

# MORTEN MAGELSSSEN

*MD PhD. Medical ethicist and researcher*

Centre for Medical Ethics, Institute of Health and Society  
University of Oslo, Norway  
Box 1130 Blindern, N-0318 Oslo

Office: 181 Frederik Holst's house, Ullevål    Phone: +47 48 22 35 80  
Email: [morten.magelssen@medisin.uio.no](mailto:morten.magelssen@medisin.uio.no)    Born: 1978  
Web: [www.norvegicus.no](http://www.norvegicus.no)

## AT A GLANCE:

### **Education**

PhD, Medical Ethics, 2014

BA, Philosophy, 2009

MD, 2004

### **Employment**

Centre for Medical Ethics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo:  
Researcher (2014-), associate professor/university lecturer (30%; 2013-  
2015). Leader of research and development project "Ethics in municipal  
healthcare", 2017-. Student aptitude assessor, Faculty of Medicine, 2018-.

5 years of experience from clinical medicine

### **Publications**

33 peer-reviewed articles, 3 peer-reviewed book chapters

PhD thesis, 1 book, 80+ popular and other articles and reports

### **Teaching and supervision**

Responsibility for medical ethics in the revision of the medical curriculum  
at the Faculty of Medicine ("Oslo 2014"), 2014-16 (with Per Nortvedt)

Contributions to the development of two new master's courses in medical  
ethics, SME4210 & SME4110

Extensive teaching experience at the university medical school

Main supervisor for two PhD students (ongoing)

Supervision of 11 (completed) medical student theses

# FULL CV:

## Education at University of Oslo

PhD, Medical Ethics, 2014. Dissertation: *Life, medicine and human fulfilment. End-of-life decisions in light of a revised natural law theory.*

Advisors: Per Nortvedt and Henrik Syse. From the report of the evaluation committee: “*Magelssen’s study is original, well-argued, and well-written. ... the committee considers the dissertation as an excellent study of new natural law theory that adds important dimensions to the ethics of end-of-life decisions.*”

BA, Philosophy (bachelor i kultur- og samfunnsfag), 2009

MD (cand. med.), 2004

An additional 47 ECTS in medical statistics, political science, astronomy, and theology

Courses in university pedagogy, 2016-17; basic competence requirements (“pedagogisk basiskompetanse”) to be completed Spring 2018

## Employment

### *Current appointments*

University of Oslo, Centre for Medical Ethics, Researcher in the clinical ethics group, 2014-

Member of resource group for Institute of Health and Society’s primary health research initiative, 2017-

Main responsibility for student aptitude assessment (“institusjonsansvarlig for skikkethetsvurderinger”) at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, 2018-

### *Previous academic appointments*

University of Oslo, Centre for Medical Ethics, Associate Professor/University Lecturer with responsibility for revising the curriculum in medical ethics (30%), 2013-2015

Lovisenberg Diaconal Hospital, Doctoral Research Fellow, 2010-2014

University of Oslo, Post-graduate scholarship at the Ethics Programme, 2008-2009 (six months)

Research assistant, Institute for Immunology, University of Oslo, summer 2000

### *Clinical practice*

Internship (internal medicine, surgery, general practice) and internal medicine, 2004-2010; Sykehuset Telemark, Porsgrunn municipality, and Lovisenberg Diaconal Hospital

## Teaching and supervision at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Oslo

Main supervisor for two PhD candidates (ongoing): Demelash Bezabih Ewnetu (exp. 2019) and Heidi M. Karlsen (exp. 2021)

Responsibility for medical ethics in the revision of the medical curriculum at the Faculty of Medicine (“Oslo 2014”), 2014-16 (with Per Nortvedt)

Contributions to the development of two new master’s courses in medical ethics (5 ECTS each), SME4210 & SME4110, and to the planning of a master study in medical ethics

Teaching at master level: SME4110 “Innføring i medisinsk og helsefaglig etikk” (2017, 2018), SME4210 “Etikk i helsetjenesten” (2016, 2017), SME4310 “Veiledning av etikkrefleksjon i helsetjenesten” (2017), HELSEF4100 (2016, 2017)

