

# RUSSELL DISILVESTRO

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Philosophy, California State University-Sacramento 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6033; (916) 278-6766; <a href="mailto:rdisily@csus.edu">rdisily@csus.edu</a>
ACADEMIC POSITION	Department of Philosophy, California State University-Sacramento <i>Chair, 2016 -- present</i> <i>Professor, 2017 -- present</i> <i>Associate Professor, 2012 -- 2017</i> <i>Assistant Professor, 2006 -- 2012</i> <i>Director, Center for Practical and Professional Ethics, 2012 -- 2016</i>
EDUCATION	Ph.D., Philosophy, Bowling Green State University, 2006 M.A., Philosophy, Bowling Green State University, 2003 M.A., Philosophy of Religion and Ethics, Biola University, 2001 B.A., Philosophy, Indiana University, 1998
AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION	Ethics, Bioethics
AREAS OF COMPETENCE	Metaphysics, Epistemology
BOOK	<i>Human Capacities and Moral Status</i> . Springer's Philosophy and Medicine Series, 2010.  Reviewed by Matthew Carey Jordan in <i>American Journal of Bioethics</i> (12:2, February 2012 pp. 49-50) and Jason T. Eberl in <i>National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly</i> (11:3, Autumn 2011, pp. 596-8).
BOOK CHAPTERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. (with Timothy Houk) "Concrete but not Crystalline: the Metaphysics of Human Persons," in Mihretu P. Guta and Scott B. Rae (eds.), <i>Taking Persons Seriously: Where Philosophy and Bioethics Intersect</i> (Wipf and Stock, forthcoming)</li><li>2. "Teach Your Children Well: Origins, Rights, and the Education of 'My' Child," pp. 35-52 in Michael Cholbi and Jaime Ahlberg (eds.), <i>Procreation, Parenthood, and Educational Rights: Ethical and Philosophical Issues</i> (Routledge, 2017).</li><li>3. "My Life is Not My Own: Individualism and Human Significance," pp. 65-86 in John F. Kilner (ed.), <i>Why People Matter: A Christian Engagement with Rival Views of Human Significance</i> (Baker Academic, 2017).</li><li>4. (with Dan Weijers) "The Morality of Experience Machines for Palliative and End-of-Life Care," pp. 183-202 in Mark Wilcox (ed.), <i>Experience Machines: The Philosophy of Virtual Worlds</i>, (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017).</li></ol>
JOURNAL ARTICLES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. "Gene Editing, Potential Persons, and Eugenic Concerns," <i>Dignitas</i> 26:3-4 (combined issue 2019), pp. 16-25.</li><li>2. "Disability, Origin Essentialism, and the Problem of Differently Constituted Precursors," <i>Journal of the Christian Institute on Disability</i> 6.1 &amp; 6.2 (special combined issue on Disability and Bioethics, 2017), pp. 85-110.</li><li>3. "The Arc of the Moral Universe is Long, but it Bends Towards Mercy and Grace: and Other Delightful Surprises of a Distinctively Christian Bioethics," <i>Christian Bioethics</i> 21:3 (September 2015), pp. 262-281.</li></ol>

4. "The Ghost in the Machine is the Elephant in the Room: Souls, Death, and Harm at the End of Life," *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 37:5 (October 2012), pp. 480-502.
5. "Three Christian Arguments Against Germline Engineering," *Christian Bioethics* 18:2 (August 2012), pp. 201-218.
6. "Capacities, Hierarchies, and the Moral Status of Normal Human Infants," *Journal of Value Inquiry* 43:4 (December 2009), pp. 479-492.
7. "Reproductive Autonomy, the Non-Identity Problem, and the Non-Person Problem," *Bioethics* 23:1 (January 2009), pp. 59-67.
8. "A Qualified Endorsement of Embryonic Stem-Cell Research, Based on Two Widely Shared Beliefs about the Brain-Diseased Patients Such Research Might Benefit," *Journal of Medical Ethics* 34 (July 2008), pp. 563-567.
9. "Not Every Cell is Sacred: A Reply to Charo," *Bioethics* 20:3 (June 2006), pp. 146-157.
10. "Human Embryos in the Original Position?" *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 30:3 (June 2005), pp. 285-304.
11. "A Neglected Solution to the Problem of the Metaphysical and Moral Status of the Human-Animal Chimera," *Ethics & Medicine* 20:2 (Summer 2004), pp. 5-23.

