

# JOSH BREKEL

## Graduate Student

Curriculum Vitae — Updated: March 17, 2026

Location: Salt Lake City  
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## Personal Summary

I am a graduate student who works at the intersection of analytic philosophy and experimental psychology. I am currently researching formal philosophy under the supervision of Jonah Schupbach at the University of Utah. In Fall 2026, I will begin working in Princeton's [Concepts & Cognition Lab](#). Prior to Utah, I taught philosophy at Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado. I also worked at the USDA-ARS, where I helped develop a Python package called [pyfao56](#). Recently, [pyfao56](#) won the [Vanguard Award](#) for innovation. My time at the USDA-ARS gave me insight into what it is like to be a research scientist, while teaching helped me discover my passion for helping others learn. I am originally from a small farming community in Northeastern Colorado, and I am a proud first-generation college student.

<b>Specializations</b>	Epistemology Philosophy of Probability Philosophy of Science
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<b>Competencies</b>	Logic Python Programming Normative Ethics
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<b>Interests</b>	Cognitive Psychology Economics American Pragmatism
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## Notable Awards and Honors

- 2024-5: Best Graduate Student Paper (Utah Philosophy Department)
- 2024: Mizzou Ridgel Doctoral Fellowship (declined admission offer)
- 2018: Ben W. Garcia CSU Economics Merit Scholarship

## References

<b>Dr. Jonah Schupbach</b>	Utah
<a href="mailto:jonah.schupbach@utah.edu">jonah.schupbach@utah.edu</a>	
<b>Dr. Jeff Kasser</b>	CSU
<a href="mailto:jeff.kasser@colostate.edu">jeff.kasser@colostate.edu</a>	
<b>Dr. Kendall DeJonge</b>	USDA-ARS
<a href="mailto:kendall.dejonge@usda.gov">kendall.dejonge@usda.gov</a>	

More references available upon request.

## Education

### Princeton University

*Ph.D. Psychology*

Start: 2026

### University of Utah

*M.A. Philosophy*

2024—2026

### Colorado State University

*M.A. Philosophy*

2020—2022

*B.A. Economics*

2016—2019

*B.A. Philosophy*

2016—2019

## Employment

### Graduate TA & Instructor

Aug 2024—Present

*University of Utah*

Salt Lake City, UT

- SP26: Alongside Professor Matt Haber, I led an undergraduate research course on making logic accessible to visually impaired students.
- FA25: GTA for Distinguished Professor Elijah Millgram's Theory of Knowledge Course.
- SU25: Primary instructor of an asynchronous section of Deductive Logic.
- SP25: Graded undergraduate short essays for Feminist Philosophy of Science, taught by Professor Melinda Fagan.

### Adjunct Instructor

Jan 2026—May 2026

*Utah Valley University*

Orem, UT

- Taught one 20-student section of Introduction to Philosophy.

### Adjunct Instructor

Jan 2023—May 2024

*Colorado State University*

Fort Collins, CO

- Taught five 40-student sections of Moral and Social Problems.
- Taught one 60-student section of Ethical Computing Systems.
- Advised graduate teaching assistants on assignment grading, assignment design, lecturing, and pedagogical strategies.

### Adjunct Instructor

Aug 2023—May 2024

*University of Northern Colorado*

Greeley, CO

- Taught three 60-student sections of Moral Issues.
- Taught one 35-student section of Philosophy of Science.

### Data Scientist

May 2022—Jan. 2024

*USDA Agricultural Research Service*

Fort Collins, CO

- As a GS-06-01, spearheaded a project to transition experimental research data from Excel to Python.
- Contributed to the development of an open-source Python Package.
- Used Git, Github, PyCharm, and Jupyter Notebook to develop modules in a team environment.

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

Aug 2020—May 2022

*Colorado State University*

Fort Collins, CO

- Graded undergraduate papers and exams while adhering to outlined grading policies.
- Assisted with the development of paper prompts, exam questions, homework assignments, and rubrics.

## Publications

- (1) **Brekel, J.**, “A New Look at Keynesian Weight of Evidence.” *Erkenntnis* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-025-01018-3>.
- (2) DeJonge, K. C., Thorp, K. R., **Brekel, J.**, Pokoski, T., and Trout, T. J., “Customizing pyfao56 for Evapotranspiration Estimation and Irrigation Scheduling at the Limited Irrigation Research Farm (LIRF), Greeley, Colorado.” *Agricultural Water Management* 299 (2024): 108891. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2024.108891>.
- (3) **Brekel, J.**, Thorp, K. R., DeJonge, K. C., and Trout, T. J., “Version 1.1.0—pyfao56: FAO-56 Evapotranspiration in Python.” *SoftwareX* 22 (2023): 101336. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2023.101336>.
- (4) Thorp, K. R., **Brekel, J.**, and DeJonge, K. C., “Version 1.2.0 — pyfao56: FAO-56 Evapotranspiration in Python.” *SoftwareX* 24 (2023): 101518. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2023.101518>.