1<sup>st</sup> semester/module 1: “Helse og etikk” (twice), “Disseksjon og etikk” (twice), “Etisk analyse”, “Introduksjon til dydsetikk”, “Genetikk og etikk”. Problem-based learning (PBL) supervisor, 16 sessions

5<sup>th</sup> semester/module 3: “Etikk ved livets slutt” (seminar in which I am the main lecturer in two out of three lessons; given seven times). “Etikk og kommunikasjon ved kronisk sykdom” (clinical seminar; twice). “Pasientinformasjonens etikk” (lecture). “Etikk i sykehushverdagen (lecture/seminar, with Siri Rostoft; twice)

8<sup>th</sup> semester/module 5: Reflection paper seminars (twice), “Etikk og psykiatri” (lecture), “Tvang og etikk” (team-based learning)

9<sup>th</sup> semester/module 6: “Ethics of abortion”, “Ethics of prenatal diagnosis” (both lectures given fifteen times); “Transition from intra- to extrauterine life” (seminar together with pediatrics and obstetrics/fetal medicine; three times)

12<sup>th</sup> semester/module 8: “Difficult decisions at the end of life (seminar, with Siri Rostoft)

Co-supervisor of master thesis (interdisciplinary health research, 60 ECTS): Karoline Asama Nyberg Lippert (forthcoming)

Supervisor of nine medical student theses (18 or 20 ECTS): Eva K. Nordberg: “Hvorfor og hvordan reserverer fastleger seg ved henvisning til provosert abort?” (2012); Sven J. & Magnus A. Nordstrand: “Medisinstudenters syn på reservasjonsrett: En spørreskjemaundersøkelse” (2012); Bjarte Onsrud: “Debatten om fastlegers reservasjonsrett” (2014, co-supervised with Bjørn Hofmann); Sophia Kaushal & Ariel Nyembwe: “Behandlingsbegrensning: Hva intenderer leger?” (2016); David Wikstøl (2016; co-supervised with Torgeir Sørensen); Mette Tolås & Liv Astrid Litlekare: “Rituell omskjæring: En studie av legers faglige og profesjonsetiske overveielser” (2017); Astrid Barlaup & Åse Elise Landsverk: “Samvittighetsfrihet og reservasjonsadgang i helsetjenesten: En undersøkelse av befolkningens holdninger” (2018); Ole Marius Gaasø: “Legers holdninger til aktiv dødshjelp” (2018); Åsta Kaasa & Kristine Espegren Gustad (forthcoming, co-supervised with Per Nortvedt)

Examiner on five medical student theses

### ***Other universities and colleges***

Second opponent at Gitte Koksvik's public defense of PhD thesis, NTNU (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Nov. 18, 2016

“Ethiske utfordringer i fødselsomsorgen”, two lectures at the Midwifery Master's degree program at Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Sep. 4, 2014

Supervisor of master thesis at the Faculty of Medicine, NTNU (30 ECTS): Kjersti J. Nordpoll: “Prevensjonsmiddel sin verknad etter befruktning – vitenskap og etikk” (2015; co-supervised with Olav Spigset)

Supervisor of medical student thesis at Faculty of Medicine, University of Bergen (10 ECTS): Gard O. Langeland (2016)

### ***Other courses***

Main organizer of Centre for medical ethics annual national seminar for hospital clinical ethics committees, 2014-2017

Main organizer of Centre for medical ethics course for nursing home physicians, June 2017

Main organizer of Centre for medical ethics course, “Kurs i referatskriving for kliniske etikkomiteer”, Mar. 5, 2015

### ***Teaching awards***

Nominated for best lecturer, module 6 at the medical study, fall 2017

### **Research leadership, grants and applications**

Leader of Centre for Medical Ethics' research and development project “Ethics in municipal healthcare”, 2017-

Founding member of the NOBAS (Norwegian Bioethics Attitudes Survey) study group (with Per Nortvedt & Magne Supphellen), 2014- ; leader, 2015-

Doctoral research grant (approx. NOK 2.5 million), South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority, 2010-2014

### **Presentations (since 2009; CME courses excluded)**

“Beslutningsprosesser ved begrensning av livsforlengende behandling”. Seminar, Kongsberg hospital, Mar. 1, 2018

“Ethiske dilemma i livets siste fase”. Seminar for health professionals, Utviklingssenter for sykehjem og hjemmetjenester, Østfold. Mysen, Feb. 13, 2018

