

## Alexandra (Ali) Ruth

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Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Department of Health Policy and Management  
624 N Broadway  
Baltimore, MD, 21205

### EDUCATION

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- Expected March 2022      **Ph.D.** Health Policy and Management  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore MD
- Dissertation title:** Vaccination Programs and Policies for Reaching Older Adults in the U.S.: Considerations for Data, Access, and Equity
- Advisor:** Nancy Kass
- 2013                      **A.B.**, Environmental Biology  
Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis MO

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2017 – present      **Graduate Research Assistant**, Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD
- International Vaccine Access Center*
- Project:** Vaccine Acceptance Lives in Unity, Education, and Engagement (VALUE) in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department and Morgan State University
- Faculty:** Lois Privor-Dumm
- Research role:**
- Designed community listening session guides for special populations in Baltimore including adults with disabilities, older adults, pregnant & lactating women, & young men
  - Facilitated & co-led trainings with community peer ambassadors on approaching people in the community about COVID vaccines and answering vaccine questions
  - Used listening sessions to help develop community-informed vaccine messaging and programming
- Department of Health Policy & Management*
- Project:** The effects of participation in multiple safety net programs on the health and well-being of children and their families

**Faculty:** Alyssa Moran

**Research role:**

- Thematically coded and qualitatively analyzed transcripts from state-level SNAP leaders about SNAP program administration in conjunction with other safety net programs
- Assisted with manuscript development

*International Vaccine Access Center*

**Project:** Exploring barriers to HPV vaccine uptake in rural counties in Maryland

**Faculty:** Mary Carol Jennings

**Research role:**

- Designed interview guide for vaccine program stakeholders in Maryland including county-level health officials and state-level health leaders exploring issues of HPV vaccine access and uptake in rural areas
- Interviewed stakeholders by phone using a semi-structured interview guide

*School of Medicine*

**Project:** Home health care service delivery and medical necessity determinations for families of children with chronic critical illness; Vulnerability of children with chronic critical illness to very long hospital stays

**Faculty:** Renee Boss

**Research role:**

- Thematically coded and analyzed transcripts of interviews with parents and providers pertaining to insurance coverage for pediatric home health care services
- Led and managed an ethical analyses of provider, hospital, and policy-level factors contributing to prolonged hospital stays for children with chronic critical illness
- Drafted & revised manuscripts

*Department of Health Policy & Management*

**Project:** Development of a proposed draft bill (“The Maternal and Child Mortality Reduction Act”) to address maternal and child mortality disparities in the U.S. through long-term policy interventions

**Faculty:** Joshua Sharfstein (on behalf of Planned Parenthood, commissioned by Leana Wen)

**Research roles:**

- Conducted background research on maternal mortality disparities and child mortality disparities in the U.S.
- Drafted legislation with specific policy strategies to address maternal and child mortality disparities

2019-2020

**Consultant**, World Health Organization  
Geneva, Switzerland

*Department of Immunization, Vaccines, and Biologicals*

**Project:** A Social Justice Analysis Assessing Impacts of Different Vaccine-Preventable Pathogens on Relevant Dimensions of Well-Being

**Faculty:** Maria Merritt

**Research roles:**

- Assisted with the development of a methodology informed by ethical theory to assess the impacts of different vaccine-preventable pathogens on well-being
- Conducted a literature review and synthesis informed by ethical framework and summarized key findings

## **PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE**

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2013 – 2017

**Senior Research Assistant**, International Food Policy Research Institute  
Washington, D.C.

*HarvestPlus Nutrition Unit*

- Provided research and logistical support for international nutrition intervention trials testing the efficacy of crops fortified with micronutrients
- Developed and piloted a qualitative fieldwork tool for rapid assessment of buying, selling, and growing preferences for staple crops
- Conducted qualitative fieldwork in Rwanda on bean growing practices
- Consolidated and communicated scientific evidence on micronutrient retention, absorption, bioavailability, and efficacy trial evidence to press outlets

### *IFPRI Research Ethics Committee*

- Developed Standard Operating Procedures for IFPRI's Institutional Review Board and guidance including IRB FAQs, a how-to guide for ethical review of IRB applications, and a staff newsletter on research ethics issues in agriculture and nutrition
- Consulted on all staff research ethics questions
- Mediated conflicts that arose between IRB and researchers
- Monitored compliance with ethics training and processed IRB applications

## **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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Raisanen JC, **Ruth AR**, Boss RD, Detwiler K, Fratantoni K, Huff SM, Donohue PK. Paying for Pediatric Home Health Care: How Families of Children with Medical Complexity Navigate Gaps in Coverage. *Family and Community Health*. 2021 Jul 8;44(3):184-93.

