

**Marie E. Nicolini, MD PhD**

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marienicolini.com

**CURRENT POSITION**

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11/2021 – Present                    **Research Fellow**, Research Foundation Flanders  
Host institution: KU Leuven, Belgium  
Grant reference 12ZO922N [period 11/2021-11/2024]

**EDUCATION**

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2018-2021                            **PhD, Bioethics**  
KU Leuven, Belgium

2012-2014                            **MSc, Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics**  
RU Nijmegen, U Padova, KU Leuven

2008-2012                            **MD, Doctor of Medicine**  
KU Leuven, Belgium

2005-2008                            **BA, Bachelor of Medicine**  
KU Leuven, Belgium

**POSTGRADUATE TRAINING**

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2018-2020                            **Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Clinical Center Department of Bioethics  
National Institutes of Health, USA

2012-2017                            **Psychiatry Residency**, University Hospitals Leuven  
KU Leuven, Belgium

**PUBLICATIONS**

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*PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES*

**Nicolini, M.E.**, Jardas, E., Zarate, C.A., Gastmans, C., Kim, S.Y.H. (2022)  
Irremediability in Psychiatric Euthanasia: Examining the Objective Standard.  
*Psychological Medicine*, 1-19. doi:10.1017/S0033291722002951

**Nicolini, M.E.** (2021)

Physician Aid in Dying for Dementia. The Problem with the Early versus Late Disease Stage Distinction. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2021.703709>

De Vocht, J., Stam, D., **Nicolini, M.E.**, Lammaire, N., Laroy, M., Vande Casteele, T., Van De Vliet, L., Vansteelandt, K., D'Hondt, A., Emsell, L., Bruffaerts, R., Vandenbulcke, M., Van Damme, P., Van den Stock, J. (2021)

Psychopathology in premanifest C9orf72 repeat expansion carriers. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/jnnp-2021-327774>

**Nicolini, M.E.**, Gastmans, C., Kim, S.Y.H. (2021)

Psychiatric euthanasia, suicide and the role of gender. *British Journal of Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.2021.95>

**\*Selected as the Article of the Month for Jan 2022 by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.**

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*. <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.**, Vandenbergh, 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. <https://doi.org/10.1111/scs.12548>

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

**Nicolini, M.E.** Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in Psychiatry  
in *Ethics in Psychiatry: European Contributions*, Springer, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Forthcoming, 2023)

**Nicolini, M.E.**, Grady, C. Special Considerations for Clinical Research  
In *Textbook on Medical Professionalism*, Oxford University Press (Forthcoming, 2023)

### ***EDITORIALS & COMMENTARIES***

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

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

Rid, A., Shah, S., Miller, F., Danis M., **Nicolini, M.E.**, Ochoa, J., Taylor, H., Wendler, D., Grady, C. (2021)

Ethical trade-offs in vaccine development and distribution: Response to Gurwitz. *Vaccine* 39(2): 1028-1029 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.01.020>

**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.**, Wendler, D. (2020)

Inherent conflict of interest in clinical research: A call for effective guidance. *The American Journal of Bioethics* 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. (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*  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2020.07.005>

**Nicolini, M.E.**, Kim, S. Y.H. (2019)

Euthanasie bij persoonlijkheidsstoornissen. *Neuron*. [Dutch summary of paper published in Psychological Medicine]  
<https://www.neuron.be/nl/nieuws/medisch-nieuws/euthanasie-bij-persoonlijkheidsstoornissen.html>

**Nicolini, M.E.** (2018)

Ethische handvaten voor procedure gedwongen opname bij verslaving. Kiezen voor dialoog. [English translation: *Ethical tools for compulsory commitment in persons with substance use disorders. Choosing dialogue*] *Zorgwijzer (Zorgnet Icuero)*. Summary of paper published in Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences [Dutch]  
<https://www.zorgneticuro.be/sites/default/files/2018%20Zorgwijzer%2073.pdf>

## **BOOK REVIEW**

**Nicolini, M.E.** (2018)

Wie wij zijn. [*English translation: Who we are*] F. Koerselman (2016). Prometheus Amsterdam. ISBN 978-90-351-3699-1, 255pp. *Tijdschrift voor Psychoanalyse* 24(3): 216-218. [https://www.tijdschriftvoorpsychoanalyse.nl/inhoud/tijdschrift\\_artikel/PA-24-3-11/Wie-wij-zijn](https://www.tijdschriftvoorpsychoanalyse.nl/inhoud/tijdschrift_artikel/PA-24-3-11/Wie-wij-zijn) Book review [Dutch]