“Etikk ved livets slutt”. Kvalitetsdagane, Helse Fonna. Haugesund, Nov. 22, 2017

“Definisjoner og fakta i dødshjelpsdebatten”. Drammen hospital, Nov. 15, 2017

“Kliniske etikk-komiteer – til hjelp i prioriteringsarbeidet?” 9:e nationella prioriteringskonferensen. Kalmar, Sweden, Oct. 25, 2017

“Liv og død, kampen om begrepene”. Seminar for palliative care professionals in Buskerud. Sundvollen, Oct. 17, 2017

“Aktiv dødshjelp: Kampen om begrepene & det nederlandske eksperimentet”. Ringerikskurset for general practitioners. Jevnaker, Oct. 13, 2017

“Om brekkstenger og skråplan. Bioteknologiens etikk og politikk”. Mar. 30, 2017. Norwegian Parliament, open meeting on values in healthcare services

“Systematisk etikkrefleksjon på sykehjem. Hva er vitsen – og hva skal til for å lykkes?” Mar. 29, 2017. Seminar for nursing home physicians, Oslo municipality

“Etikk ved livets slutt”. Mar. 20, 2017. Seminar, Norwegian Christian Medical Association, Tromsø

“Hvilken betydning har etisk refleksjon – og hva skal til for å lykkes?” Mar. 20, 2017. Seminar, Fagforbundet Akershus, Oslo

“Etiske dilemmaer i moderne medisin og bioteknologi”. Mar. 14, 2017. “Tirsdagsforum”, Greåker church, Sarpsborg

“Aktiv dødshjelp: Kampen om begrepene, og det nederlandske eksperimentet”. Mar. 3, 2017. Seminar for physicians, Oslo

“Aktiv dødshjelp”. Jan. 26, 2017. Seminar for Fransiskushjelpen, Oslo

“Priority setting and ethics”. Jan. 25, 2017. Nordic expert nurse meeting, Sanofi Aventis, Oslo

“Åpent og rettferdig. Hvordan prioritere rett i helsetjenesten?” Jan. 19, 2017. “Verdier og valg”, conference on priority setting, Church of Norway, Stavanger

“Etikk ved antibiotikabehandling på sykehjem”. Oct. 28, 2016. Course on antibiotic use in nursing homes, Primærmedisinuka, Oslo

“Mennesket – mål eller middel?” Oct. 24, 2016. Seminar on prenatal diagnosis and designer babies (“Morgendagens designerbarn”), Litteraturhuset, Oslo

“Kliniske etikk-komiteer i et prioriteringsperspektiv”. Oct. 13, 2016. Helse i utvikling 16, Oslo

“Eutanasi – fra etikerens synspunkt”. Sep. 15, 2016. 14th National Conference in Palliative Medicine, Stavanger

“Age assessment in adolescent migrants: ethical considerations”. Jun. 3, 2016. The Soria Moria meeting for Pediatric Forensic Pathology and Clinical Forensic Medicine, Oslo

“Ethiske utfordringer ved antibiotikabruk”. Jun. 2, 2016. Spring meeting for associations of Norwegian microbiologists and infectious disease specialists, Sandefjord

“Ethiske utfordringer for leger i NAV”. Jun. 1, 2016, national seminar for NAV (labour and welfare dept.) physicians, Oslo

“Dilemmaer ved informert samtykke i forskning”. May 24, 2016. Presentation for researchers at Akuttlinikken, Oslo University Hospital

“Fosterdiagnostikkens etikk”. Apr. 18, 2016. Presentation for Department of pediatrics, Oslo University Hospital

“Befolkningens holdninger til legalisering av aktiv dødshjelp. Resultater fra en ny spørreundersøkelse”. Apr. 9, 2016. Verdighetskonferansen, Oslo

“Innføring i bioteknologi”. Apr. 1, 2016. Seminar for the youth party of the Christian People’s Party (KrFU), Kolbotn

“Ethiske utfordringer for rådgivende overleger i NAV”. Mar. 1, 2016. NAV, Oslo

“Hvilken betydning har etisk refleksjon – og hva skal til for å lykkes?” Jan. 28, 2016. With Heidi Karlsen. Presentation at “Etikkarbeid i kommunehelsetjenesten – Hvordan drive etikkarbeid i en travel hverdag i egen kommune?” Akershus county

