covered analytic philosophy, philosophy of biology and medical sciences, and cognitive science

University of Paris IV-Sorbonne

1999-2000

**Post-Graduate Degree in History of Philosophy (Diplôme
d'Etudes Approfondies)**

Thesis title: *Spinoza's Theory and Use of Language (Théorie et usage du
langage chez Spinoza)*

- Academic advisor: Pierre-François Moreau
- Graduate courses audited covered linguistics, logic, philosophy of science, and cognitive science

University of Paris-I-Panthéon-Sorbonne

1997-1998

M.A. in History of Philosophy (Maîtrise)

Thesis title: *The Notion of Love in Spinoza's Work as a Philosophical and
Religious Issue (La notion d'amour dans l'œuvre de Spinoza comme enjeu
philosophique et religieux)*

- Academic advisor: André Tosel
- Top graduating student in the Philosophy Department
- Graduate courses audited covered analytic philosophy, history of religions, and Hebrew

University of Paris-I-Panthéon-Sorbonne

1993-1997

Bachelor in Philosophy (Licence)

Intensive coursework in humanities, languages, and social sciences
(Première supérieure (hypokhâgne), Lycée Condorcet; Lettres supérieures
(khâgne), Lycées Condorcet and Henri-IV)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Qualitative Research Theory and Methods
Course (Audited)**

2016-2017 (Third Term)

**Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins
University**

Graduate course (224.690.01) taught by Professor Larissa Jennings

Qualitative Data Analysis Course (Audited)

2016-2017 (Fourth Term)

**Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins
University**

Graduate course (224.691.01) taught by Professor Steve Harvey

GRANTS

“Ethics, Politics, Knowledge and Our Planet’s Food Futures” Project

2016-2017

A project of a Program Grant to support the Johns Hopkins Global Food Ethics and Policy Program

Funder: Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Project Award Amount: \$222,000

Duration: May 2016-April 2017

Deliverables: expected December 31, 2017

My role:

- Principal Investigator of this project
- Main author of the project component of Program Grant
- Responsible for the organization and leadership of the project's five work packages
- Single author of one article and co-author of three articles (expected deliverables)

External Team Leaders:

- Otto Hospes: Associate Professor Public-Private Governance of Food, Public Policy and Administration Group, Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands
- Michiel van Dijk: Researcher (Modeling and Scenario Planning), International Policy Group, Wageningen Economic Research, The Hague, Netherlands; Researcher Scholar, Ecosystems Services and Management Group, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Vienna, Austria

“Planetary Boundaries of Global Animal Food Production and Consumption: Decision-Making Tools for Social Change in Diverse Food Systems” Project

2017

Semi-finalist team of the Wellcome Trust Competitive Grant Call: “Our Planet, Our Health Call for Applications”

Amount: \$30,000 to prepare full proposal

Co-PIs: Laura Caulfield and Jessica Fanzo

My role:

- Core team member
- Member of the the Modeling, Ethics, and Ethiopia Working Groups

“Global Food Ethics” Project

January 2013-December 2015

Co-sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

Funder: Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Award: \$800,000

Research Team:

- Co-Principal Investigators (Johns Hopkins University): Ruth Faden (Berman Institute of Bioethics), Alan Goldberg (Bloomberg School of Public Health), Robert Thompson (SAIS)
- Project Director: Yashar Saghai (100% effort)
- Advisors: David Fraser (UBC); Per Pinstrup-Andersen (Cornell); Madison Powers (Georgetown)
- Working Group: 17 scholars and experts from 4 continents

My responsibilities as Project Director included:

- Specifying the content and vision of the research program in collaboration with project PIs
- Co-ordinating the scholarly work of the research team, staff, and research assistants (25 people)
- Co-managing the budget
- Organizing the intellectual objectives and procedures adopted in the "Feeding the World, Ethically" conference (Ranco, Italy, October 6-9, 2014), including:
 - Pre-selecting potential international Working Group members to be vetted by the core team (over 100 reviewed; 17 selected)
 - Conducting in-depth pre-conference semi-structured interviews with all Working Group members
 - Commissioning 5 White Papers and 10 Short Papers
 - Organizing peer-review process for White Papers
 - Drafting "moral maps" of pressing ethical issues in food security based on content analysis of interview transcripts and commissioned papers
 - Preparing analytic memos and literature reviews with the help of research assistants and other team members
 - Co-writing two White Papers and one Short Paper
 - Organizing post-conference scholarly activities leading to journal publications and report release:
 - Co-writing one journal article
 - Co-writing the project report, "7 by 5 Agenda for Ethics and Global Food Security" (May 2015)
 - Collaborating with Berman Institute communication team on report dissemination