OPEN  
PEER  
COMMENTARIES

1. (with Chong Choe-Smith, Timothy Houk, and Saray Ayala-Lopez) "The Road to HEAVEN is Paved With Good Intentions: Transplanting Heads, Manipulating Selves, and Reassigning Genders," *American Journal of Bioethics-Neuroscience* 8:4 (November 2017), pp. 223-225.
2. (with Chong Choe-Smith and Timothy Houk) "'I Just Wanna Get My Self, or My Story, Back Again': Narrative Identity, Neurosurgical Intervention, and the Temporary Change Argument," *American Journal of Bioethics-Neuroscience* 8:3 (October 2017), pp. 178-180.
3. (with Timothy Houk and Mark Jensen) "Smoke and Mirrors: Subverting Rationality, Positive Freedom, and their Relevance to Nudging and/or Smoking Policies," *American Journal of Bioethics* 16:7 (July 2016), pp. 20-22.
4. "Irreversible Schmirreversible," *American Journal of Bioethics* 14:8 (August 2014), pp. 26-28.
5. "The Two Essence Problem That Wasn't," *American Journal of Bioethics* 12:9 (September 2012), pp. 34-35.
6. "What Does Not Budge for Any Nudge?" *American Journal of Bioethics* 12:2 (February 2012), pp. 14-15.
7. "The Parthenotes and the Parthenon," *American Journal of Bioethics* 11:3 (March 2011), pp. 35-36.
8. "Small-r-Republicans, Big-R-Republicans, and Government Bioethics Councils," *American Journal of Bioethics* 9:2 (February 2009), pp. 57-58.
9. "Precisely Which Claim Makes Spontaneous Abortion a Scourge?" *American Journal of Bioethics* 8:7 (July 2008), pp. 31-33.
10. "What's Wrong with Deliberately Proselytizing Patients?" *American Journal of Bioethics* 7:7 (July 2007), pp. 22-24.

SELECTED  
BOOK  
REVIEWS

1. *Friendship as Sacred Knowing: Overcoming Isolation*. Samuel Kimbriel (Oxford University Press, 2014). Reviewed for *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (online, December 2014).
2. *Dignity: Its History and Meaning*. Michael Rosen (Harvard University Press, 2012). Reviewed for *Essays in Philosophy* 14:1 (January 2013), pp. 112-116.
3. *Peter Singer and Christian Ethics: Beyond Polarization*. Charles C. Camosy (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Reviewed for *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (online, November 2012).
4. *Overcoming Cynicism: William James and the Metaphysics of Engagement*. Megan Mustain (Continuum, 2011). Reviewed for *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (online, November 2011).
5. *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art: An Introduction*. Robert Stecker (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005). Reviewed in *The British Journal of Aesthetics* 46:1 (January 2006), pp. 96-97.
6. *Six Names of Beauty*. Crispin Sartwell (Routledge, 2004). Reviewed for *Journal of Value Inquiry* 39:1 (2005), pp. 279-282.
7. *Equality and Responsibility*. Christopher Lake (Oxford University Press, 2001). Reviewed in *Journal of Value Inquiry* 38:1 (2004), pp. 115-120.

SELECTED  
PAPER  
PRESENTATIONS

1. "Re-electing the Potential President: A New Old Tool for How to Think of Human Persons," paper given to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity Academy of Fellows meeting, Deerfield, Illinois (conducted virtually through Zoom), February 12-13, 2021.
2. (with Nicholas Williams and Dan Weijers) "How AI Might Help us Die with Dignity and Fairness," for the 10<sup>th</sup> workshop in Decisions, Games, and Logic (DGL), "Ethics, Statistics, and Fair AI," California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, June 10-12, 2019.
3. "How AI May Help Us Die: A Hopeful Message About Artificial Intelligence, Dying with Dignity, and Fairness," for the 2019 Nammour Symposium, California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, California, April 3, 2019.
4. "Virtual Reality and Dying with Dignity," paper given to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity Academy of Fellows meeting, "Emerging Issues in Bioethics," Deerfield, Illinois, February 1-2, 2019.
5. "Did Jesus Look Like Joseph, or Mary, or Neither? : Genetics, Incarnation, and a Few Surprises About Being Human," paper given to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary summer conference, "Bioethics and Being Human," Deerfield, Illinois, June 21-23, 2018.
6. "Did Jesus Look Like Joseph, or Mary, or Neither? : Genetics, Incarnation, and a Few Surprises About Being Human," paper given to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity Academy of Fellows meeting, "Genetics, CRISPR, and Beyond," Deerfield, Illinois, February 16-17, 2018.
7. "Capabilities, Rights, and Sex-Selective Abortions," for Marian University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 8, 2016.
8. "A Defense of Puddleglum," for the 2015 Nammour Symposium, California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, California, April 8-9, 2015.
9. "Teach Your Children Well," paper delivered to the "From Procreative Ethics

