

YVES SAINT JAMES AQUINO, MD, MRES, MSC, PHD

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Expertise: Philosophy of medicine, philosophy of biology, bioethics/medical ethics, medical humanities, race studies

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Philosophy, Macquarie University Australia, 2016-2019

Concentration: Philosophy of Medicine, Bioethics, Cosmetic Surgery

Thesis title: Pathologising Ugliness: An Ethical Critique of the Conflation of Health and Beauty in Cosmetic Surgery

Thesis Supervisors: Prof Wendy Rogers (primary) and Prof Jean-Philippe Deranty (secondary)

Master of Research, Philosophy, Macquarie University Australia, 2015

Thesis title: “Big eye surgery”: Understanding the ethical implications of medicalising Asian features in cosmetic surgery

Concentration: Bioethics, Medical Sociology

Supervisor: Prof Wendy Rogers

Awarded with high distinction (summa cum laude equivalent)

Erasmus Mundus Master of Science in Bioethics, KU Leuven, Belgium; Radboud University, Netherlands; University of Padua, Italy, 2013-2014

Thesis title: Borrowed beauty? Understanding identity in Asian facial cosmetic surgery

Supervisor: Prof Norbert Steinkamp (Radboud University; Catholic University of Applied Social Sciences, Berlin, Germany)

Awarded best thesis

Summa cum laude

Doctor of Medicine, University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, Manila, Philippines, 2004-2009

Philippine physician license since 2009

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 2000-2004

Cum laude

RESEARCH AND LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

Doctoral researcher, Macquarie University, 2016-2019

Doctoral thesis involved a conceptual and ethical analyses of the practice of pathologising ugliness in cosmetic surgery. The conceptual analysis demonstrates that biomedical and sociocultural factors underpin the conflation of health and beauty that, in turn, facilitates the pathologisation of ugliness. The ethical analysis, however, shows ethical conflicts between aesthetic judgments and ethical medical judgments in terms of common clinical processes that include diagnostic evaluation, disease determination and establishing clinical indications.

- Primary disciplines studied: philosophy of medicine, medical ethics, medicine
- Secondary disciplines studied: history of medicine, history of cosmetic surgery, medical sociology and anthropology, philosophy of biology, feminist and gender studies, race studies, disability studies
- External examiners: Prof Jan Helge Solbakk (University of Oslo), Prof Michael Loughlin (University of West London), Prof Ian Kerridge (University of Sydney)
- Thesis awarded without correction

Postgraduate researcher, Macquarie University, 2015

Master of Research thesis involved an empirical study using content analysis to investigate the marketing of cosmetic surgery websites that specialise in procedures that modify Asian facial features. Findings show the

use of a medico-scientific narrative that emphasises scientific objectivity and medical expertise in situating racial features as medical concerns.

- Disciplines studied: bioethics, medical sociology, cultural and race studies
- External examiners: Emeritus Prof Paul Schotsmans (KU Leuven) and Prof Justin Oakley (Monash University)
- Thesis awarded with *high distinction* and without correction

Postgraduate researcher, KU Leuven, Belgium; Radboud University, Netherlands; University of Padua, Italy, 2013-2014

Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics thesis integrated narrative and systematic review methods to identify (1) sources of knowledge and (2) important themes of the ethical debate related to surgical alteration of facial features in East Asians.

- Disciplines studied: bioethics, medical sociology, cultural and race studies
- Awarded best thesis

Research assistant, Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University, 2016-2017, 2019

Under the supervision of Prof Wendy Rogers, I assisted in the following:

- proofreading and referencing articles for publications
- budget planning for research funding applications
- scoping relevant articles, online news publications, blogs to develop research questions and aims for a funding proposal

Medical research team, University of the Philippines, College of Medicine, 2004-2005

Part of a team that performed scientific study of the wound healing effects of virgin coconut oil in golden Syrian hamsters.

Research assistant, Asian Social Institute, Manila, Philippines, 2001

Performed day-to-day administrative duties, such as managing email enquiries, phone calls and reception, and assisted in the organisation of the Asian Bioethics Conference held in Manila in 2001

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tutorial experience, Macquarie University, 2019-ongoing

Courses taught:

- PHL 131 Philosophy of Human Nature. Unit guide available here https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/97024/unit_guide
- PHL 137 Critical Thinking: Unit guide available here https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/96070/unit_guide
- PHL 260 Bioethics and Biotechnology. Unit guide available here https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/96970/unit_guide
- PHL 249 Evolution, Mind and Culture: Unit guide available here https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/96727/unit_guide

Lecture experience, Macquarie University, 2019-ongoing

Courses taught: PHL 131 Philosophy of Human Nature; PHL 249 Evolution, Mind and Culture

Convening experience, Macquarie University, 2019-ongoing

Course taught: PHL 249 Evolution, Mind and Culture

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANISATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial team member, Australasian Philosophical Review, 2019-ongoing

Assist in editing articles for publication, assigning reviewers and following up on comments/reviews.