PUBLICATIONS

In Preparation

- Saghai, Yashar. "What is a Plausible Future?"
- Saghai, Yashar, Otto Hospes, Michiel van Dijk, Pema Doornenbal, Anouk De Vries, Tom Morley, and Marie Louise Rau. "Long-Term Global Good Futures: A Methods and Thematic Mapping Review since 1945."
- Van Dijk, Michiel, Tom Morley., Marie Louise Rau, and Yashar Saghai. "A Systematic Review of Global Food Security and Nutrition Model Studies."
- Hospes, Otto, Pema Doornenbal, Anouk De Vries, and Yashar Saghai. "Global Food System Governance in Food Future Studies."
- Osman, Magda, Yashar Saghai, and William Nelson. "Defensive Thinking: Psychological and Normative Barriers to Accepting Food Futures."
- Saghai, Yashar. "How Do We Get from Now to Then? Explaining Scenarios with and without Causal Stories."
- Saghai, Yashar. "The Food Sovereignty Movement and the Problem of the Informal Food Economy."
- Saghai, Yashar. "Bioethics and Futures Studies Beyond Transhumanism."
- Saghai, Yashar. "Futurism, Long-Term Imagination, and the Nuclear Waste Problem: Watching Peter Galison's and Robb Moss's *Containment*." Book chapter commissioned for *Humankind 2050*, an edited volume celebrating the 50th anniversary of the World Futures Studies Federation.

In Press

- Saghai, Yashar. "Theorizing Justice in Health Research Contexts." In *Beyond Consent: Seeking Justice in Research*, edited by J. Kahn, A. Mastroianni, and J. Sugarman. Second edition, Oxford University Press: New York, NY: In press.
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Published Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- Lipton, Michael, and Yashar Saghai. "Farmland-Access Ethics, Land Reform, and Food Ethics." *Global Food Security* 12 (2017): 59-66. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2016.03.004>
- Aloosh, Mehdi, and Yashar Saghai. "Birth Control Policies in Iran: A Public Health and Ethics Perspective." *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 70 (2016): 529-533. doi:10.1136/jech-2015-205572.
- Whicher, Danielle, Nancy Kass, Yashar Saghai, Ruth Faden, Sean Tunis, and Peter Pronovost. "The Views of Quality Improvement Professionals and Comparative Effectiveness Researchers on Ethics, IRBs, and Oversight." *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics* 10, no. 2 (2015): 132-144. doi:10.1177/1556264615571558.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Radically Questioning the Principle of the Least Restrictive Alternative: A Reply to Nir Eyal." *International Journal of Health Policy and Management* 3, no 6 (2014): 349-350. doi: 10.15171/ijhpm.2014.106.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Salvaging the Concept of Nudge." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 39, no 8 (2013): 487-493. doi:10.1136/medethics-2012-100727. Editor's pick; featured article; selected #1 among the most highly-cited papers that contributed to the Journal's Impact Factor of 1.764 (2015 Journal Citation Reports® Science Edition (Thomson Reuters, 2016).
- Saghai, Yashar. "The Concept of Nudge and Its Moral Significance: A Reply to Ashcroft, Bovens, Dworkin, Welch, and Wertheimer." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 39, no 8 (2013): 499-501. doi:10.1136/medethics-2012-101112.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Nudging in Interpersonal Contexts." *American Journal of Bioethics* 13, no 6 (2013): 33-34. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2013.782455>.
- Powers, Madison, Ruth Faden, and Yashar Saghai. "Liberty, Mill, and the Framework of Public Health Ethics." *Public Health Ethics* 5, no 1 (2012): 6-15. doi:10.1093/phe/phs002.
- Beauchamp, Tom, and Yashar Saghai. "The Historical Foundations of the Research-Practice Distinction in Bioethics." *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* 33, no 1 (2012): 45-56. doi 10.1007/s11017-011-9207-8.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Le Principe de précaution: les enjeux d'une nouvelle norme de l'action." *Idées* 8 (2001): 21-40.
- Saghai, Yashar. "La Vérité comme dialogue et entente chez Gadamer." *Idées* 1 (1998): 7-25. Arabic translation by Mohammed Zine published in *Kitâbât Mu'âsira* 4 (2000): 75-81.

