

# Marie E. Nicolini, MD PhD

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## CURRENT POSITION

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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

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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

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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 University, Belgium

## PREVIOUS POSITIONS

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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**

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- 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**

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- 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

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 04/2025      *Euthanasia in psychiatry*  
UPenn Ethics Grand Rounds  
Philadelphia, PA  
Organizer: Domonic Sisti, PhD
- 01/2024      *Assisted death*  
MedStar Washington Hospital Center  
Grand Rounds in Ethics & Psychiatry  
Washington DC, USA
- 03/2023      *The ethics of assisted death in psychiatry*  
Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, TX, USA
- 10/2022      *MAiD for mental disorders: Two unresolved problems for policy and practice*  
Ethics Grand Rounds,  
Humber River Hospitals  
Toronto, Canada
- 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

### **Teaching Competencies**

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

### **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

### **CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES**

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- 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**

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### **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)**

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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<b>English</b>	Fluent
<b>French</b>	Native
<b>Dutch</b>	Native
<b>Italian</b>	Native

**Hindi**                      Intermediate  
**Spanish**                    Intermediate

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### *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.** 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 TALKS***

**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**

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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://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

## **MEDIA & PODCAST INTERVIEWS**

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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)*, *The New Yorker*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***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: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. <http://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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.zorgnet ICURO.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](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.