

# RYAN KULESA

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Middlebush Hall  
Columbia, MO 65201

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Medical Ethics, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Ethics, Philosophy of Science

## EDUCATION

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|------------|--|-------------------------|
| <b>PhD</b> | <b>Philosophy</b> , University of Missouri, Columbia<br>Dissertation: The Moral Significance of what would have been:<br>Why Potential is Relevant to Moral Status<br>Committee: Peter Vallentyne; Kenneth Boyce; Philip Robbins | Expected:<br>May 2024   |
|            | <b>Visiting Student</b> , Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford<br>Advisor: Alberto Giubilini   | Oct. 2023-<br>Mar. 2024 |
| <b>MA</b>  | <b>Philosophy</b> , University of Missouri, Columbia<br>Thesis: Doing, Allowing, and the Problem of Evil<br>Advisors: Peter Vallentyne; Kenneth Boyce; Robert Johnson  | May 2022                |
| <b>MA</b>  | <b>Philosophy</b> , State University of New York at Buffalo<br>Thesis: A Disanalogy Between Time and Modality<br>Advisor: Maureen Donnelly   | Dec. 2019               |
| <b>BA</b>  | <b>Theological Studies</b> , University of Valley Forge<br>Summa Cum Laude; Honors Graduate  | Dec. 2018               |

## Select Graduate Courses Taken

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|-----|---|-------------------|
|     | <b>SUNY Buffalo</b>                                 | <b>Instructor</b> |
| (1) | Advanced Bioethics                                  | David Hershenov   |
| (2) | Kant's Ethics                                       | James Lawler      |
| (3) | Metaphysics (Time, Tense, and Temporal Perspective) | Maureen Donnelly  |
| (4) | Metaphysics (Powers)                                | Neil Williams     |
|     | <b>University of Missouri</b>                       |                   |
| (1) | Ethical Theory                                      | Peter Vallentyne  |

(2)	Philosophy of Biology (x2)	André Ariew
(3)	Philosophy of Science	André Ariew
(4)	Decision Theory (x2)	Paul Weirich
(5)	Advanced Logic	Paul Weirich
(6)	Philosophy of Mind	Andrew Melnyk
(7)	Metaphysics (Grounding)	Kenneth Boyce
(8)	Kant's Ethics	Robert Johnson

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#### ACADEMIC POSITIONS (\*INDICATES COURSE TAUGHT ONLINE)

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**University of Missouri, Columbia, MO** August 2022 to Present

**Graduate Instructor**

- Medical Ethics
- Introduction to Philosophy

**University of Missouri, Columbia, MO** August 2020 to May 2022

**Teaching Assistant**

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Ethics
- Medical Ethics
- Environmental Ethics

**Columbia College, Columbia, MO** August 2021 to Present

**Adjunct Professor**

- Biomedical Ethics\*

**University of Valley Forge, Phoenixville, PA** August 2020 to December 2021

**Adjunct Professor**

- Ethics\*
- Introduction to Philosophy\*

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#### SELECT PUBLICATIONS – JOURNAL ARTICLES

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6. Kulesa, Ryan. 2023. "The Doing/Allowing Distinction in the Divine Context." *Religious Studies* (forthcoming).
5. Kulesa, Ryan. 2023. "The Counterfactual Argument Against Abortion." *Utilitas* 35(3): 218-228.
4. Kulesa, Ryan. 2023. "Kantian Conscientious Objection: A reply to Kennett." *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 32(3): 450-453.
3. Kulesa, Ryan. 2023. "Toward a Standard of Medical Care: Why Medical Professionals Can Refuse to Prescribe Puberty Blockers." *The New Bioethics* 29(2): 139-155.
2. Kulesa, Ryan. 2022. "A Defense of Conscientious Objection: Why Health is Integral to the Permissibility of Medical Refusals." *Bioethics* 36(1): 54-62.

1. Kulesa, Ryan. 2021. "Preemption and a Counterfactual Analysis of Divine Causation." *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 89(2): 125-134.

### **INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS**

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1. Kulesa, Ryan. "Toward a Medical Standard of Care: Why Medical Professionals can Refuse to Prescribe Puberty Blockers." In *Queering Bioethics: LGBTQI+ Challenges*, ed. by Dennis Cooley. (Invited chapter in preparation).

### **PAPERS IN PROGRESS**

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"Conscientious Objection or Conscientious Provision: We Can't have Both." with Alberto Giubilini

In this paper, we argue that, if one accepts either of two popular views on the goals of the medical profession, there is no professional ground that can justify accommodating both conscientious objections/medical refusals and conscientious provision/medical provision at the same time.

