

# Calum McNamara

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## Research Interests

Decision Theory, Epistemology, Ethics, Metaphysics, Philosophy of AI, Language, 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, Hinton Rago, Isabel Astor, Caroline Diaso

*Synthese*, 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

#### 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 Non-self-recommending”

“Causal Decision Theory and the Off-switch”

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”

“Deliberational Dynamics and Game-theoretic Solution Concepts”

with Clara Bradley

“Everett Meets Jeffrey; Or: A New Proof of the Born Rule from Decision-theoretic Assumptions”

“Learning the Chances”

## Selected Presentations<sup>1</sup>

### TALKS

“Accuracy and Epistemic Modalities”

with Mikayla Kelley, Richard Roth, and Snow Zhang

Feb 2026

APA Central Division Meeting, Invited Symposium<sup>†</sup>

May 2025

[Formal Epistemology Workshop](#), University of Iceland, Reykjavik<sup>\*</sup>

Apr 2024

Princeton University<sup>†</sup>

Dec 2023

Accuracy Workshop, University of Chicago<sup>†</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>‘<sup>\*</sup>’ indicates refereed; ‘<sup>†</sup>’ indicates invited

Jan 2026	“Suppositional Decision Theories are Non-self-recommending” APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore*
Apr 2025	Richard Pettigrew’s Locke Lectures Tailgate, Northeastern University†
Nov 2025	“Bringing About the Good, from Behind the Veil of Ignorance” University of Texas at Austin†
Oct 2025	<a href="#">Formal Approaches to Rationality and Meaning</a> , University of Maryland, College Park*
Oct 2025	“Causal Decision Theory and the Off-switch” Indiana Logic Seminar, Indiana University, Bloomington†
May 2025	“Only Causal Decision Theory Defers to Experts” <a href="#">Method, Theory, and Reality Workshop</a> , University of Massachusetts, Amherst†
Apr 2025	<a href="#">APA Pacific Division Meeting, Symposium</a> *
Jun 2024	<a href="#">Workshop on Decision, Desire, and Diffusion</a> , University of California, Berkeley†
Apr 2025	“Why (Not) Conditionalize?” with Snow Zhang MIT (presented by Snow Zhang)
Dec 2024	<a href="#">The 24th Annual Amsterdam Colloquium</a> , University of Amsterdam*
Mar 2024	<a href="#">University of Maryland, College Park</a> (presented by Snow Zhang)
Feb 2023	University of Texas at Austin†
Jan 2025	“Learning ‘If’” University of Toronto†
Dec 2024	<a href="#">Chicago Area Philosophical Exchange</a> , University of Chicago†
Nov 2024	<a href="#">Duke-UNC Epistemology Conference</a> *
May 2024	<a href="#">World Sequences Day Conference</a> , University of Connecticut, Storrs†
May 2024	<a href="#">Workshop on Matthew Mandelkern’s <i>Bounded Meaning</i></a> , University of Massachusetts, Amherst†
Nov 2024	“Most Counterfactuals are Indeterminate” <a href="#">New York Philosophy of Language Workshop</a> , New York University†
Mar 2024	<a href="#">Rationality and Reality Workshop</a> , 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 <a href="#">APA Central Division Meeting, Colloquium</a> *
Jun 2021	Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop, University of Michigan*
Jan 2023	“Counterfactuals in the Image of Chance” <a href="#">APA Eastern Division Meeting, Colloquium</a> *
Apr 2022	“Humean Causation” <a href="#">UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference</a> , 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](#)

## 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
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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	<a href="#">Phil 250: Changing the World</a> , for David Manley
Fall 2019	Phil 305: Introduction to Formal Philosophical Methods, for Brian Weatherson

## Service to the Profession

### REFEREING OF JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS<sup>2</sup>

*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	<a href="#">Michigan Philosophy Spring Colloquium</a>
2016–18	King's College London Formal Philosophy Reading Group

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<sup>2</sup>\* indicates that I've reviewed multiple submissions.

## MENTORSHIP

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

## OTHER SERVICE

2021–24	APA Session Chair: <a href="#">Eastern, Central, Pacific</a>
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	<a href="#">Supervised Program in Alignment Research</a> (SPAR). Research Fellow on the Project “Towards a Science of AI Agency: Modelling, Measuring, and Intervening on Goal-Directed Behaviour”, led by Mario Giulianelli. Team leader for the Reverse Engineering Sub-team.
Aug 2022	European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLI), National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland
Dec 2016	Logic Summer School, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

### PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Python

## References

Available upon request