

Marie E. Nicolini, MD PhD

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CURRENT POSITION

09/2024 – Present

Joint Faculty Fellow-in-Residence

Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University
Center for Bioethics, Harvard Medical School
Cambridge/Boston, MA, USA

EDUCATION

2018 – 2021

PhD, Bioethics

KU Leuven University, Belgium

2012 – 2014

MSc, Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics

Radboud Nijmegen University (Netherlands), University of
Padova (Italy), KU Leuven University (Belgium)

2008 – 2012

MD, Doctor of Medicine

KU Leuven University, Belgium

2005 – 2008

BA, Bachelor of Medicine

KU Leuven University, Belgium

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

2018-2020

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Clinical Center Department of Bioethics
National Institutes of Health, USA

2012-2017

Psychiatry Residency, University Hospitals Leuven
KU Leuven University, Belgium

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Nicolini, M.E.*, Jardas, E., Zarate, C.A., Gastmans, C., Kim, S.Y.H. Irremediability in Psychiatric Euthanasia: Examining the Objective Standard. *Psychological Medicine*. 2022;53(12), 5729-5747.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291722002951>

Nicolini, M.E.*, Gastmans, C., Kim, S.Y.H. Psychiatric euthanasia, suicide and the role of gender. *British Journal of Psychiatry*. 2022; 220(1), 10-13. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.2021.95>

Nicolini, M.E.* Physician Aid in Dying for Dementia. The Problem with the Early versus Late Disease Stage Distinction. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. 2021;12:703709. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2021.703709>

De Vocht, J., Stam, D., **Nicolini, M.E.**, et al. Psychopathology in premanifest C9orf72 repeat expansion carriers. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*. 2022; 93:565-567. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1136/jnnp-2021-327774>

Kim, S.Y.H., Mangino, D., **Nicolini, M.E.** Is this person with dementia (currently) competent to request euthanasia? A complicated and under-explored question. *Journal of Medical Ethics*. 2021;47:e41. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2020-106091>

Grady, C., Shah, S., Miller, F., Danis, M., **Nicolini, M.E.**, Ochoa, J., Taylor, H., Wendler, D., Rid, A. So much at stake: ethical trade-offs in accelerating SARS-Cov-2 vaccine development. *Vaccine*. 2020; 38(41):6381-6387. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2020.08.017>

Nicolini, M. E.*, Kim, S.Y.H., Churchill, M. E., Gastmans, C. Should euthanasia and assisted suicide for psychiatric disorders be permitted? A systematic review of reasons *Psychological Medicine* 2020; 50(8): 1241-1256. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291720001543>

Mangino, D.R., **Nicolini, M.E.**, De Vries, R.G., Kim, S.Y.H. Euthanasia and assisted suicide of persons with dementia in the Netherlands. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* 2020; 28(4): 466-477. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2019.08.015>

Nicolini, M.E.*, Peteet, J.R., Donovan, G.K., Kim, S.Y.H. Euthanasia and assisted suicide of persons with psychiatric disorders: the challenge of personality disorders. *Psychological Medicine* 2020; 50(4): 575-582. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291719000333>

Nicolini, M.E.*, Vandenberghe, J., Gastmans, C. Substance use disorder and compulsory commitment to care: A care-ethical decision-making framework. *Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences*. 2018; 32(3):1237-1246. <https://doi.org/10.1111/scs.12548>

**Corresponding author*

BOOK CHAPTERS

Nicolini, M.E., Grady, C. Special Considerations for Clinical Research. In *Medical Professionalism: Theory, Education, and Practice*. Oxford University Press (Forthcoming, Spring 2024)

Nicolini, M.E. Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in Psychiatry: An Overview of the Field

in *Ethics in Psychiatry: European Contributions*. Springer, 2nd ed. (Forthcoming, 2024)

