

J. Paul Kelleher

CONTACT INFO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Cornell University, Sage School of Philosophy, 2008
M.A. Cornell University, Sage School of Philosophy, 2005
B.A. Colgate University, Philosophy, 2001

EMPLOYMENT

Professor	Department of Medical History & Bioethics, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2025–present
Associate Professor	Department of Medical History & Bioethics, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2015–2025
Assistant Professor	Department of Medical History & Bioethics, Department of Philosophy (starting in 2011), University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2009–2015
Post-Doctoral Fellow	Program in Ethics and Health, Harvard University, 2007–2009

FORMAL UW–MADISON AFFILIATIONS

Energy Analysis & Policy Program; Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies; Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies; Wisconsin Initiative on Law and Climate Change; Institute for Research on Poverty

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Hastings Center Fellow (permanent; elected in 2018).

Institute for Research in the Humanities, Summer Research Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2018.

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

The Social Cost of Carbon: Ethics and the Limits of Climate Change Economics (Oxford University Press, 2025).

Edited Volume

Editor. *The Ethics of Social Democracy: Justice Meets Capitalism*, by Richard W. Miller (Oxford University Press, forthcoming in 2026).

Articles and Contributions to Edited Volumes/Encyclopedias ([P] = peer-reviewed; single-authored unless otherwise specified with name in **bold**. All published/forthcoming papers can be downloaded at paulkelleher.net/research)

“Exploring Non-utilitarian Justifications of Allocation Out of Sequence,” by **J. Paul Kelleher**, Govind Persad, and Carrie Thiessen, *American Journal of Bioethics*, forthcoming.

[P] “The Ethics of Pollution Pricing,” by Garth Heutel and **J. Paul Kelleher**, *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*, forthcoming.

“Temporal Discounting and Climate Change,” in Nina Emery (ed.), *Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Time* (Routledge, forthcoming).

“Eight priorities for calculating the social cost of carbon,” by Gernot Wagner, David Anthoff, Maureen Cropper, Simon Dietz, Kenneth T. Gillingham, Ben Groom, **J. Paul Kelleher**, Frances C. Moore, and James H. Stock. *Nature* 590 (Feb. 25, 2021): 548-550.

“Reflections on the 2018 Nobel Memorial Prize Awarded to William Nordhaus,” *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics* 12(1) (2019): 93-107.

[P] “Ramsey Discounting Calls for Subtracting Climate Damages from Economic Growth Rates” (with Gernot Wagner). *Applied Economics Letters* 26(1) (2019).

[P] “Prescriptivism, Risk Aversion, And Intertemporal Substitution In Climate Economics” (with Gernot Wagner). *Annals of Economics and Statistics* 132 (December 2018).

[P] “The Social Cost of Carbon from Theory to Trump,” in Ravi Kanbur and Henry Shue (eds.) *Climate Justice: Integrating Economics and Philosophy* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2018).

“Descriptive versus Prescriptive Discounting in Climate Change Policy Analysis.” *Georgetown Journal of Law & Public Policy* 15(2017): 957-977.

[P] “Pure Time Preference in Intertemporal Welfare Economics,” *Economics & Philosophy* 33 (2017): 441–473.

- [P] “Health Inequalities and Relational Egalitarianism,” in Rebecca Walker, Mara Buchbinder, and Michele Rivkin-Fish (eds.) *Understanding Health Inequalities and Justice: Bridging Perspectives for New Conversations* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016).
- [P] “Is There a Sacrifice-Free Solution to Climate Change?” *Ethics, Policy & Environment* (2015).
- “Evaluating Health Inequalities: Residual Worries,” *American Journal of Bioethics* 15(3) (2015): 50-51.
- [P] “Relevance and Non-consequentialist Aggregation,” *Utilitas* (2014).
- “Climate Change Ethics,” in Jonathan A. Patz and Barry S. Levy (eds.) *Climate Change and Public Health* (Oxford University Press, 2015).
- [P] “Capabilities versus Resources” *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 12 (2015: 151-171).
- “Public Health Paternalism and ‘Expenditure Harm’.” *Hastings Center Report* 44(4) (July – August 2014): 4.
- [P] “Beneficence, Justice, and Health Care,” *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 24(1) (2014): 27-49.
- “Efficiency and Equity in Health: Philosophical Considerations,” entry for Anthony Culyer, ed., *Encyclopedia of Health Economics Vol. 1* (San Diego: Elsevier, 2014): 259-266.
- “Why We Should Not Use the Affordable Care Act to Encourage Widespread Whole Genome Sequencing”, by Pilar N. Ossorio and **J. Paul Kelleher**, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* 39(1) (2014): 247-258.
- [P] “Prevention, Rescue, and Tiny Risks,” *Public Health Ethics* 6(3) (2013): 252-261.
- [P] “Real and Alleged Problems for Daniels’s Account of Health Justice” *Journal of Medicine & Philosophy* 38(4) (2013): 388-399.
- “Energy Policy and the Social Discount Rate,” *Ethics, Policy & Environment* 15(1) (2012): 45-50.
- [P] “Emergency Contraception and Conscientious Objection” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 27(3) (2010): 290-304.