## **INVITED PUBLIC WRITING**

**Nicolini, M.E.** (2023) Should assisted death be available for intractable mental illness?

*Psyche (Aeon)*, March 13, 2023

<https://psyche.co/ideas/should-assisted-death-be-available-for-intractable-mental-illness>

**Nicolini, M.E.** (2023) Why do more women die by psychiatric euthanasia?

*Cambridge Core Blog (Forthcoming)*

**Nicolini, M.E.** (2022) Medical Assistance in Dying: Culture Wars about Compassion

George Washington University Series on Culture Wars

Published in edited volume *Culture Wars in Europe*

<https://www.illiberalism.org/culture-wars-in-europe/>

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

MAiD Based on a Mental Disorder: Two Unresolved Problems for Public Policy. Invited Brief for the Canadian Parliamentary Committee's Statutory Review of the Provisions of the Criminal Code relating to Medical Assistance in Dying and their Application. <https://bit.ly/3a9nTD8>

## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION**

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Suicide Prevention and MAiD (*under preparation*)

Respect: Psychiatry's Silent Crisis (*with Diane O'Leary – under preparation*)

## **PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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11/2021 – 06/2023

**Visiting Scholar**, Kennedy Institute of Ethics  
Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA

09/2020 – 09/2021

**Visiting Scholar**, Clinical Center Department of Bioethics  
National Institutes of Health, USA

- 09/2018 – 09/2020      **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
- 03/2018 – 09/2018      **Visiting Scholar**, Kennedy Institute of Ethics  
Georgetown University, USA
- 09/2017 - 03/2018      **Visiting Scholar**, 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. <http://genfi.org.uk>

## **PREVIOUS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

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- 09/2018 – 09/2020      **Clinical Ethics Consultation Service**  
As part of Bioethics fellowship at NIH, Bethesda, USA
- 08/2012 – 08/2017      **Psychiatry Residency**  
University Hospital Leuven, Belgium
- 06/2011 – 08/2012      **Child Neuropsychiatry Internship**  
Agostino Gemelli University Polyclinic Rome, Italy

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

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- 11/2021-11/2024      **Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) Fellow**  
Individual postdoctoral fellowship awarded for research project entitled  
Title: Psychiatric Euthanasia and Suicide Prevention  
Grant ref.: 12ZO922N  
Brussels, Belgium
- Spring 2022              **Institute for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine**  
Visiting scholarship (one month), University Bochum, Germany

## **CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES**

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- 01/2020              **Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research Certificate**

National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics

- 08/2018     **United States Medical License Examination**  
ECFMG Certificate Step 1, 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**

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### **Ad-hoc Reviewer for**

*The Lancet Psychiatry; Bioethics; Journal of the American Philosophical Association; 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; Ethics, Medicine and Public Health; BMJ Open*

### **Member of**

Association for the Advancement of Philosophy & Psychiatry (AAPP)

### **Co-founder & -organizer**

DC Philosophy of Psychiatry Reading Group (2020 - 2021)

## **TEACHING & MENTORING**

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### **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 – Exploring New Avenues* (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

### **Mentoring**

- 11/2022      Mentor for Regeneron Science Talent Search Competition (2022-2023)  
 (“Nation’s Oldest and Most Prestigious Science and Mathematics Competition”)

### **Evaluation Committees**

- 06/2020 MA Thesis Evaluation Committee – KU Leuven Master in Bioethics

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

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

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<b>English</b>	Fluent (C2)
<b>French</b>	Native
<b>Dutch</b>	Native
<b>Italian</b>	Native
<b>Hindi</b>	Intermediate (A2/B1)
<b>Spanish</b>	Intermediate (A2/B1)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### *INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES*

**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.** Gaind 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. (2023)**

*Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry*  
Title: 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**

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Invited Expert Witness to the Canadian Parliament – Oct 2022

Meeting No. 18 AMAD

Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying (AMAD)

House of Commons/Chambre des Communes, Canada

Hearing: <https://parlvu.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

Invited consultant for DARPA NEAT Program – Fall 2023

<https://www.darpa.mil/program/neural-evidence-aggregation-tool>

## **MEDIA**

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Press interviews

- CTV News, W5 Investigative Reports, News and Current Affairs (Canada) – June 2022
- The Globe and Mail (Canada) – Oct 2022
- CBC The Fifth Estate (Canada) – Oct 2022
- Investigative Journalism Bureau, University of Toronto (Canada) – Oct 2022
- Reuters, Anna Paperny, author of international bestseller [Hello, I want to die please fix me](#) – Dec 2022

Podcast interviews

- The [Water Cooler Talk](#) podcast, hosted by Adam William – July 2023
- Bio(un)ethical – hosted by Leah Pearson & Sophie Gibert – July 2023