

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

Journal 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.** & 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). "Endorsement and Assertion," *Noûs* 55(2): 363–384.
9. Fleisher, W. (2021). "How to Endorse Conciliationism," *Synthese* 198(10): 9912–9939.
10. Fleisher, W. (2020). "Publishing without (some) belief," *Thought*, 9(4): 237–246.
11. Fleisher, W. (2019). "Method Coherence and Epistemic Circularity," *Erkenntnis*, 84 (2): 455–480.
12. Fleisher, W. (2018). "Rational Endorsement," *Philosophical Studies*, 175(10): 2649–2675.
13. Fleisher, W. (2017). "Virtuous Distinctions," *Synthese*, 194 (8): 2973–3003.

Conference Proceedings (Peer Reviewed, Archival)

14. Fazelpour, S. & **Fleisher, W.** (2025) "The Value of Disagreement in AI Evaluation and Alignment," *Proceedings of the ACM Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency Conference (FAccT '25)*.
15. 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.
16. Fleisher, W. (2021). "What's Fair about Individual Fairness?" *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES '21)*, 480–490.
17. 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)

18. Fleisher, W. (forthcoming). "A Defense of Endorsement," in *Attitude in Philosophy*, edited by S.C. Goldberg and M. Walker. Oxford University Press.**
19. **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" Inquiry Network Workshop, Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College	Mar. 2025
"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"	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 Šešelja)	Mar. 2020
Nature of Inquiry Conference, Agnes Scott College	

Teaching Experience

Ethics 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 (1/3 of a semester each) Georgetown University	Fa. 23; Spr. 24; Fa. 24
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

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 Georgetown University	2025–2026
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