

Kimbell Kornu, MD, PhD

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Assistant Professor, July 2017–present

Medicine and Health Care Ethics

Hospice and Palliative Care Fellowship, Associate Program Director, 2020–present

Instructor, July 2015–June 2017

Medicine and Health Care Ethics

Attend on the inpatient Palliative Care consultation service at SLU Hospital

Research and teach undergraduates, graduate students, medical students, and
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Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, July 2013–June 2014

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Section of Hospitalist Medicine

Core Faculty, Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society

New College Franklin, Franklin, Tennessee, August 2013–May 2014

Adjunct Professor

EDUCATION

University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom

Ph.D., Theology, October 2012–July 2017

Dissertation: “The Logic of Anatomy: Dissective Rationality and the Difference of
Incarnation”

Supervisor: John Milbank

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

Internal Medicine Residency Training, July 2009–June 2012

Clinical Fellow, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, July 2014–June 2015

University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, Texas

M.D., August 2003–June 2009

Westminster Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas
M.A.R., June 2006–May 2008

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
B.S., Molecular Biology, *summa cum laude*, August 1998–May 2002

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Internal Medicine, ABIM, 2012–2022
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, ABIM, 2016–2026
Healthcare Ethics Consultant-Certified, ASBH, 2020

MEDICAL LICENSE

Missouri 2015012454
Expiration: January 2021

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Kornu K. (Under review). “Anatomy of Being, Metaphysics of Death: The Case of Avicenna’s Logical Dissection.” *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*.

Bach M, Thornton A, Kanna PS, Kornu K. (Revise and resubmit). “Skeletons in Our Closets: The Use and Abuse of Bodies by Antebellum Medical Practitioners in Saint Louis, Missouri.” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*.

Kornu K. (Forthcoming). “Policing the Sublime: The Metaphysical Harms of Irreligious Clinical Ethics.” *Christian Bioethics*. Accepted December 2020.

Kornu K. (2020). “Medical *Ersatz* Liturgies of Death: Anatomical Dissection and Organ Donation as Biopolitical Practices.” *The Heythrop Journal* 00: 1–15.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/heyj.13574>.

Kornu K. (2018). “Enchanted Nature, Dissected Nature: The Case of Galen’s Anatomical Theology.” *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* 39(6): 453–471.

Kornu K. (2017). “Asclepius against the Crucified: Medical Nihilism and Incarnational Life in Death.” *Christian Bioethics* 23(1): 38–59.

Kornu K. (2014). “The Beauty of Healing: Covenant, Eschatology, and Jonathan Edwards’ Theological Aesthetics Toward a Theology of Medicine.” *Christian Bioethics*

20: 43–58.

Book Chapters

Kornu K. (2015). ““Know Thyself”: The Soul of Anatomical Dissection.” In *The Resounding Soul: Reflections on the Metaphysics and Vivacity of the Human Person*, eds., Samuel Kimbriel and Eric Lee, 93–113. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock.

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kornu K. (2020). “COVID-19 and the Race That Nobody Sees.” *Church Life Journal*.
<https://churchlifejournal.nd.edu/articles/covid-19-and-the-race-that-nobody-sees/>

Kornu K. (2020). “The Banality of Nihilism and the Need for a New Way of Seeing.” *Theopolis Institute*. <https://theopolisinstitute.com/conversations/the-banality-of-nihilism-and-the-need-for-a-new-way-of-seeing/>

Kornu K. (2020). “The Nihilism of Modern Medicine.” *Theopolis Institute*.
<https://theopolisinstitute.com/conversations/the-nihilism-of-modern-medicine/>

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Session Organizer for “Rituals in Medicine,” International Academy of Law and Mental Health XXXVIIth Congress, Lyons, France, July 3–8, 2022. (Peer Reviewed)

“The Sacrament of *Pharmakon*: Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide as Medical *Ersatz* Liturgy,” International Academy of Law and Mental Health XXXVIIth Congress, Lyons, France, July 3–8, 2022. (Peer Reviewed)

“Goals of Care, Goals of Medicine: Palliative Care as First-Line Ethics Consultation,” International Academy for Law and Mental Health XXXVIIth Congress, Lyons, France, July 3–8, 2022. (Peer Reviewed)