Book Reviews

“Review of: Eric A. Posner & David Weisbach, *Climate Change Justice* (Princeton University Press, 2015, paperback edition),” *Economia* 6(2) (2016).

“Review of: Henry Shue, *Climate Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2014),” *Ethics, Policy & Environment* 19(1) (2016): 111-114.

“Review of: Dominic Wilkinson, *Death or Disability?: The ‘Carmentis Machine’ and Decision-Making for Critically Ill Children* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013),” *Mind* 123 (2014): 974-980.

“Review of: Halley S. Faust and Paul T. Menzel (eds.), *Prevention vs. Treatment: What’s the Right Balance?* (Oxford University Press, 2012),” *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (March 2012).

Work in Progress

- “Distributional Weighting and the Social Cost of Carbon”
- “Carbon Taxes, Revenue-Recycling, and Fairness”
- “Contractarianism, Coase, and Climate Change”
- “Discounting Health in Cost-effectiveness Analysis”

SCHOLARLY TALKS/PAPERS PRESENTED

- “‘Polluter Pays’ and the Apology Model of Market Pricing,” Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, November 2025.
- “Distributional Weighting and the Value of Statistical Lives,” Harris School of Public Policy, *University of Chicago*, February 2025.
- “Updating the Economic Constitution of the United States,” Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, November 2024.
- “Social Costs of Carbon and the Veil of Ignorance,” Energy Policy Institute, *University of Chicago*, May 2023.
- “When a Social Welfare Function is Not a Social Welfare Function: The Case of Climate Change Economics,” *Normative Economics and Economic Policy Seminar* (supported by the Society for Social Choice and Welfare), April 2023.
- “Ethics, Social Welfare Functions, and Social Costs of Carbon,” *Yale University*, September 2022.
- “Equity in Regulatory Review,” *Environmental Defense Fund*, January 2022.
- “What’s Next for the U.S. Social Cost of Carbon,” *Princeton University*, June 2021.
- “The Social Cost of Carbon in U.S. Policy-Making,” *Columbia University*, October 2020.
- “Carbon Taxes, Revenue-Recycling, and Fairness”, hosted by the Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity Initiative, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and the Instituto de Ciencia Política, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, October 2020.
- “Ethics and the Social Cost of Carbon,” Wisconsin Energy Institute Seminar Series, University of Wisconsin–Madison, November 2019.
- “Ethics and the Social Cost of Carbon,” Weston Roundtable Series, Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment, University of Wisconsin–Madison, October 2019.
- “Health Justice,” Workshop on “The Ethics of Planetary Health,” University of Washington, September 2018.
- “Uwe Reinhardt (1937-2017), Health Economist: A Philosophical Remembrance”, Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin–Madison, May 2018.

