Leah Pierson, MD, PhD

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EMPLOYMENT

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Internal Medicine Residency Program (Management and Leadership Pathway) — 2025 - present

NIH Department of Bioethics — 2016 - 2018
Pre-doctoral Fellowship

EDUCATION

Harvard Medical School — 2018 - 2025
MD with Honors in Ethics, *magna cum laude*
Harvard/MIT MD-PhD Program

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health — 2020 - 2023
PhD, Department of Global Health and Population
Dissertation: Ethics Amidst Uncertainty: Essays on Global Health Priority Setting
Committee: Stéphane Verguet, Ole F. Norheim, and Regina Schouten

Brown University — 2012 - 2016
BA, independent major in Human Rights with Honors, *magna cum laude*

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

STAT Wunderkind Award	2026
Sissela Bok Ethics and Population Research Prize	2023
Oxford Global Priorities Fellowship	2023
Amplify Creative Grant for podcast, Bio(un)ethical	2023
Edmond & Lily Safra Center Graduate Fellowship in Ethics	2022 - 2023
Apollo Academic Surveys grant for the Views in Bioethics Survey	2022
Long-Term Future Fund grant for the Views in Bioethics Survey	2022
Petrie-Flom Center Student Fellowship	2021 - 2022
Forethought Fellowship for Global Priorities Research	2021 - 2023
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Student Paper Award	2021
Harvard University Presidential Scholarship	2018 - 2021

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- **Pierson L**. The Process Is Not the Point: Moral Uncertainty and Substantive Justice in Health Care Priority Setting. *Bioethics*, 2026.
- **Pierson L**, Orszag L, Gibert S, Sullivan HK, Fei RY, Largent EA, and Persad G. Bioethicists' Perspectives on Ethical Research: Results of the Views in Bioethics Survey. *Ethics & Human Research*, 2026.
- **Pierson L**, Gibert S, Orszag L, Sullivan HK, Fei RY, Persad G, and Largent EA. Bioethicists Today: Results of the Views in Bioethics Survey. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 2024.
- **Pierson L**. Accounting for Future Populations in Health Research. *Bioethics*, 2024.
- **Pierson L** and Verguet S. When Should Global Health Actors Prioritize More Uncertain Interventions? *The Lancet Global Health*, 2023.
- Mintz R*, **Pierson L*,** and Miller DG. Rethinking Professionalism Assessments in Medical Education. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2022.
- **Pierson L** and Millum J. Health Research Priority Setting: Do Grant Review Processes Reflect Ethical Principles? *Global Public Health*, 2022.

*** indicates co-first author**

- Miller DG, **Pierson L**, and Doernberg S. The Role of Medical Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2020.
- **Pierson L***, Gibert S*, Berkman B, Danis M, and Millum J. The Allocation of Scarce Biospecimens for Use in Research. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 2021.
- **Pierson L** and Millum J. Health Research Priority-Setting: The Duties of Individual Funders. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 2018.

WRITING FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES

- **Pierson L**. Are AI tools inflating health care costs for no reason? *STAT*, 2026.
- **Pierson L**. Why we need to experiment on pregnant women. *The Argument*, 2025.
- **Pierson L** and Pierson E. Philanthropic foundations must step in to shield science from Trump's cuts. *Nature*, 2025. (Longer version here.)
- **Pierson L** and Sullivan HK. Harvard should protect whistleblowers. *The Harvard Crimson*, 2023.
- Sullivan HK and **Pierson L**. With students remote, universities should put COVID-19 testing capacity to good use. *The Boston Globe*, 2022.
- **Pierson L** and Pierson E. Genetic risks for cancer should not mean financial hardship. *The New York Times*, 2021.
- Pierson E and **Pierson L**. What do campus protesters really want? *The New York Times*, 2015.

OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

- **Pierson L**. Insight from Inexperience. *Academic Medicine*, 2026.
- **Pierson L**, Sheehan M, and Eyal N. Critical perspectives on democratic deliberation in health and science policy. *Bioethics*, 2026.
- Iyer AA, **Pierson L**, and Schwartzstein RM. Evidence-based trainee selection—reply. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 2026.
- Millum J, Aguilera B, Bhaumik S, Galvagni E, Littler K, Munung NS, **Pierson L**, and Pratt B. The Imperative to Embed Ethics in Health Research Priority-setting. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2026.
- Iyer AA, **Pierson L**, and Schwartzstein RM. Steadying the Medical Education Pendulum—The Need for Experimental Studies. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 2026.
- Millum J and **Pierson L**. Health professionals should be involved in setting research priorities. *BMJ*, 2025.
- Miller DG and **Pierson L**. Addressing cost-related non-adherence is a shared obligation. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 2025.
- Millum J, Aguilera B, Atuire C, Bhaumik S, Munung NS, **Pierson L**, and Pratt B. WHO Guidance on the Ethics of Health Research Priority Setting. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2025.
- Millum J, Aguilera B, Atuire C, Bhaumik S, Munung NS, **Pierson L**, and Pratt B. The Ethics of Health Research Priority Setting: A Casebook. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2025.
- Persad G, Largent EA, Gibert S, Orszag L, and **Pierson L**. Bioethicists Tomorrow: Identity, Inclusiveness, and Future Directions. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 2025.
- **Pierson L** and Tsai B. Misaligned AI constitutes a growing public health threat. *BMJ*, 2023.
- **Pierson L** and Pierson E. Patients cannot consent to care unless they know how much it costs. *BMJ*, 2022.
- **Pierson L**, Pierson M, Steinhardt J, and Pierson E. Incarceration and COVID-19 (letter to the editor), *Health Affairs*, 2021.
- **Pierson L** and Millum J. Response to Open Peer Commentaries on "Health Research Priority Setting: The Duties of Individual Funders." *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 2019.

