

Gil Hersch

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Employment

Associate Professor	Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech	2023 - present
Assistant Professor	Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech	2020 - 2023
Core Faculty	David H. Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Virginia Tech	2020 - present
Postdoctoral Researcher	Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech	2017 - 2020
Postdoctoral Researcher	Institute for Philosophy & Public Policy, George Mason University	2016 - 2017

Education

Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of California, San Diego	2016
M.A.	Philosophy, University of California, San Diego	2013
B.A.	Philosophy, Politics and Economics, <i>magna cum laude</i> , Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel	2008

Research Interests

AOS	PPE, Social & Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Social Science, Business Ethics
AOC	Ethics, Philosophy of Science

Publications

1. **Hersch, G.** Forthcoming. “Choice, Exit, and Paternalism”, *Social Philosophy & Policy*, 43(2).
2. **Hersch, G.** & T. Rowe. 2025. “Allocative Fairness”, *Philosophy Compass*, 20: e70042.
3. **Hersch, G.** & D. Weltman. 2025. “It’s Not the Slope that Matters: Well-Being and Shapes of Lives”, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 22: 98–125.
4. **Hersch, G.** & T. Rowe. 2024. “Lotteries, Queues, and Bottlenecks”, In D. Sobel and S. Wall (eds.), *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy Vol. 10*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 186-210.
5. **Hersch, G.** & D. Weltman. 2023. “A New Well-Being Atomism”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 107: 3-23.
6. **Hersch, G.** 2023. “Procedural Fairness in Exchange Matching Systems”, *Journal of Business Ethics*, 188: 367-377.

7. **Hersch, G.** 2023. “The Usefulness of Well-Being Temporalism”, *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 30:4, 322-336.
8. DesRoches, T., D. Fischer, J. Silver, P. Arthur, R. Livernois, T. Crichlow, **G. Hersch**, M. Nagatsu, J. Abbott. 2023. “When is Green Nudging Ethically Permissible?”, *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 60: 101236.
9. **Hersch, G.** 2022. “Well-Being Coherentism”, *The British Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 73(4): 1045-1065.
10. **Hersch, G.** 2021. “The Need for Governmental Inefficiency in Plato's Republic”, *Journal of History of Economic Thought*, 43(1): 103-117.
11. **Hersch, G.** 2020. “No Theory-Free Lunches in Well-Being Policy”, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 70(278): 43-64.
12. **Hersch, G.** 2020. “You Can Bluff but You Should Not Spoof”, *Business and Professional Ethics Journal*, 39(2): 207-224.
13. **Hersch, G.** 2018. “The Narrowed Domain of Disagreement for Well-Being Policy”, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 32(1): 1-19.
14. **Hersch, G.** 2018. “Ignoring Easterlin; Why Easterlin’s Correlation Findings Need Not Matter to Policy”, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 19(8): 2225-2241.
15. **Hersch, G.** 2018. “Educational Equipose and the Educational Misconception; Lessons from Bioethics”, *Teaching and Learning Inquiry*, 6(2): 1-15.
16. **Hersch, G.** 2018. “The Irrelevance of Unsuccessful Traders; A Commentary on Alasdair MacIntyre (2015), “The Irrelevance of Ethics””, *Business Ethics Journal Review*, 6(8): 41-46.
17. **Hersch, G.** & D. Houser. 2018. “From Models to Experiments” in R. Wagner (ed.), *James M. Buchanan: A Theorist of Political Economy and Social Philosophy*: 921-937. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
18. **Hersch, G.** 2016. “Motivationally Balancing Policy”, *SOCIETY*, 53(3): 264-268.
19. **Hersch, G.** 2015. “Experimental Economics’ Inconsistent Ban on Deception”, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 52: 13-19.
20. **Hersch, G.** 2015. “Can an Evidential Account Justify Relying on Preferences for Well-Being Policy?”, *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 22(3): 280-291.

Book Reviews

1. **Hersch, G.** 2023. “A Theory of Subjective Wellbeing, by Mark Fabian. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 328 pp.” *Economics & Philosophy* 39(3): 528 – 532.
2. **Hersch, G.** 2020. “Law for Sale: A Philosophical Critique of Regulatory Competition, by Johanna Stark. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 210 pp.”, *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 39(2): 207-224.

Grants, Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

- 2024-2028 EFRI BEGIN OI: “Reservoir Computer - Intelligent and Evolving Mechano-Reservoir Computing with Living Spheroids on Fibers” Co-PI (20%) \$2,000,000 (NSF).
- 2024 Lady Davis Visiting Professor Fellowship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 27,000 NIS (declined due to regional conflict).