"Revisiting Objections to the Moral Relevance of Potential"

In my paper, "The Counterfactual Argument Against Abortion," I argue that individuals who *would be* persons in the absence of being prevented from having those properties constitutive of personhood have a very high moral status. In this paper, I show how this position is not vulnerable to common objections to the moral relevance of potential personhood.

"Well-Being is not Necessary for Moral Standing"

In this paper, I argue that an individual need not occupy any lifetime level of well-being in order to have moral standing.

"Infidelity and the Casual View of Sex" with Derek Estes

In this paper, we argue that the casual view of sex cannot explain why sexual infidelity is worse than other kinds of promise breaking.

### **INVITED TALKS**

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2. Kulesa, Ryan. "The Counterfactual Argument Against Abortion." Pepperdine University, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.
1. Kulesa, Ryan. "God, Suffering, and the Irrelevance of the Doctrine of Doing and Allowing." University of Valley Forge, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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"Counterfactual Persons and the Wrongness of Abortion." Presented at the:

20. *Great Lakes Philosophy Conference*, Siena Heights University, April 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
19. *South Carolina Society for Philosophy*, University of South Carolina, Beaufort, March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
18. *Conference on Medicine and Religion*, Ohio State University, OH, March 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
17. *Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference*, Chadron State College, February 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

16. *Georgia Philosophical Society: Contemporary Issues in Philosophy*, Athens, GA, December 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

“God, Suffering, and the Irrelevance of the Doctrine of Doing and Allowing.” Presented at:

15. *Problem of Evil Graduate Conference*, Saint Louis University, October 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

14. “Truthmakers and Causal Models.” Presented at the *Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference*, The University of Waikato, June 28<sup>th</sup>-July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

“Must Conscientious Objectors Refer?” Presented at the:

13. *6<sup>th</sup> Annual Social, Political, Ethics, and Legal Philosophy Graduate Conference*, University of Binghamton, November 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

12. *9<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Care Ethics Research Conference*, Saint Louis University, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

“Counterfactual Dependence is Sufficient for Divine Causation.” Presented at the:

11. *Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society*, Denver, November 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.\*

10. *Biennial Conference of the European Society for Philosophy of Religion: God, Time, and Change*, Oriel College Oxford, September 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

9. *New Ways of Doing Philosophy of Religion: Interdisciplinary and Global Perspectives*, University of Birmingham, March 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 2022.

8. *North Carolina Philosophical Society*, Converse University, March 25<sup>th</sup>-March 26<sup>th</sup> 2022. **Paper selected for best graduate student paper award.**

“Toward a Medical Standard of Care: Why Pediatric Residents can Refuse to Prescribe Hormone Therapy.” Presented at the:

7. *Annual Conference of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics*, Cincinnati, February 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2022.

6. *Society for Christian Bioethicists Inaugural Conference*, Virtual, November 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.

“Finkish Trait Types and the Propensity Interpretation of Fitness.” Presented at the:

5. *Annual Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science*, Virtual, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.\*<sup>1</sup>

4. *Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

“A Defense of Conscientious Objection: Why Health is Integral to the Permissibility of Medical Refusals.” Presented at the:

3. *An International Philosophical Congress*, Jagiellonian University, April 2021.

2. *Annual Conference of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics*, Virtual, February 2021.

1. “Corruption and Culpability: A Hylomorphic Analysis of Original Sin.” Presented at *Thomism and Theology*, DeSales University, March 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> \* Indicates an accepted paper which I was unable to present due to complicating circumstances.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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### Peer Review

*Bioethics; AMA Journal of Ethics*

### Department Service

*Philosophy Graduate Colloquium* – Organizer  
University of Missouri, Graduate Student Representative

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

### Conference Session Commentator

Comments on Ibrahim Dagher’s “Two New Successive Addition Arguments: A Reply to Malpass” at the 76<sup>th</sup> *Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference*, February 2023.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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### **Kline Fellowship**, University of Missouri, Columbia

\$1000

2022-2023 Academic Year

\$1000

2023-2024 Academic Year

### **Graduate Professional Council Travel Award**

\$600

February 2022

\$200

April 2023

## REFERENCES

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**Peter Vallentyne**, PhD, Emeritus, Kline Chair of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri, Columbia  
Phone: 573-529-1137  
Email: [vallentynep@missouri.edu](mailto:vallentynep@missouri.edu)

**Kenneth Boyce**, PhD, Professor of Philosophy  
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