

# **Michael J. Robillard**

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Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership  
United States Naval Academy  
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## *Curriculum Vitae*

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Moral and Social Philosophy, Military Ethics

### **AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Ethics of A.I., Bioethics, Philosophy of Mind, Logic

### **EDUCATION**

Research Fellow Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies 2020-2021  
Research Fellow Uehiro Center for Practical Ethics, Oxford, UK 2016-2020  
Research Fellow Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership U.S. Naval Academy 2015-2016  
Ph.D. Philosophy University of Connecticut, Storrs 2016  
M.A. Philosophy University of Connecticut, Storrs 2014  
M.A. Philosophy University of Victoria, Victoria 2011  
B.S. Philosophy U.S. Military Academy, West Point 2002

### **DISSERTATION**

*The Moral Dimensions of Vulnerability and Exploitation*

Co-Main Advisors: Dr. Hallie Liberto and Dr Michael Lynch; Committee members: Dr. Paul Bloomfield and Dr. Suzy Killmister

### **TEACHING:**

PH 103: Ethics, Brockton School of Nursing, Fisher College, Spring 2025 (Adjunct Professor)

MS 102: Military Science, Boston College Army ROTC, Spring 2025 (Military Science Instructor)

MS 101: Military Science, Boston College Army ROTC, Fall 2024 (Military Science Instructor)

PHIL 123: Introduction to Philosophy, Stonehill College, Spring 2024-Present (Adjunct Professor)

Introduction to Ethics, Naval Special Warfare (Coronado, CA, Norfolk, VA), 3-hour Course (2-4x per year), November 2017- January 2021 (Subject Matter Expert)

NS 3903: Ethical Theory for Military Officers, Naval Postgraduate School, Spring 2019  
(Adjunct Professor)

Military Ethics Course: St Catherine's College, University of Oxford, Spring 2017 for visiting student Gwen Whidden

Soldier Moral Injury Course, Uehiro Center for Practical Ethics, Spring 2017 for visiting student Schoutje Schouten

One Day Guest Lecturer, Shrivenham Defense Academy, UK Spring 2016

PHIL 1101: Problems of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Fall 2014 (Adjunct Professor)

PHIL 299: The Ethics of War and Peace, Bridgewater State University, Spring 2012 (Visiting Lecturer) PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy, Bristol Community College, Spring 2012

(Adjunct Professor)

PHIL 111: Foundations of Logical Reasoning, Bridgewater State University, Fall 2011, Spring 2012 (Visiting Lecturer)

### **TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS:**

PHIL 1104: Philosophy and Social Ethics, University of Connecticut, Spring 2014 (Teacher's

Assistant) PHIL 1107: Gender and Ethics, University of Connecticut, Fall 2012, Fall 2013

(Teacher's Assistant) PHIL 1104: Philosophy and Social Ethics, University of Connecticut,

Spring 2013 (Teacher's Assistant) PHIL 201: Critical Thinking, University of Victoria, Fall

2009, Spring 2010 (Teacher's Assistant)

PHIL 203: Elements of Formal Logic, University of Victoria, Fall 2009, Spring 2010  
(Teacher's Assistant)

PHIL 235: Ethics of Violence, War, and Terrorism, University of Victoria, Spring 2010  
(Teacher's Assistant)

### **BOOKS**

*Outsourcing Duty: The Moral Exploitation of the American Soldier*, co-written with Bradley Strawser. Oxford University Press 2022.

*Who Should Die?: Liability and Killing in War*, Co-edited with Dr. Ryan Jenkins and Dr. Bradley J. Strawser. Oxford University Press 2017.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

“The Ethics of Killer Robots” in *The Oxford Handbook of Digital Ethics* ed. Carissa Veliz. Oxford University Press 2021.

“On the Moral Significance of Narrative, Imagery, and Social Signaling in Counterterrorism Targeted Killing Operations” in *Counter-Terrorism Ethics and Technology: Emerging Challenges at the Frontier of Counter-terrorism* eds. Adam Henschke, Alistair Reed, Scott Robbins, Seumas Miller. Springer 2021.

“Counter-Terrorism and PSYOP,” in *Counter-Terrorism: The Ethical Issues* eds. Seumas Miller, Adam Henschke, and Jonas Feltes. Edward Elgar Publishing 2021.

“Integrity, Institutions and the Banality of Complicity,” in *Military Virtues*, eds. Michael Skerker, David Whetham, and Don Carrick. Howgate Publishing 2019.

“Perseverance, Leadership, and the 'We'” in *Military Virtues*, eds. Michael Skerker, David Whetham, and Don Carrick. Howgate Publishing 2019.

“Fighting for One’s Self,” in *Who Should Die?: Liability and Killing in War*, Co-edited with Dr. Ryan Jenkins and Dr. Bradley J. Strawser. Oxford University Press 2017.

## **ARTICLES**

“Skin in the Game: Moral Exploitation and National Military Service”, *Journal of Military Ethics* 2024. (forthcoming)

“No Such Thing as Killer Robots” *Journal of Applied Ethics* 2017.

“The Moral Exploitation of Soldiers”, co-written with Dr. Bradley Strawser, *Public Affairs Quarterly* April 2016.

“Risk, War, and the Dangers of Soldier Identity” *Journal of Military Ethics* 2016.

