

BACKGROUND

EDUCATION	<i>Doctor of Philosophy</i>	<i>Expected 2027</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Philosophy and Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto (with Collaborative Specialisation in Bioethics) “<i>Doctoring Decision-making: Can limiting treatment options promote autonomy?</i>” Supervised by: Andrew Franklin-Hall, Amy Mullin, Brendan De Kennessey, Sunit Das 	
	<i>Honours Bachelor of Arts (with High Distinction)</i> , University of Toronto	<i>2021</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double major in International Relations and Bioethics (Philosophy) 	

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS	Canada Graduate Research Scholarship-Doctoral (CGRS D), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Faculty of Arts and Science Top Doctoral Fellowship (FAST) Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) Massey College Junior Fellowship	<i>2024–2026</i> <i>2021–2025</i> <i>2023–2024</i> <i>2021–2027</i>
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RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS	AREA OF SPECIALISATION: Bioethics AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Ethics, Political Philosophy
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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES (FULL LENGTH)	1. Chen, Stacy S. 2025. “A ‘Code-Switching’ Model for Healthcare Communication.” <i>Healthcare Management Forum</i> , 38 (4): 391–94. (in special issue on healthcare ethics) [Link to article]
(*) denotes co-first authorship.	2. Brenna, Connor T. A.*, Stacy S. Chen* , Matthew Cho, Liam G. McCoy, and Sunit Das. 2023. “Steering Clear of Akrasia: An Integrative Review of Self-Binding Ulysses Contracts in Clinical Practice.” <i>Bioethics</i> 37 (7): 690–714. [Link to article]
	3. Chen, Stacy S. , Sunit Das. 2022. “‘What Are My Options?’: Physicians as Ontological Decision Architects in Surgical Informed Consent.” <i>Bioethics</i> 36 (9): 936–39. [Link to article]

NON-PEER REVIEWED (SHORTER; COMMENTARIES; OTHER)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. McCoy, Liam G., Connor T.A. Brenna, Stacy S. Chen, Karina Vold, and Sunit Das. 2022. "Believing in Black Boxes: Machine Learning for Healthcare Does Not Need Explainability to Be Evidence-Based." <i>Journal of Clinical Epidemiology</i> 142 (February): 252–57. [Link to article] 5. Chen, Stacy S. 2024. "The Harms of Imagining the Ideal." <i>Canadian Journal of Bioethics</i> 7 (1): 50. [Link to article] 6. Chen, Stacy S., Connor T A Brenna, Joost Mollen, and Sunit Das. 2025. "Which Risks Can Undermine Benefits in Research?" <i>The American Journal of Bioethics</i> 25 (5): 86–88. 7. Chen, Stacy S., Connor T. A. Brenna, Matthew Cho, Liam G. McCoy, and Sunit Das. 2024. "The Name of the Game: A Wittgensteinian View of 'Invasiveness.'" <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i> 50 (4): 240–41. 8. Chen, Stacy S.*, Liam G. McCoy*, Samuel Forster, Connor T. A. Brenna, Nir Lipsman, and Sunit Das. 2022. "Continuums of Capacity, Binaries of Guilt: The Sociopolitical Role of Neuroethics in Criminal Justice." <i>AJOB Neuroscience</i> 13 (1): 25–28. 9. Chen, Stacy S. 2024. "Global Health Impact: Extending Access to Essential Medicines, Written by Nicole Hassoun." <i>Journal of Moral Philosophy</i>, January, 1–4. (Book review) 10. The Oxford Handbook of Ethics of AI: An Annotated Bibliography. (<i>An ongoing collaboration among faculty and students affiliated with the Ethics of AI Lab, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto</i>, contributor from September 2019 to July 2020).
FORTHCOMING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. (<i>Invited</i>) Chapter on Ethical Considerations in Neuro-Oncology, in upcoming volume of the Handbook of Clinical Neurology, with Sunit Das.
PRESENTATIONS	
REFEREED PRESENTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (<i>Upcoming</i>) "Integrating Ethics and Professionalism in Intercultural Competencies in Medical Education", North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada. <i>Presented with with UofT Med Intercultural Competencies Group, led by Dr Cindy Sinclair.</i> Nov 2026 • "A Capacity-Sensitive Approach to Disagreement", Institute of Medical Ethics (IME) Conference, Bristol, United Kingdom. June 2026 • "Competent until contradictory", Institute of Medical Ethics (IME) Conference, London, United Kingdom. July 2024 • "Multi-cultural healthcare systems and the role of family and familiarity in medical interpretation", Institute of Medical Ethics June 2023

