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

Research Articles (Peer Reviewed)

1. Fleisher, W. (forthcoming). "Algorithmic Fairness Criteria as Evidence," *Ergo*.
2. Fleisher, W. (2025). "Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity," *Noûs*, 59(1), 289–314.
3. Fleisher, W. (2023). "Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons," *Philosophical Studies*, 180(4) 1343–1371.
4. **Fleisher, W.** and Šešelja, D. (2023). "Responsibility for Collective Epistemic Harms," *Philosophy of Science,* 90(1): 1–20.
5. Fleisher, W. (2023). "Fragmentation and Old Evidence," *Episteme*, 20 (3): 542–567.
6. Fleisher, W. (2022). "Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI," *Episteme,* 19 (4): 534–560.
7. Fleisher, W. (2022). "Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons," *Studies in Hist. and Phil. of Science, Pt. A* 94: 17–30.
8. Fleisher, W. (2021). "What's Fair about Individual Fairness?" *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society* (*AIES '21*), 480–490.
9. 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.
10. Fleisher, W. (2021). "Endorsement and Assertion," *Noûs* 55(2): 363–384.
11. Fleisher, W. (2021). "How to Endorse Conciliationism," *Synthese* 198(10): 9912–9939.
12. Fleisher, W. (2020). "Publishing without (some) belief," *Thought*, 9(4): 237–246.

13. Fleisher, W. (2019). "Method Coherence and Epistemic Circularity," *Erkenntnis*, 84 (2): 455–480.
14. Fleisher, W. (2018). "Rational Endorsement," *Philosophical Studies*, 175(10): 2649–2675.
15. Fleisher, W. (2017). "Virtuous Distinctions," *Synthese*, 194 (8): 2973–3003.

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

1. Fleisher, W. (forthcoming). "A Defense of Endorsement," in *Attitude in Philosophy*, edited by S.C. Goldberg and M. Walker. Oxford University Press.**
2. **Fleisher, W.**, Friedman D.C., & Šešelja D. (forthcoming). "Expert Judgment: Overlooked Epistemic Reasons," in *The Epistemology of Expert Judgment*, edited by A. Eder, P. Brössel, and T. Grundmann. Routledge.*

Conference Presentations (Peer Reviewed)

"There are Epistemic Reasons for Action"	Mar. 2025
2nd 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

"Endorsement and 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 Šešelja)   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

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