

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 <i>Proceedings of the 24th Annual Amsterdam Colloquium</i>
2024	“ Causal Decision Theory, Context, and Determinism ” <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> , vol. 109, no. 1, pp. 226–260

2022

“The Punctuated Equilibrium of Scientific Change: A Bayesian Network Model”
with Patrick Grim and 4 others
Synthese, vol. 200, no. 4, no. 297

“Scientific Theories as Bayesian Nets: Structure and Evidence Sensitivity”
with Patrick Grim and 5 others
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”

“Learning ‘If’”

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

“What Can AI Teach Us About Natural Properties?”

“Towards a Science of AI Agency: Modeling, Measuring, and Intervening on Goal-directed Behavior in AI Systems”
with Mario Giulianelli and 7 others

Selected Presentations¹

TALKS

Feb 2026
May 2025
Apr 2025
Dec 2023

“Accuracy and Epistemic Modalities”
with Mikayla Kelley, Richard Roth, and Snow Zhang
APA Central Division Meeting, Invited Symposium[†]
[Formal Epistemology Workshop](#), University of Iceland, Reykjavik[★]
Princeton University[†]
Accuracy Workshop, University of Chicago[†]

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

- Feb 2026 "What Can AI Teach Us About Natural Properties?"
 London School of Economics[†]
- Nov 2025 "Bringing About the Good, from Behind the Veil of Ignorance"
 University of Texas at Austin[†]
- Oct 2025 [Formal Approaches to Rationality and Meaning](#), University of Maryland, College Park[★]
- 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[★]

“Humean Causation”
Apr 2022 [UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference](#), University of Texas at Austin*

“Causation, Determinism, and Decision-making”
Feb 2022 [APA Central Division Meeting](#), Colloquium*

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Branden Fitelson, “A Two-Dimensional Theory of Argument Strength—with Applications”
Jan 2026 [Ranch Metaphysics Workshop](#)

Caleb Fawell, “Cautious Monotonicity: Not Cautious Enough?”
Mar 2025 [APA Pacific Division Meeting](#), Colloquium

Ginger Schultheis, “‘Might’ Counterfactuals”
Jan 2025 [APA Eastern Division Meeting](#), Invited Symposium

Commentator at Large
Apr 2024 Northeastern Epistemology Workshop

Shamik Dasgupta, “Practical Nihilism”
Mar 2024 Michigan Spring Colloquium

Jim Hutchison, “Moral Principles and Normative Generality”
Apr 2023 [APA Pacific Division Meeting](#), Colloquium

Jason Konek, “Aggregating Imprecise Probabilities Using Epistemic Utilities”
May 2019 with Elise Woodard
Michigan Philosophy Alumni Conference

Jennifer Carr, “Epistemic Observation, Pragmatic Intervention”
Jan 2019 Michigan Spring Colloquium

Awards and Fellowships

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

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

Service

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

- 2026 Invited public talk on the theme of AI and human flourishing, Indiana University

REFEREEING OF JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS

Acta Analytica; Analysis; American Philosophical Quarterly (x 3); Australasian Journal of Philosophy (x 3); Canadian Journal of Philosophy; Ergo (x 2); European Journal of Philosophy; Inquiry; Journal of Philosophy; Mind (x 2); Minds and Machines; Pacific Philosophical Quarterly (x 2); Philosophical Studies (x 3); Philosophy and Phenomenological Research; Review of Symbolic Logic; Synthese (x 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, <i>Philosopher's Annual</i>
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 (ESSLLI), National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland
Dec 2016	Logic Summer School, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

PROGRAMMING

Python

Last updated: January 26, 2026