	(IME) Postgraduate Bioethics Conference (PGBC), hosted by the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Barriers and biases: Informed consent with family members as medical interpreters” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Toronto, ON, Canada. 	<i>May 2023</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Lowering the high epistemic barriers to entry in medicine to promote pluralism and patient trust” Bioethics in Society (BIOS) Conference, hosted by the Research Center for Clinical Ethics (CREC) of the University of Insubria, Como, Italy. 	<i>October 2022</i>
INVITED PRESENTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Do patients implicitly agree to treatment?”, National University of Singapore (NUS) Philosophical Bioethics Workshop, Singapore, Singapore. 	<i>June 2025</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The ethics of medical interpretation by untrained family members”, Ethics rounds, Champlain Centre for Health Care Ethics, Ottawa ON, Canada. 	<i>May 2025</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>(Prepared but did not attend. Presented by co-panellist.)</i> Symposium on Population Health Ethics: Measuring and Modeling Injustice organized by Carina Fourie. American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific. San Francisco, USA. 	<i>April 2025</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Patience and patients: How can we address unreasonableness in medical decision-making?” Ethics and Political Philosophy Group, University of Toronto, Toronto ON, Canada. 	<i>December 2023</i>

EXPERIENCE

TEACHING	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO	
	<i>Course Instructor: Bioethics</i>	<i>Summer 2026</i>
	<i>Teaching Assistant: Grader, Ethics, Genetics, and Reproduction</i>	<i>Winter 2026</i>
	<i>Teaching Assistant: Grader, Science Fiction and Philosophy</i>	<i>Summer 2025</i>
	<i>Teaching Assistant: Tutorial Leader, Bioethics</i>	<i>Winter 2025</i>
	<i>Teaching Assistant: Grader, Introduction to Political Philosophy</i>	<i>Winter 2022</i>
	TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY	
	<i>Invited Guest Lecturer, FCD918/ RTA 918/MP8918 Ethics in Media</i>	<i>February 2022</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Presentation: “Bioethics, Media Ethics, and the Problem of Pluralism.” 	

ACADEMIC WORK	<i>Lead</i> ,“Interdisciplinary Bioethics” Working Group, funded by a grant from the Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto	2025–2026
	<i>Board member</i> , Health Sciences Research Ethics Board	May 2024–present
	<i>Facilitator/ethicist</i> , UofT Temerty Faculty of Medicine MD Program Ethics and Professionalism Seminars	Jan 2023–present
OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE	ST MICHAEL’S HOSPITAL <i>Shadowing student in clinic</i>	Jun–Aug 2023
	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO <i>Research Assistant</i> to Dr. Sunit Das. Working on projects related to physician-patient relationships, informed consent and autonomy, neuroscience and neuroethics, ethics of AI.	Jan 2020–present
	<i>Research Assistant and Copyeditor</i> for Professor Arthur Ripstein. For Hussain, Waheed (2023). <i>Living with the Invisible Hand: Markets, Corporations, and Human Freedom</i> . New York, US: OUP USA. Edited by Arthur Ripstein & Nicholas Vrousalis.	Nov 2022– Jan 2023
	<i>Research Assistant and Copyeditor</i> for Professor Markus Dubber at the Centre for Ethics. Responsible for editing of manuscripts, research and preparation for seminars, and facilitation various lectures and events at the Centre related to topics such as pedagogy, ethics of AI, medical ethics, and law.	Sept 2019– Sept 2020
	UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL <i>Research Assistant and Copyeditor</i> for Professor David Weisstub Congress coordinator for International Academy of Law and Mental Health (IALMH). Copyeditor for volume on ethics of suicide (Brian Mishara; David Weisstub) and edited volume on medical ethics.	Jan–July 2021
	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE <i>Research Assistant</i> to Professor Reuben Wong	2017–2019

Assisted on data collection and organisation for two projects, on:
Singaporean foreign affairs, ASEAN–EU relations.

