

Calum McNamara

Department of Philosophy
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Research Interests

Primary	Decision Theory, Epistemology, Philosophy of AI
Secondary	Ethics, Formal Methods (including Logic), Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Science

Employment

2025–	Indiana University, Bloomington Assistant Professor of Philosophy
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

JOURNAL ARTICLES

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, Frank Seidl, Hinton Rago, Isabel Astor, Caroline Diaso <i>Synthese</i> , vol. 200, no. 4, no. 297

[“Scientific Theories as Bayesian Nets: Structure and Evidence Sensitivity”](#)

with Patrick Grim, Frank Seidl, Hinton Rago, Isabel Astor, Caroline Diaso, and Peter Ryner
Philosophy of Science, vol. 89, no. 1, pp. 42-69

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

2025

[“Dutch Books, Indicative Conditionals, and Rational Updating”](#)

with Snow Zhang

Proceedings of the 24th Annual Amsterdam Colloquium

SELECTED WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Under Review

“Desire-as-Belief in Context”, *R&R*, *Mind*

“Only Causal Decision Theory Defers to Experts”

“Why (Not) Conditionalize?”

with Snow Zhang

“Suppositional Decision Theories are Non-self-recommending”

In Preparation

“Learning ‘If’”

“Accuracy and Epistemic Modalities”

with Mikayla Kelley, Richard Roth, and Snow Zhang

“Bringing About the Good, from Behind the Veil of Ignorance”

“Causal Decision Theory, Evidential Decision Theory, and Universal Artificial Intelligence”

“Causal Decision Theory and the Off-switch Game”

“Decision Theory from the Ground Up”

Selected Presentations¹

TALKS

“Accuracy and Epistemic Modalities”

with Mikayla Kelley, Richard Roth, and Snow Zhang

Feb 2026

APA Central Division Meeting, Invited Symposium[†]

May 2025

[Formal Epistemology Workshop](#), University of Iceland, Reykjavik^{*}

Apr 2024

Princeton University[†]

Dec 2023

Accuracy Workshop, University of Chicago[†]

¹ ‘^{*}’ indicates refereed; ‘[†]’ indicates invited

Jan 2026	“Suppositional Decision Theories are Non-self-recommending”
Apr 2025	APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore*
	Richard Pettigrew’s Locke Lectures Tailgate, Northeastern University†
Nov 2025	“Bringing About the Good, from Behind the Veil of Ignorance”
Oct 2025	University of Texas at Austin†
	Formal Approaches to Rationality and Meaning , University of Maryland, College Park*
May 2025	“Only Causal Decision Theory Defers to Experts”
Apr 2025	Method, Theory, and Reality Workshop , University of Massachusetts, Amherst†
Jun 2024	APA Pacific Division Meeting, Symposium*
	Workshop on Decision, Desire, and Diffusion , University of California, Berkeley†
Apr 2025	“Why (Not) Conditionalize?”
Dec 2024	with Snow Zhang
Mar 2024	MIT (presented by Snow Zhang)
Feb 2023	The 24th Annual Amsterdam Colloquium, University of Amsterdam*
	University of Maryland, College Park (presented by Snow Zhang)
	University of Texas at Austin†
Jan 2025	“Learning ‘If’”
Dec 2024	University of Toronto†
Nov 2024	Chicago Area Philosophical Exchange , University of Chicago†
May 2024	Duke-UNC Epistemology Conference *
May 2024	World Sequences Day Conference , University of Connecticut, Storrs†
	Workshop on Matthew Mandelkern’s Bounded Meaning , University of Massachusetts, Amherst†
Nov 2024	“Most Counterfactuals are Indeterminate”
Mar 2024	New York Philosophy of Language Workshop , NYU†
	Rationality and Reality Workshop , University of California, Berkeley†
Oct 2024	“Desire-as-Belief in Context”
Jan 2024	Columbia University†
	Indiana University, Bloomington†
Feb 2024	“Is Polarization Really Rational?”
Jun 2021	with Eduardo J. Martinez
	APA Central Division Meeting , Colloquium*
	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 *
Feb 2022	“Causation, Determinism, and Decision-making”
	APA Central Division Meeting , Colloquium*

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Mar 2024	Caleb Fawell, “Cautious Monotonicity: Not Cautious Enough?” APA Central Division Meeting , Colloquium
Jan 2025	Ginger Schultheis, “‘Might’ Counterfactuals” APA Eastern Division Meeting , Invited Symposium
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

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

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
Spring 2022 Phil 413: Formal Philosophical Methods, for Sarah Moss
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

Service to the Profession

REFEREING OF JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS²

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

REFEREING 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

Last updated: August 17, 2025

²* indicates that I've reviewed multiple submissions.