

Tina Rulli

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Employment

University of California, Davis

Professor of Philosophy, 2025–

Associate Professor of Philosophy, 2020–2025

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2014–2020

Purdue University, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2013-2014

National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center, Department of Bioethics Postdoctoral Fellow, 2011-2013

Education

Yale University, Philosophy Department

Ph.D. (2011); M.Phil. (2008); M.A. (2006)

Dissertation: *The Duty to Adopt*

Advisor: Stephen Darwall

University of Denver

B.A. Philosophy and German, *summa cum laude* (2003)

Areas of Specialization

Normative Ethics, Applied Ethics, Bioethics

Highlighted Service

Co-Editor in Chief, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, September 2024–

Scholarly Publications

* denotes first author; ** denotes equal authorship

Rulli, T. "The Moral Status of Possible Persons," *The Oxford Handbook of Normative Ethics*, eds. David Copp, Connie Rosati, Tina Rulli, 2026.

Rulli, T. "A Colorful Explanation: Promoting Genomic Research Diversity is Compatible with Racial Social Constructionism," in *DNA, Race and Reproduction*, edited by Emily Merchant and Meaghan O'Keefe, University of California Press, 2025.

Rulli, T. "Embryo Gene Editing is Not Morally Better than Selection Even If Person-Affecting," *The American Journal of Bioethics*, Open Peer Commentary. Vol 24, No 8: 20-22, 2024.

Rulli, T. "Effective Altruists Need Not Be Pronatalist Longtermists," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, Vol 38, No. 1, 2024.

Rulli, T. "What Does Black and Asian American Solidarity Look Like?" *APA Studies, Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies*, Vol 23, No. 1, Fall 2023.

- Rulli, T.* & Campbell, S. "Can 'My Body, My Choice' Anti-vaxxers be Pro-Life?" *Bioethics* Vol 36 (2022): 708-714.
- Rulli, T. "On Value Dependence and Meliorative Projects: On Samuel Scheffler's *Why Worry About Future Generations*," *Inquiry* Vol 64, No. 7 (2021): 673-685.
- Rulli, T. "Conditional Obligations," *Social Theory and Practice* Vol 46, No. 2 (April 2020): 365-390.
- Rulli, T. "Reproductive CRISPR Does Not Cure Disease," *Bioethics* 33 (2019): 1072-1082.
- Rulli, T. "CRISPR and the Ethics of Gene Drive," in *The Handbook of Philosophy and Public Policy*, ed. David Boonin, Palgrave-Macmillan, 2018, pp. 509-521.
- Rulli, T. & Mackay, D.** "The Duty to Rescue and Investigators' Obligations," *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* Vol. 27, no. 1 (2017): 71-106.
- Rulli, T. "The Mitochondrial Replacement 'Therapy' Myth," *Bioethics* Vol. 31, no. 5 (2017): 368-374.
- Rulli, T. "For Dog's Sake, Adopt!" in *Pets and People: The Ethics of Our Relationships with Companion Animals*, edited by Christine Overall, Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 172-186.
- Rulli, T. "The Ethics of Procreation and Adoption," *Philosophy Compass* 11/6 (2016): 305-315.
- Rulli, T. "What is the Value of Three-Parent IVF?" *Hastings Center Report* Volume 46, Issue 4, July/August 2016: 38-47.
- Rulli, T. & Worsnip, A.** "IIA, Rationality, and the Individuation of Options," *Philosophical Studies* 173.1 (2016): 205-221.
- Rulli, T.* & Wendler, D. "The Duty to Take Rescue Precautions," *Journal of Applied Philosophy* Volume 33, Issue 3, 2016: 240-258 (Published Online, March 2015).
- Rulli, T. "Preferring a Genetically-Related Child," *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 13 (2016): 669-698. (Online November 2014).
- Rulli, T.* & Millum, J. "Rescuing the Duty to Rescue," *Journal of Medical Ethics* 42 (2016): 260-264. (Published Online, 2014).
- Rulli, T. "The Unique Value of Adoption," in *Family Making: Contemporary Ethical Challenges*, eds. Françoise Baylis and Carolyn McLeod, Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Rulli, T. & Wendler, D., Letter of Response to William Smith on "The Moral Duty to Buy Health Insurance," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 308/16 (2012): 1629.
- Rulli, T.* Emanuel, E. & Wendler, D. "The Moral Duty to Buy Health Insurance," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 308/2 (2012): 137-138.

