

Will Fleisher

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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Department of Philosophy
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Academic Appointments

Georgetown University Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Dept. of Philosophy Research Assistant Professor, Center for Digital Ethics	Aug. 2022 – Present
Northeastern University Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Khoury College of Computer Sciences	Jul. 2020 – Jun. 2022
Washington University in St. Louis McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program	Sep. 2018 – Jun. 2020

Education

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

- (forthcoming). "Algorithmic Fairness Criteria as Evidence," *Ergo*.
- (forthcoming). "Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity," *Noûs*.
- (2023). "Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons," *Philosophical Studies*, 180(4) 1343–1371.
- (2023). "Responsibility for Collective Epistemic Harms," (first author, with Dunja Šešelja) *Philosophy of Science*, 90(1): 1–20.
- (2023). "Fragmentation and Old Evidence," *Episteme*, 20 (3): 542–567.
- (2022). "Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI," *Episteme*, 19 (4): 534–560.
- (2022). "Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons," *Studies in Hist. and Phil. of Science, Pt. A* 94: 17–30.
- (2021). "What's Fair about Individual Fairness?" *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES '21)*, 480–490.
- (2021). "RAWLSNET: Altering Bayesian Networks to Encode Rawlsian Fair Equality of Opportunity" (with David Liu, Zohair Shafi, Tina Eliassi-Rad, & Scott Alfeld), *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES '21)*, 745–755.
- (2021). "Endorsement and Assertion," *Noûs* 55(2): 363–384.
- (2021). "How to Endorse Conciliationism," *Synthese* 198(10): 9912–9939.
- (2020). "Publishing without (some) belief," *Thought*, 9(4): 237–246.
- (2019). "Method Coherence and Epistemic Circularity," *Erkenntnis*, 84 (2): 455–480.
- (2018). "Rational Endorsement," *Philosophical Studies*, 175(10): 2649–2675.

15. (2017). "Virtuous Distinctions," *Synthese*, 194 (8): 2973–3003.

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

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

Conference Presentations (Peer Reviewed)

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| "Do AI Systems Produce Testimony, or are they Instruments?"
Symposium, PSA 2024 [Accepted; Talk canceled due to injury] | Nov. 2024 |
| "Evidence of Fairness: On the uses and limitations of statistical fairness criteria,"
Symposium, Pacific APA | Apr. 2023 |
| "Resisting Algorithmic Homogenization" (with Sina Fazelpour)
Philosophy, AI, and Society Workshop, Stanford University | Jan. 2023 |
| "Understanding, Idealization, and the Disagreement Problem for XAI"
Symposium, Philosophy of Science Association Conference | Nov. 2022 |
| "Evidence of Fairness: On the uses and limitations of statistical fairness criteria,"
AAAI 2022 Spring Symposium: Approaches to Ethical Computing Metrics for
Measuring AI's Proficiency and Competency for Ethical Reasoning. | Mar. 2022 |
| "Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons"
Symposium, Central APA | Feb. 2022 |
| "Inquisitive Reasons and Intellectual Courage"
Social (distance) Epistemology talk series (remote) | Apr. 2020 |
| "How to Endorse Conciliationism"
Colloquium, Pacific APA | Apr. 2019 |
| "Rational Endorsement"
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference | Aug. 2017 |
| "Rational Endorsement"
Decisions, Games, and Logic Conference, University of Michigan | Jul. 2016 |
| "Rational Endorsement"
Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop | Jul. 2016 |
| "Virtuous Distinctions"
Northern Graduate Philosophy Conference, NIU | Nov. 2014 |
| "Virtuous Distinctions"
Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference, Oxford University | Nov. 2014 |
| "Epistemic Circularity and Mechanism Coherence"
Edinburgh Epistemology Conference, University of Edinburgh | Nov. 2011 |

Invited Presentations

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| "Endorsement and AI Hype"
Invited Symposium, Eastern APA | Jan. 2025 |
| "Why Should We Care about Understanding Opaque AI?"
Georgetown University, Humanities Initiative and Center for Digital Ethics | Oct. 2024 |
| "Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity"
Georgetown University, Fordham-Georgetown Epistemology Workshop | Jun. 2024 |
| "Understanding Opaque AI"
University of London, Being Human in the Age of AI Workshop | May. 2024 |
| "Understanding, Explainable AI, and Disagreement"
University of Alabama, Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop | May. 2024 |
| "Understanding Opaque AI"
Princeton University, Understanding in Natural and Artificial Minds | Apr. 2024 |