“Hvordan bør vi som jobber med pasienter prioritere? Noen lærdommer fra Norheim-utvalget og debatten som fulgte”. Dec. 8, 2015. Seminar for Halden clinical ethics committee/Halden municipality

“Kommunenes etikkarbeid: Hva har blitt gjort, hva har fungert – og er det nyttig?” Nov. 25, 2015. With Heidi Karlsen. Closing conference for the national ethics project, “Samarbeid om etisk kompetanseheving”, Oslo

“The ethics of priority setting in healthcare”, Nov. 16, 2015. Norwegian Research School in Medical Imaging PhD conference (invited speaker with abstract), Oslo

“Prioritering ved sykesengen – umoralsk eller unngåelig?” Oct. 24, 2015. Norwegian Christian Medical Fellowship, Høsbjør, Brumunddal

“Gode beslutningsprosesser ved livets slutt”, Oct. 20, 2015. Centre for Medical Ethics introductory course in clinical ethics, Oslo

“Rettferdig fordeling av organer for transplantasjon”, Oct. 14, 2015. Invited lecture at national congress on organ transplantation, Lunds Universitet, Sweden

“Etisk refleksjon og etiske dilemmaer”, Jun. 4, 2015. Course in geriatric medicine, Fylkeslegen, Hamar

“Prioritering ved sykesengen”, Jun. 3, 2015. Foredrag for legemiddelkomiteer og sykehusapotek, Oslo

“Aktiv dødshjelp: Medisin, etikk og politikk” Apr. 18, 2015. Seminar for the youth party of the Christian People’s Party (KrFU), Hurdal

“Innføring i prioritering for skeptiske medisinstudenter og leger” Mar. 10, 2015. Seminar for medical students on priority setting in health care. (“Filosofisk førstehjelp: Prioriteringer i helsetjenesten”), Oslo

“Prioritering i helsetjenesten – noen klinisk-etiske perspektiver” Jan. 16, 2015. Seminar at Helse- og omsorgsdepartementet

“Gode beslutningsprosesser ved livets slutt” Nov. 4, 2014. Ethics seminar, Gjøvik municipality

“The ethics of organ allocation”, Oct. 31, 2014. Invited lecture at European seminar on lung transplantation, University of Oslo/Rikshospitalet

“Reservasjonsdebatten: Medisinsk virkelighet, etiske argumenter, ideologisk strid” Oct. 25, 2014. Lecture at the Norwegian Christian Medical Association’s seminar “Samvittighetsfrihet i helsetjenesten”

“Can new natural law theory be secular?” Trial lecture for the degree of PhD, University of Oslo, Oct. 9, 2014

“Assistert reproduksjon og ‘barnets beste’” Jun. 12, 2014. Bioteknologirådets (Biotechnology Council) seminar, Oslo

“Ideologi, politikk og kristen bioetikk” May 13, 2014. Oslo group of the Norwegian Christian Medical Association

“Samvittighetsfrihet i helsetjenesten” Apr. 25, 2014. Seminar for health care personnel at Helse Førde hospital

“Kristen etikk – hva er det godt for?” Mar. 26, 2014. Seminar for Grefsen church

“Kristent verdensbilde, bioteknologi og menneskesyn” Mar. 5, 2014. Seminar for Grefsen church

“Etikk ved livets begynnelse og slutt, med vekt på eutanasi” Feb. 13, 2014. The think-tank Civita’s course for young politicians

“Fakta om fastlegers reservasjonsadgang” Feb. 12, 2014. Debate for medical students at the University of Oslo

“Klinisk etikk” Sep. 2, 2013. Seminar for health professionals at Revmatismesykehuset, Lillehammer

“Eutanasi og legeassistert selvmord, oppgavenekt og reservasjonsrett, og hvilken rolle spiller etisk teori i kliniske etikk-komiteer?” Jun. 11, 2013. Seminar for the clinical ethics committee at Vestre Viken Bærum hospital

“Hjerneslag og hjerteinfarkt på sykehjem – etiske aspekter”, May 22, 2013. Course for nursing home physicians, Oslo

