

Marie Elisabeth Nicolini MD MSc

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CURRENT POSITION

09/2020 – Present **Visiting Scholar, Department of Bioethics**
National Institutes of Health Graduate Partnership Program
Clinical Centre, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 05/2018 – 05/2021 **PhD Candidate, Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law**
KU Leuven Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Leuven, Belgium
Expected graduation date May 2021
PhD Advisors: Chris Gastmans (KU Leuven), Scott Y.H. Kim (National Institutes of Health)
- 09/2018 – 09/2020 **Postdoctoral Fellow, National Institutes of Health Department of Bioethics**
Clinical Centre, Bethesda, Maryland, USA
As an NIH Bioethics Postdoctoral Fellow, I conducted academic research in bioethics and participated in the Ethics Consultation service activities, Ethics Committee meetings, Institutional Review Board deliberations, seminars & journal clubs about bioethical issues related to clinical research & practice, genetics & emerging technologies, public health and health policy.
www.bioethics.nih.gov
- 08/2012 – 07/2017 **Residency, Psychiatry**
KU Leuven, Faculty of Medicine, Leuven, Belgium
- 01/2012 – 06/2014 **Erasmus Mundus Master in Bioethics**
KU Leuven (Belgium), RU Nijmegen (the Netherlands) & University of Padova (Italy)
- 09/2008 – 06/2012 **Doctor of Medicine**
KU Leuven, Faculty of Medicine, Leuven, Belgium
- 09/2005 – 06/2008 **Bachelor of Medicine**
KU Leuven, Faculty of Medicine, Leuven, Belgium

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 09/2017 – 09/2018 **Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Visiting Scholar**
Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA
- 09/2017 – 03/2018 **Pellegrino Centre for Clinical Bioethics, Visiting Scholar**
Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA

Curriculum Vitae

- 08/2016 – 07/2017 **Community Centre for Mental Health Care**
Psychiatry Residency, CGG-Leuven, Belgium
- 08/2015 – 07/2016 **Genetic Frontotemporal Dementia Initiative, Research investigator**
KU Leuven, Belgium
Multinational consortium in collaboration with University College London (London, UK)
fMRI study on emotional memory in C9orf72 mutation carriers in presymptomatic frontotemporal dementia and/or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. <http://genfi.org.uk/index.html>
- 08/2014 – 01/2015 **Department of Old Age Psychiatry & Psychiatric Liaison Unit**
Psychiatry Residency, University Hospitals Leuven
- 08/2013 – 07/2014 **Psychosis Care: Inpatient and Outpatient Early Intervention Program**
Psychiatry Residency, University Hospitals Leuven
- 01/2013 – 07/2013 **Psychiatric Emergency Department**
Psychiatry Residency, University Hospitals Leuven
- 08/2012 – 01/2013 **Acute Psychiatric Care Unit & Clinic for Mood and Anxiety Disorders**
Psychiatry Residency, University Hospitals Leuven
- 09/2011 – 06/2012 **Department of Paediatrics & Child Neuropsychiatry**
Internships at Agostino Gemelli University Polyclinic Rome (Italy) & University Hospitals Leuven

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Spring 2021 **Institute for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, Visiting Scholar**
Ruhr University Bochum, Germany; one- month funded research stay
- 09/2018 – 09/2020 **Department of Bioethics, Postdoctoral Fellowship**
National Institutes of Health, 2-year funded position (see above)

CERTIFICATES & LICENSES

- 01/2020 **Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research Certificate**
National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics; Seven 3h-sessions
- 08/2018 **United States Medical License Examination**
ECFMG Certificate Step 1, Maryland, USA
- 12/2017 **Psychiatry Board Certification**
National Board of Examiners, Belgium
- 09/2014–06/2017 **Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, Postgraduate diploma course**
Including Mentalization-Based therapy; completed 2 of 4-year program, KU Leuven (Belgium)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Kim S.Y.H., Mangino D., **Nicolini M.E.** (2020) Is this person with dementia (currently) competent to request euthanasia? A complicated and under-explored question. *Journal of Medical Ethics* (Epub 2020 Aug 13) <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. (2020) So much at stake: ethical trade-offs in accelerating SARS-Cov-2 vaccine development. *Vaccine* 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. (2020) Should euthanasia and assisted suicide for psychiatric disorders be permitted? A systematic review of reasons *Psychological Medicine* 50(8): 1241-1256 <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291720001543>

Mangino D.R., **Nicolini M. E.**, De Vries R.G., Kim S.Y.H. (2020) Euthanasia and assisted suicide of persons with dementia in the Netherlands *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* 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. (2020) Euthanasia and assisted suicide of persons with psychiatric disorders: the challenge of personality disorders. *Psychological Medicine* 50(4): 575-582 <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291719000333>

