

# KAREN ELIZABETH STOHR

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## Teaching Positions

Ryan Family Professor of Metaphysics and Moral Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2021- present  
Senior Research Scholar, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, 2011–present  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2010–2021  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2002–2010  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Mount Saint Mary's College (now University), 1999–2002

## Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999  
M.A., Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Government and Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, 1992

## Published and Forthcoming Work

### Books

1. *Choosing Freedom: A Kantian Guide to Life*. New York: Oxford University Press, January 2022
2. *Minding the Gap: Moral Ideals and Moral Improvement*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019
3. *On Manners*. New York: Routledge, 2012

### Articles

\* indicates an invited article

1. \*"Kantian Friendship," forthcoming in the *Routledge Handbook on the Philosophy of Friendship*, ed. Diane Jeske
2. \*"Self-Knowledge: The Importance of Reflection." In *Philosophy for Girls*, ed. Melissa Shew and Kim Garcher. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020
3. \*"Pretending Not to Notice: Respect, Attention, and Disability." In *Disability in Practice: Attitudes, Policies and Relationships*, ed. Adam Cureton and Thomas Hill, 50-71. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018
4. \*"The Etiquette of Eating." In *The Oxford Handbook of Food Ethics*, eds. Anne Barnhill, Mark Budlofson, and Tyler Doggett, 700-721. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018
5. \*"Virtuous Motivation." In *The Oxford Handbook of Virtue*, ed. Nancy Snow, 453-469. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018
6. \*"Aristotelian Friendship and Ignatian Companionship." In *Spirituality and the Good Life: Philosophical Approaches*, ed. David McPherson, 155-176. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017
7. "Viewing Manners through a Wider Lens." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 15, no. 2 (2016): 273-90

8. \*"Feminist Virtue Ethics." In *The Routledge Companion to Virtue Ethics*, eds. Lorraine Besser-Jones and Michael Slote, 271-282. New York: Routledge, 2015
9. "Keeping the Shutters Closed: The Moral Value of Reserve." *Philosophers' Imprint* 14, no. 23 (July 2014): 1-25
10. \*"Affective Transformation and the Kantian Moral Outlook: Commentary on Susan Stark." In *Sex, Love, and Friendship: Studies of the Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love 1993 – 2003*, ed. Adrienne McEvoy. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011
11. "Kantian Beneficence and the Problem of Obligatory Aid." *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 8, no. 1 (Jan 2011): 45-67
12. \*"Honors, Awards, and the Catholic Moral Tradition." *Journal of Catholic Legal Studies* 49, no. 2 (2010): 277-292
13. \*"Contemporary Virtue Ethics: Teaching and Learning Guide." *Philosophy Compass* 5, no. 1 (Jan 2010): 102-107
14. "Minding Others' Business." *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 90, no. 1 (2009): 116-139
15. "Manners, Morals, and Practical Wisdom." In *Values and Virtues: Aristotelianism in Contemporary Ethics*, ed. Timothy Chappell, 189-211. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006
16. "Practical Wisdom and Moral Imagination in *Sense and Sensibility*." *Philosophy and Literature* 30, no. 2 (2006): 378-394
17. \*"Contemporary Virtue Ethics." *Philosophy Compass* 1, no. 1 (January 2006): 22-27
18. "Moral Cacophony: When Continence is a Virtue." *Journal of Ethics* 7, no. 4 (2003): 339-363
19. "Virtue Ethics and Kant's Cold-Hearted Benefactor." *Journal of Value Inquiry* 36, no. 2-3 (2002): 187-204
20. "Recent Work in Virtue Ethics," co-authored with Christopher H. Wellman. *American Philosophical Quarterly* 39, no. 1 (2002): 49-72

### **Other Publications**

1. "Ask the Coronavirus Ethicist," series of columns in *Washingtonian* magazine, 2020
2. "Our New Age of Contempt," *New York Times*, January 23, 2017  
Reprinted in the *Houston Chronicle*, January 29, 2017
3. *Similar Strategies, Devastating Results: Hunger and Unemployment in the United States and Africa*, with John Prendergast. Washington D.C.: Center of Concern, 1991 (monograph, 41 pp)

