Will Fleisher

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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Department of Philosophy
215 New North
Georgetown University
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Washington DC 20057

Academic Appointments

Georgetown University   Aug. 2022 – Present
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Dept. of Philosophy
Research Assistant Professor, Center for Digital Ethics

Northeastern University   Jul. 2020 – Jun. 2022
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Khoury College of Computer Sciences

Washington University in St. Louis   Sep. 2018 – Jun. 2020
McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program

Education

PhD Rutgers University, Philosophy   Oct. 2018
Dissertation: *Endorsement and Inquiry*. Supervised by Ernest Sosa (chair),
Branden Fitelson (chair), Susanna Schellenberg, Andy Egan, Adam Elga

MA   Virginia Tech, Philosophy   May 2011

BA   Miami University, Philosophy and History   May 2006

Research Areas

Areas of Specialization Epistemology, Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

Areas of Competence Ethics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language

Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed)

1. Fleisher, W. (forthcoming). "Algorithmic Fairness Criteria as Evidence," *Ergo*.
2. **Fleisher, W.**, Cibralic, B., Basl, J., Ricks V., & Smith M. (forthcoming). "Responsibility and Accountability in an Algorithmic Society," *Philosophy & Technology.*
3. Fleisher, W. (2025). "Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity," *Noûs*, 59(1), 289–314.
4. Fleisher, W. (2023). "Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons," *Philosophical Studies*, 180(4) 1343–1371.
5. **Fleisher, W.** & Šešelja, D. (2023). "Responsibility for Collective Epistemic Harms," *Philosophy of Science,* 90(1): 1–20.
6. Fleisher, W. (2023). "Fragmentation and Old Evidence," *Episteme*, 20 (3): 542–567.
7. Fleisher, W. (2022). "Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI," *Episteme,* 19 (4): 534–560.
8. Fleisher, W. (2022). "Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons," *Studies in Hist. and Phil. of Science, Pt. A* 94: 17–30.
9. Fleisher, W. (2021). "Endorsement and Assertion," *Noûs* 55(2): 363–384.
10. Fleisher, W. (2021). "How to Endorse Conciliationism," *Synthese* 198(10): 9912–9939.
11. Fleisher, W. (2020). "Publishing without (some) belief," *Thought*, 9(4): 237–246.
12. Fleisher, W. (2019). "Method Coherence and Epistemic Circularity," *Erkenntnis*, 84 (2): 455–480.
13. Fleisher, W. (2018). "Rational Endorsement," *Philosophical Studies*, 175(10): 2649–2675.
14. Fleisher, W. (2017). "Virtuous Distinctions," *Synthese*, 194 (8): 2973–3003.

Conference Proceedings (Peer Reviewed, Archival)

15. Fazelpour, S. & **Fleisher, W**. (2025) "The Value of Disagreement in AI Design, Evaluation, and Alignment," *Proceedings of the ACM Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency Conference (FAccT '25).*

16. Wang Y., Bone R., **Fleisher W.**, Gresenz C., Mitchell J., van der Klaauw W., Wang C. and Singh L. (2025). "Using Under-Represented Subgroup Fine Tuning to Improve Fairness for Disease Prediction," *Proceedings of the 18th International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies, Volume 2: HEALTHINF*, p. 240–253.

17. Fleisher, W. (2021). "What's Fair about Individual Fairness?" *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society* (*AIES '21*), 480–490.

18. Liu, D., Shafi, Z., **Fleisher, W.**, Eliassi-Rad, T., & Alfeld, S. (2021). "RAWLSNET: Altering Bayesian Networks to Encode Rawlsian Fair Equality of Opportunity," *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES '21)*, 745–755.