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

REVIEWER

Journal of Medical Ethics, BMJ

Bioethics, Wiley

Health Care Analysis, Springer Nature

Medicine, Health Care, and Philosophy, Springer Nature

University of Toronto Department of Philosophy Graduate Conference

CHAired SESSIONS

2024 Inaugural Toronto Bioethics Workshop. “Autonomy in Algorithms?”.

2023 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA),
Toronto, ON, Canada. Social and Political Philosophy session.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Canadian Philosophical Association

2021–present

American Philosophical Association

2021–present

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Co-Chair Massey Grand Rounds, Massey College

2024–2025

Chair, Underrepresented Philosophy (UP) Caucus,
Department of Philosophy

2023–2024

COMMUNITY AND
LEADERSHIP

Chair Massey Grand Rounds, Massey College

2024–2025

Member Temerty Centre for AI Research and Education
in Medicine (T-CAIREM)

2024–present

Member Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and Disability Working
Group led by Professor Marlene Goldman, University of Toronto.

2023–2024

Volunteer Noteworthy Music Program, UofT Medical Society

2022–2023

Volunteer Judge Ontario Ethics Bowl

June 2022

Organiser “Vidhya” interdisciplinary journal club, Massey College

2021–2023

Member Massey Grand Rounds, Massey College

2021–present

Member Philosophy of Medicine Working Group, University of Toronto.

2021–2023

Member Ethics and Political Philosophy Research Interest Group,
Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto

2021–present

Member Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF)

2020–2021

SKILLS AND DETAILS

CERTIFICATIONS	TCPS 2: CORE-2022 (Government of Canada research ethics certification)
LANGUAGE COMPETENCY	English (native), Chinese: Mandarin (working proficiency)
CITIZENSHIP	Canadian citizen, Singaporean permanent resident

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

When practitioners are presenting treatment options to a patient, the current process of informed consent ensures the ethics of this decision by requiring that the patient understands the risks and benefits of each treatment option and chooses the one best aligned with their values (Beauchamp 2011; Drolet and White 2012; Falagas et al. 2009; Grady 2015; Steinberg 2009). Herein lies a puzzle. The practitioner could conceivably describe all possible paths forward (from the most medically substantiated treatment option to an ineffective option to doing nothing, and everything in between), but time is limited. Present too many and the patient is bewildered. Present too few and the fear is this compromises the patient's autonomy. Thus, it seems that the practitioner must determine a set of options to present. How does one choose what to bring forward? My doctoral research describes this construction of the option set in clinical decision-making, and consists of three parts: a descriptive section, a normative section, and practical applications. I describe how the nature of the medical profession requires physicians to determine a subset of courses of actions to present to their patient, based on the medical knowledge that they acquire through their experience and training. My normative argument builds upon this descriptive section to argue that it is permissible to omit options if those options would tempt the patient to go against their genuine values, and that this omission can promote autonomy. Finally, I apply this argument to address how the current informed consent process is impacted, and how it can be improved. I propose a shift from privileging patient autonomy to recognising what I call the "implicit agreement" that underlies the practitioner-patient relationship which grounds assumed adherence to the medical field's norms and practices. This alleviates the burdens of measuring "true" patient understanding and captures the real-life scenario of "whatever you say, doc". This agreement simply asks whether the patient is willing to give over some control to their medical team, with the reassurance that their practitioner will adhere to the ethical standards set by their professional duties.

REFEREES

Professor Andrew Franklin-Hall
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Professor Amy Mullin
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