## Presentations

- “**The Base-Rate-Fallacy Fallacy**” (Poster)  
*Fifth Annual Formal and Experimental Philosophy Workshop*, Lake Forest, IL Mar 20, 2026
- “**The Base-Rate-Fallacy Fallacy**”  
*The University of Utah Philosophy Graduate Conference*, Salt Lake City, UT Nov 8, 2025
- “**A New Look at Keynesian Weight of Evidence**”  
*10th Biennial Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association*, Groningen, NL Aug 26, 2025
- “**A Statistical Analysis of Philosophers on Philosophy**”  
 (with Aaron Nielsen and Jacob Shankles)  
*Philosophy Department Lunch Series*, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO Jan 31, 2024
- “**Saving Water in Arid Climates: How Environment and Plant Status Combine to Determine Crop Water Needs**”(with Kendall DeJonge)  
*Energy and Environment Seminar Series*, Powerhouse Energy Campus, Fort Collins, CO Apr 20, 2023
- “**Streamlining Scheduling: How Python Transforms Water Balance Modeling and Evapotranspiration Estimation**”  
*43rd Annual AGU Hydrology Days*, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO Mar 21-22, 2023

## Awards and Honors

- Recipient, **Best Graduate Student Paper Prize**, Utah Department of Philosophy 2024–5
- Recipient, **Gus T. Ridgel Doctoral Fellowship**, Mizzou (declined admission offer) 2024
- Recipient, **CSU Liberal Arts Karbula Family Merit Scholarship** 2020
- Recipient, **Colorado Masons’ Benevolent Fund Merit Scholarship** 2016–9
- Recipient, **Ben W. Garcia CSU Economics Merit Scholarship** 2018
- Recipient, **CSU Logan County Alumni Merit Scholarship** 2016, 2018
- Recipient, **Fleming, CO VFW Merit Scholarship** 2016
- Recipient, **Laurel Williams Education Scholarship** 2016

## Teaching

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- Co-Instructor, PHIL 5910: Undergraduate Research** SP26  
*University of Utah* Type: in-person UG course  
**Details:** Led an undergraduate research group focused on making deductive logic more accessible to blind students. We tried various different pedagogical techniques and drafted a philosophy paper with our findings.
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- Primary Instructor, PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy** SP26  
*Utah Valley University* Type: in-person UG course  
**Details:** Taught one 20-student section that consisted primarily of freshmen. Student population included large proportion of non-traditional students. Topics covered include: Plato’s theory of knowledge, Pyrrhonian Skepticism, Caretsian Skepticism, Anselm’s Ontological Argument, Problem of Evil, Brains in Vats (Putnam), Moral Skepticism, Theories of Truth, Echo Chambers, Ethics of Belief, Bullshit, Epistemic Justice, Feminist Philosophy of Science.
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- GTA, PHIL 3300: Theory of Knowledge** FA25  
*University of Utah* Type: in-person UG course