- “Philosophical Dimensions of the Social Cost of Carbon,” workshop on “Climate Change and the Limits of the Numerical,” Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, June 2017.
- “Efficiency, Optimality, and Policy Objectives in Climate Change Economics,” conference on “Ethics and What Is Not Seen: The Effects of Remote Consequences on Ethical Analysis,” Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics, November 2016.
- “Discounting, Evaluative Scope, and Non-Ideal Theory,” conference on “Climate Justice: Economics and Philosophy,” Cornell University, May 2016.
- “Discounting and the Scope of the Social Welfare Function,” Duke Climate Ethics and Economics Workshop, Duke University, March 2016.
- “Discounting and Evaluative Scope,” workshop on “Climate Ethics and Climate Economics: Discounting the Future,” Oxford Martin School, Oxford University, January 2016.
- “The Most Important Number You've (Likely) Never Heard Of,” Holtz Center, UW-Madison January 2016.
- “Risk and Background Justice,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Panel Convened by the Committee on Philosophy and Medicine, April 2015.
- “Compulsory Vaccination and the Ethics of Risk,” Rutgers-Camden, Department of Philosophy and Religion, March 2015.
- “Reciprocity, Sufficiency, and Relational Egalitarianism,” Northeastern University, Department of Philosophy and Religion, February 2015.
- “Climate Change and Intergenerational Non-consequentialism”, Colgate University, Department of Philosophy, November 2014.
- “Discounting Well-being: The Conceptual Landscape,” Climate Ethics and Climate Economics Workshop, European Consortium for Political Research, Salamanca, Spain, April 2014.
- “Prevention, Risk, and Rescue,” Amherst University, Department of Philosophy, November 20, 2013.
- “Human Rights and Human Nature,” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, October 2013.
- “Health Inequalities, Relational Egalitarianism, and the Layers of Justice View,” Workshop on *Comparing Approaches to Health Inequalities and Justice*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 4-6, 2013.
- “Risk and Rose Prevention”, Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities & History of Medicine, Duke University, October 3, 2013.
- “Prevention and Tiny Risks,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2013.
- “Evaluating Social Gradients in Health: Justice and Precaution,” International workshop on *Social Gradients in Health: Empirical, Normative & Policy Perspectives*, University of Zurich, Switzerland, May 24, 2013.
- “Egalitarianism, Solidarity, and Health Justice,” Wake Forest University, Center for Bioethics, Health, and Society, March 22, 2013.
- “National Healthcare and Egalitarian Concern,” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, Atlanta, December 2012.
- “Egalitarianism, Equal Concern, and Health Inequalities,” *Rethinking Inequalities*, University of Ottawa, November 16-17, 2102.

- “How Many Headaches is Your Life Worth?” University of Nebraska-Omaha, Department of Philosophy, October 26, 2012.
- “Aggregation, Relevance, and Intransitivity.” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2012.
- “Distributive Justice is Associative, Relational, Egalitarian, and Prioritarian.” On the Scope of Distributive Justice Conference, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, July 5 2012.
- “Defending the Capability Approach.” Distributive Justice in Health Conference. University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, October 2011.
- “Defending the Capability Approach.” Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, May 2011.
- “What is Health Equity?” University of Wisconsin–Madison, School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Population Health Sciences, February 2011.
- "Comparative Effectiveness Research: Is it Rationing?" Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Conference, University of Wisconsin–Madison, October 5, 2010.
- “Health Equity and Metrics of Justice.” University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of Philosophy, October 2010.
- “Capabilities and Resources for Health.” Northwestern University Society for Ethical Theory and Political Philosophy, 4th Annual Conference, May 2010.
- “Justice and Profound Cognitive Disability.” University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of Medical History & Bioethics, March 2009.
- “Respondent to Daniel Hausman.” Just Health: Current Debates, Harvard University, November 2008.
- “Justice in Health Care: A Semi-Redressive Approach.” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2008.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society; American Society for Bioethics and Humanities

MEDIA APPEARANCES (select recent)

- Interviewee quoted in “Why This White House Regulatory Overhaul Is a Big Deal for Climate Policy,” *Heatmap News*, April 8, 2023. <https://heatmap.news/politics/cost-benefit-analysis-white-house-regulation>
- Interviewee quoted in “Why the EPA puts a higher value on rich lives lost to climate change,” *NPR*, February 8, 2023. <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/08/1152079692/why-the-epa-puts-a-higher-value-on-rich-lives-lost-to-climate-change>
- Interviewee on ethics and vaccine allocation, *1050 Bascom Podcast*, April 2021.
- Interviewee on ethics and vaccine allocation, WORT (Madison), April 2021.
- Interviewee quoted in “Biden hikes cost of carbon, easing path for new climate rules,” *Politico*, February 26, 2021. <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/02/26/biden-carbon-price-climate-change-471787>
- Interviewee quoted in “This single number could reshape our climate future,” *National Geographic*, January 28, 2021. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/this-single-number-could-reshape-our-climate-future>

