

# Eric J. Scarffe

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Florida International University  
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Miami, FL 33199

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Website: [ericscarffe.com](http://ericscarffe.com)

**AOS:** Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Medical Ethics

**AOC:** Ethics, Human Rights, Gay Rights, Abortion Rights, Feminism

### SELECT EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Florida International University (FIU)	2020-Present
Faculty Union Chapter President, United Faculty of Florida (UFF)—FIU	2022-Present
Trade Policy Researcher, UNIFOR	2018
Financial Editor, Desjardins Capital markets	2015-16

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### EDUCATION

PhD, Philosophy, Boston University, Dissertation: "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Approach to International Law." Committee: R. Powell (advisor); H. Baxter; A. Buchanan; D. Lyons.	2016-20
MA, Philosophy, York University	2014-15
BA Honors with Subsidiary, St. Francis Xavier University	2010-14

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### PUBLICATIONS

1. Forthcoming. "The Language of Dignity in International Law," *Res Publica*.
2. Forthcoming. "The Trouble With Knowing You Were Trouble," *Taylor Swift and Philosophy: Essays from the Tortured Philosophers Department*, Blackwell's Philosophy and Pop Culture Series, with K. Valde.
3. 2024. "What Do Rights Have To Do With It?," *the American Journal of Bioethics*, with A. Polk. Doi: [10.1080/15265161.2024.2303111](https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2024.2303111)
4. 2023. "Justice Kennedy's Jurisprudence of Dignity: From Sovereign Immunity to Gay Rights," *the American Journal of Legal History*. Doi: [10.1093/ajlh/njad026](https://doi.org/10.1093/ajlh/njad026)
5. 2022. "Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law," *Jus Cogens* 4(3) pp. 207-236. Doi: 10.1007/s42439-022-00063-8
6. 2022. "Dignitary Harms and Abortion Law," *the American Journal of Bioethics* 22(8), pp. 85-87. Doi:10.1080/15265161.2022.2089273
7. 2021. "Legal Positivism and Transnational Law," *Oxford Handbook of Transnational Law*, with M. Giudice. Doi: [10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197547410.013.44](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197547410.013.44)
8. 2019. "Response to commentaries on Powell/Scarffe feature article," *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45(9), p. 597-598, with R. Powell. Doi: 10.1136/medethics-2019-105745.
9. 2019. "Rehabilitating 'Disease': Function, Value, and Objectivity in Medicine," *Philosophy of Science*, 86(5), p. 1-11, with R. Powell. Doi: [10.1086/705520](https://doi.org/10.1086/705520)

10. 2019. "Rethinking 'Disease': A Fresh Diagnosis and a New Philosophical Treatment," *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45(9), p. 579-588, with R. Powell. (Featured Article with 4 Replies) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2019-105465>
  11. 2016. "'A New Philosophy for International Law' and Dworkin's Political Realism," *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, 29(1). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/cjlj.2016.7>.
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#### BOOK REVIEWS

12. Forthcoming. "Ruling Bodies: A Study of Coercion and Punishment in Plato's Republic, Laws, and Gorgias," *Journal of Moral Philosophy*. (Book review.)
  13. 2023. "Hessler's New Feminist Approach to Human Rights Theorizing," *Res Publica*. Doi: [10.1007/s11158-023-09639-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11158-023-09639-7) (Review essay.)
  14. 2023. "Black Dignity: The Struggle Against Domination," *the Journal of Applied Philosophy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/japp.12656> (Book review.)
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#### PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

1. 2024. "[Has Quantification Seduced Higher Education?](#)" *Academe* (feature article), with K. Valde.
  2. 2024. "[Higher Ed's Quantification Problem](#)" *Academe Blog*, with K. Valde
  3. 2022. "[Can the Data Save Us From Ourselves?: Epistemic Uncertainty and Data Driven Policy Making](#)," What to Do About Now, with K. Valde.
  4. 2022. "[Overturning Roe v. Wade: The Court's New Jurisprudence of Doubt](#)," What To Do About Now? (A Political Philosophy Blog).
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#### SELECT PRESENTATIONS