Book Chapters (* = Peer Reviewed; ** = Editor Reviewed)

19. Fleisher, W. (forthcoming). "A Defense of Endorsement," in *Attitude in Philosophy*, edited by S.C. Goldberg and M. Walker. Oxford University Press.**

20. **Fleisher, W.**, Friedman D.C., & Šešelja D. (2025). "Expert Judgment: Overlooked Epistemic Reasons," in *The Epistemology of Experts: New essays*, edited by A. Eder, P. Brössel, and T. Grundmann. Routledge.*

Conference Presentations (Peer Reviewed)

"There are Epistemic Reasons for Action"	Mar. 2025
Inquiry Network Workshop, Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College	
"Do AI Systems Produce Testimony, or are they Instruments?"	Nov. 2024
Symposium, PSA 2024 [Accepted; Talk canceled due to injury]	
"Evidence of Fairness: On the uses and limitations of statistical fairness criteria,"	Apr. 2023
Symposium, Pacific APA	
"Resisting Algorithmic Homogenization" (with Sina Fazelpour)	Jan. 2023
Philosophy, AI, and Society Workshop, Stanford University	
"Understanding, Idealization, and the Disagreement Problem for XAI"	Nov. 2022
Symposium, Philosophy of Science Association Conference	
"Evidence of Fairness: On the uses and limitations of statistical fairness criteria,"	Mar. 2022
AAAI 2022 Spring Symposium: Approaches to Ethical Computing Metrics for Measuring AI's Proficiency and Competency for Ethical Reasoning.	
"Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons"	Feb. 2022
Symposium, Central APA	
"Inquisitive Reasons and Intellectual Courage"	Apr. 2020
Social (distance) Epistemology talk series (remote)	
"How to Endorse Conciliationism"	Apr. 2019
Colloquium, Pacific APA	
"Rational Endorsement"	Aug. 2017
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference	
"Rational Endorsement"	Jul. 2016
Decisions, Games, and Logic Conference, University of Michigan	
"Rational Endorsement"	Jul. 2016
Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop	
"Virtuous Distinctions"	Nov. 2014
Northern Graduate Philosophy Conference, NIU	
"Virtuous Distinctions"	Nov. 2014

Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference, Oxford University
"Epistemic Circularity and Mechanism Coherence"   Nov. 2011
Edinburgh Epistemology Conference, University of Edinburgh

Invited Presentations

"Inductive Risk of AI Hype"   Apr. 2025
Southern Workshop on Ethics of Emerging Technology, University of Florida
"Inductive Risk of AI Hype"   Mar. 2025
TechEthics Colloquium, Safra Center, Harvard
"Inductive Risk of AI Hype"   Jan. 2025
Invited Symposium, Eastern APA
"There are Epistemic Reasons for Action"   Jan. 2025
Work in Progress Workshop, Eastern APA
"Why Should We Care about Understanding Opaque AI?"   Oct. 2024
Georgetown University, Humanities Initiative and Center for Digital Ethics
"Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity"   Jun. 2024
Georgetown University, Fordham-Georgetown Epistemology Workshop
"Understanding Opaque AI"   May. 2024
University of London, Being Human in the Age of AI Workshop
"Understanding, Explainable AI, and Disagreement"   May. 2024
University of Alabama, Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop
"Understanding Opaque AI"   Apr. 2024
Princeton University, Understanding in Natural and Artificial Minds
"Understanding, Legitimacy and Explainable AI"   Oct. 2023
Montgomery College, Humanities days
"Understanding, Explainability, and Legitimacy"   Jul. 2023
Northeastern University, IDEAS Program
"Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization"   Jul. 2023
Northeastern University, IDEAS Program and AIDE Program
"Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity"   Jul. 2023
UNED, Madrid, Inquiry and its Norms Workshop
"Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization"   Apr. 2023
University of Maryland, College Park
"Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization"   Apr. 2023
University of Rochester, Central NY Humanities Corridor Talk series
"Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI"   Mar. 2023
Georgetown University, Computer Science Department
"Responsible Fact-Checking in Science" (with Dunja Šešelja and Dan Friedman)   Dec. 2022
Inquiry Network WIP Series (remote)
"Understanding, Explainability, and Accountability,"   Nov. 2022
Sonoma State University Center for Ethics, Law, and Society Lecture Series
"Responsible Fact-Checking in Science" (with Dunja Šešelja and Dan Friedman)   Sep. 2022
Symposium talk, German Society for Analytic Philosophy Conference
"Responsibility for Collective Epistemic Harms" (with Dunja Šešelja)   Sep. 2022
Symposium talk, German Society for Analytic Philosophy Conference
"Evidence of Fairness"   Jun. 2022
Milan Workshop on Fairness and ML in Health
"Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI"   Jun. 2022
European Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness (Lightning talk)
"Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons"   Mar. 2022
Philosophy with Attitude Conference, New Mexico State University
"Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI"   Nov. 2021