Senior research officer, Macquarie University, 2019-ongoing

Assist Chief Investigator Prof Jean-Philippe Deranty in developing and maintaining a web site for his Australian Research Council-funded project “The Case for Work”. The website serves as repository for important publications on work (www.onwork.edu.au)

Perform administrative duties, including managing email communications, publicising website and organising project-related events

Research centre administrator, Macquarie University Research Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics (CAVE), 2018-ongoing

Performs administrative duties for the centre under the direction of Prof Catriona Mackenzie, and tasks include:

- organising seminars, workshops and conferences funded by the centre
- managing budget and updating executive committee regarding availability of funds
- providing summary of activities, media engagement, recent publications of all members of the centre
- arranging travel and accommodation for speakers
- arranging advisory board and executive committee meetings
- managing online presence, including Facebook page and web site (<http://www.mq.edu.au/cave>)

Workshop organiser, Macquarie University, 2018, 2019

Co-organised the CAVE Workshop on Culture and Cognition, along with other members of a reading group that consists of postgraduate and early career researchers from philosophy, cognitive science, anthropology and psychology. Due to the success of the 2018 workshop, we were able to secure funding and organise another one this year that will feature Prof Paul Griffiths (University of Sydney) as our keynote speaker.

Workshop organiser, Macquarie University, 2018

Single-handedly organised an interdisciplinary workshop on the ethics of pathologising ugliness that featured speakers from different disciplines including A/Prof Joanna Elfving-Hwang of University of Western Australia, Dr. Anand Deva of Macquarie University Hospital's Department of Reconstructive Surgery, A/Prof Robert Sinnerbrink of Macquarie University's Department of Philosophy

Medical editor, UBM Medica, Makati Philippines, 2010-2013

Performed editorial duties for several local direct-to-physician and consumer publications, including *HealthToday*, *MOMStoday*, *Pharmacy Today* and *Medical Tribune*.

Performed managerial duties, including delegation of writing assignments, setting of publication deadlines and liaising with editorial team in Singapore; assisted the marketing team in developing project proposals for partner pharmaceutical companies in and outside the Philippines

Performed journalistic duties, including reporting on highlights of local and international specialty conferences and interviewing local and international experts regarding clinical practice and public health issues

Mentored new writers and editorial assistants

VOLUNTARY ACADEMIC SERVICE

Postgraduate representative to the Faculty of Arts Learning and Teaching Committee, Macquarie University, 2018

- Engaged with senior researchers and administrators regarding issues arising from teaching
- Represented the interests of postgraduate students

Reading group organiser, Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University, 2016-2017

- Organised the department's monthly Bioethics Reading Group
- Tasked to send regular reminders, reserve rooms, invite article suggestions

Student Representative to Teaching Commission, Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics, 2013-2014

- Elected liaison officer between students and course coordinators from the three universities (KU Leuven, Radboud University and University of Padua)
- Tasked to summarise and communicate student evaluation of courses, lectures, activities and professors

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Postgraduate Research Fund, Macquarie University, 2018

- Awarded funding to present at the 32nd European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care held in Lisbon, Portugal last August 2018
- Awarded the DVC(R) Commendation for best funding application

Workshop Funding, Macquarie University Research Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics (CAVE), 2018

- Awarded funding to organise a one-day workshop on the ethics of pathologising ugliness

Faculty of Arts Conference Travel Scheme, Macquarie University, 2016, 2017

- Awarded funding to present at the Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy Conference 2017 held in Hobart, Australia last November 2017.
- Awarded funding to present at the Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law Conference 2016 held in Melbourne, Australia last November 2016.

International Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (iMQRES), Macquarie University, 2015-2018

- Covered tuition fees and living allowance stipend for up to three years for a full-time Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and the second year of Master of Research (MRes).

Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics Scholarship, KU Leuven, Belgium; Radboud University, Netherlands; University of Padua, Italy, 2013-2014

- Funded by the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
- Covered tuition fees, living and travel allowance for the duration of the master's program

PUBLICATIONS

Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0981-0029>

Published

- Aquino, Y. S. J. (2017). "Big eye" surgery: the ethics of medicalizing Asian features. *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, 38(3), 213-225. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11017-017-9395-y>
- Aquino, Y. S. J., & Steinkamp, N. (2016). Borrowed beauty? Understanding identity in Asian facial cosmetic surgery. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, 19(3), 431-441.
- <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11019-016-9699-0>

Forthcoming

- Aquino, Y. S. J. "Ugliness as disease: A dangerous intersection of medical and aesthetic traditions." In Matthew Del Nevo & Robert Andrews (eds) *Beauty and Tradition*. Oregon, US: Wipf and Stock Publishers.