1. 2024, Sep. "The Language of Dignity in International Law." *Society of Legal Scholars*.
2. 2024. "Objectivity, Neutrality and Originalism." *South Carolina Annual Research Symposium*.
3. 2024. "The Language of Dignity in International Law." *Law and Society Association*.
4. 2024. "Objectivity, Neutrality and Originalism." *South Carolina Society for Philosophy*.
5. 2024. "The Language of Dignity in International Law." Clemson.\*
6. 2023. Scholars Strategy Network. University of South Florida. Panellist on "Teaching on Eggshells II"\*
7. 2023. "The Trouble With Knowing You Were Trouble." Converse College, with K. Valde.\*
8. 2023. Quest for Peace, Miami Dade College. Panelist on "Who Gets to Decide What We Learn?"\*
9. 2023. "The Trouble With Knowing You Were Trouble." South Carolina Annual Research Symposium.

10. 2023. "A Conception of Dignity." North Carolina Philosophical Society.
11. 2023. "Impartiality as a Misplaced Ideal." South Carolina Society for Philosophy.
12. 2023. "Dignitary Harms, Abortion Law, and A Jurisprudence of Dignity." North American Society for Social Philosophy.
13. 2022. Quest for Peace, Miami Dade College. Panelist on "Healthcare and Human Rights."\*
14. 2022. "A New Concept of Dignity." South Carolina Annual Research Symposium.
15. 2022. "On Dignity and Abortion." Wofford College.\*
16. 2022. "Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." South Carolina Society for Philosophy.
17. 2022. "Epistemic Uncertainty and Data-Driven Policy." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
18. 2022. "The Concept of Dignity." Florida Philosophical Association.
19. 2021. Quest for Peace, Miami Dade College. Panelist on "To Defend or Defund the Police."\*
20. 2021. "The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision." Canadian Philosophical Association.
21. 2021. "Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." American Philosophical Association (Central Division).\*
22. 2021. "Impartiality isn't Impartial: Gender, Race, Law and Science." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (with Katherine Valde).
23. 2020. "The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
24. 2020. "A Dignity-Based Account of State Sovereignty: New Tools to Resolve the Paradox." Poster. American Philosophical Association (Central Division).
25. 2020. "The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision." Colloquium Paper. American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division).
26. 2019. "New Tools to Resolve the Paradox: A Dignity-Based Account of State Sovereignty," Northeastern Political Science Association.
27. 2019. "Rethinking the Paradox of State Sovereignty with a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." Colloquium Paper. Canadian Philosophical Association.
28. 2019. Three Minute Thesis Competition, Boston University.
29. 2019. "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.

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\* Invited

30. 2019. "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." Symposium paper. American Philosophical Association (Central Division).
  31. 2018. "Reflecting on a Legacy: Justice Kennedy's Jurisprudence of Dignity." Ethics and Political, Social and Legal Annual Conference.
  32. 2018. "Rehabilitating 'Disease': Function, Value, and Objectivity in Medicine." Philosophy of Science Association.
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**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

1. [A Book on the Jurisprudence of Dignity] (in prep).
  2. [A Paper on 303 Creative] (in prep).
  3. [A Paper on Impartiality in Science and Law] (in prep).
  4. [A Book on Dignity and International Law] (in prep).
  5. [A Paper on Dignity, Morality, and Law] (under review).
  6. [A Paper on Science, Jurisprudence, and Neutrality] (under review).
  7. [A Paper on the Language of International Law] (under review).
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**COURSES TAUGHT AS AN INSTRUCTOR**

Florida International University

Philosophy of Law (x4)

Biomedical Ethics (x3)

Global Justice (x1)

Introduction to Ethics (x8)

Senior Research Paper (x6)

Boston University

Philosophy, Law, and Society

Medical Ethics

Yukon College

Introduction to Political Theory (x2)

