

Melina Constantine Bell

W&L University
Department of Philosophy
Washington Hall 312
204 West Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450-2116

She/her/hers
bellm@wlu.edu
(540) 458-8899

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Ph.D. Philosophy	May 2005
Tufts University M.A. Philosophy	May 1999
Boston University School of Public Health M.P.H. (Master of Public Health)	January 1995
Boston University School of Law <ul style="list-style-type: none">• J.D. <i>cum laude</i>• <i>American Journal of Law & Medicine</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ASLME Developments Editor○ Symposium Coordinator 1992-1993	May 1994
Hofstra University B.A. Philosophy, <i>magna cum laude</i>	December 1990

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

W&L University

PHILOSOPHY

Professor of Philosophy	2017-
Associate Professor of Philosophy	2011-2017
Assistant Professor of Philosophy	2005-2011

LAW

Professor of Law (by Courtesy)	2017-
Associate Professor of Law (by Courtesy)	2015-2017
Lecturer in Philosophy and Law	2011-2015

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES (WGSS)

Core Faculty	2005-
Head of Campus and Community Engagement	2018-2021

SHEPHERD PROGRAM FOR THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF
POVERTY AND HUMAN CAPABILITY

Core Faculty 2018-
Affiliate Faculty 2006-2017

LAW, JUSTICE, AND SOCIETY (LJS)

Affiliate Faculty 2019-

University of Pennsylvania

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Graduate Advisor 2005
Graduate Instructor 2002–2004
Graduate Teaching Assistant 2000–2002

Tufts University

Graduate Teaching Assistant 1998–1999

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Shapiro & Associates, Boston, MA

Associate Attorney 1997–1998

Hutchins, Wheeler & Dittmar, P.C., Boston, MA

Associate Attorney 1995–1997

Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, Boston, MA

Summer Legal Intern 1993

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Boston, MA

Summer Legal Intern 1992

PUBLICATIONS

“Children’s Right to Access Potentially Critical Learning: Liberating Youth from Propagation of Structural Injustice.” *Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice* 33 (2024): 29-87.

“Best and Worst States for Women’s Equality” Opinion, WalletHub.com (2024).

“‘Men Against Fire,’ MASS, and Morality,” with Nathaniel Goldberg, in *Humanity in a Black Mirror: Essays on Posthuman Fantasies in a Technological Near Future* (Zahi Zalloua & Jacob Blevins, eds., McFarland, 2023).

“John Stuart Mill’s Harm Principle and Free Speech: Expanding the Notion of Harm,” *Utilitas* (Cambridge Core, 2020): 1-18 (doi: 10.1017/S0953820820000229).

“Best and Worst States for Women’s Equality” Opinion, *WalletHub.com* (2020).

“*Citizens United*, Liberty, and John Stuart Mill.” *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy* 30 (Online Supplement, 2016): 1-23.

“Gender Essentialism and American Law: Why and How to Sever the Connection.” *Duke Journal of Gender, Law & Policy* 23 (2016): 163-221.

“Children Are People: Liberty, Opportunity, and Just Parenthood.” *Review Journal of Political Philosophy* 9.1 (2012): 49-86.

“Is Women’s Bodybuilding Unfeminine?” in *Philosophical Reflections on Physical Strength: Does a Strong Mind Need a Strong Body?* Mark A. Holowchak and Terry Todd, eds. (Edwin Mellon Press, 2010), 179-198.

“Valuing All Families.” *Law, Culture and the Humanities* 5 (2009): 288-316.

“Strength in Muscle and Beauty in Integrity: Building a Body for Her.” *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* 35 (2008): 43-62.

“Regulating Transfer and Use of Fetal Tissue in Transplantation Procedures: The Ethical Dimensions.” *American Journal of Law & Medicine* 20 (1994): 277-294.

WORK IN PROGRESS AND SUBMISSIONS

“On Our Sisters’ Side: Beating Back the Sexual Bribe.” For *Eradicating Gender Violence* (volume under review).