EDITORIALS & COMMENTARIES

Nicolini, M.E. From Mental Health Act Admission to Medical Assistance in Dying. Unraveling the Conceptual Questions. *International Network for the History of Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2022. [Controversies](#)

Rid, A., Shah, S., Miller, F., Danis M., **Nicolini, M.E.**, Ochoa, J., Taylor, H., Wendler, D., Grady, C. Ethical trade-offs in vaccine development and distribution: Response to Gurwitz. *Vaccine* 2021; 39(2): 1028-1029 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.01.020>

Nicolini, M.E., Gastmans, C., Kim, S.Y.H. Parity Arguments for ‘Physician Aid-in-Dying’ (PAD) for Psychiatric Disorders: Their Structure and Limits. *The American Journal of Bioethics* 2019; 19(10): 3-7 <https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2019.1659606>

Nicolini, M.E., Wendler, D. Inherent conflict of interest in clinical research: A call for effective guidance. *The American Journal of Bioethics* 2020; 20(10):94-96. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2020.1806376>

Kim, S. Y.H., **Nicolini, M.E.**, Mangino, D. R., De Vries, R.G. What we can learn from published reports of euthanasia in persons with dementia: A reply to Marijnissen et al. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. 2020; 28(11):1127-1128. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2020.07.005>

Nicolini, M.E., Kim, S. Y.H. Euthanasia for personality disorders [*Dutch: Euthanasie bij persoonlijkheidsstoornissen*]. *Neuron*. 2019 <https://www.neuron.be/nl/nieuws/medisch-nieuws/euthanasie-bij-persoonlijkheidsstoornissen.html>

Nicolini, M.E. Ethical tools for compulsory commitment in persons with substance use disorders. Choosing dialogue [*Dutch: Ethische handvaten voor procedure gedwongen opname bij verslaving. Kiezen voor dialoog.*] *Zorgwijzer (Zorgnet Icuuro)*. 2018. <https://www.zorgneticuro.be/sites/default/files/2018%20Zorgwijzer%2073.pdf>

BOOK REVIEW

Nicolini, M.E. (2018) Who we are [*Dutch: Wie wij zijn*]. F. Koerselman. Prometheus Amsterdam. ISBN 978-90-351-3699-1, 255pp. *Tijdschrift voor Psychoanalyse* 2016; 24(3): 216-218. https://www.tijdschriftvoorpsychoanalyse.nl/inhoud/tijdschrift_artikel/PA-24-3-11/Wie-wij-zijn

INVITED PUBLIC WRITING

Nicolini, M.E. Should assisted death be available for intractable mental illness?
[Psyche \(Aeon\)](#), March 2023

Nicolini, M.E. Why do more women die by psychiatric euthanasia?
[Cambridge Core Blog](#), July 2023

Nicolini, M.E. Medical Assistance in Dying: Culture Wars about Compassion. George Washington University Series on Culture Wars. Published in edited volume [Culture Wars in Europe](#), 2023

Nicolini, M.E. [Invited Brief](#) to the Canadian Parliamentary Committee's Statutory Review of the Provisions of the Criminal Code relating to Medical Assistance in Dying and their Application. 2022.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

11/2021 – 08/2024	Research Fellow, Research Foundation Flanders Grant ref. 12ZO922N (11/2021- 11/2024), Belgium
11/2021 – 06/2022	Visiting Scholar , Kennedy Institute of Ethics Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA
09/2018 – 09/2021	Postdoctoral Fellow , Department of Bioethics National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA
05/2018 – 09/2021	Doctoral Researcher , Center for Biomedical Ethics and Law KU Leuven, Belgium
09/2017 – 09/2018	Visiting Scholar , Kennedy Institute of Ethics & Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics Georgetown University, USA
08/2015 – 07/2016	Neuroscience Researcher , KU Leuven Genetic Frontotemporal Dementia initiative (GENFI) In collaboration with UCL, UK.