University of Eindhoven (virtual)

"Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons"   Nov. 2021
    Northeastern Epistemology Workshop, Northeastern University

"Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI"   Aug. 2021
    Episteme Conference, Negril, Jamaica

"Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons"   Apr. 2021
    Colloquium (remote), University of Missouri, St. Louis

"Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons"   Mar. 2021
    Keynote Talk, Pursuit 2021 Workshop (remote)

"Inquisitive Reasons and Intellectual Courage"   Apr. 2020
    St. Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association (remote)

"Collective Epistemic Responsibility" (with Dunja Ŝeŝelja)   Mar. 2020
    Nature of Inquiry Conference, Agnes Scott College

Teaching Experience

Ethics of Technology

Phil 3115: AI and Epistemology   Fa. 2024
    Georgetown University

Phil 2117: Ethical Challenges of AI   Spr. 2024
    Georgetown University

Phil 8117: Epistemology of AI and the Internet (grad seminar)   Fa. 2023
    Georgetown University

Phil 117: Introduction to Tech, Ethics, and Society   Fa. 2022 & Spr. 2023
    Georgetown University

Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind

Phil 6100: LEMMS graduate proseminar (1/3 of a semester each)   Fa. 23; Spr. 24; Fa. 24
    Georgetown University

PNP/Phil. 315: Philosophy of Mind   Fall 2019
    Washington University in St. Louis

PNP/Phil. 496: PNP Seminar: Representation   Spring 2019
    Washington University in St. Louis

PNP 200: Introduction to Cognitive Science   Fall 2018
    Washington University in St. Louis

Phil. 221: Theory of Knowledge   Spring 2017
    Rutgers University

Language, Logic, and Critical Thinking

PNP/Phil. 4061: Topics in Philosophy of Language: Assertion   Fall 2019
    Washington University in St. Louis

Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making   Summer 2018
    Rutgers University, Online

Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making   Fall 2017
    Rutgers University

Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making   Fall 2016
    Rutgers University

Phil. 201: Introduction to Logic   Summer 2012
    Rutgers University

Phil. 1504: Language and Logic   Summer 2011
    Virginia Tech

Mentoring Experience

Georgetown University Philosophy PhD Program	2023–
Teaching Mentor	
APA Mentoring the Mentors Workshop	2017
Panel Speaker, Central APA	
Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy	2014–2016, 2018
Graduate Mentor	
Rutgers Philosophy Undergraduate Mentoring Program	2013–2016
Graduate Mentor	

Professional Service

Conferences Organized

Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (3rd Annual)	2025
Organized with Brian Berkey	
Fordham-Georgetown Epistemology Workshop	2024
Secondary organizer, with John Greco and Stephen Grimm	
Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (2nd Annual)	2024
Organized with Brian Berkey	
Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (1st Annual)	2023
Organized with Brian Berkey	
Bayesianism and its Rivals	2022
Organized with Branden Fitelson, Ned Hall, and David Thorstad	
Bridges II: Conference on Logic and Epistemology	2015
Organized with Branden Fitelson	
Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference	2014
Organizing Committee, Referee	
Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference	2010
Organizing Committee, Referee	
Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference	2009
Organizing Committee, Referee	

Referee for:

- *Mind*
- *Noûs*
- *Philosophical Quarterly*
- *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- *Philosophical Studies*
- *Analysis*
- *Synthese*
- *Erkenntnis*
- *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*
- *Philosophy of Science*
- *Episteme*
- *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*
- *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*
- *Ergo*
- *Dialectica*
- *Ratio*
- *Cambridge University Press*

- *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)*
- *NeurIPS* RegML Symposium
- *Philosophia*

Departmental Service

Placement Director	2025–2026
Georgetown University	
Assistant Placement Director	2023–2025
Georgetown University	
Merit Committee	2022–2025
Georgetown University	
Graduate Representative to the Faculty	2012–2015
Rutgers University	
Prospective Student Liaison and Prospective Week Organizer	2014
Rutgers University	
President	2009–2011
Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Society	
Investigative and Judicial Panelist	2009–2011
Virginia Tech Honor System	