“What’s Wrong with Hooking Up in College?”

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

“Children’s Right to Access Potentially Critical Learning: Liberating Youth from Propagation of Structural Injustice.” *Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice* Annual Spring Symposium, April 10, 2024 (by videoconference).

“Free Speech and Equality: Modernizing Mill’s Harm Principle,” Panel Presentation. Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Society Meeting, New Orleans, March 28, 2019.

“Gender Essentialism and American Law: Why and How to Sever the Connection.” *Duke Journal of Gender, Law & Policy* Annual Symposium: Gender Identity and Sexuality after *Obergefell*, Duke University School of Law, March 3, 2016.

“Is Sexual Promiscuity Morally Wrong? College ‘Hook-Up’ Culture and Double Standards.” Midwest U.S. Society for Women in Philosophy Annual Meeting, Washington College, October 9-11, 2015.

“*Citizens United*, Freedom, and John Stuart Mill.” Virginia Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, W&L, November 7-8, 2014.

“Sex Essentialism and American Law.” Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy, University of Waterloo, August 10-13, 2014.

“Liberty, Equal Opportunity, and Justice Between Generations.” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, University of California at Berkeley, March 28-29, 2008.

“Liberty, Opportunity, and Capacity: A Critique of the Lexical Priority of Rawls’s First Principle.” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, Georgetown University Law Center, March 23-24, 2007.

“Strength in Muscle and Beauty in Integrity: Building a Body for Her.” Associated Colleges of the South Women’s/Gender Studies Conference, Centenary College, March 24-25, 2006.

“Martha Nussbaum on Objectification.” University of Pennsylvania Graduate Humanities Forum, January 23, 2004.

“Perpetuating Patriarchy: The Public Promotion of Traditional Marriage-Based Family.”

- University of Pennsylvania Graduate Humanities Forum, March 27, 2004.
- Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, University of Connecticut, March 12, 2004.
- Geis Student Research on Women Conference, University of Delaware, March 8, 2003.
 - Second Place, Graduate Division, Geis Conference Paper Competition.

“Multiculturalism and Freedom from Unfair Class-Based Discrimination.” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania Law School, March 9, 2002.

Invited

“Interrupting Reproduction of Social Oppression: Children’s Right to Access Potentially Critical Learning,” American Philosophies Forum (Charlotte, NC), April 6-8, 2023.

“Speech Harm, Equity, and Causation.” Professor Samuel Freeman’s Career Celebration Symposium, University of Pennsylvania Philosophy Department, April 29, 2022.

Comment, Jake Beardsley, “Gender Identity as Narrative.” Virginia Philosophical Association, Oct. 29-30, 2021.

Comment, Shelley Wilcox, “Unlocking Global Care Chains: Toward a Promising Feminist Approach to Immigration Justice.” Mudd Center Ethics of Immigration Conference, W&L University, November 6-7, 2015.

“‘Good Character Leads to a Flourishing Life’: What Does this Mean to Me?” Lecture and discussion for graduating seniors, The Tatnall School, Wilmington, Delaware, May 31, 2013.

National Geographic episode of *Taboo*, “Extreme Bodies” (Season 9, Episode 7). Served as an expert on gender construction and feminist aesthetics. September 23, 2012.

Comment, Tina Rulli, “Expanding the Circle of Concern: May We Prefer Our ‘Own’ Children?” Virginia Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Marymount University, October 22-23, 2010.

Comment, Simon Cabulea May, “Liberal Neutrality and Marriage Equality.” Virginia Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Roanoke College, October 24-25, 2008.

“Should Inheritance Be Abolished?” Southern Virginia University Philosophy Club, Friday, November 2, 2007.

Comment, Allen Thompson’s “Neurathian Ethical Naturalism.” Virginia Philosophical Association Annual Meeting at Virginia Wesleyan University, October 28-29, 2005.

W&L Presentations

“Gender Essentialism and American Law: Why and How to Sever the Connection.”

