



University of Pittsburgh

Center for

Bioethics & Health Law

February
2022
News

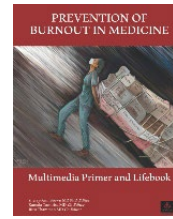
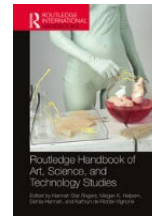
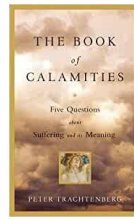
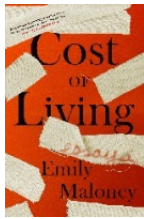
Send news to include in the next edition to bioethics@pitt.edu.

ART OF ALL TYPES: On February 28, the day after her book was reviewed in the *New York Times* Sunday Book Review, the Center is presenting Emily Maloney reading from *Cost of Living* at City of Asylum. As part of the Center's ongoing collaboration with City of Asylum, Emily will be in conversation with Peter Trachtenberg (Center health humanities faculty member, Associate Professor of English, and author of *The Book of Calamities: Five Questions about Suffering and its Meaning*). This hybrid event begins at 7:00 pm, and is offered as programming related to the Center's virtual art exhibition: [Experience, Integration, Expression: The Work of Norman Klenicki](#). The first exhibit-related program, [The Afterlives of Trauma: Art and Memory](#), attracted an audience in the hundreds last month.

Register for the [online mode](#) of the Maloney-Trachtenberg event, or obtain [free tickets to attend in-person](#) at City of Asylum, where proof of vaccination and face covering are required. The next exhibit-related program will be March 23 at 6:00 pm, when Lenore Thomas, Associate Professor and Chair of Studio Arts, will present [It Bears an Impression of You: A conversation about art, home, grief, empathy, and being human](#).

CONFERENCES AND COLLOQUIA: The February 25 symposium organized by **Mary Crossley** and **Greer Donley** to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Pitt's Health Law Program—*Abortion Rights at a Crossroads*—was a resounding success with over a hundred attending. On March 18 – 19, [Bridget Keown](#) is hosting the also exceptionally timely conference *Rethinking War*. It will seek to re-evaluate and re-define the study of war, conflict, and military history, to include its impact on mental health, its production of intergenerational trauma, and effect on medicine, by challenging traditional binaries of war/peace, veteran/civilian, home-front/battlefield, and digital/physical sites of war. Then, on March 21 at 5:00 pm, Paul Scharre, Vice President and Director of Studies at the Center for a New American Security, will present [Autonomous Weapons and the Future of War](#).

Daniel Wilkenfeld presented the Center's first colloquium of the year: [The Personal Criterion of Disability](#) on February 18. **Annette Dabbs** will present the April 8 colloquium on [Equity Design Thinking: An Approach for Promoting Design-Justice](#) that seeks to involve marginalized communities as co-creators of health technologies to overcome the power differentials that lead to exclusion, oppression, and health disparities among vulnerable groups. With support from the National Institute of Nursing Research, Annette, Daniel, and Margaret Rosenzweig worked with eight other colleagues to develop [The Equity Design Thinking Educational Series](#), including ten web-based educational modules that examine how technology can advance or undermine the health of a community, as well as different methods to promote equity design thinking.



CENTER FACULTY:

Robert Arnold, with **Margaret Rosenzweig**, **Yael Shenker**, and **Doug White**:

- Sigler, LE, Althouse AD, Thomas TH, **Arnold RM**, **White D**, Smith TJ, Chu E, **Rosenzweig M**, Smith KJ, **Schenker Y**. Effects of an Oncology Nurse-Led, Primary Palliative Care Intervention (CONNECT) on Illness Expectations Among Patients With Advanced Cancer. *JCO Oncology Practice*. 2021 doi: 10.1200/OP.21.00573
- Topoll AB, **Arnold RM**, Stowers KH, Teaching communication skills in real time. *Fast facts and concepts*. 2021

The Associate Press picked up [comments](#) offered by **Michael Deem** regarding religious exemptions to COVID-19 vaccination and the fact that “there is no distinctively Catholic objection to receiving any of the COVID-19 vaccines available.”