“Dissecting the Patient Body: Tracing the Origins of How Medicine Reduces Patients into Objects,” Plenary Address, 27th Annual Conference at The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity, Deerfield, Illinois, June 2021. (Invited)

“Virtue Ethics at the Core of Medicine: A Practical Model for an Integrated, Longitudinal Medical School Ethics Curriculum,” Virtues and Vocations Conference, Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, June 2021. (Peer Reviewed)

“The Prince of Physicians and the Metaphysics of Death: The Case of Avicenna’s Logical Dissection,” 9th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, Virtual Conference, March 2021. (Peer Reviewed)

- “Medicine Made Strange: Seeing Health Care Through the Lens of Liturgy,” Annual Jack W. Provonsha Lecture, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California, March 5, 2021. (Invited)
- “Transfiguration, not Transhumanism: Suffering as Human Enhancement,” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference, January 8, 2021. (Peer Reviewed)
- “Telemedicine Payment Parity and the State of Exception During COVID-19,” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Conference, Virtual Conference, October 18, 2020. (Peer Reviewed)
- “Know Thyself, Dissect Thyself: A Genealogy of Self-Knowledge Through Renaissance Art History and Anatomical Dissection,” 45th annual Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Villanova University, Virtual Conference, October 17, 2020. (Peer Reviewed)
- Panelist for “Decisional Capacity: A Multidisciplinary Discussion,” Saint Louis University Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds, St. Louis, Missouri, September, 9, 2020.
- “The Good Death? Why Medicine Needs Palliative Care,” Saint Louis University Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, St. Louis, Missouri, February 21, 2020.
- “The Good Death? Reflections on Religion and Mortality,” Saint Louis University Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds, St. Louis, Missouri, January 22, 2020.
- “Ethics Is Not Just for Ethicists: How Hospice and Palliative Care Practice Clinical Ethics Everyday,” St. Louis Palliative Care Network, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, August 1, 2019. (Invited)
- “Anatomy of Being, Metaphysics of Death: The Case of Avicenna’s Logical Dissection,” International Academy for Bioethical Inquiry, St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Ireland, July 15–18, 2019. (Invited)
- “The Sacrament of *Pharmakon*: Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide as Medical *Ersatz* Liturgy,” 8th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, Durham, North Carolina, March 29–31, 2019. (Peer Reviewed)
- Panelist for “Is Suffering the Kiss of Jesus? Examining the Suffering Body, Death, and the Resurrection,” 8th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, Durham, North Carolina, March 29–31, 2019. (Peer Reviewed)
- “Critical Tribute to Tris Engelhardt: A Protestant Perspective,” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Christian Theology and Bioethics Affinity Group, Anaheim, California, October 19, 2018. (Invited)

- “The Sacrament of *Pharmakon*: Physician-Assisted Suicide as Medical *Ersatz* Liturgy,” 2018 SLU Bicentennial Health and Social Justice conference, St. Louis, Missouri, September 13, 2018. (Peer Reviewed)
- “Enchanted Nature, Dissected Nature: The Case of Galen’s Anatomical Theology,” International Academy for Bioethical Inquiry, St. Louis, Missouri, July 16–19, 2018. (Invited)
- “First, Do No Harm? The Dark Side of Hippocratic Medicine,” 7th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, St. Louis, Missouri, April 13–15, 2018. (Peer Reviewed)
- Respondent to Daniel Sulmasy, “Philosophical Foundations of Medicine and Religion,” presented at the Conference on Medicine and Religion, St. Louis, Missouri, April 13–15, 2018.
- “The Sacrament of *Pharmakon*: Physician-Assisted Suicide as Medical *Ersatz* Liturgy,” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon, January 5, 2018. (Invited)
- “Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Death and Dying,” Pediatric Ethics Grand Rounds, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, August 22, 2017.
- “Assisted Suicide and How Palliative Care Can Make a Difference,” Saint Louis University Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship lecture, St. Louis, Missouri, May 10, 2017.
- “Medical *Ersatz* Liturgies of Death: Anatomical Dissection and Organ Donation as Biopolitical Practices,” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6, 2017. (Peer Reviewed)
- “The Good Death: Liturgy of the Church or Liturgy of Medical Technology?,” Institute for Theological Encounter with Science and Technology conference on The Role of Changing Technology in End of Life Issues: A Christian response, St. Louis, Missouri, October 22, 2016. (Invited)
- “Medical *Ersatz* Liturgies of Death: Anatomical Dissection and Organ Donation as Biopolitical Practices,” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Washington, D. C., October, 6, 2016. (Peer Reviewed)
- “Aristotle’s Divine Gaze: Anatomical Dissection as a Way of Knowing Nature,” International Academy for Bioethical Inquiry, St. Louis, Missouri, August 9, 2016.
- “The Good Death? Reflections on Religion and Mortality,” 4th Annual Alpha Epsilon Delta Health Conference, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, March 15, 2016.
- “Medical *Ersatz* Liturgies of Death: Anatomical Dissection and Organ Donation as