- Frances Lewis Law Center Faculty Workshop, W&L School of Law, February 27, 2017
- Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy Honor Society) induction address, March 8, 2016
- Women and Gender Studies Colloquium, February 12, 2014

Sexual Health Awareness Group Presentations

- “Rape, Feminism and Difference,” March 21, 2016
- “A Moral Defense of Promiscuous Sex,” March 23, 2015
- “Erotic Dominance and Submission: Does What Happens in the Bedroom Stay in the Bedroom?” March 15, 2014.

“Lack of Female Participation in the Political Process.” Panelist, Lara D. Gass Women in the Law Symposium, W&L School of Law, September 23, 2016.

“New Masculinity.” Sigma Phi Epsilon Dinner Lecture, January 31, 2012.

“The Equal Rights Amendment: Where It Stands and What It Would Do.” Women’s Law Student Organization, W&L School of Law, March 15, 2011.

“Is Human Flourishing Gendered?” Presentation and workshop offered jointly with Professor Wendy Orrison. Kappa Delta sorority, November 8, 2009.

“The Bad Boy, The Nice Guy: What Women Want.” Knowledge Empowering Women Leaders (KEWL) Discussion Forum, February 15, 2007.

“Strength in Muscle and Beauty in Integrity: Building a Body for Her.” Women’s Studies Lunch Colloquium, February 22, 2006.

“Feminist Activism in the Academy.” Knowledge Empowering Women Leaders (KEWL) Student-Faculty Dinner, November 8, 2005.

AWARDS AND HONORS

W&L University Lenfest Grants (2009-2024)

W&L Class of 1956 Provost’s Faculty Development Endowment publication support (2020, 2023)

W&L Teacher-Scholar Development Cohort on Race, Class and Gender (2019-2020 and 2018-2019)

W&L College Professional Meeting Grants (2019, 2015(2), 2014, 2011(2), 2010, 2008(3), 2007(2), 2006(2))

W&L Sabbatical Leave Grant (2017 and 2008)

W&L Course mini-grants (2016, 2012, 2009, 2008, 2007)

W&L University Lectures Grant (2012, 2006)

W&L Academic Life Spring Term Course Development Grant (2008)

W&L University John M. Glenn Grants (2006-2008)

University Fellowship from the Graduate Division of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania (1999-2004)

Edward F. Hennessey Distinguished Scholar; third-year law class rank 12/429 (1994)

Paul J. Liacos Scholar; top 25% of second-year law class (1993)

Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Jurisprudence Award for Trial Advocacy (1993)

Phi Beta Kappa (Omega Chapter of New York, 1991)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Regular Courses

LAW 630: Feminist and Queer Jurisprudence

LAW 631: Jurisprudence Seminar

PHIL 145: Contemporary Moral Problems

PHIL 228: John Stuart Mill

PHIL/WGSS 242: Social Inequality and Fair Opportunity

PHIL/WGSS 244: Feminist Social and Political Philosophy

PHIL/WGSS 246: Philosophy of Sex

PHIL 250: (Spring): Philosophies of Life

PHIL 252: Philosophy of Law

PHIL/WGSS 254: Philosophy of the Family: Beyond Tradition

PHIL 354: Distributive Justice

PHIL 473/493: Senior/Honors Thesis Seminar

POV 101: Poverty and Human Capability: An Interdisciplinary Introduction

WGSS 120: Intro to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

WGSS 180: Gender and Sport

Topical Seminars

PHIL 195: Honor Beyond the Classroom: The Philosophy of Honor

PHIL 295: Honor Beyond the Classroom: The Philosophy of Honor

PHIL 295A (Spring 2009): Utopia

WGSS 296A (Fall 2009): Sexual Assault Prevention Workshop

WST 396 (Women's Studies capstone, Fall 2006): Marriage and Family

Theses Supervised

PHILOSOPHY HONORS THESES

Daniel Wetterhahn, "More than Just Victors' Justice: A Defense of the Solely Retributive Character of Atrocity Crime Punishment by International Criminal Tribunals" (2021)