Greer Donley has published multiple op-ed pieces:

- [Existing Federal Laws Could Protect Abortion Rights Even if Roe Is Overturned](#), *Time* (January 24, 2022) (with David Cohen and Rachel Rebouche).
- [Joe Biden Can't Save Roe v. Wade Alone. But He Can Do This](#), *New York Times* (December 30, 2021) (with David Cohen and Rachel Rebouche).
- [Progress in the Bid to Make Abortion Pills More Widely Available](#), *Boston Globe* (December 22, 2021) (with David Cohen and Rachel Rebouche).
- [The FDA's Telehealth Safety Net for Abortion only Stretches so Far](#), *The Hill* (December 18, 2021) (with David Cohen and Rachel Rebouche).
- [The Case that Could Save the Right to Abortion in Pennsylvania even if Roe Falls](#), *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (December 9, 2021).

The second edition of *Against Their Will: The Secret History of Medical Experimentation on Children in Cold War America* by Consortium Ethics Program faculty member **Greg Dober**, with co-authors Allen M. Hornblum and Judith L. Newman, will be published later this spring.

Alex London presented:

- “Justice and the Egalitarian Research Imperative” to the Oxford University Ethox Center, January 23, 2022.
- “The Egalitarian Research Imperative and its Implications for Research Ethics and Oversight” to the Harvard Program on Regulation, Therapeutics and Law (PORTAL), January 19, 2022.
- “For the Common Good: Rethinking the Role of IRBs in Research Ethics” to the AEREO group at the University of Pennsylvania, December 13, 2021.

Lisa Parker presented “Ethics Centers’ Conflict of Interest and the Inadequacy of Disclosure as a Remedy” at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics annual meeting, February 21. She has been interviewed about topics ranging from the [plan of TV celebrity, “Dr. Oz” to run for Pennsylvania senate](#) to [precision medicine and treatment for anhedonia](#).

Lisa served on the University's committee to draft the Institutional Conflict of Interest Policy which was recently accepted by Chancellor Gallagher, who will forward it through the adoption process. She also serves on the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) Data Governance Subcommittee and Values Subcommittee, and an ad hoc committee on data licensing and sample sharing, as well as the committee charged with drafting the University policy on COVID-19 vaccination. She was recently nominated to run for a seat on the University Senate, and at the April 1 Faculty Honors Convocation will be officially installed in the Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote Endowed Chair in Bioethics, to which she was appointed in 2019.

Visiting health humanities scholar and Co-curator of *Art's Work in the Age of Biotechnology*, **Hannah Rogers** is the lead editor of the [Routledge Handbook of Art, Science, and Technology Studies](#) (ASTS). The volume defines the modes, practices, crucial literature, and research interests of the emerging ASTS field. It explores the questions, methodologies, ethics, and theoretical implications of scholarship and practice that arise at the intersection of art and science and technology studies. With more than sixty contributing artists, scientists, STS scholars, and curators, the 42-chapter volume is organized into ten sections, each beginning with a short introduction to an aspect of ASTS to situate and summarize the concepts analyzed in each section. The book concludes with a gallery, an all-color image section presenting art-science pieces.

Gaetan Sgro published [Earthed Lightning: A Prescription for Poetry in Practice and Teaching](#), in *Academic Medicine*.

Ritu Thamman, who has commented extensively on “the exhaustion epidemic,” burnout in healthcare exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, published [Prevention of Burnout in Medicine](#) with Sherry-Ann Brown and Kamala Tamirisa.

At the Conference on Religion and Medicine, [Space for the Sacred in Care of the Sick](#), **Jonathan Weinkle** will discuss the use of the Passover seder as a vehicle for health professionals to examine their practices and relationships with their patients through the metaphor of illness and Exodus.

Mark Wicclair presented *Conscientious Objection in Critical Care Medicine* at the PICU Ethics Conference. He will also be the course director for the 4th year medical school elective *Ethical Issues in Clinical Practice*, which has attracted a record number of enrollees for this summer.

MA PROGRAM STUDENTS AND ALUMNI:

Michael Certo was accepted into the UPMC Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship. He also successfully defended his proposal for his MA thesis, which will elucidate the concept of suffering in the pediatric context and explore the relationship between cognitive development and different domains of suffering.

The Master of Arts Program has already admitted a record number of highly qualified applicants during its first round of admissions this spring. Inquiries regarding the development of a graduate Certificate in Bioethics remain steady, and **Michael Deem** and **Lisa Parker** are proposing its creation for Fall 2022.