PREVIOUS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

08/2012 – 08/2017	Psychiatry Residency University Hospital Leuven, Belgium
09/2018 – 09/2020	Clinical Ethics Consultation Service As part of Bioethics fellowship at NIH, Bethesda, USA

06/2011 – 08/2012

Child Neuropsychiatry Internship

Agostino Gemelli University Polyclinic Rome, Italy

RESEARCH GRANTS & AWARDS

11/2021-11/2024

Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship

Individual postdoctoral fellowship awarded for research project entitled
Title: Psychiatric Euthanasia and Suicide Prevention (Ref.: 12ZO922N)
Research Foundation Flanders, Brussels, Belgium

Jan 2022

Article of the Month Award, Royal College of Psychiatrists

For: “Psychiatric euthanasia, suicide and the role of gender” published in
the British Journal of Psychiatry, Nicolini et al. 2022

Spring 2022

Institute for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine

Visiting scholarship (one month), University Bochum, Germany

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

10/2024

ECFMG Certificate

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, USA

07/2024

USMLE Step 2

United States Medical License Examination, USA

01/2020

Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research Certificate

National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics

08/2018

USMLE Step 1

United States Medical License Examination, USA

12/2017

Psychiatry Board Certification

National Board of Examiners, Belgium

06/2017

Music Conservatory Degree, Harpsichord

Leuven Conservatorium (SLAC), Leuven, Belgium

2015-2017

Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, Postgraduate Diploma Course

Completed 2 of 4-year program, KU Leuven, Belgium

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES

Ad-hoc Reviewer for

Nature Human Behavior; Lancet Psychiatry; Journal of Med Ethics; Journal of the American Philosophical Association; Bioethics; Psychological Medicine; Annals of Palliative Medicine; American Journal of Bioethics Empirical; Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics; Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics; BMC Medical Ethics; Health Care Analysis; Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry; Frontiers in Psychiatry; Ethics and Human Research; Science Progress; Trials; Ethics and Behavior; BMJ Open; Ethics, Medicine and Public Health; International Journal of Public Health; Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy

Member of

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH)
Association for the Advancement of Philosophy & Psychiatry (AAPP)

Co-founder & -organizer of DC Philosophy of Psychiatry Reading Group (2020 - 2021)

TEACHING & MENTORING

Teaching Competencies

Fall 2021 **NIH Scientists Teaching Science Pedagogy Course (9-weeks)**
National Institutes of Health, Office of Intramural Training and Education

Teaching Experience

04/2022 *Personal Identity* (Guest Lecture)
Minds and Morality PHIL 374
George Mason University
Course Instructor: Andrew Peterson, PhD

03/2022 *Memory and Personal Identity* (Guest Lecture)
Neuroethics BIO-275/PHIL-275
American University (Washington DC, USA)
Course Instructors: Kelso Cratsley, PhD; Wade Kothmann, PhD

11/2021 *Physician aid-in-dying* (Guest Lecture)
Introduction to Bioethics PHIL-105
Georgetown University (Washington DC, USA)
Course Instructor: Laura Bishop, PhD, Georgetown University

- 08/2020 *Physician aid-in-dying in persons with dementia* (Guest Lecture)
Penn Memory Center Didactics
University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA)
Organized by: Andrew Peterson, PhD, George Mason University
- 05/2020 *Physician aid-in-dying: ethical and policy challenges* (Guest Lecture)
NIH Pain and Palliative Care Team
National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center (Bethesda, USA)
Organized by: M. Jennifer Cheng, MD, Program director Palliative Care
- 08/2019 *Introduction to Bioethics* (Guest Lecture)
NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research.
National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, USA)
Organized by: NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education
- 08/2019 *Euthanasia and assisted suicide for psychiatric disorders* (Guest Lecture)
Bioethics Seminar PHIL-241
American University (Washington DC, USA)
Course Instructor: Kelso Cratsley, PhD, American University
- 06/2018 *Psychiatric Ethics* (Guest Lecture)
Interdisciplinary Neuroethics Diploma Course
Organized by: UNESCO Chair of Bioethics and Human Rights &
Universidad Anáhuac, Mexico (Mexico City, Mexico)
- 01/2018 *Decision-making capacity and informed consent* (Discussion Group)
Course: Health Care Ethics (Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics)
School of Medicine; Georgetown University (Washington DC, USA)
Course Instructor: David Miller, PhD, Georgetown University