Alex Farley, "An Empathy-Based Account of Rational Sentimentalism" (2019)

Justin Gillette, "Implied and Implicit Law: Resolving Semantically Hard Cases" (2018)

Will Mason "A Neo-Aristotelian Model for Public Education in America" (2017)

William Brown, "Seneca on Gift-Giving and the Duty to Reciprocate" (2016)

William Mallery, "The Ontology of Intellectual Property" (2016)

Christine Pence, "Informed Consent in Tissue Banking: Protecting Privacy and Protecting Science" (2014)

Zain Raza, "Insights from Feminist Epistemology for the Scientific Process" (2014)

Ian Sturdy, "Aristotle's Theory of Just Exchange" (2012)

Robin Zheng, "Praising Virtue and Contenance: The Role of Pleasure in Moral Appraisal" (2009)

Won the Edward Dodd prize for best philosophy honors thesis

Kalin Harvard, "The Good Life" (2009)

Adam Hockensmith, "Political Liberalism in Crisis: The Deep Conflict Between Sex Equality and Religious Freedom in Rawls's Political Liberalism" (2008)

Won the Edward Dodd prize for best philosophy honors thesis

Grant Milby, "Natural Contingencies: A Different Principle for Rawls' Second Principle of Justice" (2008)

Bibeka Shrestha, "Who Is She? A Reflection on Feminist Metaphysics" (2007)

Kari Chachula, "On Happiness" (2007)

Jillian Lang, "Exploring Global Economic Justice" (2007)

Nikita Liamzine, "Tolerating the Intolerant in a Liberal State" (2006)

SENIOR PHILOSOPHY THESES

Nataki Hemmings, "Reclaiming Black Humanity" (2013)

Mike Burnes, "Justice in a Capitalist System: An Application of John Rawls's Difference Principle in a Complex Economy" (2011)

Stephanie Schaefer, "Applying Amartya Sen's Human Capability Theory to Incarcerated Youths in America" (2010)

Won the Young Award for best philosophy senior thesis

Jessie Wang, "Sports and Virtues" (2010)

Jasmine Hart, "Sexual Ethics" (2010)

Won the Young Award for best philosophy senior thesis

Dominique Lamb, "Privilege: A Philosophical Cost-Benefit Analysis" (2008)

Lisa Johnson, "Where is Difference in Equality?" (2006)

WGSS CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Cameron Grainger, "Title IX vs. Androcentrism and Separate Spheres: Historical Forces Impacting Women in Sports and Where We Go from Here" (2024)

Lingyu "Beverley" Xia, "How Does Covid-19 Influence Gender Attitudes: Evidence from the US" (2022)

Clare Perry, "COVID-19, Motherhood, and Implications for Justice" (2021)

Kelsey Park, "The Personal as Political: Conservative Women and their Deep Stories" (2018)

Weldon Furr, "Emergency Response for Gendered Violence: A Patient-centered Approach for Physicians Treating Victims of Gendered Violence in an Emergency Setting" (2017)

Ashley Hubbard, "A History of the Treatment of Married Couples in the Federal Income Tax System" (2008)

SHEPHERD POVERTY PROGRAM CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Alex Woodward, "Prostitution, Poverty, and Human Dignity" (2020) (second reader)

Kristen-Kaye Goulbourne, "Maximizing Opportunities Among Jamaican Diabetics and Hypertensives" (2010) (second reader)

Emily Martin, "Disparate Representation of Black Children in the Child Welfare System" (2008) (second reader)

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES CAPSTONE PROJECT

Alecia Flynn, "Contemporary Black Women Novelists: Putting Pen to Paper to Empower Marginalized Voices" (2010)

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Dan Wetterhahn, on the philosophy of John Stuart Mill (Philosophy, 2020)

Julie Malone, on the philosophy of Marilyn Frye (Philosophy, 2018)

