

# Cameron Pattison

+1 (802) 461-5799

✉ [cameron.pattison@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:cameron.pattison@vanderbilt.edu)

🌐 <https://campattison.github.io/bio/index.html>

Philosophy & AI | Vanderbilt University

## Research Areas

### Areas of Specialization:

Philosophy of Computing  
Applied Ethics  
Formal Epistemology

### Areas of Competence:

Ancient Philosophy  
Epistemology  
Ethics  
Islamic Philosophy

## Education

2023–2029 **Ph.D. Philosophy**, *Vanderbilt University*, Expected 2029

*Concentration: Formal Epistemology and Applied Ethics*

- AI and Data Ethics (AIDE) Summer Program, Northeastern University (Summer 2025): Nine-week residential program with seminars, workshops, and faculty-mentored research in AI and data ethics

2021–2023 **M.A. Philosophy**, *Boston College*

2014–2018 **B.A. Philosophy, with honors**, *Colorado College*, *Magna Cum Laude*

## Research & Project Experience

2025–Present **Principal Investigator**, *Vanderbilt University*, Lacy-Fischer Interdisciplinary Research Grant

- Interdisciplinary collaboration with Sociology Department investigating ideological differences in AI research across institutional contexts
- Employing computational text analysis and topic modeling to examine potential corporate influence on AI ethics discourse
- Developing publicly available dataset and interactive online resource mapping global AI research themes

2025–Present **Researcher**, *Vanderbilt University*, *Levin Lab*

- Project on improving students' moral reasoning through AI-driven chatbot interventions
- Investigating whether conversational AI can foster moral competency in undergraduate students
- Conducting research on complementary human-AI interactions in educational contexts
- Responsibilities include experimental design, philosophical framing, and pilot study facilitation

2024–Present **Researcher**, *Vanderbilt & Harvard*, Source Analysis Engine Project

- Collaborating with faculty in Classics department at Vanderbilt and Harvard on computational approaches to classical source analysis
- Developing two parallel methodologies: (1) multi-shot API prompting and (2) vector store with similarity search
- Working on large-scale text analysis for classical scholarship
- Investigating epistemic and representational issues in AI-driven textual analysis

2024–Present **Research Affiliate**, *ANU MINT Lab*

- Responsible for curating and distributing the monthly MINT Philosophy of Computing newsletter
- Engaged with collaborative projects at the intersection of moral evaluation, AI governance, and data analysis
- Contributing to interdisciplinary research on evaluating AI systems
- Examining how AI systems summarize public comments in policy contexts, investigating optimization values and normative dimensions in automated summarization

2023–2024 **Ethicist**, *Vanderbilt University, RPW Center*

- IRB-approved study testing increased vulnerability in the face of AI-driven phishing attacks
- Provided ethical analysis, assisted in research design, and contributed to data interpretation regarding AI-based manipulation risks

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## Digital Projects

2025–Present **ArXiv Research Analysis Pipeline**, *Computational Text Analysis*

- Automated pipeline for downloading and processing AI research papers from ArXiv via API
- Implementation of topic modeling techniques to identify thematic patterns across large corpora
- Sentiment analysis framework for evaluating normative orientations in academic publications
- Integration with institutional metadata for comparative analysis across research contexts

2025 **PhilPapers AI Relevance Classifier**

- Scraped and processed 5,000+ PhilPapers entries
- Used GPT-4o API to classify relevance to Philosophy of AI
- Automated pipeline for data collection, categorization, and export

2025 **Zotero Research Assistant**, Github: `zotero_bot`

- Conversational AI assistant for academic literature exploration
- Integration with Zotero libraries for semantic search capabilities
- Automated literature review generation and research gap identification

2025 **Source Analysis Recommender**, Github: `source_analysis_recommender`

- Computational pipeline for identifying source relationships in classical philosophical texts
- Cross-linguistic analysis across Greek, Arabic, Syriac, and Latin traditions
- Development of methodologies for evidence-based textual connections

2025 **Ibn Arabi Translation Project**, *Digital Humanities*, `campattison.github.io`