Reports and White Papers

- Global Food Ethics Project (co-author), "7 by 5 Agenda for Ethics and Global Food Security: 7 Projects to Make Progress on Ethics and Global Food Security in 5 Years." Project Report. Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. May 2015. http://www.bioethicsinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/7_by_5_Full_Report_C_150608.pdf.
- Saghai, Yashar. "A Philosophical Toolbox for Practical Ethics." Short Paper prepared for the "Feeding the World, Ethically" Global Food Ethics project meeting, Ranco, Italy, October 6-9, 2014.
- Cassman, Kenneth, and Yashar Saghai. "Global Food Security and the Ethics of Ensuring Adequate Food Production Capacity." Peer-reviewed White Paper prepared for the "Feeding the World, Ethically" Global Food Ethics project meeting, Ranco, Italy, October 6-9, 2014.
- Lipton, Michael, and Yashar Saghai. "Farmland-Access Ethics, Land Reform, and Food Ethics." Peer-reviewed White Paper prepared for the Global Food Ethics project's "Feeding the World, Ethically" meeting, Ranco, Italy, October 6-9, 2014.

Non-peer-reviewed articles, editorials, and book reviews

- Saghai, Yashar. "Health Laws Too Tame." Opinion, Engaging Bioethics series, *The Hoya*, January 18, 2013.
<http://www.thehoya.com/mobile/opinion/saghai-health-laws-too-tame-1.2973323>.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Internalized Public Moral Norms and Shared Sovereignty." Open-peer commentary on Jennifer Ruger's "Shared Health Governance." *American Journal of Bioethics* 11, no 7 (2011): 49-51.
doi:10.1080/15265161.2011.572492.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Cognitive Disability and Cognitive Enhancement: A Lecture by Professor Jeff McMahan." *Ethics and Intellectual Disability, Newsletter of the Network on Ethics and Intellectual Disability* 11, no 2 (2008): 3-4.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Rumeurs persanes." *Autres Temps: Cahiers d'Ethique Sociale et Politique* 79-80 (2003): 119-122.
- Saghai, Yashar. "L'amour et la mort." *Idées* 9, no 5 (2002).
- Saghai, Yashar. "Notice sur Introduction à Hans-Georg Gadamer par Jean Grondin et Poétique d'une anti-anthropologie: l'herméneutique de Gadamer par Pascal Michon." *Esprit* 27 (2001): 238-240.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Notes bibliographiques sur Spinoza et les commentateurs juifs par Philippe Cassuto." *Bulletin de Bibliographie Spinoziste* 24 (2001): 42-44.
- Saghai, Y. "De nos sensations à nos idées." *Idées* 7 (2000): 4-5.
- Saghai, Yashar. "Spinoza, une philosophie sous influences?" *Idées* 4 (1999): 68-70.
- Dumoulin, Isabelle, and Yashar Saghai. "L'éducation en question." *Idées* 2 (1998): 4-5.

PRESENTATIONS

- "Cones, Spider Webs, and Teddy Bears: Philosophical Reflections on Topologies of the Future and the Concept of Plausibility." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of 4S (Society for the Social Study of Science), Boston, MA, August 31, 2017.
- "Changing Social Norms: Bicchieri and Sunstein on Mechanisms and Ethics." Workshop led by Yashar Saghai, with Marcel Verweij (Wageningen University) and Mariëtte van den Hoven (Utrecht University), "Wink: The Nudge Conference." University of Utrecht, Netherlands, June 24, 2017.
- "Imagining Alternative Futures for Food Systems and the Environment." Workshop organized by Wageningen University and Research Department of Social Sciences (Philosophy Group and Public Administration Policy Group), with Cor van der Weele and Henk van den Belt, Wageningen University, Netherlands, June 20, 2017. ***Invited Speaker***
- "Exploring the Futures of Food Systems: Imagination and the Selection of Plausible Futures." Philosophy Group, Wageningen University, Netherlands, June 19, 2017. ***Invited Speaker***
- "Cones, Spider Webs, and Teddy Bears: Philosophical Reflections on Topologies of the Futures and the Concept of Plausibility." Paper presented at the World Futures Studies Federation Annual Meeting (Philosophy of Foresight Panel, Organizer), Jondal, Norway, June 9, 2017.
- "Defensive Thinking: Psychological Barriers to Accepting Food Futures." Joint presentation with Magda Osman (Queen Mary University of London) at the World Futures Studies Federation Annual Meeting (Food Futures Panel, Organizer and Chair), Jondal, Norway, June 8, 2017.
- "Ethics and Global Food Futures: Mapping the Terrain." Paper presented at the Stanley N. Gershoff Symposium *Next Generation Food Production*,