- Biopolitical Practices,” 5th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, Houston, Texas, March 4–6, 2016. (Peer Reviewed)
- ““Know Thyself”: The Soul of Anatomical Dissection,” 5th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, Houston, Texas, March 4–6, 2016. (Peer Reviewed)
- “Ethical and Palliative Challenges at the End of Life in the Geriatric Patient,” Geriatrics Grand Rounds, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, November 4, 2015. (Invited)
- “Medical *Ersatz* Liturgies of Death: Dissection and Donation as Biopolitical Practices,” Centre for Bible, Ethics and Theology Workshop on Post-Mortem Treatment of the Body, University of Nottingham, England, October 24, 2015. (Invited)
- “Asclepius against the Crucified: Medical Nihilism and Incarnational Life in Death,” 4th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 6–8, 2015. (Peer Reviewed)
- “The Good Death?” Neurology Grand Rounds, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee, August 29, 2014.
- ““Know Thyself”: The Soul of Anatomical Dissection,” *Ars Effectiva et Methodus: The Body in Early Modern Science and Thought* Conference, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, June 30–July 1, 2014. (Peer Reviewed)
- “Motion of the Body: Christological Reflections on the Metaphysics of Medicine,” 3rd Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, Chicago, Illinois, March 7–9, 2014. (Peer Reviewed)
- “The Moral Courage of Paracelsus: Medical, Religious, and Social Reform,” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, October 24–27, 2013. (Peer Reviewed)
- ““Know Thyself”: The Soul of Anatomical Dissection,” The Soul Conference, St. Anne’s College, Oxford University, England, June 28–July 1, 2013. (Peer Reviewed)
- “The Beauty of Healing: Covenant, Eschatology, and Jonathan Edwards’ Theological Aesthetics Towards a Theology of Medicine,” Inaugural Conference on Medicine and Religion, Chicago, Illinois, May 23–25, 2012. (Peer Reviewed)
- “The Good Death?” Siloam Family Health Center, Nashville, Tennessee, April 2012.
- “The Good Death?” Internal Medicine Residency Senior Presentation, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, March 2012.
- “The Aesthetics of Medicine: Life, Beauty, and the Other,” What is Life? Conference, Krakow, Poland, June 24–28, 2011. (Peer Reviewed)

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

On the Nihilism of Medicine, Mars Hill Audio with Ken Myers, May 2020.
<https://marshillaudio.org/page/heres-what-youre-missing>

On the Ethics of Triage Protocols During COVID-19, St. Louis radio station KTRS 550 Morning Show with Art Holliday and Jennifer Blome, April 13, 2020.

“The Ethics of Care During a Pandemic.” *St. Louis on the Air* hosted by Sarah Fenske, St. Louis Public Radio. March 30, 2020. <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/ethics-care-during-pandemic#stream/0>

“Physicians are homesick for their patients.” *St. Louis Magazine*. July 20, 2017.
<https://www.stlmag.com/health/physicians-are-homesick-for-their-patients/>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Books

(Working title) *Cutting Flesh: Incarnation, Medicine, and the Logic of Dissection*.