- **Pierson L** and Millum J. Disease prevalence and the magnitude of research benefits. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 2018.
- **Pierson L** and Millum J. The limits of research institutions in setting research priorities. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 2017.

PODCASTS, INTERVIEWS, AND BLOGS

- The first two seasons of Bio(un)ethical, a bioethics podcast I co-founded with Sophie Gibert, can be accessed here. Bio(un)ethical is ranked in the top 10% of podcasts globally. (Article about it here.)
- STAT Wunderkinds profile: Bioethics researcher Leah Pierson named a 2026 STAT Wunderkind (Anil Oza), 2026.
- WBUR (NPR Boston) interview: Why a Boston doctor says we need to test medicines during pregnancy.
- My blog posts, including those written for the Petrie-Flom Center's Bill of Health Blog are available on my website.
- Annals on Call Podcast: Professionalism (Robert M. Centor interviews Rachel Mintz and me).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Pierson L** and Iyer AA**.** Moral Physicians, Not Moral Philosophers: Moral Negligence and Ethics Education in U.S. Medical Schools. (Revise and resubmit, *American Journal of Bioethics*.)

INVITED AND PEER-REVIEWED TALKS

- **Pierson L**. The Process Is Not the Point: Moral Uncertainty and Procedural Justice in Health Care Priority Setting. *Critical Perspectives on Democratic Deliberation in Health and Science Policy,* 2025.
- **Pierson L**. Moral Uncertainty and Procedural Justice in Health Care Priority Setting. *Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, Population Research Exchange (Sissela Bok Prize Lecture)*, 2024.
- Hausman D, Asada Y, and **Pierson L**. How Health Care Can Be Cost-Effective and Fair: Author Meets Critics. *The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society: Eighth Annual Meeting*, 2024.
- **Pierson L** and Gibert S. Eight Lessons from Eight Years in Bioethics. Plenary talk at the *National Student Bioethics Association Annual Conference*, 2024.
- **Pierson L**. Accounting for Future Populations in Health Research. *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Annual Meeting*, 2023.
- **Pierson L**. Picking Research Projects that Matter. *Effective Altruism Global: Boston*, 2023.
- **Pierson L**. Rethinking Public Engagement in Health Care Priority Setting. *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting*, 2023.
- **Pierson L.** Results of the Views in Bioethics Survey. *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting,* 2023.
- Millum J, **Pierson L,** Atuire C, and Pratt B. A Framework for Health Research Priority Setting. *Oxford Global Health & Bioethics Conference*, 2023.
- **Pierson L**. Accounting for Future Populations in Health Research. *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting*, 2022.
- **Pierson L**. Should Global Health Actors Prioritize More Certain Interventions? *World Congress of Bioethics,* 2022.
- **Pierson L**. Accounting for Future Populations in Health Research Priority Setting. *10th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research,* 2022.
- **Pierson L**. Accounting for Future Populations in Health Research. *Oxford Global Health & Bioethics Conference,* 2022.
- **Pierson L** and Gibert S. Should I Skip the Line? A Decision Framework for Individuals Seeking Scarce Health Resources. *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting*, 2021.

- **Pierson L** and Doernberg S. Should Health Professions Students Receive Priority Access to the COVID-19 Vaccine? *Ethics of Medicine Speaker Series at the University of Nebraska Omaha*, 2021.
- **Pierson L** and Verguet S. The Ethics of Extended Cost-Effectiveness Analysis. *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting*, 2019.
- **Pierson L** and Millum J. Health Research Priority Setting: How Are Allocation Decisions Really Made? *Oxford Global Health & Bioethics Conference,* 2019.
- **Pierson L** and Millum J. Health Research Priority Setting: How Are Allocation Decisions Really Made? *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting,* 2018.
- **Pierson L** and Millum J. What Duties Do Health Research Funders Have to Populations in Need of Research? *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting,* 2017.
- **Pierson L**, Millum J, Gelinas L, and Pratt B. How Should We Set Priorities for Health Research? *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting,* 2017.

TEACHING

Ethical Basis of the Practice of Public Health (TA, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health)	2023
Medical Ethics and Professionalism (Section Co-Leader, Harvard Medical School)	2022, 2023
Health Policy (Section Co-Leader, Harvard Medical School)	2023
Introductory Statistics for Social Research (TA, Brown University)	2016

RECENT SERVICE

- Member, Brigham and Women's Hospital Ethics Committee, 2026
- Co-guest editor (with Nir Eyal and Mark Sheehan), *Bioethics* special issue: Critical Perspectives on Democratic Deliberation in Health and Science Policy
- Ad hoc peer reviewer: *BMC Health Services Research*; *Health Policy*; *JAMA Network Open*; *Journal of Applied Philosophy*; *Journal of Medical Ethics*; *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*
- Co-organizer, *Critical Perspectives on Democratic Deliberation in Health and Science Policy Conference* (Oxford, UK 2025)
- Class representative, Harvard/MIT MD-PhD starting class of 2018