

Eric J. Scarffe

Curriculum Vitae

Florida International University
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Miami, FL 33199

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Website: ericscarffe.com

AOS: Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Medical Ethics

AOC: Ethics, Human Rights, Gay Rights, Reproductive Rights, Feminism

SELECT EMPLOYMENT

Florida International University	
Faculty Fellow in the Office of Faculty Leadership and Success	2025-Present
Assistant Professor	2020-Present
Chapter President, United Faculty of Florida (UFF)—FIU	2022-2024
Trade Policy Researcher, UNIFOR	2018
Financial Editor, Desjardins Capital markets	2015-16

EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

1. Forthcoming. "Toward a Jurisprudential Philosophy of Science," *Synthese*, with K. Valde.
2. Forthcoming. "Dignity and Abortion in Law, Ethics, and Bioethics," *Journal of Law, Medicine, & Ethics*.
3. 2025. "The Limits of Law: Lessons for Collective Bargaining," *Journal of Collective Bargaining in the Academy* Vol. 16(6.), pp. 1-17 with D. Saunders. <https://doi.org/10.58188/1941-8043.1927>
4. 2024. "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.
5. 2024. "The Language of Dignity in International Law," *Res Publica* 31(1) pp. 101-121. doi: 10.1007/s11158-024-09673-z
6. 2024. "What Do Rights Have To Do With It?," *the American Journal of Bioethics* 24(3), pp. 31-33, with A. Polk. Doi: [10.1080/15265161.2024.2303111](https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2024.2303111)
7. 2024. "[Has Quantification Seduced Higher Education?](#)" *Academe* (feature article), with K. Valde.
8. 2023. "Justice Kennedy's Jurisprudence of Dignity: From Sovereign Immunity to Gay Rights," *American Journal of Legal History* 63(4), pp. 359-380. Doi: [10.1093/ajlh/njad026](https://doi.org/10.1093/ajlh/njad026)
9. 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).

10. 2022. "Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law," *Jus Cogens* 4(3) pp. 207-236. Doi: 10.1007/s42439-022-00063-8
11. 2022. "Dignitary Harms and Abortion Law," *the American Journal of Bioethics* 22(8), pp. 85-87. Doi:10.1080/15265161.2022.2089273
12. 2021. 'Transnational Law and Legal Positivism', in Peer Zumbansen (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Law*, with M. Giudice.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197547410.013.44>.
13. 2019. "Response to commentaries on Powell/Scarffe feature article," *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45(9), pp. 597-598, with R. Powell. Doi: 10.1136/medethics-2019-105745.
14. 2019. "Rehabilitating 'Disease': Function, Value, and Objectivity in Medicine," *Philosophy of Science*, 86(5), pp. 1-11, with R. Powell. Doi: [10.1086/705520](https://doi.org/10.1086/705520)
15. 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>
16. 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>.

BOOK REVIEWS

17. 2024. "Ruling Bodies: A Study of Coercion and Punishment in Plato's Republic, Laws, and Gorgias," *Journal of Moral Philosophy*. (Book review).
18. 2024. Thoughtfulness and the Rule of Law. J. Waldron, 2023. Cambridge, Harvard University Press. 336 pp, \$49.00 (hb). *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, (Book review).
19. 2023. Black Dignity: The Struggle against Domination. Vincent W. Lloyd, 2022. New Haven, Yale University Press. 208 pp, £ 17.99 (hb). *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/japp.12656>. (Book review).

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

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

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

1. 2025. "Beyond the Value-Free Ideal: Science, Law, and the Science of Law," *Law and Society Association*.
2. 2025. "Law, Science, and the Science of Law: Beyond the Value Free Ideal," *Cambridge Legal Theory Discussion Group*.