- 2023 Faculty Research Grant, CLAHS, Virginia Tech, \$4,000.
- 2021 Faculty Summer Research Stipend, Center for Humanities, Virginia Tech, \$4,000.
- 2021 Virginia Tech Mentoring Grant, \$1,500.
- 2020-2021 Research Associate, Center for Humanities, Virginia Tech, \$500.
- 2016 Warren & Sylvia Samuels Young Scholar Award, History of Economic Thought Society, \$500.
- 2016 Finalist, Non-Empirical Grant, Happiness and Well-being Project.
- 2014 Graduate fellowship, Department of Philosophy, UCSD.
- 2011 UCSD Friends Scholarship Award.

Presentations

- What Well-Being to Expect When You're Expecting (with Danny Weltman)
Axiology Workshop, Montreal 2025
- Allocative Fairness (with Tom Rowe)
Society for Business Ethics, Copenhagen 2025
- The Narrowness of Allocative Fairness
Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society Meeting, London 2025
- Weighting Waiting
Hampden-Sydney College (invited)
University of Haifa, Haifa 2024 (invited)
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem 2024 (invited)
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Munich 2024 (invited)
University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth 2024 (invited)
Annual Southwest Graduate Philosophy Conference, Tempe 2023 (keynote)
- In Defense of Methodological Temporalism about Well-Being
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem 2024 (invited)
University of Kansas, Lawrence 2022
Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society Meeting, New Orleans 2022
International Network for Economic Method, Tempe 2021
- Choice, Exit, and Paternalism
Flourishing, Capital, and Paternalism Symposium, Tempe 2023 (invited)
Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society Meeting, New Orleans 2023
Second International Behavioral Public Policy Conference, Chapel Hill 2023
Business Ethics in the 6ix, Toronto 2023
- Between Abundance and Scarcity (with Tom Rowe)
American Philosophical Association, Montreal 2023
10th Annual Workshop for Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy, Tucson 2022
UPenn Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop, Philadelphia 2022
Virginia Tech Center for Humanities, Blacksburg 2021

On Hardships and Expectations

Arizona State University, Tempe 2022 (invited)

Workplace Paternalism

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota 2022 (invited)

Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting, Philadelphia 2021 (online)

American Philosophy Association – Eastern Division, New York 2021 (online)

Joint Session of the Mind Association and Aristotelian Society, Kent 2020 (online)

Young Philosophers Lecture Series, Prindle Institute for Ethics, DePauw 2019

The Shape of a Life Does Not Matter

Conference on the Meaning of Life, Haifa 2019

Well-Being Coherentism

British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Kent 2020 (online)

Wake Forest University Eudaimonia Institute 2019 (invited)

Israeli Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, Jerusalem 2019

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society Meeting, New Orleans 2019

Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle 2018

Can Workplace Well-Being Policies be Wrong?

Society for Business Ethics, Chicago 2018

From Models to Experiments; James Buchanan and Charles Plott

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society Meeting, New Orleans 2018

No Theory-Free Lunches in Well-Being Policy

45th annual Philosophy of Science Conference, Dubrovnik 2018 (invited)

Mississippi Philosophical Association, Starkville 2018

Brookings Institute Workshop on New Directions and Challenges in Well-being Research, Washington 2017 (invited)

Philosophy of Social Science Round Table, Vancouver 2017

Conversation: Ethical Challenges in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

10th Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Blacksburg 2018

A Case Against Spoofing

Society for Business Ethics Annual Conference, Atlanta 2017

UPenn Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop, Philadelphia 2016

The Disunity of Experimental Biomedical and Social Science as a Working Hypothesis

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society Meeting, New Orleans 2017

Philosophy of Scientific Experimentation 5 (PSX5), Belgrade 2016

Just Go Ahead and Lie, So You Can Be Held Accountable

North Carolina Philosophical Society Meeting, Wilmington 2017

The Role of Well-Being Indices in Policy

Virginia Tech Center for Public Administration & Policy, Alexandria 2017
(invited)

Brookings Institute Workshop on New Directions and Challenges in Well-being Research, Washington 2016 (invited)

Plato's Failure to Invent Economics
History of Economic Thought Society, Durham, NC – June 2016
Philosophy of Social Science Round Table, Tampa, FL – March 2016

Deception in Experimental Social Sciences
WVU Workshop on Experimental Political Science, Morgantown 2016 (invited)
16th Annual Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference, Pittsburgh 2014

Filling the Void; the Need for Accounts in Defense of Well-Being Measures
The Making of Measurement Conference (CRASHH), Cambridge 2015
Fifth Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology Conference, Dallas 2015