- Digital parallel text edition of Ibn Arabi's "The Meccan Revelations: Chapter 178" with AI-assisted translation
- Interactive alignment features for comparing original Arabic with English translation
- Combines traditional textual scholarship with modern translation techniques

2024 **Classical Text Translation System**, Github: `book_translator`

- Specialized translation system for ancient philosophical texts
- Preservation of technical vocabulary consistency across languages
- Handling of complex philological edge cases
- Integrated translation evaluation framework with BLEU and LM-based metrics

2024 **Philosophy Indexer**, Github: `indexer`

- Automated system for generating comprehensive conceptual indices
- Identification and mapping of key terms across philosophical corpora
- Application to multiple classical and contemporary philosophical works

2024 **AI Research Methodologies Guide**, *Vanderbilt University*, `campattison.github.io`

- Comprehensive guide for AI applications in philosophical research
- Documentation of best practices for literature reviews and bibliography management
- Educational resource for students and researchers in humanities

2024 **Kantian Ethical Analysis Tool**, *Philosophy Education*, `campattison.github.io`

- Interactive tool for analyzing ethical dilemmas using Kantian frameworks
- Guides users through maxim identification and universalizability testing
- Application of categorical imperatives to contemporary moral problems

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## Publications

2025 **Justin Humphreys: Inventing the Imagination (book review)**, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*

2024 **Revelation in al-Frb's Virtuous City**, *Springer Studies in the History of Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind; Mind, Soul and the Cosmos in the High Middle Ages*

- 2024 **EPÉE: Evaluating Personified Expert Effectiveness**, *CS & IT Conference Proceedings* (co-authored)

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## Public-Facing Publications

- 2025 **How AI-Driven Search May Reshape Democracy, Economics, and Human Agency**, Tech Policy Press (with Vance Ricks and John Wihbey)

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## Under Review

- 2025 **Nothing Infers: AI, Human Cognition, and the Taking Condition**  
2025 **Non-ideal Methodology in Contemporary AI Alignment**

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## Selected Presentations

- Mar 2025 **"Computational Approaches to Philosophical Text Analysis,"** Vanderbilt Data Science Institute  
Oct 2024 **"AI Reasoning and the Taking Condition,"** Invited Talk at the MINT Lab (ANU)  
Jun 2024 **"Mimsis in Early Islamic Philosophy,"** Int'l Society for Neoplatonic Studies (ISNS)  
Mar 2024 **"AI-Frb on the Imagination,"** Boston College GSA Conference on *The Imagination: Powers and Possibilities*  
Oct 2023 **"On 'Wanting' in Gorgias 467a-468e,"** Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference  
Apr 2023 **"Socrates' Critique of Interpretation in Protagoras 341e-348b,"** Boston College Graduate Colloquium

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## Teaching Experience

- 2024–Present **Co-Director, *AI and the Human***, Vanderbilt University, RPW Humanities Center  
2024–2025 **Philosophy of Mind Directed Reading**, Vanderbilt University, Department of Philosophy  
2025 **Teaching Assistant, General Logic**, Vanderbilt University, Department of Philosophy  
2024 **Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Philosophy**, Vanderbilt University, Department of Philosophy  
2024 **Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Ethics**, Vanderbilt University, Department of Philosophy  
2022–2023 **English as a Foreign Language Instructor**, Tayba Association for Orphans, Morocco  
2019–2021 **Assistant Director**, Brunswick School Vermont  
○ Designed and taught courses, handled strategic planning and administration for a new campus  
2019 **Poetry Teacher**, Sharon Academy, High School

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## Editorial Work

- 2024 **Communications and Resource Management**, *MINT Lab (ANU)*  
2023 **Indexing**, *SUP*  
*Maimonides Guide of the Perplexed*  
2021–2023 **Editor and Communications Director**, *Harvard Ibn Arabi Seminar*  
2017–2018 **Editor in Chief**, *Colorado College*  
*Anamnesis Philosophy Journal*

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## Grants, Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