### **Book Reviews**

1. Christine Overall, *Why Have Children?* In the *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 24, no. 2 (June 2014): 6-10
2. Samuel Kerstein, *How to Treat Persons*. In *Ethics* 124, no. 3 (April 2014): 626-631
4. E.M. Dadlez, *Mirrors to One Another: Emotion and Value in Jane Austen and David Hume*. In *Hume Studies* 36, no 1 (2010): 114-117
5. Leslie Paul Thiele, *The Heart of Judgment: Practical Wisdom, Neuroscience, and Narrative*. In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (April 2007)
6. Linda Zagzebski, *Divine Motivation Theory*. In *Philosophical Quarterly* 55 (2006): 629-632
7. Jonathan Jacobs, *Choosing Character: Responsibility for Virtue & Vice*. In *Ethics* 113, no. 3 (2003):702-5

### **Work in Progress**

1. "Kant, Vice, and Global Poverty" (committed to a special issue of *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, edited by Martin Sticker and Corinna Mieth)

2. “Heroes Always Win: Virtue, Flourishing, and Moral Education” (committed to a conference volume edited by Candace Vogler and published by the Jubilee Centre at the University of Birmingham)
3. “Seeing Flourishing Rightly: Practical Wisdom and Ethical Formation” (committed to a volume on practical wisdom, edited by Jennifer Frey, for an Oxford University Press series edited by Nancy Snow)
4. “Kant on Social Vice” (article)
5. “Contempt and the Common Good” (article)
6. “The Moral Boundaries of Mockery” (article)
7. “Straightening Crooked Wood: Kant and Xunzi on Moral Improvement” (article)

### **Scholarly Lectures and Comments**

#### **Lectures and presentations**

1. “On Etiquette and Ethics in Conversation”  
Invited speaker, symposium on Interactional Ethics, Canadian Philosophical Association  
June 2021
2. “Musings on Contempt”  
Invited speaker, *Contempt in the Public Sphere* workshop, July 2020 (held virtually)
3. “Moral Improvement”  
Invited speaker, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, March 2020 (canceled due to Covid)
4. “Contempt and the Common Good”  
Invited speaker, *Virtue and Politics* workshop, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec,  
March 2020 (canceled due to Covid)
5. “Inner and Outer Vice”  
Invited symposium, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, February 2020
6. “What’s Wrong with Contempt”  
Invited group session, North American Society for Social Philosophy, American Philosophical  
Association, Central Division, February 2020
7. “Heroes Always Win: Virtue, Flourishing, and Moral Education”  
Conference, *Virtue and Flourishing*, Jubilee Centre, University of Birmingham and Oxford  
University, January 2020
8. “Evil Together: The Social Dimensions of Kantian Vice”  
Invited lecture, Washington University-St. Louis, October 2019
9. “Straightening Crooked Wood: Kant and Xunzi on Moral Improvement”  
Invited lecture, “Confucianism, Buddhism, and Kantian Moral Theory”  
Sungkyun Institute for Confucian Studies and East Asian Philosophy  
Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea, September 2019
10. “The Ethics of Impersonation”  
Invited lecture, Clemson University, March 2019
11. “Beneficence and Indifference”  
Invited lecture, Conference on *Kant and Poverty*, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany,  
February 2019
12. “Kantianism as a Way of Life”  
Invited lecture, NEH Summer Institute on “Reviving Philosophy as a Way of Life,”  
Wesleyan University, July 2018
13. “The Value of the Veil of Philanthropy”  
Invited lecture, Bates College, April 2018