Anthology

The Oxford Handbook of Normative Ethics, edited by David Copp, Connie Rosati, Tina Rulli, Oxford University Press, 2026.

Book Reviews

Co-authored review of Paige Harden's *Genetic Lottery*, in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, July 2021.

Review of Andrew Chignell, Terence Cuneo, and Matthew C. Halteman, *Philosophy Comes to Dinner: Arguments About the Ethics of Eating*, Routledge, 2016. For *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2016.

Review of Judith Lichtenberg, *Distant Strangers: Ethics, Psychology, and Global Poverty*, Cambridge UP, 2014. For *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2014.

Works in Progress

"Mandated Gestation and Mandated Kidney Donation"

"Positive Symmetry: The Weaker Reason to Create Happy People"

"Taking Back Transracial"

Public Engagement

Podcast Interview, Adoption and Moral Obligation, *The Philosopher's Zone*, with David Rutledge, ABC Australia, May 2022

"Why Celebrities Have a Moral Responsibility to Help Promote Life-Saving Vaccines," *The Conversation*. March 2022

"COVID-19: The Duty to Take Reasonable Precautions Against Infection," with David Wendler, *Journal of Medical Ethics Blog*, February 9, 2021

"Gattaca or Life-Saving? Can We- Should We- Use CRISPR to Edit Human Embryos, Sperm or Eggs to Cure Diseases?" *Genetic Literacy Project*, January 22, 2021

"Using CRISPR to Edit Eggs, Sperm, and Embryos Doesn't Save Lives," *STAT News*, Oct 15, 2019

Blog Entry, *Harvard Law and Policy Review*, The Moral Foundations of the Insurance Mandate, Mar 2017

"We Should Adopt Rather than Procreate," *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Fourth Quarter, 2016

Blog Entry, *Philosop-HER*, featured philosopher, Nov 2015

<http://politicalphilosopher.net/2015/11/20/featured-philosop-her-tina-rulli/>

Bibliography, "Adoption in Philosophy," *Adoption & Culture* 4, 2014, with Sally Haslanger, Frances Latchford, Mianna Lotz, Shelley Park, and Charlotte Witt

Article, "Philosophy and Adoption Activism," *Alliance for the Study of Adoption & Culture Newsletter*, 2010

Presentations

"Reproduction and the Equal Burden Principle," University of Kentucky, Lexington, September 2026.

"Reproductive Ethics," National Institutes of Health Clinical Center Bioethics Department, April 2026.

"Pronatalists Should be Leftist Feminists," Reproductive Ethics Panel, Philosophy, Politics, Economics Society, Seventh Annual Meeting, November 2025; American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chicago, February 2026.

“Reproductive Ethics,” National Institutes of Health Clinical Center Bioethics Department, April 2025.

“Taking Back Transracial,” Arizona State University, Race, Politics, and Ethics Workshop, May 2025.

Commentator, Luara Ferracioli’s *Parenting and the Goods of Childhood*, Author Meets Critics Session, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, April 2025

Commentator, Douglas MacKay’s “Factorial Policy Experiments and Fair Randomization,” Research Policy Ethics Session, American Philosophical Association Eastern Meeting, New York, January 2025.

Reproductive Ethics,” National Institutes of Health Clinical Center Bioethics Department, May 2024.

“Mandated Gestation and Mandated Kidney Donation,” Abortion Session, Philosophy, Politics, Economics Society, Seventh Annual Meeting, November 2023.

“Reproductive Ethics,” National Institutes of Health Clinical Center Bioethics Department, April 2023.

Commentator, Panel on Inadvertent Germline Editing, Prenatal Somatic Gene Cell Therapy and Gene Editing, Dr. Tippi MacKenzie and Alta Charo, UCSF, April 2023.

“Heritable Human Genome Editing Lacks Social Value,” Panel on Ethics of Heritable Human Genome Editing, Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing, U.K.’s Royal Society and Academy of Medical Sciences, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and U.S. National Academy of Medicine, and The World Academy of Sciences, London, March 2023.

“What Does Black and Asian American Solidarity Look Like?” American Philosophical Association, Panel on Black and Asian Solidarity, organized by the Central APA committee for Asian & Asian-American Philosophers & Philosophies, Denver, February 2023.