Evaluation Committees

06/2020 Member of Master Thesis Evaluation Committee – KU Leuven Master in Bioethics

06/2021 Member of Master Thesis Evaluation Committee – KU Leuven Master in Bioethics

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English	Fluent
French	Native
Dutch	Native
Italian	Native
Hindi	Intermediate

Spanish

Intermediate

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Nicolini, M.E. Intracranial research in psychiatry: What are today's ethical constraints? (2024)

Paper presentation

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities

St Louis, Missouri, USA

Oquendo M., Brendel R., Chaimowitz G., Candilis P., **Nicolini M.E.**, (2024)

Panel: Medical assistance in dying and the role of the psychiatrist

American Psychiatric Association

NY, USA

Nicolini, M.E. (2023)

Philosophy of Psychiatry Annual Conference

UNC-Chapel Hill

NC, USA

Nicolini, M.E. (2022)

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH 2022)

The public health challenge of suicide prevention and MAID for mental disorders:

Implications for the doctrine of informed consent

Portland, Oregon, USA

Nicolini, M.E. (2022) (Delegate)

World Congress of Adult Capacity (WCAC 2022)

Suicide prevention and psychiatric euthanasia: The conceptual challenge

Edinburgh, UK

Nicolini, M.E. Gaid S., Kelleher E. (2022)

American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting (APA 2022)

Physician aid-in-dying and expanding laws (Panel presentation)

New Orleans, USA

Nicolini, M.E., Peterson, A. (2022)

World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy 2022)

Should a person living with advanced-stage dementia be allowed to request medical aid

in dying while they are still competent, but have it triggered when cognitive function

worsen? (Virtual)

Buchman, D., Godkin, D., **Nicolini, M.E.** (2021)

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH 2021 Annual Conference)

Voluntary Active Euthanasia in Canada: Implications for Bioethicists and Mental Health Professionals in the US. Affinity Group Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (Panel)
Baltimore, USA (Virtual)

Gaind, S., Brendel, R., **Nicolini, M.E.** (2021)
World Congress of Psychiatry (WPA 2021)
Irremediability in Mental Illnesses. Panel presentation on Assisted Death, Mental Illness, and the Role of Psychiatry.
Cartagena, Colombia (Virtual)

Nicolini, M.E. (2021)
Fogarty NIH Bioethics Trainees Conference
Physician Aid in Dying in Dementia. The Problem with the Early versus Late Disease Distinction. Paper Presentation.
Bethesda, USA (virtual)

Gaind, S., Brendel, R., **Nicolini, M.E.**, Peteet, J. (2021)
American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting (APA 2021 Annual Meeting)
Assisted Dying and Challenges with Mental Illnesses: Ethics, Evidence and Impact. Panel presentation.
(Virtual)

Nicolini, M.E., Kim, S.Y.H., Churchill, M.E., Gastmans, C. (2020)
World Congress of Bioethics (WCB 2020)
Should Psychiatric Euthanasia Be Permitted? A Systematic Review of Reasons".
Philadelphia, USA (Virtual)

Nicolini, M.E., Gastmans, C., Kim S.Y.H. (2020)
World Congress of Bioethics - Feminist approaches to Bioethics (WCB – FAB 2020)
Why Do More Women Die by Psychiatric Euthanasia?
Philadelphia, USA (Virtual)