- Interviewee quoted in “The social cost of carbon: Bill would require consideration of economic impacts for new power plants,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, February 2, 2020. https://madison.com/news/local/environment/the-social-cost-of-carbon-bill-would-require-consideration-of-economic-impacts-for-new-power/article_af061c2f-4e64-510e-a15d-80ab4629093e.html
- Interviewee quoted in “UW professor says variables define social impact of carbon, shape policy,” *Badger Herald*, November 4, 2019. <https://badgerherald.com/news/campus/2019/11/04/uw-professor-says-variables-define-social-impact-of-carbon-shape-policy/>

SERVICE

Service At UW-Madison

- Founding co-director, Path of Distinction in Bioethics, Medical School Curriculum, 2021–present
- Academic Planning Council, School of Medicine and Public Health, 2024–present.
- MD Program Student Promotion and Academic Review Committee, 2025–present.
- Institutional COI Committee, SMPH representative, 2025–present.
- University Hospital Ethics Committee, 2011–present.
- University Hospital Rapid Response Ethics Team, 2020–present.
- Political Economy, Philosophy, and Politics Steering Committee, 2020–present.
- Faculty mentor, Medical Student Ethics Committee, 2025–present.
- Faculty mentor, Undergraduate Bioethics Club, 2023–present.
- Health Care Advisory Committee (advises director of University Health Services), 2016–2022 (chair, 2020–2022).
- University Health Services Public Health & Policy Team, 2021–2022.
- Annual Bioethics Symposium Planning Committee, School of Medicine and Public Health, 2009–present.
- Program Faculty, Master’s in Public Health Program, 2010–present.
- Medical History & Bioethics Search Committee, chair, 2017–2018
- Medical History & Bioethics Search Committee, member, 2016–2017
- Faculty Senate (Alternate), 2011–2014.
- Global Health Institute, Advisory Group Member, 2012–2015.
- Faculty Mentor, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars Postdoctoral Program, Population Health Sciences, 2010–2015.
- Department of Medical History & Bioethics Faculty Search Committees, 2011–2012, 2017–2018 (chair).
- Department of Medical History & Bioethics Speakers Series Committee, 2013–2015.

Service to the State of Wisconsin

State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, Ethics Subcommittee, Aug-Nov 2020.
 State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, Therapeutics Allocation Subcommittee,
 Nov 2020-Jan 2021.

Service to the Profession

Journal Refereeing:

Economics & Philosophy; Environmental Ethics; Politics, Philosophy, and Economics; Noûs; Utilitas; The Monist; Philosophical Studies; Journal of Moral Philosophy; Journal of Medical Ethics; Ethical Theory & Moral Practice; Social Theory & Practice; Journal of Economic Literature; Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics; Australasian Journal of Philosophy; Journal of Applied Philosophy; Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy; Public Health Ethics; Public Affairs Quarterly; Nature Climate Change; WIREs Climate Change; Dialectica; Bioethics; Theoretical Medicine & Bioethics; Ethics, Policy & Environment; Ethical Perspectives; European Journal for Philosophy of Science; Les Ateliers de l'éthique; Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics

Book Proposal Refereeing:

Oxford University Press; Wiley/Jossey-Bass; Bloomsbury.

Grant/Fellowship Refereeing:

Swiss National Science Foundation; Wellcome Trust Research Fellowship program.

Professional Society Committees:

- Philosophy subcommittee, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, 2013-2019.
- Philosophy and Medicine committee, American Philosophical Association, 2015-2018.

Panels Organized:

- “Values in Environmental Economics,” *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society*, New Orleans, November 2024 (joint with Garth Heutel).
- “The Stern Review at 10”, panel organized for the first annual meeting of the *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society*, New Orleans, March 2017.
- “Distributive vs. Relational Equality: Implications for Health Policy,” American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, January 2017. (Co-organized with Kristin Voigt.)