

# SIENA UNIVERSITY

and the

## Franciscan Center for Catholic Studies

present

### “Moral Injury and the Ethics of War: How Veterans’ Shame and Grief can Illuminate the Harms of Violence”



Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Zoom Link:

<https://siena.zoom.us/j/95111215040?pwd=KD9P6ZJPSOFpv6tIA6MbCUUig8Pbkk.1>



## Dr. Rosemary Kellison

Associate Professor, Florida State University



Rosemary Kellison (Ph.D., 2013, Florida State University) is a comparative religious ethicist with expertise in ethics of war, gender and feminism. Kellison’s current research draws on feminist ethical concepts of human vulnerability and solidarity in a critical examination of religious and philosophical accounts of moral damage, guilt, and grief related to the experience of war and other forms of state violence.

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#### Lecture Description

A growing number of American veterans of the post-9/11 wars have experienced a phenomenon referred to by mental health clinicians as moral injury: debilitating shame or guilt because of a sense that some of the acts they perpetrated or witnessed violated their own moral commitments. In this talk, Rosemary Kellison considers what the testimonies of this experience might teach us about the ethics of war. Specifically, she shows that many veterans have named the unintentional infliction of harm on civilians as a cause of moral injury. Veterans’ accounts of moral injury thus push us to grapple with the violence of war—even war considered justified—and the humanity of the persons who suffer its harms, and to accept the responsibility we bear to repair and prevent such harm to the extent possible.

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If you have questions email

Tom Dickens, Ph.D. @ [wtdickens@siena.edu](mailto:wtdickens@siena.edu)  
Director, Franciscan Center for Catholic Studies