Brendel, R., Gaind, S., **Nicolini, M.E.** (2020)
American Psychiatric Association (APA 2020 Annual Meeting)
Evolving Assisted Dying Policies and Challenges with Mental Illnesses: What If There Is No Goldilocks Solution? Panel Presentation.
Philadelphia, USA (Virtual)

Brendel, R., Gaind, S., **Nicolini, M.E.**, Peteet, J. (2019)
American Psychiatric Association (APA 2019 Annual Meeting)
Physician Aid in Dying: A Closer Look at the Psychiatrist's Role. Panel Presentation.
San Francisco, USA

Nicolini, M.E. (2018)
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (Annual Meeting)
Euthanasia and assisted suicide for personality disorders. Paper presentation.

Anaheim, CA, USA

INVITED SPEAKING

Nicolini, M.E. (2025)

Title: TBD
UPenn Grand Rounds
Philadelphia, PA

Nicolini, M.E. (2024)

MedStar Washington Hospital Center
Grand Rounds in Ethics & Psychiatry
Washington DC, USA

Nicolini, M.E. (2023)

Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry
The ethics of assisted death in psychiatry
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, TX, USA

Nicolini, M.E. (2022)

Grand Rounds, Humber River Hospitals
Title: MAiD for mental disorders: Two unresolved problems for policy and practice
Humber River Hospitals
Toronto, Canada

Nicolini, M.E. (2022)

Mary and Philip Seeman Health Law, Policy & Ethics Seminar Series
Title: Suicide prevention & MAiD for mental disorders: the Conceptual challenge
University of Toronto, Faculty of Law
Toronto, Canada

Nicolini, M.E. (2022)

Halle University, Germany
Title talk: Systematic review in bioethics: Friend or foe?
Conference: Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis in Global Health
Medizinische Epidemiologie, Biometrie und Informatik (IMEBI MLU) & German
Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Nicolini, M.E. (2022)

Maudsley NHS Trust London
(Panel Expert) Maudsley Journal club - Discussion of Nicolini et al. 2020a [paper](#)
King's College London (London, UK)

Chair: Gareth Owen, MD

Nicolini M.E. (2020)

Jewish Social Service Agency

Title talk: Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide: Current challenges.
Rockville, Maryland, USA

Nicolini, M.E. (2019)

Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Conversations in Ethics.

Title talk: Physician-assisted suicide: an international perspective.
Fairfax, Virginia, USA.

POSTERS

Nicolini, M.E., Peteet, J., Donovan, K., Kim, S.Y.H. (2018)

National Institutes of Health Research Festival

Euthanasia and assisted suicide for personality disorders.
Bethesda, MD, USA.

Nicolini, M.E, Jastorff, J., Sleurs, C, Sunaert, S., Vandenbulcke, M., Van den Stock, J. (2016)

Organization for Human Brain Mapping

Neural and behavioral effects of emotion and object category on non-verbal memory.
Geneva, Switzerland.

POLICY ROLES

Ethics advisor to DARPA through RAND (July 2023 - July 2025)

Research program Neural Evidence Aggregation Tool (NEAT)

Invited Expert Witness to the Canadian Parliament (Oct 2022)

Meeting No. 18 AMAD

Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying

House of Commons/Chambre des Communes, Canada

Hearing:

<https://parl.vu.parl.gc.ca/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2?fk=11805670>

Invited Observer – Uniform Law Commission Committee (Nov 2022 – July 2023)

National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws

[Health-Care Decisions Act](#), Drafting Committee

MEDIA & PODCAST INTERVIEWS

Podcast interviews

The [Water Cooler Talk](#) podcast, hosted by Adam William – July 2023

[Bio\(un\)ethical](#) – hosted by Leah Pearson & Sophie Gibert – July 2023

Press interviews for

*Reuters; Scientific American; CTV News, W5 Investigative Reports; The Globe and Mail; CBC
The Fifth Estate; Investigative Journalism Bureau (University of Toronto)*