**ONLINE/HYBRID COURSES DEVELOPED**

Florida International University

Philosophy of Law

Submitted for HQ Certification

Biomedical Ethics

HQ Certified

Introduction to Ethics

Submitted for HQ Certification

Yukon College

Introduction to Political Theory

**TEACHING CERTIFICATES AND TRAININGS**

Certificates (FIU)

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|------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Hybrid Instructor Certification | 2022 |
| 2. Online Live Certification       | 2021 |

3. Fundamentals of Online Teaching	2021
<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	
1. “Navigating Difficult Moments in Teaching Diversity and Social Justice,” Faculty Reading Group	2023
2. Inquiry Institute I & II	2022-23
3. “What Inclusive Teachers Do,” Faculty Reading Group	2022
4. Calling in, Not Calling Out	2022
5. Introduction to Feedback Box	2021
6. Understanding the QM Rubric	2021

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**SERVICE**

To the University

1. President, United Faculty of Florida (UFF)-FIU	Ongoing
2. Lead Negotiator UFF-FIU	Ongoing
3. Union Senator UFF-FIU	Ongoing
4. Leadership, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee Member (UFF)	Ongoing
5. FEA Delegate	Ongoing
6. Graduate Faculty Status	Ongoing
7. Vice-President, UFF-FIU	2021-2022
8. Bargaining Team Member UFF-FIU	2021-2022

To the Department

1. Advisor for Certificate in Law, Ethics, and Society	Ongoing
2. Ignite Rep FIU Philosophy Department	2020-2023
3. UCC Assessment Committee – FIU Philosophy Department	Ongoing
4. STRIDE Certified	2021
5. Giving talks to the Philosophy Club	Ongoing

To the Profession/Community

1. Referee: Medicine, Health Care, and Philosophy; Dialogue; Journal of Medical Ethics; Florida Philosophical Society, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics	Ongoing
2. Session Chair: Philosophy of Science Association; Florida Philosophical Association; South Carolina Philosophical Association	2022
3. Judge, Ethics Bowl	2022-23

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**SELECT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Doctoral Fellowship, <i>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</i>	2018-2020
Dissertation Fellowship, Boston University	2020
Best Formal Paper by a Graduate Student, <i>Association for Practical and Professional Ethics</i>	2019
3 Minute Thesis Competition Winner, Boston University	2019
Deans’ Fellowship, <i>Boston University</i>	2016-2017
Graduate Entrance Scholarship in Philosophy, York University	2014-2015
Graduate Scholarship, York University	2014-2015

## Travel Grants

<i>Hayek Fund, Institute for Humane Studies</i>	2022
<i>Hayek Fund, Institute for Humane Studies</i>	2020
<i>American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division)</i>	2020
<i>American Philosophical Association (Central Division)</i>	2019
<i>Boston University Graduate Student Organization</i>	2019
<i>Boston University Philosophy Department</i>	2019
<i>Boston University Philosophy Department</i>	2018
<i>National Science Foundation</i>	2018

## DISSERTATION SUMMARY

Since the end of World War II there has been a rapid proliferation of international law and international legal institutions. Once limited to issues in maritime and trade law, today the most recognizable examples of international law govern issues such as human rights, intellectual property, crimes against humanity and armed conflicts. In many ways, this proliferation has been a welcomed development. However, when coupled with international law's decentralized structure, this rapid proliferation has also posed problems for how we (and in particular judges) identify if, when, and where international law exists. This dissertation puts forward a novel, dignity-based account for how we answer these questions. The upshot of my account is two-fold. First, it explains many features of international law that other theories leave unaccounted for or under-explained. And second, my dignity-based account provides for a mechanism through which the system can continue to be developed and improved.

**LANGUAGES:** French (intermediate reading; beginner speaking)

## REFERENCES

Rachell Powell  
Professor of Philosophy  
Boston University  
powell@bu.edu

Hugh Baxter  
Professor of Law  
Professor of Philosophy  
Boston University  
hbaxter@bu.edu

Allen Buchanan  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of Arizona  
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Michael Giudice  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
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David Lyons  
Professor of Law Emeritus  
Professor of Philosophy  
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Laurie Shrage  
Professor of Philosophy  
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