Three Problematic Paths to Well-Being Policy
Second International Wellbeing and Public Policy Conference, Clinton 2014
American Philosophy Association – Pacific Division, San Diego 2014

Why an Evidential Account of Preferences is not Enough
European Network for the Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Venice 2013
International Network of Economic Methodology Conference, Rotterdam 2013

Eliminating Candidates for Best Scientific Theories
Philosophy of Science Association, San Diego 2012
Theoretical Virtues in Theory Choice Workshop, Konstanz 2012
British Society of Philosophy of Science, Stirling 2012

Risk and Responsibility
Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society & the Mind Association, the Postgraduate Session, Stirling 2012

Can a Senian Solution Save Sen's Capability Approach?
Hebrew University Graduate Philosophy Conference, Jerusalem 2012

Minimal Learning from Minimal Models
International Network of Economic Methodology Conference. Helsinki 2011

Teaching

Instructor

*All classes at Virginia Tech unless otherwise indicated

Happiness, Well-Being, and the Good Life

Allocative Fairness

Well-Being: Theory and Practice (Hebrew University, Jerusalem Israel PPE BA)

Political Philosophy

Introduction to Philosophy, Politics & Economics

Advanced Topics in Philosophy, Politics & Economics - Capstone Course

Gateway to Philosophy, Politics & Economics

Morality and Justice

Ethics in Economics (Pontifica Universidad Javeriana Department of Economics PhD Program)

Philosophy of Economics for M.A students

Ethical Theory: Well-Being

Ethics of Global Poverty

Bioethics (George Mason University)

Philosophy of Science (University of California – San Diego)

Introduction to Ethics (University of California – San Diego)

Pedagogical Training

The Summer Institute: Professional Development for Undergraduate Education, Virginia Tech 2023

The Summer Institute: Professional Development for Undergraduate Education, Virginia Tech 2019

The 15th Annual Bentley Teaching Business Ethics Faculty Development Workshop and Symposium, 2019

The Summer Institute: Professional Development for Undergraduate Education, Virginia Tech 2018

10th Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Virginia Tech 2018

Innovations in Teaching & Learning Conference, George Mason University 2016

Workshop on Teaching Business Ethics, Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics, 2016

Workshop on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy, American Association of Philosophy Teachers, 2014

The College Classroom, Center for Teaching Development, UCSD 2014

Professional Services

Journal referee *Philosophical Studies; Politics, Philosophy & Economics; Public Affairs Quarterly; Social Choice and Welfare; Journal of Economic Methodology; Pacific Philosophical Quarterly; Studies in History and Philosophy of Science; Business Ethics Quarterly; Philosophers' Imprint; Synthese; Philosophy of Science; The British Journal for Philosophy of Science; Economics & Philosophy; International Studies in the Philosophy of Science; Journal of Business Ethics; Philosophical Quarterly; Utilitas; European Journal for Philosophy of Science; Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy; Journal of Social Philosophy; Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part C; Journal of Experimental Social Psychology; Journal of Happiness Studies; Review of Social Economy; Behavioral Science & Policy; Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization; Erasmus Journal for*

Philosophy and Economics; Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics; Res Philosophica; Emotion Review; SAGE Open; Applied Research for Quality of Life

Director of Graduate Studies (2024-present)	
Conference Organizer	Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, Blacksburg VA (2026) Virginia Philosophical Association 85th Annual Philosophy Conference, Blacksburg VA (2024)
External review committee	Georgia State University, Philosophy (2026) Denison College, PPE (2026) James Madison University, Philosophy & Religion (2023)
President	Virginia Philosophical Association (2023-2024)
Vice President	Virginia Philosophical Association (2022-2023)
Secretary	Virginia Philosophical Association (2021-2022)
Committee member	APA Committee on Academic Career Opportunities and Placement (2018-2021)
Faculty editor	Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Review: An International Undergraduate Journal (2020-present)
Scientific committee	15th Biennial Conference of the International Network for Economic Method (2021) Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology Conference (2018)
Panel organizer	“Well-Being Science” (with Tyler DesRoches) at the Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle (2018) “Lessons from Experimental Public Economics” at the Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) Society Meeting, New Orleans (2018) “Ethical Lessons from the Biomedical Sciences for the Social Sciences” at the Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) Society Meeting, New Orleans (2017)
Discussion leader	Coming Home Project; Dialogues on the Moral, Psychological, and Spiritual Impacts of War ×3 (2017-2019)
Judge	Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (2016)
Conference organizer	UCSD Philosophy Graduate Conference (2015) UCSD Graduate Philosophy Colloquia (2012-13)