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

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

Commentaries, correspondence & book reviews

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

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

Nicolini, M.E., Kim S. Y.H. Euthanasie bij persoonlijkheidsstoornissen (2019) *Neuron* <https://www.neuron.be/nl/nieuws/medisch-nieuws/euthanasie-bij-persoonlijkheidsstoornissen.html>
[Dutch summary of the paper Euthanasia and assisted suicide of persons with psychiatric disorders: the challenge of personality disorders]

Nicolini, M.E. Ethische handvaten voor procedure gedwongen opname bij verslaving. Kiezen voor dialoog. *Zorgwijzer* (Zorgnet Icuuro) [Dutch summary of the paper Substance use disorder and compulsory commitment to care: A care-ethical decision-making framework]
<https://www.zorgneticuro.be/sites/default/files/2018%20Zorgwijzer%2073.pdf>

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

WORK IN PROGRESS

Nicolini M. E., Gastmans C., Kim S.Y.H. Psychiatric euthanasia, suicide and the role of gender (*Submitted, under review*)

Nicolini M.E., Jardas E., Gastmans C., Kim S.Y.H. Irremediability and Treatment-resistant Depression (*in preparation*)

Nicolini M.E. End-Of-Life Care and Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) in People Living with Dementia: Intersections of Law and Psychiatry (*Solicited, Frontiers of Psychiatry, in preparation*)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

World Congress of Bioethics. Paper presentation: Nicolini M., Kim S.Y.H., Churchill M.E., Gastmans C. Should Psychiatric Euthanasia Be Permitted? A Systematic Review of Reasons" Philadelphia, USA – virtual meeting; June 19-21, 2020.

Feminist approaches to Bioethics, World Congress. Paper presentation: Nicolini M.E., Gastmans C., Kim S.Y.H. Paper presentation: "Why Do More Women Die by Psychiatric Euthanasia?" Philadelphia, USA – virtual meeting; June 18, 2020.

American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting: Panel Presentation "Evolving Assisted Dying Policies and Challenges with Mental Illnesses: What If There Is No Goldilocks Solution?" (Panellists: Brendel R., Gaiend S., Nicolini M.). Philadelphia, USA – virtual meeting; April 24-29, 2020.

Jewish Social Service Agency: "Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide: Overview of practices around the world and current challenges". Rockville, Maryland, USA; Jan 17, 2020.
https://www.jssa.org/events/?tribe_paged=1&tribe_event_display=list&tribe-bar-date=2020-01-16

Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Conversations in Ethics: "Physician-assisted suicide: an international perspective". Fairfax, Virginia, USA; Aug 29, 2019.

American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting: Panel Presentation "Physician Aid in Dying: A Closer Look at the Psychiatrist's Role" (Panellists: Brendel R., Gaiend S., Nicolini M.E., Peteet J.) San Francisco; May 18-22, 2019.

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting: "Euthanasia and assisted suicide for personality disorders". Anaheim, CA, USA; Oct 18-21, 2018.

Organization for Human Brain Mapping (poster presentation): "Neural and behavioural effects of emotion and object category on non-verbal memory" Nicolini M., Jastorff J., Sleurs C., Sunaert S., Vandenbulcke M., Van den Stock J. (KU Leuven, Belgium). Geneva, Switzerland; June 26-30, 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

KU Leuven Master of Bioethics: Ethical issues in end-of-life care
Leuven, Belgium; Session scheduled Jan 2021, online.

Penn Memory Centre Didactics: "Aid in dying in persons with dementia and related emerging ethical questions" UPenn, Pennsylvania, USA - virtual seminar; Aug 24, 2020.

NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research: Introduction to bioethics
Bethesda Maryland, USA; August 2019.

American University Bioethics Seminar: Euthanasia and assisted suicide for psychiatric disorders, Washington DC, USA; March 5, 2019.

Pellegrino Centre for Clinical Bioethics: Teaching clinical ethics to medical students,
Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA; Period Oct 2017-Jan 2018.

REVIEWER FOR

Psychological Medicine, American Journal of Bioethics Empirical, Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics, Trials

SKILLS & INTERESTS

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| Reading group | Co-founder DC Reading Group in Philosophy of Psychiatry (monthly meeting since Jan 2020) |
| Language Skills | English (Fluent);
French, Dutch, Italian (Mother tongue level)
Spanish, Modern Greek, Hindi (Elementary) |
| Music Skills | Conservatory degree in Harpsichord (Leuven, Belgium) |