14. "The Moral Boundaries of Mockery"  
Invited symposium, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 2018  
Invited lecture, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, September 2017
15. "Moral Contempt and Moral Faith"  
Conference, *Virtues in the Public Sphere*, Jubilee Centre, University of Birmingham and Oxford University, January 2018
16. "Mockery, Contempt, and Social Power"  
Conference, *Who's Got the Power?* University of Iceland, October 2017
17. "Feminism and Moral Theory"  
Invited presentation, Department of Clinical Bioethics, National Institutes of Health, May 2017
18. "Cultivating Self-Control through Etiquette"  
Workshop on Self-Control, University of St. Andrews, May 2017
19. "*Saturday Night Live* and Fiendish Joy: Kantian Qualms about Mockery"  
Invited lecture, Johns Hopkins University, March 2017  
Invited workshop presentation, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, May 2017
20. "Civility as Moral Scaffolding"  
Invited symposium, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, January 2017
21. "Advance Directives and Self-Sacrifice"  
Invited lecture, Creighton University, April 2016
22. "Knowing Better: Self-Improvement in Aristotle and Kant"  
Invited speaker, *Aristotle and Kant in Conversation*, Auburn University, March 2016
23. "The Starry Sky above Me: Living Non-ideally by my Ideals"  
Invited lecture, University of Maryland, College Park, February 2016  
Invited seminar discussion, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, March 2016
24. "Faith in People and their Projects"  
Invited lecture, Auburn University, April 2015  
Invited symposium, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 2015
25. "Being Agreeable"  
Invited lecture, University of Oklahoma, February 2015
26. "Western Manners and Confucian Thought"  
Invited group symposium on *On Manners*, International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, December 2014
27. "Hope for the Hopeless"  
Baylor-Georgetown-Notre Dame Conference on the Philosophy of Religion, October 2014
28. "Pretending Not to Notice: Respect, Attention, and Disability"  
Invited group symposium, Society for Philosophy and Disability, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 2014
29. "The Kantian *Phronimos*"  
Invited lecture, Fordham University, November 2013
30. "Self-Respect and Social Media"  
Invited Lecture, Duquesne University, November 2012
31. "Self-Deprecation"  
Invited lecture, Duquesne University Department of Philosophy, November 2012
32. "Doing Right by Henrietta Lacks: Exploitation and the Aims of Medicine"  
Invited lecture, Otterbein College, October 2012
33. "Valuing the Ends of Others"

- Workshop on Value, Valuing, and Appreciating, University of North Carolina, May 2012
34. "Moral Imperfection"  
Invited lecture, Philosophers in Jesuit Education  
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, December 2011
  35. "Aristotle and the Reciprocity of the Virtues"  
Wuhan University, China, October 2011
  36. "Keeping the Shutters Closed: Reserve and Intimacy in Social Life"  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina, May 2011  
Invited lecture, North American Kant Society Eastern Study Group, May 2010
  37. "Technology, Medicine, and the Catholic Moral Vision"  
Meredith Lecture, Mount St. Mary's University, March 2011
  38. "Sympathy and the Moral Corruption of Other People"  
Invited lecture, University of Minnesota, International Conference on Ethics, July 2007
  39. "Is There Anything Wrong with Killing Spiders? Extending the Ethics of Life"  
Invited Newman Lecture, Gettysburg College, November 2005
  40. "Virtue Ethics and Moral Expertise"  
Invited lecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, April 2005
  41. "Kantian Latitude and the Problem of Obligatory Aid"  
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 2005
  42. "Moral Risk, Tragedy, and Cesarean Sections"  
Georgetown University, Bioethics Work in Progress Series, March 2005
  43. "The Ethics of Stem Cell Research,"  
Mount St. Mary's College, October 2004
  44. "Practical Wisdom in *Sense and Sensibility*"  
University of Dundee, Conference on Values and Virtues, May 2004
  45. "Killing Spiders and the Exercise of Dominion: A Call for Gentleness"  
University of Notre Dame, Center for Ethics and Culture, October 2003
  46. "Harmony, Continence, and Virtuous Agency"  
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, April 2000  
Georgia State University, November 1999  
27<sup>th</sup> Conference on Value Inquiry, April 1999
  47. "Responsibility and Punishment through the Lens of Virtue Ethics"  
University of Notre Dame, Center for Ethics and Culture, December 2001
  48. "Human Dignity and Bargaining with Terrorists"  
University of Notre Dame, Center for Ethics and Culture, October 2000
  49. "Virtue Ethics and Kant's Cold-Hearted Benefactor"  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, November 1998
  50. "Seeing without Caring: A Criticism of John McDowell's Theory of Moral Failure"  
North Carolina and South Carolina Philosophical Societies, February 1998
  51. "Doing Things with Double Effect"  
North Carolina Philosophical Society, February 1997

### **Comments and panel discussions**

1. Commentator, "Political Etiquette" by Ronni Gura Sadovsky, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, April 2021
2. Commentator, "Close Personal Relationships and Character Development" by Sandy Koullas, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, March 2017

