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[1]

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†

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[1] '⋆' indicates refereed; '†' indicates invited

"Suppositional Decision Theories are Non-self-recommending"

Jan 2026   APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore⋆

Apr 2025   Richard Pettigrew's Locke Lectures Tailgate, Northeastern University†

"Bringing About the Good, from Behind the Veil of Ignorance"

Nov 2025   University of Texas at Austin†

Oct 2025   Formal Approaches to Rationality and Meaning, University of Maryland, College Park⋆

"Causal Decision Theory and the Off-switch"

Oct 2025   Indiana Logic Seminar, Indiana University, Bloomington†

"Only Causal Decision Theory Defers to Experts"

May 2025   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†

"Why (Not) Conditionalize?"
with Snow Zhang

Apr 2025   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†

"Learning 'If'"

Jan 2025   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†

"Most Counterfactuals are Indeterminate"

Nov 2024   New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York University†

Mar 2024   Rationality and Reality Workshop, University of California, Berkeley†

"Desire-as-Belief in Context"

Oct 2024   Columbia University†

Jan 2024   Indiana University, Bloomington†

"Is Polarization Really Rational?"
with Eduardo J. Martinez

Feb 2024   APA Central Division Meeting, Colloquium⋆

Jun 2021   Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop, University of Michigan⋆

"Counterfactuals in the Image of Chance"

Jan 2023   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

Jan 2026   Branden Fitelson, "A Two-Dimensional Theory of Argument Strength—with Applications"
          Ranch Metaphysics Workshop

Mar 2025   Caleb Fawell, "Cautious Monotonicty: 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

          Jason Konek, "Aggregating Imprecise Probabilities Using Epistemic Utilities"
          with Elise Woodard
May 2019   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

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

Service to the Profession

Refereeing of Journal Submissions[2]

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*

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

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[2]'*' indicates that I've reviewed multiple submissions.

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

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: Modelling, Measuring, and Intervening on Goal-Directed Behaviour", led by Mario Giulianelli. Team leader for the Reverse Engineereing 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 Languages

Python

References

Available upon request