3. 2025. "Science, Law, and The Science of Law: Beyond the Value Free Ideal," *Philosophy & Legal Theory Collaborative Workshop*.
4. 2025. "Beyond the Value-Free Ideal: Lessons for Science and Law," Northeastern Illinois University, Philosophy Department Colloquium Series.* (with K. Valde).
5. 2025. "What's in a Name? Philosophy of Law and Collective Bargaining," *South Carolina Society for Philosophy*.
6. 2025. "A New Approach to Interest Based Bargaining," (Pannel) National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions.
7. 2024. "The Language of Dignity in International Law." International Law Reading Group, University of Edinburgh.*
8. 2024. "The Language of Dignity in International Law." *Society of Legal Scholars*.
9. 2024. "Objectivity, Neutrality and Originalism." *South Carolina Annual Research Symposium*.
10. 2024. "The Language of Dignity in International Law." *Law and Society Association*.
11. 2024. "Objectivity, Neutrality and Originalism." *South Carolina Society for Philosophy*.
12. 2024. "The Language of Dignity in International Law." Clemson.*
13. 2023. Scholars Strategy Network. University of South Florida. Panellist on "Teaching on Eggshells II"*
14. 2023. "The Trouble With Knowing You Were Trouble." Converse College, with K. Valde.*
15. 2023. Quest for Peace, Miami Dade College. Panelist on "Who Gets to Decide What We Learn?"*
16. 2023. "The Trouble With Knowing You Were Trouble." South Carolina Annual Research Symposium.
17. 2023. "A Conception of Dignity." North Carolina Philosophical Society.
18. 2023. "Impartiality as a Misplaced Ideal." South Carolina Society for Philosophy.
19. 2023. "Dignitary Harms, Abortion Law, and A Jurisprudence of Dignity." North American Society for Social Philosophy.
20. 2022. Quest for Peace, Miami Dade College. Panelist on "Healthcare and Human Rights."*
21. 2022. "A New Concept of Dignity." South Carolina Annual Research Symposium.
22. 2022. "On Dignity and Abortion." Wofford College.†

* Invited

23. 2022. "Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." South Carolina Society for Philosophy.
 24. 2022. "Epistemic Uncertainty and Data-Driven Policy." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
 25. 2022. "The Concept of Dignity." Florida Philosophical Association.
 26. 2021. Quest for Peace, Miami Dade College. Panelist on "To Defend or Defund the Police."*
 27. 2021. "The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision." Canadian Philosophical Association.
 28. 2021. "Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." American Philosophical Association (Central Division).*
 29. 2021. "Impartiality isn't Impartial: Gender, Race, Law and Science." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (with K. Valde).
 30. 2020. "The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
 31. 2020. "A Dignity-Based Account of State Sovereignty: New Tools to Resolve the Paradox." Poster. American Philosophical Association (Central Division).
 32. 2020. "The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision." Colloquium Paper. American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division).
 33. 2019. "New Tools to Resolve the Paradox: A Dignity-Based Account of State Sovereignty," Northeastern Political Science Association.
 34. 2019. "Rethinking the Paradox of State Sovereignty with a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." Colloquium Paper. Canadian Philosophical Association.
 35. 2019. Three Minute Thesis Competition, Boston University.
 36. 2019. "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
 37. 2019. "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." Symposium paper. American Philosophical Association (Central Division).
 38. 2018. "Reflecting on a Legacy: Justice Kennedy's Jurisprudence of Dignity." Ethics and Political, Social and Legal Annual Conference.
 39. 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 Academic Freedom] (in prep).

4. [A Paper on Impartiality in Science and Law] (under review).
5. [A Paper on A Politics of Dignity] (under review).

COURSES TAUGHT AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Florida International University
 Philosophy of Law (x4)
 Biomedical Ethics (x3)
 Global Justice (x1)
 Introduction to Ethics (x8)
 Special Topics (Phil. of Private Law) (x1)
 Senior Research Paper (x7)

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	HQ Certified
Yukon College	
Introduction to Political Theory	

TEACHING CERTIFICATES AND TRAININGS

Certificates (FIU)	
1. Hybrid Instructor Certification	2022
2. Online Live Certification	2021
3. Fundamentals of Online Teaching	2021

WORKSHOPS	
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

SERVICE

To the University	
1. President, United Faculty of Florida (UFF)-FIU	2022-24
2. Lead Negotiator UFF-FIU	2022-24

3. Union Senator UFF-FIU	2020-24
4. Leadership, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee Member (UFF)	2022-23
5. FEA Delegate	2022-24
6. Graduate Faculty Status	Ongoing
7. Vice-President, UFF-FIU	2021-2022
8. Bargaining Team Member UFF-FIU	2021-2022
To the Department	
1. Ignite Rep FIU Philosophy Department	2020-2023
2. UCC Assessment Committee – FIU Philosophy Department	Ongoing
3. STRIDE Certified	2021
4. 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; Palgrave/Springer Nature	Ongoing
2. Session Chair: Philosophy of Science Association; Florida Philosophical Association; South Carolina Philosophical Association	2022
3. Judge, Ethics Bowl	2022-23

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
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Professor of Law
Professor of Philosophy
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hbaxter@bu.edu

Allen Buchanan
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University of Arizona
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Associate Professor of Philosophy
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Boston University
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lshrage@fiu.edu