## **REVIEWS**

Review of Isaac Taylor’s “*The Ethics of Counterterrorism*” *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2018 “A Response to Stephen Kershar’s *Gratitude toward Veterans*”, *Reason Paper* Vol 39, no 1. 2017

## **OP-EDS (selected)**

“Anti-Wokeism is Not Enough”, *Chronicles*, 2022

“On the Dangers of Big COVID”, *Quillette*, 2021

“Why Banning Killer Robots Wouldn’t Solve Anything”, co-written with Susanne Burri, *Aeon*, 2017  
“The Killer Robots are Us”, *New York Times*, 2018

“In Defense of Offense”, *Quillette*, 2018

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“Trust, Technology, and Future Generations,”

• Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies, Fall 2020/Spring 2021

“Weaponized Narrative and Counter-terrorism Ethics”

• University of Bucharest, Romania, May 2019

“Skin in the Game: Soldiers and Moral Exploitation”

• McCain Conference, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD March 2019

“War in Intentional Space”

• Euro ISME, Toledo, Spain, Spring 2018

“Veteran Dialogue and the Future of War”

• Oxford Changing Character of War Panel Discussion, Spring 2017

• Oxford Consortium on Human Rights Panel, Spring 2017

“Moral Exploitation and Veteran Healthcare”

• University of Pennsylvania, March 2017

“What Do We Owe Our Veterans?: From Signaling to Institutional Reform”

• University of Michigan, Panel on “What Do We Owe Veterans”, Ann Arbor, Michigan, November 2016.

“Military Recruitment and the Moral Exploitation of Soldiers”

• McCain Conference, Panel on civil-military relations, US Naval Academy, March 2016.

“From Ethical Demandingness to Ethical Exhaustion: On the Moral Schizophrenia of Modern Combat”

• Manchester University, MANCEPT Conference on the Ethical Experience of War, Manchester, UK, September, 2016.

“No Such Thing as Killer Robots”

- European University Institute. Florence, Italy. May 2016.
- The Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace Graduate Reading Retreat, Bergamo, Italy, September, 2016.

“No Such Thing as Killer Robots”

- Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict workshop, Florence, Italy, May 2016.
- The Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace Graduate Reading Retreat, Florence, Italy, September, 2016.

“Intervening on Behalf of Future Persons”

- The Naval Postgraduate School ‘Future of Warfare Conference’, Monterey, CA October, 2015.
- The Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace Graduate Reading Retreat, Bergamo, Italy, September, 2015.
- The Aristotelian Society Joint Session. University of Warwick, Warwick, UK, July, 2015. ▪ The Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference. University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, July, 2015.
- University of Warwick Graduate Conference. University of Warwick, Warwick, UK, February, 2015.
- The Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace Graduate Course, University of Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden, January, 2015.

“Exploitation and Moral Vulnerability”

- University of Leeds. Leeds, UK. August 2015.

“Risk, War, and the Dangers of Soldier Identity”

- European International Society for Military Ethics, Belgrade, Serbia. May, 2015. ▪ Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis Maryland, December, 2014.

“On Moral Exploitation”

- Australian Association of Philosophy, Australia National University, Canberra, Australia, July 2014.

- “Exploitation and Doxastic Vulnerability: Expanding the Realm of Unreasonable Options” ▪ Australian Association of Philosophy and Applied Ethics, University of Notre Dame, Sydney, Australia, June 2014.

“On the Moral Exploitation of Soldiers”

- The Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace 21st Century Inaugural Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, May 2014.
- The Center for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE), University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, May 2014.
- International Society for Military Ethics, University of Notre Dame, October 2013.

“What Do We Mean by ‘Irregular Warfare’?”,

- International Society for Military Ethics, University of San Diego, January 2010
- “The Moral Dilemma of an Unjust War: A Junior Officer Perspective”
- Co-authored with CPT Abraham Osborn. Joint Service Conference on Professional Ethics, Virginia, January 2006.

## **COMMENTARIES**

Respondent to Jonathan Parry’s “Consent and the Justification for Defensive Force,” Oxford ELAC Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, August 2015.

Respondent to Michael Skerker’s “The Moral Status of Combatants,” Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis Maryland, April, 2015.

Respondant to Zac Cogley’s “Blaming the Victim”. Workshop on the Duty to Resist Oppression, University of Connecticut, September 2013.

## **HONORS AND SERVICE**

Junior Research Fellow, Linacre College, University of Oxford

Class of 1958 Research Fellow, Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, 2015-2016

Graduate Stipend, Society for Applied Philosophy, UK 2015

University of Oxford, Visiting Scholar, January-March 2015

Australia National University, Visiting Scholar, July 2014

Melbourne University, Visiting Scholar, May-August 2014

University of Connecticut Research Travel Fellowship 2014

University of Connecticut Graduate Student Senate Representative 2013-2014

University of Victoria Student Union Representative 2010-2011

University of Victoria Graduate Fellowship 2010

University of Victoria Graduate Fellowship 2009

## **MILITARY HIGHLIGHTS:**

Division Support Battalion Rear Detachment Executive Officer (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division), Jan 07  
- Apr 07

Replacement Company, Company Commander (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division), Aug 06 - Dec 06

General Staff G-1 Plans and Operations Officer (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division), Jul 04 - Jul 06

Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division), Sep 05-Oct 05

Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division), Jun 03 - Jul 04

Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2-325 PIR Infantry Platoon Leader (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division), Jun 03 -

Jan 04 Commissioned Second Lieutenant, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, Jun

02

**MILITARY AWARDS:**

Combat Infantryman's Badge - Ranger Tab- Sapper Tab - Army Parachutist Badge -  
Army Commendation Medal - Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal - Global War on  
Terror Service Medal - Humanitarian Service Medal - National Defense Service Medal