Amir Motesharei | CV

University of South Carolina – Department of Philosophy
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

[1] Philosophy of Science specializing in AI/ML [2] Machine Learning Models in Science [3] Scientific Realism [+] General History and Philosophy of Science

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D., Philosophy** *University of South Carolina (Columbia, US) - GPA: 4/4* 2023–present
- **M.S., Philosophy of Science** *Sharif University of Technology (Tehran, Iran) - GPA: 4/4* 2020–2023
- **M.A., Visual Arts** *University of Tehran (Tehran, Iran) - GPA: 4/4* 2017–2019
- **B.S., Electrical Engineering** *Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran, Iran) - GPA: 3/4* 2009–2014

TEACHING

- **Instructor of Record:**
  - Engineering Ethics (PHIL 325): University of South Carolina — Fall 2026
  - Engineering Ethics (PHIL 325 - asynchronous): University of South Carolina — Summer 2026
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant:**
  - **Engineering Ethics (PHIL 325):**
    - University of South Carolina, Dr. Michael Stoeltzner — Fall 2025
    - University of South Carolina, Dr. Jeff Turner — Spring 2025
    - University of South Carolina, Dr. Jeff Turner — Fall 2024
    - University of South Carolina, Dr. Michael Stoeltzner — Fall 2023
  - **Communicating Moral Issues (PHIL 213):**
    - University of South Carolina, Dr. Justin Weinberg — Spring 2026
    - University of South Carolina, Dr. Patrick Brissey — Spring 2024
  - **Philosophy of Science II**
    - Sharif University of Technology, Dr. Mostafa Taqavi — Spring 2022
  - **An introduction to the Philosophy of Science**
    - Sharif University of Technology, Dr. Mostafa Taqavi — Fall 2021

PUBLICATIONS

- **Published:**
  - Motesharei, A. (forthcoming-2027). Exploration Before Representation: What Do Machine Learning Models Do in Science? *Philosophy of Science*
  - Motesharei, A. (forthcoming-2026). Good Senses and Bad Lots: Virtue Epistemology Between Duhem and Stanford. *European Journal for Philosophy of Science (EJPS)*
  - Motesharei, A., Taqavi, M. (2022). Science and Tradition: Towards a Pluralistic Scientific Society. *Journal of Philosophical Investigations (JPI)*
- **Under Review:**

- Motesharei, A. The Barbaric Physics: Leibniz, Newton, and the Gravitational Force. R&R at *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*
- Motesharei, A. Enabling the Enablers: On the Logic of Enabling and Its Relation to Grounding. Under review in *Synthese*
- Motesharei, A. The Many Faces of Autism: Conceptual Change and the Limits of Medical Classification. Under review in *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*

○ **Manuscripts in Progress:**
- A paper on machine learning models and scientific realism
- A paper on the concept of understanding in exploratory machine learning models (with Daniel Alonso)
- A collaborative project on designing an AI system to assist scientific discovery (SPARC proposal under review)

PRESENTATIONS (♠ author, ♣ co-author)

♠ **Exploration Before Representation: What Do Machine Learning Models Do in Science?**
Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), November 2026

♠ **Perspectival AI-Assisted Scientific Discovery: AI as an Epistemic Agent in Scientific Modeling**
11th Biennial Conference of the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) - Cambridge, July 2026

♣ **The Barbaric Physics: Leibniz, Newton, and the Gravitational Force**
The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) - Ohio, June 2026

♠ **Enabling the Enablers: On the Logic of Enabling and Its Relation to Grounding**
American Philosophical Association (APA) - Pacific Division - Online, April 2026

♠ **Good Sense and Bad Lots: Virtue Epistemology Between Duhem and Stanford**
American Philosophical Association (APA) - Central Division - Chicago, February 2026

♠ **Kyle Stanford's Pessimistic Virtue Epistemology: Duhem's Good Sense Revisited**
European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA) - Netherlands, August 2025

♠ **The Barbaric Physics: Leibniz, Newton, and the Gravitational Force**
American Philosophical Association (APA) Symposium Session - Eastern Division - New York, January 2025

♣ **Science and Tradition: Towards a Pluralistic Scientific Society**
10th Biennial Conference of the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) - USC, May 2024

♣ **Unraveling the Leibniz-Newton Debate on the Concept of Force and Gravity**
South Carolina Society for Philosophy (SCSP), January 2024

HONORS & AWARDS

○ Awarded a travel grant by the USC philosophy dept to present at the PSA conference ($300) 2026
○ SPARC Graduate Research Grant Program 2026
○ USC Dean's Award for Doctoral Achievement (finalist) 2026
○ USC Philosophy Department Richard Greener Graduate Student Award 2025
○ The Best Poster Award at the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) 2024 2024
○ USC College of Arts and Sciences four-year Graduate Assistantship Enhancement Program 2023–2027
○ Graduated with Honors: M.S. in Philosophy of Science, Sharif University of Technology 2023
○ Ranked 1st in the national university entrance exam for master of philosophy of science 2020
○ Graduated with Honors: M.A. in Visual Arts, University of Tehran 2019
○ Ranked 1st in the national university entrance exam for the Master of Arts 2017
○ Ranked 300 among 300,000 participants in the national university entrance exam 2009

- Member of Iran's National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents (NODET) 2002–present

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- Refereeing:
  - Paper review for the *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science (SHPS)* 2026
  - Paper review for the *European Journal for Philosophy of Science (EJPS)* 2025
- Co-founder of the "AI Reading Group" at USC Philosophy Department 2025
- Founder and Manager of the "Philosophy Unplugged! An Interview with a Professor" event series at USC Philosophy Department 2025–present
- Co-founder and Manager of the "Philosophy Film Club" at USC 2024–present
- Treasurer and Social Chair of the USC Iranian Students Association 2025
  - Got funding and organized several events such as the Iranian Yalda Night ceremony, Iran's table at USC International Festival, and the "Group Therapy and Coping Session for Iranian Students in Political Distress"
- Co-founder and Social Chair of the USC Philosophy Graduate Students Association (PGSA) 2024–present
  - Got funding and organized several academic and social events for humanities graduate students.
- Collaborated with Dr. Michael Stoeltzner and Dr. Jeff Turner on integrating AI case studies into the Engineering Ethics (PHIL 325) syllabus 2023

REFERENCES

- Dr. Michael Stoeltzner
  Professor, Department of Philosophy – University of South Carolina
  Ph.D. Supervisor & TA Supervisor
  Email: stoeltzn@sc.edu
- Dr. Jeffrey Turner
  Senior Instructor, Department of Philosophy – University of South Carolina
  TA Supervisor
  Email: turner@sc.edu
- Mostafa Taqavi
  Associate Professor & Dean, Department of Philosophy of Science – Sharif University of Technology
  M.S. Supervisor & TA Supervisor
  Email: m_taqavi@sharif.edu
- Mohammadreza Abolghassemi
  Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts – University of Tehran
  M.A. Supervisor
  Email: mr.abolghassemi@ut.ac.ir