

Calum McNamara

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Research Interests

Primary Decision Theory, Epistemology, Philosophy of AI
Secondary Ethics, Logic and Formal Methods, Metaphysics, Philosophies of Language and Science

Employment

2025– **Indiana University, Bloomington**
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Associate Faculty in the Cognitive Science Program
2024–25 **Yale University**
Postdoctoral Associate

Education

2024 **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**
PhD in Philosophy
2018 **King's College London**
BA in Philosophy (First Class Honours)

Papers

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

2025 [“Dutch Books, Indicative Conditionals, and Rational Updating”](#) (with Snow Zhang)
Proceedings of the 24th Annual Amsterdam Colloquium

- 2024 [“Causal Decision Theory, Context, and Determinism”](#)
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, vol. 109, no. 1, pp. 226-260
- 2022 [“The Punctuated Equilibrium of Scientific Change: A Bayesian Network Model”](#) (with Patrick Grim, Frank Seidl, Isabell N. Astor, and Caroline Diaso)
Synthese, vol. 200, no. 4, no. 297
- [“Scientific Theories as Bayesian Nets: Structure and Evidence Sensitivity”](#) (with Patrick Grim, Frank Seidl, Hinton E. Rago, Isabell N. Astor, Caroline Diaso, and Peter Ryner)
Philosophy of Science, vol. 89, no. 1, pp. 42-69

SELECTED WORK-IN-PROGRESS

- Under Review [“Desire-as-Belief in Context”](#), R&R, *Mind*
- [“Only Causal Decision Theory Defers to Experts”](#), R&R, *Journal of Philosophy*
- [“Why \(Not\) Conditionalize?”](#) (with Snow Zhang)
- [“Suppositional Decision Theories are Self-undermining”](#)
- [“Causal Decision Theory and the Off-switch”](#)
- [“Learning ‘If’”](#)
- [“A Behavioural and Representational Evaluation of Goal-Directedness in Language Model Agents”](#) (with Raghu Arghall, Phoebe Chen, Niall Dalton, Evgenii Kortukov, Angelos Nalmpantis, Moksh Nirvaan, Gabriele Sarti, and Mario Giulianelli)
- In Preparation [“Accuracy and Epistemic Modalities”](#) (with Mikayla Kelley, Richard Roth, and Snow Zhang)
- [“Bringing About the Good, from Behind the Veil of Ignorance”](#)
- [“Everett Meets Jeffrey; Or: A New Proof of the Born Rule from Decision-theoretic Assumptions”](#) (with Alexander Meehan)
- [“Emergent Alignment”](#) (with Guillermo Del Pinal, Paul de Font Reulx, Scott Niekum, and Youngchan Lee)

Selected Presentations¹

TALKS

- [“A Behavioural and Representational Evaluation of Goal-Directedness in Language Model Agents”](#) (with Raghu Arghall, Phoebe Chen, Niall Dalton, Evgenii Kortukov, Angelos Nalmpantis, Moksh Nirvaan, Gabriele Sarti, and Mario Giulianelli)
- Jul 2026 [Agents in the Wild Workshop, ICLR 2026*](#)
- Jul 2026 [World Models Workshop, ICLR 2026*](#)

