

Steve Petersen

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last updated: January 8, 2018

AREAS

Areas of specialization

Philosophy of artificial intelligence, epistemology, philosophy of science

Areas of competence

Philosophy of mind, logic, metaphysics, philosophy of language

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

PhD, philosophy

1996–2003

Belief-Desire Coherence

Committee: Eric Lormand (chair), Jessica Wilson, James Joyce, Thad Polk.

Harvard University

BA, philosophy with mathematics

1988–1992

PUBLICATIONS

“Composition as pattern” (forthcoming), *Philosophical Studies*.

“Superintelligence as superethical” (2017), *Robot Ethics 2.0*, eds. Patrick Lin, Ryan Jenkins, and Keith Abney. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

“Is it good for them too? Ethical concern for the sexbots” (2017), *Sex Robots: Philosophical, Ethical, and Social Implications*, eds. John Danaher and Neil McArthur. Cambridge: MIT Press.

“A normative yet coherent naturalism” (2014), *Philo*, 17(1):77–91.

“Toward an algorithmic metaphysics” (2013), *Algorithmic Probability and Friends: Bayesian Prediction and Artificial Intelligence*, ed. David Dowe. Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 7070:306–317.

“Utilitarian epistemology” (2013), *Synthese*, 190(6):1173–1184 (accepted before the 2011 editorial controversy).

“Designing people to serve” (2011), *Robot Ethics: The Ethical and Social Implications of Robotics*, eds. Patrick Lin, Keith Abney, and George Bekey. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

“Analysis, schmanalysis” (2008), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 38(2):289–300.

“The ethics of robot servitude” (2007), *Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Artificial Intelligence*, 19(1):43–54.

“Construing faith as action won’t save Pascal’s wager” (2006), *Philo*, 9(2):221–229.

“Functions, creatures, learning, emotion” (2004), Hudlicka, E. and Cañamero, L., editors, *Architectures for Modeling Emotion: Cross-Disciplinary Foundations*, The American Association for Artificial Intelligence, AAAI Press.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Machines learning values”, Ethics and Artificial Intelligence, University of Agder (Norway), fall 2017.

“Superintelligence as superethical”, Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, New York University, fall 2016.

“The statistical and unification approaches to explanation unified—statistically”, Buffalo Logic Colloquium, spring 2016.

“Composition as pattern” (multiple presentations)

- Creighton Club, Syracuse University, fall 2015.
- Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Rutgers University, fall 2015.
- Society for Exact Philosophy, California Institute of Technology, spring 2014 (poster presentation).
- Buffalo Logic Colloquium, University of Buffalo, fall 2013.

“Explanation as information compression: Unificationism made precise”, Algorithms and Complexity in Mathematics, Epistemology and Science, University of Western Ontario, spring 2015.

“Composition from life to organization: A slippery slope for van Inwagen”, Society of Christian Philosophers, Eastern conference meeting, Niagara University, fall 2014.

“Is Rosenberg’s scientism naturalistic? (An enchanted naturalism)”, Ernst Mach Workshop on Disenchanted Naturalism, Department of Analytic Philosophy of the Institute of Philosophy, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, spring 2014.

“Toward an algorithmic metaphysics”, Solomonoff 85th Memorial Conference, Monash University, Australia, fall 2011.

“The ethics of human impairment” (with James Delaney), Human Enhancement Symposium, Center for Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology, the University of Texas at Dallas, spring 2011.

“Naturalism as a coherent ideology”, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee invited talk, fall 2009.

“Comments on Carl Wagner’s *Jeffrey conditioning and external Bayesianity*”, the Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison, summer 2008.

“Utilitarian epistemology and the value of knowledge”, the Value of Knowledge Conference, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, summer 2007.

“Minimum message length as a truth-conducive simplicity measure”, the Formal Epistemology Workshop, Carnegie Mellon University, spring 2007.

“Embodied intelligence without the bodies”, the University of Buffalo Center for Cognitive Science, spring 2007.

“Naturalism is (literally) self-explanatory”, the Center for Inquiry, spring 2007.

“The ethics of robot servitude” (multiple presentations)

- North American Computing and Philosophy Conference, summer 2006.
- University of Buffalo Center for Cognitive Science, fall 2006.

- Canisius College, spring 2007.

“Learning and computational epistemology”, Western Michigan University invited speaker, fall 2005.

“Some future: comments on Gilbert Harman’s *The future of the a priori*”. University of Michigan, spring 2001 colloquium.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Niagara University , Associate professor	2006–present
Philosophy of mind, Epistemology, Special topic: artificial life, Philosophy of science, Philosophy of language, Metaphysics, Logic, Ethics, Introduction to philosophy	
Kalamazoo College , Mellon postdoctoral fellow	2004–2006
Metaphysics and mind (team-taught), Early modern philosophy, Theories of knowledge, Senior seminar: inference to the best explanation (team-taught), Philosophy of artificial intelligence, Philosophy of science, Logic and reasoning, Introduction to philosophy	
University of Michigan , Visiting assistant professor	2003–2004
Metaphysics and epistemology, Introductory logic, Introduction to philosophy	
University of Michigan , Graduate student instructor (sole instructor)	2000–2002
Philosophy of mind, Upper division logic, Introduction to philosophy, Introductory logic	
University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching , Consultant	2000–2003
Helped develop and perform nationally-acclaimed interactive presentations on better university teaching; issues included disability in the classroom, women in the sciences, and hiring practices.	
University of Michigan , Teaching assistant	1997–2000
Ethics (with David Velleman), Introduction to philosophy (with Sally Haslanger and then with Louis Loeb)	

References available upon request.