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, March 31, 2017. ***Invited Speaker*** Video:

<https://vimeo.com/groups/461677/videos/213224349>.

- “The Ethics of Health Policy Decision-Making for the Proper Balance of Prevention and Treatment Using Marginal Cost-Effectiveness Analyses.” Presentation within a panel with Halley Faust (University of New Mexico) and Nir Eval (Harvard University) at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Washington, DC, October 7, 2016.
- “From Research to Action: The Scalability and Generalizability Problem in Evidence-based Behavioral Economics Health Policy.” Paper presented at the International Conference on Thinking, Symposium in Honor of Cass Sunstein, Brown University, Providence, RI, August 4, 2016. ***Invited Speaker***
- “Building an Innovative Research Agenda for Global Food Ethics.” Poster presented at the Meeting of the International Association of Bioethics, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 15-17, 2016.
- “Global Bioethics, Human Rights, and the Demands of the Transitional Food Sovereignty Movement.” Poster presented at the Meeting of the International Association of Bioethics, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 15-17, 2016.
- “Anticipating the Futures of Food Systems: Ethical and Political Issues.” Paper presented at the 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Bioethics Fellows Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 28, 2016.
- “Ethical Challenges in Scenarios of Global Food Supply, Demand, and Markets.” Paper presented at the Berman Institute of Bioethics Fall Research Retreat, Baltimore, MD, April 7, 2016.
- “Ethics of Consumption of Animal Source Foods in High-, Middle-, and Low-Income Countries.” Joint presentation with Anne Barnhill (U Penn) at the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, IL, March 4, 2016.
- “Embedded Health and Wellness Nudges in the Workplace: From Libertarian Paternalism to Workplace Democracy.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Preventive Medicine, Washington, DC, February 27, 2016.
- “The 7 by 5 Agenda for Ethics and Global Food Security.” Roundtable with Anne Barnhill (U Penn) and Sylvie Brouder (Purdue University) at the Annual meeting of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society, Pittsburgh, PA, June 27, 2015.
- “Embedded Health and Wellness Nudges in the Workplace: From Libertarian Paternalism to Workplace Democracy.” Paper presented at the Ethical Issues of Nudges Panel with Nir Eval (Harvard University) and Halley Faust (University of New Mexico), at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Health, Baltimore, MD, May 3, 2015.
- “Seeking Global Food Justice: The ‘7 by 5 Agenda for Ethics and Global Food Security: 7 Projects to Make Progress on Ethics and Food Security in 5 Years.’ ” Paper presented at the 3rd Annual Yale Food Systems Symposium, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, October 30, 2015. ***Invited Speaker***
- “Why Natural Duties Do Not Matter for Estlund’s Justification of the Duty to Obey Political Authorities: A Reply to Nick Frank’s ‘Against Normative Consent.’ ” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA, December 30, 2014.