¹‘★’ indicates refereed; ‘†’ indicates invited

- Mar 2026 Algorithmic Alignment Group, MIT (presented by Gabriele Sarti)
- Jun 2026 “Bringing About the Good, from Behind the Veil of Ignorance”
 Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder*
- Nov 2025 University of Texas at Austin[†]
- Oct 2025 Formal Approaches to Rationality and Meaning, University of Maryland, College Park*
- TBD*
- May 2026 Epistemic Utility for Imprecise Probability Conference, University of Bristol[†]
- Feb 2026 “Accuracy and Epistemic Modalities” (with Mikayla Kelley, Richard Roth, and Snow Zhang)
 APA Central Division Meeting, Invited Symposium (presented by Snow Zhang)[†]
- May 2025 Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Iceland, Reykjavik*
- Apr 2025 Princeton University[†]
- Dec 2023 Accuracy Workshop, University of Chicago[†]
- Feb 2026 “What Can AI Teach Us About Natural Properties?”
 London School of Economics[†]
- Jan 2026 “Suppositional Decision Theories are Self-undermining”
 APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore*
- Apr 2025 Richard Pettigrew’s Locke Lectures Tailgate, Northeastern University[†]
- Oct 2025 “Causal Decision Theory and the Off-switch”
 Indiana Logic Seminar, Indiana University, Bloomington[†]
- May 2025 “Only Causal Decision Theory Defers to Experts”
 Method, Theory, and Reality Workshop, University of Massachusetts, Amherst[†]
- Apr 2025 APA Pacific Division Meeting, Symposium*
- Jun 2024 Workshop on Decision, Desire, and Diffusion, University of California, Berkeley[†]
- Apr 2025 “Why (Not) Conditionalize?” (with Snow Zhang)
 MIT (presented by Snow Zhang)
- Dec 2024 The 24th Annual Amsterdam Colloquium, University of Amsterdam*
- Mar 2024 University of Maryland, College Park (presented by Snow Zhang)
- Feb 2023 University of Texas at Austin[†]
- Jan 2025 “Learning ‘If’”
 University of Toronto[†]
- Dec 2024 Chicago Area Philosophical Exchange, University of Chicago[†]
- Nov 2024 Duke-UNC Epistemology Conference*
- May 2024 World Sequences Day Conference, University of Connecticut, Storrs[†]
- May 2024 Workshop on Matthew Mandelkern’s *Bounded Meaning*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst[†]
- Nov 2024 “Most Counterfactuals are Indeterminate”
 New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York University[†]
- Mar 2024 Rationality and Reality Workshop, University of California, Berkeley[†]

- Oct 2024 “Desire-as-Belief in Context”
Columbia University[†]
- Jan 2024 Indiana University, Bloomington[†]
- Feb 2024 “Is Polarization Really Rational?” (with Eduardo J. Martinez)
[APA Central Division Meeting](#), Colloquium*
- Jun 2021 Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop, University of Michigan*
- Jan 2023 “Counterfactuals in the Image of Chance”
[APA Eastern Division Meeting](#), Colloquium*
- Apr 2022 “Humean Causation”
[UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference](#), University of Texas at Austin*
- Feb 2022 “Causation, Determinism, and Decision-making”
[APA Central Division Meeting](#), Colloquium*
- CONFERENCE COMMENTS
- Jan 2026 Branden Fitelson, “A Two-Dimensional Theory of Argument Strength—with Applications”
[Ranch Metaphysics Workshop](#)
- Mar 2025 Caleb Fawell, “Cautious Monotonicity: Not Cautious Enough?”
[APA Pacific Division Meeting](#), Colloquium
- Jan 2025 Ginger Schultheis, “‘Might’ Counterfactuals”
[APA Eastern Division Meeting](#), Invited Symposium
- Apr 2024 Commentator at Large
Northeastern Epistemology Workshop
- Mar 2024 Shamik Dasgupta, “Practical Nihilism”
Michigan Spring Colloquium
- Apr 2023 Jim Hutchison, “Moral Principles and Normative Generality”
[APA Pacific Division Meeting](#), Colloquium
- May 2019 Jason Konek, “Aggregating Imprecise Probabilities Using Epistemic Utilities”
with Elise Woodard
[Michigan Philosophy Alumni Conference](#)
- Jan 2019 Jennifer Carr, “Epistemic Observation, Pragmatic Intervention”
[Michigan Spring Colloquium](#)

Grants, Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2026-27 Coefficient Giving, AI Upskilling Grant (\$43,000 for partial teaching relief)
- Summer 2026 Jesse Fine Fellowship (\$5,000 award to develop an AI ethics course at IU, Bloomington)
- July 2026 IU Global Primary Partner Faculty Grant (to visit the Australian National University for one month; \$4,000)