2025 Lacy-Fischer Interdisciplinary Research Grant \$6700  
 2025 Berry Publication Prize \$200  
 2024 Vanderbilt Award for Doctoral Discovery (VADD) \$5000  
 2024 Vanderbilt University Graduate School Travel Grant \$2000  
 2024 Berry Publication Prize \$200  
 2024 Berry First-Year Teaching Award \$500  
 2024 Vanderbilt Philosophy Department Travel Grant \$800  
 2023 Russell G. Hamilton Scholar \$5000  
 2022 Ernest Fortin Memorial Foundation Summer Grant \$2400  
 2018 J. Glen Gray Award, Colorado College \$500  
 2018 Distinction in Philosophy, *Magna Cum Laude*, Colorado College  
 2018 Phi Beta Kappa

## Relevant Skills

- **Technical:** Python, LLM Prompt Engineering, Vector Databases, Natural Language Processing, Basic Statistical Analysis
- **Research Methods:** Qualitative and Quantitative Research Design, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Sociotechnical Analysis
- **AI Ethics:** Fairness Assessment, Bias Evaluation, Representational Harm Analysis, AI Governance
- **Project Management:** Research Coordination, Cross-disciplinary Communication, Timeline Management

## Professional Affiliations

2024–Present Vanderbilt Lab for Immersive AI Translation (VALIANT)  
 2024–Present Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (MINT) Lab (ANU)  
 2023–Present American Philosophical Association Central Division  
 2023–Present Tennessee Philosophical Association  
 2022–Present Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group  
 2023–2025 International Society for Neoplatonic Studies  
 2021–2023 Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy

## Languages

English Native  
 Greek Reading proficiency  
 Arabic Reading and speaking proficiency  
 Spanish Reading and speaking proficiency

### Intensive Language Experiences

Classical Greek Summer Language Institute UChicago (2020), Class Abroad in Greece, Colorado College (2017)  
 Modern Standard Arabic Yallah Al-Quds (2021), Qasid Arabic (audit, 2020–2021), AALIM Morocco (2017)  
 Classical Arabic Qasid Summer Program, Amman Jordan (2024), Harvard Divinity School Summer Language Program (2022)

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## Graduate Coursework

### Vanderbilt University (PhD Coursework)

#### Spring 2025

- PHIL 9020.01: Contemporary Metaethics
- PHIL 9020.02: Philosophy of Emotion
- PHIL 9020.03: Epistemology

#### Fall 2024

- DS 5690: Generative AI Models in Theory and Practice (Audit)
- PHIL 9010: History of Philosophy – Kant's Ethics
- PHIL 9010: History of Philosophy – Maimonides and Friends
- PHIL 9020: Topics in Philosophy – Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory

#### Spring 2024

- ARA 5202: Intermediate Arabic (Audit)
- PHIL 3891: Selected Topics – Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- PHIL 9010: History of Philosophy – American Ethics
- PHIL 9020: Topics in Philosophy – Ethics and Animals

#### Fall 2023

- PHIL 8000: Teaching/Research Methods
- PHIL 9000: Figures in Philosophy – Aristotle
- PHIL 9010: History of Philosophy – Spinoza's Ethics
- PHIL 9020: Topics in Philosophy – Moral Psychology

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## References

### **Professor David Thorstad**

Vanderbilt University, Furman Hall 113  
Department of Philosophy  
Email: david.thorstad@vanderbilt.edu

### **Professor Jacob Barrett**

Vanderbilt University, Furman Hall 103  
Department of Philosophy  
Email: jacob.barrett@vanderbilt.edu

### **Professor Seth Lazar**

Australian National University  
Department of Philosophy  
Email: seth.lazar@anu.edu.au

### **Professor Diana Heney**

Vanderbilt University, Furman Hall 017a  
Department of Philosophy  
Email: diana.b.heney@vanderbilt.edu

### **Professor Charreau Bell**

Vanderbilt University, Featheringill Hall  
Computer Science School of Engineering  
Email: charreau.s.bell@vanderbilt.edu

### **Professor Jesse Spencer Smith**

Vanderbilt University, Sony Building  
Data Science Institute  
Email: jesse.spencer-smith@vanderbilt.edu