**Ruth AR**, Boss RD, Donohue PK, Shapiro MC, Raisanen JC, Henderson CM. Living in the Hospital: The Vulnerability of Children with Chronic Critical Illness. *The Journal of clinical ethics*. 2020 Jan 1;31(4):340-52.

Schoch-Spana M, Brunson EK, Long R, **Ruth A**, Ravi SJ, Trotochaud M, Borio L, Brewer J, Buccina J, Connell N, Hall LL. The public's role in COVID-19 vaccination: Human-centered recommendations to enhance pandemic vaccine awareness, access, and acceptance in the United States. *Vaccine*. 2020 Oct 29.

Gross MS, **Ruth AR**, Rasmussen SA. Respect women, promote health and reduce stigma: ethical arguments for universal hepatitis C screening in pregnancy. *Journal of medical ethics*. 2020 Oct 1;46(10):674-7.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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| 2020 | Aging and Vaccination in the U.S.: A Roadmap for Research, Ethics, and Policy. Paper presentation, American Society for Bioethics & Humanities Meeting. Remote.                             |
| 2019 | Addressing Stigma and Promoting Health: The Case for Universal Hepatitis C Screening in Pregnancy. Paper presentation, American Society for Bioethics & Humanities Meeting. Pittsburgh, PA. |

Living in the Hospital: The Vulnerability of Children with Chronic Critical Illness. Paper presentation, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

- 2018 Gain of Function Research on Pathogens with Pandemic Potential: Where Are We Now, and Where Are We Headed? Paper presentation, American Society for Bioethics & Humanities Meeting. Anaheim, CA.

## **ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS**

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- 2019 The Role of Pharmacist Vaccinators in Improving Access to and Equity in Healthcare Outcomes. International Pharmaceutical Federation. ([Webinar](#)). Invited speaker.
- 2016 Research with human subjects: considerations concerning ethics and privacy for international agricultural research. CGIAR Legal and Intellectual Property Network (CLIPNet). ([Webinar](#)). Invited speaker.
- 2014 Working Group Meeting on Ethical Guidelines for Economic Research. World Bank. Invited participant.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- 2017 – 2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Johns Hopkins University  
Public Health Practice  
Introduction to Bioethics in Public Health Practice  
State Health Care Policy  
Ethics of Public Health Practice in Developing Countries  
Public Health Policy  
Formulating Policy  
Fundamentals of Health Policy & Management
- 2020 **Guest Ethics Faculty**, University of Pittsburgh Medical School  
OB/Gyn clinical ethics seminar with medical students on telemedicine STI counseling & ethical approaches to delivering sensitive test results

## **AWARDS**

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- 2021 **Barbara Starfield Scholarship** (\$10,000 award), Johns Hopkins University

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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2018 - 2019

**Department Representative**, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Student Assembly

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING AND OUTREACH

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Nov. 2018 – Jun. 2019

**Certified HIV Tester & Counselor**, Sisters Together and Reaching  
Baltimore, MD

- Tested clients for HIV and Hepatitis C with STAR's mobile unit in Baltimore in medically underserved neighborhoods
- Delivered sensitive test results and provided behavioral health counseling
- Conducted additional screening and provided referrals for housing instability, food insecurity, and substance use treatment to clients

Feb. – April 2017

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Outreach Specialist**, D.C. Hunger Solutions  
Washington, D.C.

- Provided SNAP benefit enrollment assistance to families receiving free income tax preparation
- Conducted outreach for food safety net programs in D.C. and provided educational materials about free meal programs for seniors and children
- Conducted surveys with families enrolled in SNAP on satisfaction with the program's administration

## SKILLS / TRAINING

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- **Software proficiencies**
  - R (tidyverse, Shiny apps, Leaflet, Rmd, tidycensus, sf, academictwitterR); Github; Stata; Qualtrics
  - Atlas.ti; Dedoose; MAXQDA
- **Research methods - qualitative**
  - Focus group discussions
  - Structured & semi-structured interviews
  - Inductive and deductive coding
  - Document analysis
  - Mixed-method study designs
  - Ethical theory & ethical analysis of public health policies

- **Research methods - quantitative**
  - Audit survey / mystery shopper studies
  - Linear and generalized linear models
  - Causal inference (regression discontinuity, difference-in-differences, matching, instrumental variables)
- **Workshop participant: Summer Institute in Computational Social Science at Rutgers University (June 2021)**
  - Completed group workshops over the course of two weeks in R on machine learning, tweet analysis, network analysis, research ethics, text analysis, and screen-scraping methods for computational social science