

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

AB, philosophy with mathematics 1988–1992

PUBLICATIONS

“Utilitarian epistemology” (forthcoming), *Synthese*.

“Designing people to serve” (forthcoming), *Robot Ethics*, 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

“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

REFERENCES

Eric Lormand

University of Michigan
lormand|at|umich.edu

Jessica Wilson

University of Toronto
jessica.m.wilson|at|utoronto.ca

Marc Alspector-Kelly

Western Michigan University
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James Joyce

University of Michigan
jjoyce|at|umich.edu

Chris Latiolais

Kalamazoo College (teaching reference)
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Ashley McDowell

Kalamazoo College (teaching reference)
mcdowell|at|kzoo.edu

David Velleman

New York University (teaching reference)
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