<b>Primary Instructor, PHIL 3200: Deductive Logic</b> <i>University of Utah</i>	SU25 Type: online, asynchronous UG course
<b>Details:</b> Taught one 35-student section. Created video-lectures each week, as well as assignments administered through the <a href="https://carnap.io">Carnap.io</a> logic software. Topics covered include: Syntax of propositional logic, natural deduction for propositional logic, syntax of first-order logic, natural deductive for first-order logic, and translation between English and artificial languages.	
<b>GTA, PHIL 3380: Feminist Philosophy of Science</b> <i>University of Utah</i>	SP25 Type: in-person UG course
<b>Primary Instructor, PHIL 280: Philosophy of Science</b> <i>University of Northern Colorado</i>	SP24 Type: in-person UG course
<b>Details:</b> Taught one 35-student section of primarily second-semester freshmen. Student population included large proportion of non-traditional students (42% first-generation, 24% Latinx/Hispanic). Topics covered include: Scientific Method, Problem of Induction, Popper and Kuhn, Scientific Explanation, Bayesianism, and Values in Science.	
<b>Primary Instructor, PHIL 150: Moral Issues</b> <i>University of Northern Colorado</i>	FA23, SP24 Type: in-person UG course
<b>Details:</b> Taught three 60-student sections that consisted primarily of freshmen. Student population included large proportion of non-traditional students (42% first-generation, 24% Latinx/Hispanic). Topics covered include: Divine Command Theory, Moral Skepticism, Consequentialism, Deontology, Virtue Theory, Hate Speech, Death Penalty, Euthanasia, Abortion, Animals, Environmental Ethics, Poverty.	
<b>Primary Instructor, PHIL/CS 201: Ethical Computing Systems</b> <i>Colorado State University</i>	FA23 Type: in-person UG course
<b>Details:</b> Co-taught one 60-student section with an instructor from the Computer Science Department. Topics covered include: Virtue Ethics, Consequentialism, Kantian Ethics, Human Enhancement, Ethical Machines, Hard Problem of Consciousness, Just War, Logic, Extended Mind Hypothesis, Medical Ethics and Consent, Large-Language Model (LLM) Ethics.	
<b>Primary Instructor, PHIL 103: Moral and Social Problems</b> <i>Colorado State University</i>	SP23, FA23, SP24 Type: in-person UG course
<b>Details:</b> Taught five total 40-student sections that primarily consisted of non-philosophy freshmen students. Topics covered include: Divine Command Theory, Moral Skepticism, Consequentialism, Deontology, Rights, Virtue Theory, Free Speech, Racism and Policing, Death Penalty, Theories of Justice, Euthanasia, Abortion, Animal Rights, Environmental Ethics, Poverty.	
<b>GTA, PHIL 100: Appreciation of Philosophy</b> <i>Colorado State University</i>	FA20, SP21, SP22 Type: in-person and remote UG courses
<b>GTA, PHIL 120: History and Philosophy of Scientific Thought</b> <i>Colorado State University</i>	FA21 Type: in-person UG course

## Professional Development

<b>Coordinator</b> <i>Philosophy Graduate Student Work-In-Progress (WIP) Group</i>	Aug 2025—Present University of Utah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized weekly meetings focused on developing writing, research, teaching, and professional skills.</li> <li>Arranged regular writing and research workshops.</li> <li>Scheduled and moderated graduate student research presentations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Organizer</b> <i>Philosophy of Science Reading Group</i>	Aug 2025—Present University of Utah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized weekly discussion sessions focused on recent articles in philosophy of science.</li> <li>Effectively scheduled meetings for a group of approximately 20 members.</li> <li>Helped reach out to authors to virtually discuss their work with the reading group.</li> </ul>	
<b>Member</b> <i>Philosophy of Statistics Reading Group</i>	May 2025—Present Remote
<b>Member</b> <i>Philosophy of Science Reading Group</i>	Aug 2024—Aug 2025 University of Utah
<b>Co-Advisor</b> <i>Undergraduate Research Project</i>	May 2023—Jan 2024 CSU (Department of Statistics)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtained survey data from David Bourget and David Chalmers.</li> <li>Acted as a philosophy consultant on a web application designed to view philosophy survey data.</li> <li>Complete web application can be found on this page: <a href="https://survey2020.philpeople.org">https://survey2020.philpeople.org</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Member</b> <i>Philosophy of Statistics Book Club</i>	Feb 2019—May 2023 Colorado State University
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read several books on the history and philosophy of statistics.</li> <li>Attended meetings where I discussed statistics with working statisticians, scientists, teachers, professors (from various disciplines), academic administrators, as well as undergraduate and graduate students.</li> </ul>	

**Attendee***Epistemology of Science Workshop*Apr 20-21, 2023  
Colorado State University

- Attended and participated in workshop presentations from Jay Odenbaugh, Domenica Romagni, Collin Rice, Soazig Le Bihan, Melinda Fagan, and Kareem Khalifa.

**External Reviewer***Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal*Oct 2018—May 2019  
Remote

- Developed strong writing and editing skills by reviewing over 20 articles for an international undergraduate philosophy journal.
- Learned how to effectively communicate and work with a team in a digital environment.
- Utilized effective research techniques to quickly understand a variety of technical topics.
- Drafted Acceptance, Resubmit, and Rejection letters which were sent to authors.

**Co-Manager and Co-Founder***Logan County Farmer's Market*May 2013—May 2016  
Sterling, CO

- Managed social media accounts to market and advertise a new farmer's market.
- Helped grow the market from its creation to the eventual attainment of a \$10,000 grant.