- “Global Food Ethics Project.” Joint presentation with Ruth Faden and Sara Glass at the Berman Institute of Bioethics Fall Research Retreat, Baltimore, MD, December 14, 2014.
- “Embedded Health and Wellness Nudges in the Workplace: From Libertarian Paternalism to Workplace Democracy.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, San Diego, CA, October 18, 2014.
- “Public Health Nudges and the Principle of the Least Restrictive Alternative.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Petrie-Flom Center *Behavioral Economics, Law, and Health Policy*, Harvard Law School, Boston, MA, May 2, 2014. ***Invited Speaker*** Video: <https://vimeo.com/97550187>.
- “On the Ethics of Implementing Health Nudge Policies When Confidence Level in their Effectiveness is Low.” Paper presented at the Berman Institute of Bioethics Fall Research Retreat, Baltimore, MD, December 12, 2013.
- “The Ethics of Nudging and the Architecture of the Mind.” Paper presented at Brain Matters 3: Values at the Crossroads of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Psychology Conference, Neurotics Program at Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, October 24, 2012.
- “Salvaging the Concept of Nudge.” Paper presented at the International Association of Bioethics Congress pre-meeting Symposium *Regulating Bodies and Influencing Health: Nudges, Incentives and Public Policy*, Rotterdam, Netherlands, June 26, 2012. ***Invited Speaker***
- “Nudging and the Political Morality of Food Policy.” Paper presented at the Greenwall Postdoctoral Seminar, the Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, MD, January 23, 2012. ***Invited Speaker***
- “Between Prod and Persuasion: Inquiry into the Nature and Justification of Health Nudges.” Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making, Chicago, IL, October 24, 2011.
- “The Democratic Legitimacy of Public Health and Health Policy.” Paper presented at the Three Rivers Philosophy Conference, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, April 2, 2011.
- “What’s a Health Nudge?” Paper presented at the James Martin Advanced Research Seminar, Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, May 25, 2011. ***Invited Speaker***
- “In Search of a Welfare Criterion for Public Health Nudges.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, San Diego, CA, October 23, 2010.
- “In Search of a Welfare Criterion for Public Health Nudges.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Ethics, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, July 3, 2010.
- “Cognitive Biases and Patients’ Welfare: Facing the Libertarian Paternalist’s Conundrum.” Paper presented at the Bioethics Speakers Series, Peter Ubel Symposium, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, November 23, 2009. ***Host, Speaker, and Organizer***
- “Le paternalisme libertarien et l’éthique des choix par défaut.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of La Société de Philosophie des Sciences, Paris, France, November 13, 2009.
- “Libertarian Paternalism and the Ethics of Default Setting.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Washington, DC, October 17, 2009.
- “Marx.” Paper during the course Political and Social Thought, Mark Murphy, the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, April 9 and 14, 2008. ***Invited Speaker***
- “La légitimité de la méritocratie en question.” Paper presented at the

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Graduate Ethics Seminar, Faculté de Théologie Protestante de Paris, Paris, France, April 15, 2005. ***Invited Speaker***

- “A qui revient la décision médicale? Réflexions sur la communication entre médecins et patients,” Lecture presented at the Graduate Ethics Seminar, Faculté de Théologie Protestante de Paris, Paris, France, March 10, 2003. ***Invited Speaker***

Teaching

2015-2016

Johns Hopkins University

- Global Food Ethics (Spring 2016): Master’s level course, Berman Institute and Bloomberg School of Public Health (co-taught with Jessica Fanzo)
- Global Food Ethics (Spring 2015): Upper-level undergraduate course, Philosophy Department

Teaching - Full Responsibility

2009-2012

Georgetown University

- Global Justice (Summer 2008 and Fall 2012)
- Individual Liberty (Spring and Fall 2011)
- The State and Individual Freedom (Summer and Fall 2010)
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Fall 2009, cross-listed with Psychology)
- Philosophy of Psychology (Summer 2009)
- Autonomy in Bioethics (Fall 2008 and Spring 2009)

Teaching Assistant

2005-2012

Georgetown University

- Introduction to Philosophy (Huebner, Spring 2012)
- Political and Social Thought (Murphy, Spring 2008)
- Political and Social Thought (Pinkard, Fall 2007)
- Introduction to Ethics (Carse, Spring 2007)
- Introduction to Ethics (Pinkard, Fall 2006)
- Introduction to Bioethics (Gómez-Lobo, Fall 2005)

Engelhard Teaching Fellow

Fall 2006

Georgetown University

- Students’ Health and Wellness Safety-Net Training

Tutor

2000-2002

Department of Philosophy, University of Paris-I-Panthéon-Sorbonne

Regular Guest Lecturer in Bioethics

2001-2005

Nursing Schools (France)