“Kritikk av fosterdiagnostikk”, Apr. 4, 2013. Retten til et annerledesbarn, Litteraturhuset, Oslo

“Oppgavenekt i allmennpraksis”, Mar. 13, 2013. Course on ethics for general practitioners, The Norwegian Medical Association

“Klinisk etikk og kliniske etikk-komiteer”, Mar. 8, 2013. Plenary staff meeting at Lovisenberg Diaconal Hospital

“Kristen bioetikk i det offentlige rom” Mar. 7, 2013. Presentation at the Nordic conference for ethics in the health services, Oslo

“Helsepersonells reservasjonsrett – utgått på dato?” Nov. 23, 2012. Centre for Medical Ethics national seminar for clinical ethics committees

“Kan klinisk etikk-komite utvikle slagsider?” Sep. 24, 2012. The Metochi seminar for clinical ethics committees

“Assistert reproduksjon og liberaliseringslogikken”, Sep. 10, 2012. Seminar at the think-tank Skaperkraft

“Hva innebærer ‘verdighet ved livets slutt?’” Sep. 29, 2011. Lecture at Forskningsdagene at Lovisenberg Diaconal College

Talk on conscientious objection, Feb. 26, 2011. Norwegian Christian Medical Fellowship’s conference “Inspiratio”

“Helsepersonells reservasjonsrett: Begrunnelse og grenser” Nov. 29-30, 2010. National conference for ethics, The Ethics Programme, University of Oslo

“Beslutninger ved livets slutt”, Mar. 16, 2010. Presentation of PhD project at Forskningsdagen, Lovisenberg Diakonale Sykehus

“Eitiske aspekter ved behandling av barn med tumor cerebri”, Apr. 16, 2009. Lecture at Barneklubben, Rikshospitalet

“Eutanasi og legeassistert selvmord”, Apr. 2, 2009. Lecture at Klinikk for medisin, Lovisenberg Diakonale Sykehus

“Eutanasi og legeassistert selvmord: Etikk og politikk”, Mar. 17, 2009. Lecture at Politisk kafé, Oslo KrFU

### **Interviews and debates**

40+ interviews and 5 debates; full list available on request

#### *Highlights:*

Interview on Spinraza and priority setting in healthcare, NRK P1 radio Her og nå, Feb. 12, 2018



Panel debate on biotechnology, Christian People's Party's national conference (Kristelig folkepartis landskonferanse), Gardermoen, Feb. 3, 2018

Interview on conscientious objection to ritual circumcision, Vårt Land, Jan. 31, 2018

Interview on selective abortion, Down syndrome and quality of life, April 2017, Minerva (online)

Interview in Eidslott, E. *Livet med Marikken. Hvordan Down kan bli en opptur*. Kurér forlag 2014, pp. 132-143, on the ethics of prenatal screening

Interview on NRK.no, Feb. 3, 2014, on freedom of conscience in different professions

Debate on Aftenposten Agenda TV, Jan. 22, 2014, on conscientious objection. With health secretary Bent Høie and Therese Utgård

Interview on NRK Dagsnytt (radio), Oct. 25, 2013, on conscientious objection and academic article # 9

Interview in Dagens Medisin (online), Aug. 20, 2013, on academic article # 9

Interview on Verdibørsen, NRK P2, Dec. 3, 2011, on the article "Bør leger ha reservasjonsrett ved assistert befruktning?"

### **Service and organizational work**

Member of Norwegian Directorate of Health reference group on priority setting criteria in clinical practice, 2018-

Member of Norwegian Directorate of Health working party on care of patients at the last stages of life, 2016-18

Member of Ministry of Health and Care Services working party on priority setting in healthcare, 2015 ("Magnussengruppen")

Member of the official government commission on freedom of conscience, "Samvittighetsutvalget", 2015-16

Peer reviewer for several prestigious international journals

Peer reviewer/consultant for books from the publishers *Samlaget*, *Humanist forlag* and *Cappelen Damm Akademisk*

Jury member for "Etikkprisen", awarded by the project "Samarbeid for etisk kompetanseheving", Oslo, 2014-

Board member of the Research Foundation of the Association for children with heart disease (Foreningen for hjertesyke barn), 2014-2016

Member of the clinical ethics committee at Lovisenberg Diaconal Hospital, 2009-present