“My Body, My Choice: Reproductive Rights and COVID Vaccines,” The Research Center on Values in Emerging Science and Technology, Southern Connecticut State University, February 2023

Commentator, Chris Tucker, The All or Nothing Ranking Reversal, Pacific American Philosophical Association, Vancouver. April 2022

Commentator, Author Meets Critics, Nicole Hassoun’s *Global Health Impact: Extending Access to Essential Medicines*. PPE Society Virtual Event. March 2022

“Reproductive Ethics,” National Institutes of Health Clinical Center Bioethics Department, January 2022

“What is the Value of Reproductive Applications of CRISPR?” Milwaukee School of Engineering, 2021 World Bioethics Day, Human Applications of Genetic Technologies: From RNA Vaccines to Designer Babies, November 2021

“Positive Symmetry in our Procreative Reasons,” University of Utah, Philosophy Department, February 2021

“A Duty to Adopt,” Cosumnes River College & Sacramento State University, 14th Annual Fall Ethics Symposium on the Ethics of Having Children, Sacramento, CA, Nov 2019

“Reproductive CRISPR Does Not Save Lives,” American Society of Cell & Gene Therapy, Ethical Perspectives, Washington D.C. Nov 2019

“A Weaker Reason to Create Happy People,” Northern New England Ethics & Epistemology Conference, University of Vermont, Oct 2019

“A Weaker Reason to Create Happy People,” Princeton Workshop on Population and Procreation Ethics, Princeton University, May 2019

“A Weaker Reason to Create Happy People,” Kansas State University, Philosophy Department, Apr. 2019
 “Taking Back ‘Transracial’,” Diversity Lecture, College of Arts and Sciences, Kansas State University, Apr. 2019
 Keynote Speaker, “Reproductive CRISPR Doesn’t Save Lives,” Undergraduate Women’s Conference, Metro State University, Denver, Apr. 2019
 “Creating Happy People,” Symposium: Ethics of Procreation and Parenting, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Denver, Feb. 2019
 “What Does It Mean to be Asian in Philosophy?” Panel: Diversity, Minority, and Inequality: Challenges for Asian and Asian-American Philosophers—and Everyone Else, APA Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Denver, Feb. 2019
 Comments on Sara Rachel Chant’s “The Puppy Adoption Fallacy,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, Aug. 2018.
 “Taking Back ‘Transracial’,” Annual Congress, Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal, Jun. 2018
 “Framing Chimeras,” Deliberating Promissory Technologies, Panel Presentation and Discussion, UC Davis 5th Annual Research Policy and Ethics Symposium, UC Health System, May 2018
 “Looking Back: The Duty to Buy Health Insurance,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chicago, Feb. 2018
 “The Ethics of Gene Drive,” American Association for the Advancement of Science Pacific Division Conference, Waimea, Hawaii, Jun. 2017
 “The Mitochondrial Replacement ‘Therapy’ Myth,” MAP Conference, Stanford University, May 2017
 “The Mitochondrial Replacement ‘Therapy’ Myth,” University of California, Merced, Nov. 2016
 “On Conditional Obligations: Understanding Surfaxin-Style Cases,” California State University, Sacramento, Nov. 2015
 “What is the Value of 3-Parent IVF?” California State University, Sacramento, Nov. 2015
 “On the Ethics of Mitochondrial Replacement IVF: Medical Resources, Relative Risk, and the Way Forward,” American Society of Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Panel Presentation, Houston, Oct. 2015
 “Conditional Obligations: Understanding Surfaxin-Style Cases,” Ira W. DeCamp Bioethics Seminar, Princeton University Center for Human Values, Mar. 2015
 “Defending Conditional Obligations,” University of California, Davis, Philosophy Department, Feb. 2014
 “The Duty to Rescue in Clinical Research,” Responsible Conduct of Clinical Research, Medical Scientist Training Program, Indiana University/Purdue University, Jan. 2014
 “The Duty to Take Rescue Precautions: Defending the Health Insurance Mandate,” Ethics, Policy, and Science Lecture, Purdue University, Sep. 2013
 “Ethics of Animal Research,” National Institutes of Health, Bioethics Department, Jun. 2013
 “Conditional Obligations,” Yale Working Group in Moral Philosophy, April 2013
 “Conditional Obligations,” National Institutes of Health, Bioethics Department, Works in Progress, Mar. 2013
 “The Duty to Buy Health Insurance,” American Society of Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Oct. 2012
 “Challenges to the Duty to Rescue in Bioethics,” National Institutes of Health, Bioethics Department, Works in Progress, Oct. 2012