Under review

- Aquino, Y. S. J. Pathologising Ugliness: A conceptual analysis of the naturalist and normativist claims in "aesthetic pathology". [under review]
- Aquino, Y. S. J. Is Ugliness a Pathology? An Ethical Critique of the Therapeuticalisation of Cosmetic Surgery. [under review]

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA

- "'Ethnic Cosmetic Surgery': Naturalising identification and transformation of racialised bodies in medicine"; Symposium on Transrace; Sydney, Australia; upcoming (29 November 2019)
- "Pathologising ugliness: Gendered and racialised dimensions of aesthetic medicine" in the panel "Colonial Aesthetics and Colonised Bodies"; Bodies of Work Conference; University of Sydney, Australia; 4 October 2019.
- "Ugliness as disease: A dangerous intersection of medical and aesthetic traditions"; 11th Biennial Conference in Philosophy, Religion and Culture: Beauty and Tradition; Catholic Institute of Sydney; 28 September 2018
- "Pathologising Ugliness: An ethical critique of intersectional prejudice in aesthetic medicine"; 32nd European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care; Lisbon, Portugal; 22-25 August 2018
- [Speaker and organiser] "Ugliness as disease: Ethical conflicts between cosmetic surgery and the goals of medicine"; Interdisciplinary Workshop on the Ethics of Pathologising Ugliness: Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia; 19 March 2018

- “Pathologising Ugliness, Normalising Prejudice”; Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy Conference; University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia; 29 November to 01 December 2018
- “Practice makes perfect: How medicine promotes the pathologisation of ugliness”; Medical Humanities Seminar Series, Macquarie University; 12 October 2017
- “Practice makes perfect: Evaluating the conflict between aesthetic interventions and the ethos of medicine”; Australasian Association for Bioethics and Health Law 2016; Melbourne, Australia; 24-26 November 2016
- “Asian cosmetic surgery: Could we use aesthetic standards to define pathology?”; Workshop on Defining the Boundaries of Disease, Macquarie University; 15-16 October 2016
- Attendee; Winter School on Philosophical and Historical Dimensions of Biological Individuality; University of Sydney, Australia; 18-21 July 2016
- “Customising the Asian face: Does cosmetic surgery lead to medicalisation of racial features?”; 28th European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care; Ghent, Belgium; 19-22 August 2015

MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

3 Minute Thesis Finalist, 2018

Macquarie University

Faculty of Arts round audience choice awardee (2018)

[Untitled radio series on multilingual experience in Sydney]

Produced by Masako Fukui and Sheila Pham

ABC, Sydney, Australia

Under production

"Philippines beyond clichés #5: Beauty", 28 September 2018

Host: AProf Nicole Curato (Australian National University), New Mandala

<https://www.newmandala.org/philippines-beyond-cliches-5-beauty>

"Strictly Politics: Vox Populi", 31 August 2010

Host: Pia Hontiveros, ABS-CBN News Channel (Philippines)

Member of panel

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/-depth/09/01/10/whose-head-should-roll-citizens-chime-hostage-crisis/>

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Languages

- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Native speaker of several Filipino languages, namely Tagalog, Ilocano and Pangasinense
- Conversational in French
- Basic reading knowledge of Dutch, Italian and German

Public speaking

- Graduation speaker for the graduating class of the Macquarie University Faculty of Arts (September 2019)
- 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) Macquarie University finalist, Faculty of Arts round audience choice awardee (2018)
- Former president of the Philippine Debate Union (2007-2008); former president of the University of the Philippines Manila Debate Circle (2006-2007)
- Winner of the Oratorical Contest during the 2006 Annual Convention of Preventive Cardiology held in Manila, Philippines last January 2006.

IT/Software

- Knowledgeable of a suite of Microsoft programs: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook
- Knowledgeable of HTML
- Able to develop and maintain websites (www.onwork.edu.au and <http://www.mq.edu.au/cave>)
- Knowledgeable of various reference managers: Endnote, Mendeley, Paperpile

Activism

- Supports organisations that promote LGBTIQ+ interests.
- Member of the ACON working group that explores gender- and race-related issues affecting Asian gay men living in Sydney (2018-2019). ACON is a Sydney-based health organisation that provides services for HIV management and prevention, and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) health.