James Spencer, on distributive justice theories of Rawls, Nozick, and Dworkin (2014)

Grant Milby, on Adam Smith (2008)

COMMITTEE WORK AND SERVICE

University

Pre-law Faculty Resource, 2014-

Initial Academic Advisor to Students, 2006-

Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges Ethics Bowl, W&L Faculty Coordinator,
2015-2022

University Committee on Inclusiveness and Campus Climate, 2018-2021

Race-Class-Gender Teacher-Scholar Cohort Organizer, 2018-2020

First-Year Community Discussion Leader, 2012-2019

Science, Society, and the Arts Conference Committee, 2016-2017

Roger Mudd Center for Ethics Postdoctoral Search Committee, 2015

Decade Award Selection Committee, 2015, 2008, 2007

Live Well W&L Ambassador, 2011-2014

Pre-law Advisor, 2010-2014

Women's Leadership Summit Moderator, 2013, 2012, 2010

Women's Leadership Summit Programming Committee, 2011-2012

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for a Course on Respect and Responsibility, 2010-2012

Violence Intervention Program, 2010-2012

University Athletic Committee, 2006-2012

Discrimination Policy Advisor, 2009-2011

Student-Faculty Hearing Board Review, 2009-2011

Student Financial Aid Committee, 2006-2011

New Faculty Mentor, 2009-2010

Student Affairs Committee, 2007-2010

University Ombuds Search Committee, 2009

Confidential and Impartial Resource (CAIR) Representative, 2006-2007

Interdisciplinary Program Support

Shepherd Program Advisory Committee, 2018-

Shepherd Program Minor Advisor, 2018-

WGSS Program Minor Advisor, 2017-
WGSS Program Advisory Committee, 2013-
Law, Justice, and Society Pre-tenure Review Committee 2023
WGSS Head of Campus and Community Engagement, 2018-2021
Promotion Review Committee for WGSS faculty member, 2019-2020
Chair, Shepherd Program Tenure and Promotion Review Committee, 2018-2019
Legal Studies Interdisciplinary Program Task Force, 2018-2019
Shepherd Program Tenure and Promotion Review Committee, 2016-2018
Shepherd Program Strategic Planning, Law-Related Learning Task Group, 2017
WGSS Program Advisory Committee, 2006-2011

Philosophy Department

Major and Minor Academic Advisor, 2006-
Honors Thesis Defense Committee, 2005-
Pre-tenure Review Committee 2023
Tenure and Promotion Review Committee, 2020-2021
Promotion Review Committee, 2018-2019
Tenure Track Search Committee, 2018-2019
SACS Accreditation Departmental Review Committee, 2017-2018 and 2007-2008
Tenure Track Search Committee, 2015-2016
Tenure and Promotion Review Committee, 2015-2016
Honors and Senior Thesis Program Coordinator, 2007-2014
Curriculum and Senior Program Development Committee, 2009-2011
Tenure Track Search Committee, 2008-2009
Tenure Track Search Committee, 2007-2008
Visiting Professor Search Committee, 2006

Professional Service

Journal Referee, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice*, *Utilitas*

STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISING

Gender Action Group Advisor, 2016-2022
Just Community Coalition Coordinator, 2017-2021
Gender Action Group Faculty Resource, 2014-2016
Faculty Advisor to LAUNCH, 2013-2015
Faculty Advisor to the W&L Moot Court Team, 2013-2015
Faculty Advisor to Generals Interested in Legal Studies, 2010-2014

Faculty Advisor to Campus Climate Initiative 2012-2013

Faculty Advisor to W&L Ballroom Dance Club, 2011-2012

Faculty Advisor to END IT, 2010-2012

Knowledge Empowering Women Leaders (KEWL) Mentoring Program, 2006-2007

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association

Virginia Philosophical Association

Society for Analytical Feminism

American Association of University Professors

Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities

W&L Women Administrators and Faculty Group

W&L Advocate Coalition

Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma Chapter of Virginia