“On Making Needy People Happy Rather Than Making Happy People,” via webcast, Kansas State University Philosophy Club, Oct. 2012
“The Value of Adoption,” Ethics of Family Making Workshop, Dalhousie University, sponsored by Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Apr. 2012
“The Duty to Buy Health Insurance,” National Institutes of Health, Bioethics Department, Works in Progress, Feb. 201s
“On Making Needy People Happy Rather Than Making Happy People,” Bowling Green State, Philosophy Department, January 2011
“On Making Needy People Happy Rather Than Making Happy People,” Purdue University, Philosophy Department, January 2011

Teaching at UC Davis

PHI 015: Bioethics
PHI 116: Ethical Theories (Normative Ethics)
PHI 121: Bioethics
PHI 121: Philosophy of Race
PHI 214: Graduate Seminar in Ethics

Graduate Advising

Prospectus Advisor, Valerie Entus, 2026-
Dissertation Advisor, Natalie McClosker, 2023-
Dissertation Advisor, K. Tõn 2020-
MA Thesis Advisor: Stephen DiLorenzo 2016-2017
Dissertation/Prospectus Committee Member: Katelyn Antilla (present); LeI Jones (present); Ramiel Tamras (2025); Jacob Velasquez (2019); Joseph Eric Morris (2019); Veromi Arsiradam (2018, Western Ontario); Tim Houk (2018)

Conference/Workshop Organization

Philosophy Works, Co-Organizer, UC-wide Philosophy Faculty Workshop on Nonacademic Career Guidance, August 2023, with Carolyn Jennings (Merced) and Barry Lam (Riverside)
Princeton Workshop in Population Ethics, May 2019, with Johann Frick

Fellowships & Awards

Deanna Falge Award, UC Davis Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, awarded for five years or more of service, (\$0), 2023
Hellman Fellow, \$24,000, Hellman Fellows Fund, 2017-2018
Individual Research Grant, \$4,000, UC Davis Institute of Social Sciences, 2016-2017

Professional Service

Co-Editor in Chief, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, September 2024–
Associate Editor, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 2021–
Job Mentoring Program for Women in Philosophy, 2015-2016
Referee, *Analysis*; *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Philosophers' Imprint*; *Social Theory and Practice*; *Journal of Applied Philosophy*; *Journal of Medical Ethics*; *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*; *Res Philosophica*; *Bioethics*; *Journal of Value Inquiry*; *Philosophical Quarterly*; *Medicine, Healthcare & Philosophy*, *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, *Journal of Ethics*, *Social and Political Philosophy*

Invited Panel Speaker, Purdue @ the Intersection, Purdue College of Liberal Arts 50th Anniversary Celebration, April 2014
Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Purdue University, 2013–2014
Faculty Advisor, Ethics, Policy, and Science Lectures, Purdue University, 2013–2014
Consultant, "Effectively Engaging Engineers in Ethical Reasoning About Emerging Technologies," P.I. Andrew Brightman at Purdue University, Ethics Education in Science and Engineering Grant, National Science Foundation, 2012–2014

Selection of Departmental and University Service (UC Davis)

Graduate Faculty Advisor, 2024–
Creator and Faculty Advisor, Philosophical GeMS (Gender Minoritized Students), undergraduate club for women, trans and nonbinary students, 2022-2023
Undergraduate Advisor, Spring 2023
Chair, Search Committee in Value Theory, 2021-2022
Davis Senate Committee on Public Service, 2019-2021
Member, Davis Ethics Commons, 2015-present
DaGERS Ethics Reading Group organizer 2017-present; member 2014-present
Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) faculty advisor, 2017-2018, 2019-2020
Diversity Working Group, Philosophy Department, 2021-2023
Bioethics Club Faculty Advisor, 2017-2019
Search Committee Member, Ethics & Cognitive Science, 2019-2020
Search Committee Member, Metaethics, 2018-2019
Search Committee Member, Metaethics Visiting Professor, 2017-2019
Search Committee Member, Philosophy of Mind, 2014-2015
Job Placement Advisor, 2018-2019
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023

Professional Development

Write to Change the World, OpEd Project, University of California, May 2016
Mentoring Workshop for Early Career Women, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, June 2015
Bioethics Consultation Service, National Institutes of Health, 2012-2013
Elective: Ethics of Animal Research, National Institutes of Health, 2012-2013
Animal Care and Use Committee Member Training, National Institutes of Health, 2012
Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research, National Institutes of Health, Fall 2011
Bioethics Seminar, National Institutes of Health, 2012