

Biographical Sketch

Gary Lynn Comstock

Professor of Philosophy
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a. Professional Preparation

University of Chicago	Religion and Literature	Ph.D.	1983
University of Chicago	Divinity	A.M.	1977
Wheaton College	Religious Studies, English Literature	B.A.	1976

b. Appointments

North Carolina State University	Professor	2002-
Iowa State University	Professor	2000-02
Oregon State University	Visiting Associate Professor	1989-90
Iowa State University	Associate Professor	1988-00
	Assistant Professor	1982-88

c. Recent Publications

Five related to the project:

Editor, *Life Science Ethics*, 2nd ed. (Dordrecht: Springer, forthcoming)

Vexing Nature? On the Ethical Case against Agricultural Biotechnology (Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2000).

With Brenda Alston-Mills and Christine Grant, "[Research Ethics Education: Beyond RCR Training](#)," *FCTL Newsletter* 2 (Feb 2007), pp. 1, 4.

"The Iowa State University Model Bioethics Institutes," *The Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society* 19 (August 1999): 323-328.

"Is it Unnatural to Genetically Engineer Plants?" *Weed Science* 46 (1998): 647-651.

Five additional significant publications:

"[The Production of Genetically Engineered Food Is Ethical](#)," in Louise Gerdes, ed., [Genetic Engineering: Opposing Viewpoints](#) (San Diego: Greenhaven, 2004), pp. 110-120. Reprinted in [enotes.com](#) (2006).

"What are the ethical issues surrounding genetic modification of nature?" in William K. Purves, David Sadava, Gordon H. Orians, and Craig Heller, eds., [Life: The Science of Biology, 7th ed.](#) (Gordonsville, VA: W. H. Freeman, 2003), [ch. 18, "Natural Defenses against Disease," p. 389.](#)

"Agricultural Ethics," *CAST Issue Paper* 29 (February 2005), with J. Burkhardt, Peter Hartel, and Paul Thompson

"Ethics and Genetically Modified Foods," SCOPE Research Group (U. California-Berkeley, U. Washington, and AAAS, July 2001)

d. Synergistic Activities

- Helped establish the Iowa State University Model Bioethics Institutes, faculty development workshops for life scientists desiring to integrate discussions of ethics into their courses. I have directed, or served as consultant to twenty Institutes, at universities across the U.S. and in Europe. The Institutes trained more than 500 life science faculty members to discuss ethical issues with their students. Through these faculty members, the Institutes—funded by NSF—now reach thousands of science students annually with ethics education integrated into the life science curricula.
- Contributed curricular innovations to the literature on life science ethics, including a half dozen case studies. Several of these cases are available in the volume I edited, *Life Science Ethics*. Others are available either on the ISU Bioethics Program website or the NC State Ethics Program website.
- Contributed curricular innovations to methods of teaching ethics, researching and testing a novel way of combining ethical theory and applied ethics in the teaching of science. The new method is explained in Comstock (1999).
- Helped found an international effort to compare ways in which life science ethics is taught in the US and Europe. The International Bioethics Institutes—supported by NSF—are held annually in Lisbon, Portugal.

e. Collaborators and Other Affiliations:

(i) **Collaborators:** Christine Grant (NC State), Brenda Alston-Mills (NC State), Paul Thompson (Michigan State), Jeff Burkhardt (Florida), Peter Hartel (Georgia), Tom Regan (North Carolina State University), Humberto Rosa (University of Lisbon)

(ii) **Graduate Advisers:** U. of Chicago: Wayne Booth (retired), James Gustafson (retired); Paul Ricoeur (retired), David Tracy, Anthony Yu (retired)

(iii) **Thesis Adviser and Postgraduate-Scholar Sponsor:** No thesis advisees (Neither North Carolina State nor Iowa State have graduate programs in Philosophy). Postgraduate-scholar sponsor of Kristen Hessler, Iowa State.