- to Parental Rights” conference, at the University of Florida Department of Philosophy, Gainesville, Florida, February 27-28, 2015.
10. “Capabilities, Rights, and Sex-Selective Abortions,” paper given to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity Academy of Fellows meeting, Deerfield, Illinois, January 23-24, 2015.
  11. “Work, Production, and Reproduction,” for the 2014 Nammour Symposium, California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, California, April 16-17, 2014.
  12. “Capabilities, Rights, and Sex-Selective Abortions,” keynote address for the San Diego State University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, San Diego, California, October 19-20, 2013.
  13. “I May Not Be a Smart Man, But I Know What Love Is: Or, How to Philosophize About Love Without Missing the Forrest for the Trees,” for the 2013 Nammour Symposium, California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, California, April 16-17, 2013.
  14. “To Sleep Perchance to Dream: What Hamlet Might Tell Us About Bringing Back the Dead,” for the Society for Catholicism and Analytic Philosophy, American Catholic Philosophical Association annual meeting, Marina Del Rey, California, November 3, 2012.
  15. “Capabilities, Rights, and Sex-Selective Abortions,” for the Talbot Philosophical Society Fall Graduate Conference, Biola University, La Mirada, California, November 2, 2012.
  16. “Capabilities, Rights, and Sex-Selective Abortions,” for the Poynter Center 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium “Humanitarianism and Human Rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, October 12, 2012.
  17. “Game On: Why Culture Competition Beats Culture War as a Metaphor for Cultural Conflict,” for the 2012 Nammour Symposium, California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, California, April 10, 2012.
  18. “Harmless Sexual Immorality?,” for the Philosophy Colloquium Series of the Department of Philosophy and Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society at California State University-Chico, Chico, California, April 6, 2012.
  19. “Say You're Sorry: How to Apologize and Mean It,” for the 2011 Nammour Symposium, California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, California, April 27, 2011.
  20. “Wax On, Wax Off: Indirect Approaches to Success and Virtue from Demosthenes to Peyton Manning,” for the 2010 Nammour Symposium, California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, California, April 21, 2010.
  21. “The Ghost in the Machine is the Elephant in the Room: Souls, Death, and Harm at the End of Life,” for the Spring 2010 Philosophy Department Colloquium Series at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, April 5, 2010.
  22. “How to Love Your Neighbors and Enemies While Speaking Out Against Them in Public,” for the College of Arts and Letters Symposium, “After Prop 8: A Symposium on How Communities Deal With Controversy Over Polarizing Issues,” California State University-Sacramento, Sacramento, California, October 26, 2009.

HONORS  
AND  
AWARDS

1. Academy of Fellows, Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity. Interdisciplinary community of scholars in bioethics.
2. The Distinguished Dissertation Award, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.
3. Non-Service Dissertation Fellowship, Bowling Green State University. Bowling Green, Ohio, 2005-2006.
4. H. B. Earhart Fellowship, administered by The Earhart Foundation. Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2005-2006.
5. The Charlotte and Walter Kohler Fellowship in Family Studies, administered by The Howard Center. Rockford, Illinois, 2004-2005.

VISITING  
APPOINTMENTS

Department of Philosophy, University of California-Davis  
*Visiting Associate Professor, Fall 2013, Winter 2015*  
*Visiting Assistant Professor, Spring 2011*  
*Lecturer, Summer 2012, Summer 2013*

Trinity Graduate School, Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL  
*Online Lecturer, Spring 2014, 2015; Fall 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019*  
*Adjunct Faculty, Spring 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020*

William Jessup University, Rocklin, CA  
*Online Course Designer, Summer 2016*  
*Adjunct Faculty, Fall 2016 - present*

SELECTED  
TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**California State University-Sacramento**

1. Bioethics (48x)
2. Business and Computer Ethics (6x)
3. Ethics (14x)
4. Ethics and Social Issues (3x)
5. History of Ethics (3x)
6. Metaphysics (5x)
7. Philosophy of Law (1x)
8. Philosophy of Religion (1x)
9. Political Philosophy (2x)
10. Recent Ethical Theory (1x)
11. Research Integrity (1x)
12. John Stuart Mill (1x)

**University of California-Davis**

13. Foundations of Ethics (1x)
14. Ethical Theories (3x)
15. Bioethics (1x)

**Trinity International University**

16. Ethical Theory (MA course) (10x)

**William Jessup University**

17. Christian Perspectives (philosophy course required of all seniors) (10x)
18. Leadership Ethics (MA course) (1x)

SELECTED  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

1. Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* (Oxford)
2. Editorial Advisory Board, *Christian Bioethics* (Oxford)
3. Editorial Board, *Internet Journal of Law, Healthcare, and Ethics*
4. Director, Visiting Lecture Series, CSUS Philosophy Department, 2007-2016
5. Co-director, Fall Ethics Symposium, CSUS Center for Practical and Professional Ethics, 2008-summer 2016
6. Faculty Advisor, Philosophy Club, CSU-Sacramento, 2010-2016.
7. Annual speaker for *Future Philosophers*, a high school visitation program administered by the CSUS Department of Philosophy, 2010-present.