Journal Articles

“Transfiguration, not Transhumanism: Suffering as Human Enhancement”

“Know Thyself, Dissect Thyself: A Genealogy of Self-Knowledge Through Anatomical Dissection and Renaissance Art History”

“The Sacrament of *Pharmakon*: Physician-Assisted Suicide as Medical *Ersatz* Liturgy”

Palliative Care as first-line clinical ethics consult

Critical engagement with the thought of Tris Engelhardt from a Reformed perspective

Book Chapters

“Transfiguring Suffering: The Aesthetics of Cruciformity against Transhumanism”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri
Undergraduate

HCE 2010 Foundations of Clinical Health Care Ethics
HCE 3220 The Desire to Dissect: Philosophical History of Anatomical Dissection
HCE 3250 God in the Clinic? Exploring the Tension Between Spirituality and Health Care

Graduate

HCE 6020 Methods in Religious Ethics

School of Medicine

HCE 101 Foundations in Health Care Ethics
HCE 201 Clinical Reasoning in Health Care Ethics
MELC 108 Health Care Ethics elective
HCE 401 Directed Readings in Bioethics

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Clinical Teacher, Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship, July 2014–June 2015

Faculty Adviser and Discussion Leader, Ethics Club, August 2014–present

Co-Instructor, Clinical Ethics for Internal Medicine clerkship, August 2013–present

New College Franklin, Franklin, Tennessee

Adjunct Professor

“‘Beauty Will Save the World?’: Metaphysics of Beauty and Theological Aesthetics,”

August 2013–May 2014

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Bach, Michelle (2020). “Disorder and Beauty: Personality Pathology, Aesthetics, and New Ethical Resources in the Practice of Psychiatry.”

Malone, Jay (2019). “Invasive Medical Technologies: A Postphenomenological Variational Analysis.”

HONORS AND AWARDS

Nominee for Alpha Sigma Nu Nancy McNeir Ring teaching award, 2019

International Academy for Bioethical Inquiry Fellow, 2019–present

Mellon Faculty Development Award, Summer 2018

Nominated Finalist for the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Faculty award, SLU

School of Medicine, February 2018

UT Southwestern Community Health Fellow, Summer 2004

Pew Younger Scholars Fellow (Traditio), Summer 2002

Phi Beta Kappa membership, May 2002

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to Profession

Editorial Review Group Chair for Medical Ethics, Doody book review service, 2015–2019

Conference on Medicine and Religion abstract reviewer, 2014–present

ASBH Annual Conference abstract reviewer, 2020

ASBH Bioethics and Christian Theology affinity group, co-leader, 2020–present

Journal of Medicine and Philosophy, Editorial Advisory Board, 2021–present

Referee

MIT Press

Studies in Late Antiquity

Journal of Disability & Religion

Christian Bioethics

Bioethics

Journal of Medicine and Philosophy

Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics

Journal of Integrative Medicine

Service to Saint Louis University

SLU Pre-Health Committee on Evaluations, 2017–2020

SLU Health Law Scholars Workshop mentor and reader, 2017–2018

SLU Pre-Health Advisory Committee, 2019–present

Service to SLU School of Medicine

SLU School of Medicine Health Care Ethics Distinction faculty adviser, 2016–present

SLU Medical School Ethics Working Group, 2015–2017

SLU Social Justice and Medicine lecture series committee, Chair, 2016–2018

SSM Health SLU Hospital Palliative Care Operational subcommittee, 2016–2019

SLU School of Medicine Student Professional Conduct Council

Chair, 2020–present

Member, 2017–present

SSM Health SLU Hospital Ethics Committee, 2019–present

SLU School of Medicine MD/PhD Steering Committee, 2019–present

SLU School of Medicine faculty adviser for No One Dies Alone student group, 2019–present

Service to Center for Health Care Ethics

Hubert Mäder Visiting Professorship Search Committee, 2020-2021

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities

American Academy of Religion

Society of Christian Ethics

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Guest Lecturer on Palliative Care and Health Care Ethics for Catholic Health Care Ethics elective, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, November 4, 2020.

Public lecture on “Dying the Good Death,” Link Auditorium Lectures and Libations Series, St. Louis, Missouri, March 4, 2020.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board Member, New College Franklin, 2020–present

Ruling Elder, Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, 2019–present.

Adult Education on “Praying With Your Eyes Open,” Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, Spring 2019.

Adult Education on “Christian Perspectives on the Body,” Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, Fall 2018.

Adult Education on “Councils and Creeds of the Church,” Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, Spring 2018.

Adult Education on “Christian Perspectives on Beauty,” Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, Fall 2017.

Adult Education on “Christian Art of Dying,” Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, Spring 2016.