2023–24	Cornwell Prize , University of Michigan (full year fellowship)
2022	Rackham One-term Dissertation Fellowships, University of Michigan, Fall and Spring semesters
Summer 2022	Rackham Research Grant , University of Michigan
2022	Faculty Prize for Excellence in Teaching, University of Michigan
Summer 2021	Weinberg Pre-doctoral Fellowship , University of Michigan
2018	Jelf Medal Nomination, King’s College London
2018	Arts and Humanities Research Council Studentship, for graduate study at Oxford (declined)
2018	King’s College London MPhilStud Bursary, for graduate study at King’s College London (declined)
2016	Bob Meyer Memorial Scholarship, for study at the Australian National University

Teaching

INDIANA

Spring 2026	Phil 105: Critical Reasoning
Spring 2026	Phil 360: Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind
Fall 2025	Phil 105: Critical Reasoning
Fall 2025	Phil 352: Logic and Philosophy

YALE

Spring 2025	Phil 210/Phil 510: Formal Philosophical Methods
Fall 2024	Phil 115: First-order Logic

MICHIGAN (LEAD INSTRUCTOR)

Summer 2023	Phil 303: Introduction to Symbolic Logic
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MICHIGAN (TEACHING ASSISTANT)

Spring 2023	Phil 345: Mind and Language, for James M. Joyce
Fall 2021	Phil 303: Introduction to Symbolic Logic, for Gordon Belot
Spring 2021	Phil 444: Groups and Choices, for Brian Weatherson (online due to COVID)
Fall 2020	Phil 340: Minds and Machines, for Eric Swanson (online due to COVID)
Spring 2020	Phil 250: Changing the World , for David Manley
Fall 2019	Phil 305: Introduction to Formal Philosophical Methods, for Brian Weatherson

EXTRAMURAL TEACHING

Summer 2026	Conditionals and Decision Theory, European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information , with Paolo Santorio
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Service

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC FACING WORK

2026	Panel discussion on AI, Indiana University, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society
2025-26	Introducing: Project Telos , blog post series outlining results from an AI project (co-authored)

with Mario Giulianelli and 7 others)
2026 [Invited public talk](#) on the theme of AI and human flourishing, Indiana University

REFEREEING OF JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS

Acta Analytica; Analysis; American Philosophical Quarterly (× 3); *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (× 3); *Canadian Journal of Philosophy; Ergo* (× 2); *Erkenntnis; European Journal of Philosophy; Inquiry; Journal of Philosophy; Mind* (× 2); *Minds and Machines; Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (× 2); *Philosophical Studies* (× 4); *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research; Review of Symbolic Logic; Synthese* (× 3); *Theory and Decision*

REFEREEING OF CONFERENCE SUBMISSIONS

Formal Approaches to Rationality and Meaning (FARM) Conference, 2025

ORGANIZING

2020–24 Michigan Philosophy Weekly Tea
2018–24 Michigan Epistemology Working Group
2018–19 [Michigan Philosophy Spring Colloquium](#)
2016–18 King’s College London Formal Philosophy Reading Group

MENTORSHIP

2020–22 COMPASS Mentor
2022–24 Graduate Student Mentor (GSM), University of Michigan

OTHER SERVICE

2021–24 APA Session Chair: [Eastern, Central, Pacific](#)
2019 Editor, *Philosopher’s Annual*
2018–19 Graduate Member, Admissions Committee, University of Michigan
2016–17 Co-author and tutor of a training course, “Reflexive strategies for better judgment and decision-making”, for the British Civil Service, with Julien Dutant and Alexandru Marcoci

Other Skills and Experience

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Fall 2025 [Supervised Program in Alignment Research](#) (SPAR). Research Fellow on the Project “Towards a Science of AI Agency: Modeling, Measuring, and Intervening on Goal-Directed Behaviour in AI Systems”, led by Mario Giulianelli. Team leader for the Reverse Engineering Sub-team.
Aug 2022 European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESLLI), National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland
Dec 2016 Logic Summer School, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

PROGRAMMING

Python (PyTorch, NumPy, einops); TransformerLens

Last updated: March 29, 2026