3. Panelist, "Philosophy Education at Jesuit Institutions" American Catholic Philosophical Association meeting, November 2015
4. Commentator, "The Salience of Moral Character" by Jon Garthoff, Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics, May 2013
5. Commentator, "The Second-Personal Perspective and Moral Motivation" by Robyn Gaier, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, March 2011
6. Commentator, "Seeing with Feeling: Critical Reflections on McDowell's Moral Epistemology" by Daniel Jacobson; "Wisdom and Perspective" by Valerie Tiberius; "Moral and Intellectual Dilemmas" by Timothy Chappell, Rocky Mountain Virtue Ethics Summit, University of Colorado-Boulder, April 2004
7. Commentator, "A Change of Heart: Moral Emotions, Transformation, and Moral Virtue" by Susan Stark, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, December 2003
8. Commentator, "The New Reproductive Technologies" by Melinda Roberts, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 2003
9. Commentator, "Double Effect, Jonathan Bennett, and the Problem of Closeness" by Donald Marquis, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, December 2000
10. Commentator, "Corruption, Globalization, and Moral Risk" by Patricia Werhane, Symposium on Corporate Responsibility, Mount St. Mary's College, March 2000

### **Presentations to General Audiences**

1. Presenter, "Virtue Ethics and the Skill of Good Judgment"  
Kennedy Institute of Ethics Intensive Bioethics Course, June 2021
2. Presenter, "Humanities in the Time of Covid-19"  
Online panel discussion sponsored by the Georgetown Humanities Initiative, July 2020
3. Presenter, "Contempt" and "Moral Faith" (two separate lectures)  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, VA, May 2018
4. Panelist, Jesuit Heritage Week  
Georgetown University, February 2013, January 2015, and February 2017
5. Presenter, "Bioethics and the Revolution in Higher Education"  
Casey-McIlvane Memorial Lecture, Georgetown University Library, October 2013
6. Panelist, "OMG to AARP: Bridging the Multigenerational Divide"  
*Choose Civility* Symposium, Howard County Library System, October 2013
7. "On Manners"  
Invited lecture, Mount St. Mary's University, April 2013  
Invited lecture, Georgetown University Library, November 2012
8. "Civil Discourse and the Common Good"  
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Parish, October 2012
9. Lenten Reflection Series  
Georgetown University, March 2012
10. Panelist, "Accessing Difference: New Politics and Pedagogies of Disability"  
Georgetown University, October 2009
11. "Women, Families, and Christian Universities,"  
University of Notre Dame, Center for Ethics and Culture, September 2005
12. "Ordinary and Extraordinary Care,"  
St. Catherine's Nursing Center, Emmitsburg, MD, April 2003
13. "Teaching Ethics to Undergraduates,"  
University of Notre Dame, Center for Ethics and Culture, September 2002

14. “Ethics at the End of Life,”  
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Parish, November 1999

### **Other Professional Activities**

#### Podcasts and Radio

1. “The Examined Year: 2020”  
*Philosophy Talk*, December 27, 2020
2. “Minding the Gap”  
*Ethical Theory Review*, Fall 2020
3. “Ethicists Tackle the Pandemic’s Moral Dilemmas”  
Kojo Nnamdi show, NPR, May 27, 2020
4. “Covid Conundrums and Moral Dilemmas”  
*Philosophy Talk*, May 31, 2020
5. “Jane Austen and the Virtues of Social Life”  
*Sacred and Profane Love*, December 2018
6. “Democracy and Civility”  
*Why We Argue*, Humility and Conviction in Public Life project, April 2017
7. “The Morals of Manners”  
*Catholic Comments*, Creighton University, October 2016
8. “On Manners”  
*New Books in Philosophy*, April 2012
9. Kate Chopin’s “The Awakening”  
*The Diane Rehm Show*, NPR, October 2001

#### Blog posts

1. “Minding the Gap – Page 99”  
*The Page 99 Test*, November 2019
2. “Why Even Bother with Political Debates?”  
*Open for Debate*, Changing Attitudes in Public Discourse, Cardiff University, October 2018.
3. “Teaching Introductory Ethics at Georgetown University: Reflection for JusticeWeb,”  
Justice in Jesuit Higher Education website, Loyola University Maryland, 2007.