- Institut de Formation des Cadres de Santé, Croix-Rouge Française, Paris
- Institut de Formation des Cadres de Santé Ile-de-France, Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire Sainte-Anne, Paris
- Institut de Formation en Soins Infirmiers, Centre Hospitalier René Dubos, Pontoise
- Centre de Formation en Soins Infirmiers Louise Couvé, Aubervilliers

Full Time Teaching in Philosophy

2002-2005

High-Schools (Lycées), France

Secondary Education Teaching Certificate in Philosophy (CAPES)

2000

Ministry of Education, France

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Young Scholars Award 2011
Cosmos Club Foundation

The Edmund Pellegrino Fellowship 2010
Georgetown University Center for Clinical Bioethics

Last recipient of a one-month scholarly mentorship under the supervision of Dr. Pellegrino:

- Three meetings a week to discuss manuscript on the concept of nudge and its moral significance with Dr. Pellegrino
 - Attended Dr. Pellegrino's weekly clinical ethics lessons at the Medical School
-

Metaphysics Comprehensive Examination passed with Distinction Spring 2008
Georgetown University Department of Philosophy

School of Foreign Service Political and Social Thought Fellowship 2007-2008
Georgetown University

Graduate Fellowship 2005-2012
Georgetown University Department of Philosophy

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Journal Referee

- *American Journal of Bioethics Neuroscience*
 - *American Journal of Transplantation*
 - *Foresight*
 - *Journal of Philosophy and Technology*
 - *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*
 - *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*
 - *Public Health Ethics*
 - *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*
 - *Science and Technology Studies*
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Grant Reviewer

- Independent Social Research Foundation: Mid-career research fellowship review (May 2014)
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Editorial Work

- Peer referee for case studies prepared for *Public-Private Interactions for the Prevention of Nutrition-related Non-communicable Diseases: Lessons from Research, Policy and Practice*, edited by Renaud Boulanger. Casebook jointly funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Population and Public Health (IPPH) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), with contributions from the UK Health Forum (UKHF), (2016-2017)
- Co-founder and editor of philosophy graduate students' and secondary education teachers' blind peer-reviewed journal *Idées*, 12 issues published, Paris, France (February 1998-November 2003)

Professional Societies' Membership

- Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS)
 - American Philosophical Association (APA)
 - American Society for Bioethics and Medical Humanities (ASBH)
 - European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)
 - Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
 - World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF)
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Committee Service

January-June 2016

Johns Hopkins University

- Member of the Berman Institute of Bioethics Director Search Committee
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Group Activities Participant or Coordinator

2007-Present

- Member of the International Network of Theory and History (since May 2017)
 - Participant of the "History and Theory" Working Group organized by Suman Seth and Laura Stark. Theme: "Ontology and Materiality", Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Philadelphia, Spring 2017
 - Founder and coordinator of the Philosophy Reading Group. Theme: Allen Buchanan's *The Idea of Human Rights*, Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics (Fall 2014)
 - Co-founder and President of the graduate cognitive science club, "Mind the Gap," Georgetown University (2010-2011)
 - Founder and co-coordinator of the Graduate Philosophy Club, Georgetown University (2010-2011)
 - Founder and coordinator of "Discovering Documentaries ...Beyond Michael Moore" monthly documentary film series, Graduate Philosophy Club, Georgetown University (October 2007- June 2011)
 - Co-coordinator, Special Obligations Reading Group, Georgetown University (2009-2010)
 - Co-founder and co-coordinator of the Bioethics Colloquium Speakers Series, Department of Philosophy, Georgetown University (Spring 2008)
 - Participant, Joint Colloquium in Bioethics, topic-specific seminar co-sponsored by the NIH's Department of Bioethics, the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, and the Philosophy Departments of George Washington University and the University of Maryland: Duties to Rescue (Spring 2012); Deception (Fall 2010); Paternalism (Spring 2008); Emotions (Fall 2007), Empirical Moral Psychology (Spring 2007)
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Institutional Review Board (IRB) Activities

Member of the Georgetown University Hospital:

- Committee C, Social and Behavioral (July 2010-September 2011)
- Committee B, Biomedical Research (July 2008-June 2010)

LANGUAGES

**Native or full professional proficiency (English, French, Persian),
Reading proficiency (Italian, Latin, Spanish)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon Request