

Stephen Petersen

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AREAS

Areas of specialization

Epistemology, philosophy of mind, cognitive science

Areas of competence

Philosophy of science, logic, philosophy of language

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

PhD, philosophy 1996–2003

Belief-Desire Coherence

Committee: Eric Lormand (chair), Jessica Wilson, James Joyce, Thad Polk.

Harvard University

BA, philosophy with mathematics 1988–1992

PUBLICATIONS

“Toward an algorithmic metaphysics” (forthcoming), *Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence*, Springer.

“Utilitarian epistemology” (forthcoming), *Synthese*. (Accepted before the editorial controversy of 2011.)

“Designing people to serve” (2011), *Robot Ethics: The Ethical and Social Implications of Robotics*, eds. Patrick Lin, Keith Abney, and George Bekey. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

“Analysis, schmanalysis” (2008), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 38(2):289–300.

“The ethics of robot servitude” (2007), *Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Artificial Intelligence*, 19(1):43–54.

“Construing faith as action won’t save Pascal’s wager” (2006), *Philo*, 9(2):221–229.

“Functions, creatures, learning, emotion” (2004), Hudlicka, E. and Cañamero, L., editors, *Architectures for Modeling Emotion: Cross-Disciplinary Foundations*, The American Association for Artificial Intelligence, AAAI Press.

UNDER REVIEW

“A normative yet coherent naturalism” (a proposal for construing naturalism that saves it from internal incoherence)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Niagara University , Assistant professor	2006–present
Philosophy of mind (three times)	
Epistemology (twice)	
Special topics in philosophy: artificial life	
Philosophy of science	
Philosophy of language	
Metaphysics	
Logic	
Ethics	
Introduction to philosophy (multiple times)	
Kalamazoo College , Mellon postdoctoral fellow	2004–2006
Metaphysics and mind (team-teaching)	
Early modern philosophy	
Theories of knowledge	
Senior seminar: inference to the best explanation (team-teaching)	
Philosophy of artificial intelligence	
Philosophy of science	
Logic and reasoning	
Introduction to philosophy	
University of Michigan , Visiting assistant professor	2003–2004
Metaphysics and epistemology	
Introductory logic (twice)	
Introduction to philosophy	
University of Michigan , Graduate student instructor (sole instructor)	2000–2002
Philosophy of mind (twice)	
Upper division logic	
Introduction to philosophy (twice)	
Introductory logic	
University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching , Consultant	2000–2003
Helped develop and perform nationally-acclaimed interactive presentations on better university teaching; issues included disability in the classroom, women in the sciences, and hiring practices.	
University of Michigan , Teaching assistant	1997–2000
Ethics (with David Velleman)	
Introduction to philosophy (with Sally Haslanger and then with Louis Loeb)	

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Toward an algorithmic metaphysics”, Solomonoff 85th Memorial Conference, Monash University, Australia, fall 2011.

“The ethics of human impairment” (with James Delaney), Human Enhancement Symposium, Center for Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology, the University of Texas at Dallas, spring 2011.

“Naturalism as a coherent *ism*”, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee invited talk, fall 2009.

“Comments on Carl Wagner’s *Jeffrey conditioning and external Bayesianity*”, the Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison, summer 2008.

“Utilitarian epistemology”, University of Buffalo epistemology seminar, spring 2008.

“Utilitarian epistemology and the value of knowledge”, the Value of Knowledge Conference, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, summer 2007.

“Minimum message length as a truth-conducive simplicity measure”, the Formal Epistemology Workshop, Carnegie Mellon University, spring 2007.

“Embodied intelligence without the bodies”, the University of Buffalo Center for Cognitive Science, spring 2007.

“Artificial intelligence is possible / Artificial intelligence is impossible”, Niagara University 150th Anniversary Speaker Series, spring 2007.

“Naturalism is (literally) self-explanatory”, the Center for Inquiry, spring 2007.

“When you can both keep it and give it away: the ethics of intellectual property”, 13th Annual International Conference Promoting Business Ethics, fall 2006.

“The ethics of robot servitude” (multiple presentations)

- North American Computing and Philosophy Conference, summer 2006.
- University of Buffalo Center for Cognitive Science, fall 2006.
- Canisius College, spring 2007.

“Learning and computational epistemology”, Western Michigan University invited speaker, fall 2005.

“Some future: comments on Gilbert Harman’s *The future of the a priori*”. University of Michigan, spring 2001 colloquium.

FELLOWSHIPS

2004–2006: Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship

2001: Mellon Dissertation Fellowship

2000: Rackham Fellowship

1996-1999: Regents’ Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer review

Synthese 2006–present

Minds and Machines 2009–present

Niagara University

Academic senate 2010–present

Sustainability committee 2008–present

Energy sub-committee chair 2009–present

Advisor, NU improv group 2008–2010

Search committee 2006–2009

(three separate searches)

Instructional technology committee 2006–2008

Kalamazoo College

Comprehensive exam committee

2005

Revised comprehensive examinations and senior requirements for the philosophy department.

LANGUAGES

Japanese, ancient Greek

SELECTED REFERENCES

Marc Alspector-Kelly

Western Michigan University

marc.alspector-kelly|at|wmich.edu

Christopher Daly

University of Manchester

christopher.daly|at|manchester.ac.uk

David Hershenov

University of Buffalo

dh25|at|buffalo.edu

Eric Lormand

University of Michigan

lormand|at|umich.edu

Duncan Pritchard

University of Edinburgh

duncan.pritchard|at|ed.ac.uk

Chris Latiolais

Kalamazoo College (teaching reference)

latiolai|at|kzoo.edu

November 5, 2011