#### Other media interviews

1. *Medium*, interview on pandemic grocery shopping ethics, published April 2020
2. *Mic*, interview on restaurant ethics, published July 2018
3. *Businessweek*, interview on international etiquette, published July 2013
4. *Glamour*, interview on dating etiquette, published May 2012

### **Teaching Experience**

#### Graduate level:

Ethics Proseminar, Moral Ideals in Non-Ideal Theory, Kantian Ethics, Virtue Ethics and Normative Theory, Aristotle and Virtue Ethics

#### Undergraduate level:

Introduction to Ethics, Bioethics, Ethics of Life and Death, Ethics and Pop Culture, Morals and Manners, Ethical Theory, Virtue and Vice, Doing Right and Living Well, Moral Agency and Responsibility, Text Seminar: Plato’s *Republic*, Ignatius Seminar: Seeking the Good at Hogwarts

## **Professional Service**

Board of Advisors, Honesty Project, Wake Forest University, 2020–present  
Executive Committee, Society of Christian Philosophers, 2018–present  
ACLS Dissertation Completion Grant Fellowship Panelist, 2018–2019  
“Mentoring the Mentors” Workshop Co-Leader, American Philosophical Association, 2017  
Executive Council, American Catholic Philosophical Association, 2014–2017  
Mentoring Project Workshop for Early-Career Women in Philosophy (Mentor), 2015  
Academic Consultant, *Choose Civility* Initiative, Howard County Library System, 2013–2014  
Ethics Committee, Providence Hospital, Washington D.C., 2001–2005  
Advisory Council for Graduate Studies and Research, University of Notre Dame, 1999–2005  
External Fellowship Reviewer, Mount St. Mary’s College Philosophy Department, 2004, 2005  
Lilly Fellows Summer Seminar, 2000  
Collegium Summer Institute, June 1995  
Referee for the following journals, presses, and professional organizations:

British Society for Ethical Theory; Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council;  
*Ergo*; *Ethics*; *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*; *Faith and Philosophy*, *Hypatia*; *Journal of Ethics*; *Journal of Moral Philosophy*; *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*; *Journal of Philosophical Research*; *Mind*; *Noûs*; Oxford University Press; *Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Res Philosophica*; Routledge Press; *Southern Journal of Philosophy*

## **College and University Service**

### **Georgetown University**

#### **University**

College Curriculum Committee, Co-chair 2020–present, Member 2018–present  
Humanities Initiative Advisory Board, 2018–2020  
Engelhard Project for Connecting Life and Learning, 2011–present  
Community Scholars Program Speaker, 2019, 2020  
College Executive Committee, 2015–2016  
Seminar on the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, 2015–2016  
Core Curriculum Committee, 2010–2016  
Ignatian Colleagues Program, 2013–2015  
Program in Justice and Peace Advisory Board, spring 2003–2015  
Engaged Ethics Planning Team, 2010–2012  
Mission and Ministry Advisory Board, 2010–2011

#### **Philosophy Department**

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2015–present (except while on research leave in 2017)  
Undergraduate Committee, spring 2003, 2004–2005, 2006–present  
Search Committees, 2011–2012, 2012–2013, spring 2018, 2018–2019  
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, spring 2003, 2006–2015  
Faculty Adviser, Ethics and Bioethics Bowl teams, 2012–2015  
Placement Committee, 2003–2004, 2005–2006  
Speakers Committee, spring 2004, spring 2006  
Merit Review Committee, spring 2005

#### **Kennedy Institute of Ethics**

Chair, Search Committee for Director, 2019–2020  
Faculty Member, Introductory Bioethics MOOC, 2013–2014



Presenter, Intensive Bioethics Course, 2008, 2011, 2015  
Small Group Leader, Intensive Bioethics Course, 2004, 2006–2015  
Search Committee, 2009–2010

***Mount Saint Mary's College***

Chair, Lilly Foundation Grant Committee, 2001  
Member, Philosophy Search Committees, 2000–2001, 2001–2002  
Member, Core Assessment Committee, 2001–2002  
Member, Honors Committee, 2000–2002

**Honors and Awards**

College Honors (student-selected teaching recognition), 2010, 2013, 2016, 2020  
Senior Faculty Research Award, 2017  
Summer Academic Grant, Georgetown University, 2008  
Junior Faculty Research Fellowship, Georgetown University, Fall 2004  
Summer Research Grants, Mount St. Mary's College, 2000, 2001  
Summer Seminar Grant, Lilly Fellows Program, 2000  
Fletcher Green Graduate Writing Award, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1994  
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Notre Dame, 1992