“Understanding, Legitimacy and Explainable AI” Montgomery College, Humanities days	Oct. 2023
“Understanding, Explainability, and Legitimacy” Northeastern University, IDEAS Program	Jul. 2023
“Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization” Northeastern University, IDEAS Program and AIDE Program	Jul. 2023
“Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity” UNED, Madrid, Inquiry and its Norms Workshop	Jul. 2023
“Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization” University of Maryland, College Park	Apr. 2023
“Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization” University of Rochester, Central NY Humanities Corridor Talk series	Apr. 2023
“Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI” Georgetown University, Computer Science Department	Mar. 2023
“Responsible Fact-Checking in Science” (with Dunja Šešelja and Dan Friedman) Inquiry Network WIP Series (remote)	Dec. 2022
“Understanding, Explainability, and Accountability,” Sonoma State University Center for Ethics, Law, and Society Lecture Series	Nov. 2022
“Responsible Fact-Checking in Science” (with Dunja Šešelja and Dan Friedman) Symposium talk, German Society for Analytic Philosophy Conference	Sep. 2022
“Responsibility for Collective Epistemic Harms” (with Dunja Šešelja) Symposium talk, German Society for Analytic Philosophy Conference	Sep. 2022
“Evidence of Fairness” Milan Workshop on Fairness and ML in Health	Jun. 2022
“Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI” European Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness (Lightning talk)	Jun. 2022
“Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons” Philosophy with Attitude Conference, New Mexico State University	Mar. 2022
“Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI” University of Eindhoven (virtual)	Nov. 2021
“Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons” Northeastern Epistemology Workshop, Northeastern University	Nov. 2021
“Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI” Episteme Conference, Negril, Jamaica	Aug. 2021
“Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons” Colloquium (remote), University of Missouri, St. Louis	Apr. 2021
“Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons” Keynote Talk, Pursuit 2021 Workshop (remote)	Mar. 2021
“Inquisitive Reasons and Intellectual Courage” St. Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association (remote)	Apr. 2020
“Collective Epistemic Responsibility” (with Dunja Šešelja) Nature of Inquiry Conference, Agnes Scott College	Mar. 2020

Teaching Experience

Ethics and Epistemology of Technology

Phil 3115: AI and Epistemology Georgetown University	Fa. 2024
Phil 2117: Ethical Challenges of AI Georgetown University	Spr. 2024
Phil 8117: Epistemology of AI and the Internet (grad seminar) Georgetown University	Fa. 2023

Phil 117: Introduction to Tech, Ethics, and Society Georgetown University	Fa. 2022 & Spr. 2023
Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind	
Phil 6100: LEMMS graduate proseminar (2/3 of a semester) Georgetown University	Fa. 2023 & Spr. 2024
PNP/Phil. 315: Philosophy of Mind Washington University in St. Louis	Fall 2019
PNP/Phil. 496: PNP Seminar: Representation Washington University in St. Louis	Spring 2019
PNP 200: Introduction to Cognitive Science Washington University in St. Louis	Fall 2018
Phil. 221: Theory of Knowledge Rutgers University	Spring 2017
Language, Logic, and Critical Thinking	
PNP/Phil. 4061: Topics in Philosophy of Language: Assertion Washington University in St. Louis	Fall 2019
Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making Rutgers University, Online	Summer 2018
Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making Rutgers University	Fall 2017
Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making Rutgers University	Fall 2016
Phil. 201: Introduction to Logic Rutgers University	Summer 2012
Phil. 1504: Language and Logic Virginia Tech	Summer 2011

Mentoring Experience

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

Professional Service

Conferences Organized

Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (3 rd Annual) Organized with Brian Berkey	2025
Fordham-Georgetown Epistemology Workshop Secondary organizer, with John Greco and Stephen Grimm	2024
Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (2 nd Annual) Organized with Brian Berkey	2024
Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (1 st Annual) Organized with Brian Berkey	2023
Bayesianism and its Rivals Organized with Branden Fitelson, Ned Hall, and David Thorstad	2022

Bridges II: Conference on Logic and Epistemology Organized with Branden Fitelson	2015
Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference Organizing Committee, Referee	2014
Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference Organizing Committee, Referee	2010
Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference Organizing Committee, Referee	2009

Area Chair for:

ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAcCT)	2025
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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 Georgetown University	2023–2025
Merit Committee Georgetown University	2022–2025
Graduate Representative to the Faculty Rutgers University	2012–2015
Prospective Student Liaison and Prospective Week Organizer Rutgers University	2014
President Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Society	2009–2011
Investigative and Judicial Panelist Virginia Tech Honor System	2009–2011