

# IRINA MIKHALEVICH, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies  
Graduate Faculty in Cognitive Science  
North Carolina State University  
Associate Editor, *American Journal of Bioethics-Neuroscience*  
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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

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**AOS:** Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science (especially animal cognition and artificial intelligence), Bioethics, Philosophy of Biology

**AOC:** Philosophy of Mind, Ethics

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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**2024-present**     *Assistant Professor, North Carolina State University*, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

**2017-2024**     *Assistant Professor,<sup>1</sup> Rochester Institute of Technology*, Department of Philosophy; *Graduate Faculty in the AI Master's Program & Cognitive Science Doctoral Program*

**2016-2017**     *Visiting Fellow, Northeastern University*, Department of Philosophy and Religion

**2016**             *Postdoctoral Fellow, Humboldt-Universität*, Berlin School of Mind and Brain.

**2014-2016**     *James S. McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis*, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program

## EDUCATION

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**Boston University**, Ph.D. (2014)

Doctoral Dissertation Title: “Experiment and Bias: The Case of Parsimony in Comparative Cognition.” Advisor: Alisa Bokulich

**University of California at Berkeley**, B.A. (2003; philosophy)

## BOOKS

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*Normative Species: The Evolutionary Foundations of Political Society* (under contract with OUP, with R. Powell; in progress: draft of manuscript ~90% completed).

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<sup>1</sup> deferred tenure

## ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, & BOOK REVIEWS

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- (forthcoming) “Did Sentience Evolve?” In *Psychodiversity: Cognition and Sentience Beyond Humans*, eds. Grant Ramsey and Bendik Aaby. Routledge. (with R. Powell).
2026. Editorial: “Is it time for a (more) comparative neuroethics? And what might that look like?” *AJOB neuroscience*. 17(2)
2025. “Consciousness at Sea” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*. doi: 10.1098/rstb.2024.0313
2025. “Intervention and Experiment” *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*. 15(18) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13194-025-00647-3>
2023. “Wonderful mind: convergentism and the crusade against evolutionary progress” *Journal of Philosophy of History* (with R. Powell).
2022. “Animal cognition.” In *Mind, Cognition, and Neuroscience: A Philosophical Introduction*, eds. B.D. Young and C.D. Jennings. Routledge. pp. 229-247
2021. “How the moral community evolves” In *Rethinking Moral Status*, eds. S. Clarke and J. Savulescu. Oxford University Press. pp. 231-249 (with Rachell Powell and Allen Buchanan)
2021. Review of the book *How to Study Animal Minds*, by K. Andrews. *BJPS Review of Books*, <https://www.thebsps.org/reviewofbooks/mikhalevich-on-andrews/>
2021. “Affective sentience and moral protections.” *Animal Sentience* 29(35) (20 pages; reply to ~40 commentaries; with R. Powell) DOI: 10.51291/2377-7478.1668. <https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1668&context=animsent>
2020. Target article: “Minds without spines: evolutionarily inclusive animal ethics.” *Animal Sentience* 29(1) (with R. Powell) <https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/animsent/vol5/iss29/1/> (refereed by 8 reviewers from four different fields)
2018. “Animal suicide: An account worth giving?” *Animal Sentience* 20(19) <https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1316&context=animsent>
2017. “Consciousness, evidence, and moral standing: A reply to Woodruff on teleost consciousness” *Animal Sentience* 13. <https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1208&context=animsent>
2017. “Is behavior flexibility evidence of cognitive complexity? How evolution can inform comparative cognition” *Journal of the Royal Society Interface Focus* 7(3), 20160121 (with R. Powell and C. Logan) <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rsfs.2016.0121>
2017. “Convergent minds: The evolution of cognitive complexity in nature,” *Journal of the Royal Society Interface Focus* 7 <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsfs.2017.0029> (with R. Powell, C. Logan, and N. Clayton)
2017. “Simplicity and cognitive modeling: avoiding old mistakes in new experimental contexts.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds*, eds. K. Andrews and J. Beck.
2016. “Sex, lies, and gender” 43:14-16 *Journal of Medical Ethics* (with R. Powell)
2015. “Experiment and animal minds: why the choice of the null hypothesis matters” *Philosophy of Science*. 82: 1-11
2015. “Honor among (the beneficiaries of) thieves.” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 18: 385-402 (published under Meketa)
2014. “A critique of the principle of cognitive simplicity in comparative cognition.” *Biology and Philosophy*. 29: 731-745 (published under Meketa)

## **MAJOR GRANTS**

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**2020-2024:** Awarded \$234,000 from the Templeton World Charity Foundation through the Diverse Intelligences Initiative for a project titled, *Minds Without Spines: Uncovering the Deep Structure of Mind, Meaning, and Morality*, with Co-PIs, Rachell Powell (Boston University) and Kristin Andrew (York University) and in consultation with Allen Buchanan (Arizona/Duke).

## **JOURNAL ISSUES EDITED**

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Special Issue of the Royal Society's *Interface: Focus*, titled: "Convergent Minds: The Evolution of Cognitive Complexity in Nature" (co-editors: N.S. Clayton FRS, C. Logan, R. Powell)

## **TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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- Invited talk: "Did Sentience Evolve?," *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Atlanta, GA February 2026
- Invited commentary on "Android Aloneness? Exploring the Possibility of Robot Emotions," *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Atlanta, GA February 2026
- Invited panelist, Animal Studies Project Workshop. UNC. December 2025
- Invited keynote: "The Subject of Concern: Individuality and Moral Status for Animals and AI" *York University Graduate Student Conference in Animal Cognition*. Toronto, Canada. April 2024.
- "Against Simplicity" North Carolina State University. February 2024.
- "Authenticity and AI" Faculty Colloquium Series. RIT. November 2023.
- "Responsibility and AI" facilitator of and speaker at a one-day workshop for AWARE-AI NSF Research Traineeship Program. Rochester Institute of Technology. September 2023.
- "AI, Democracy, and Justice" facilitator of and speaker at a one-day workshop for AWARE-AI NSF Research Traineeship Program. Rochester Institute of Technology. September 2023.
- Panelist, "Reproductive Rights, Women's Rights, Human Rights" *WGSS Speaker Series*. Rochester Institute of Technology. November 2022.
- "AI and Distributed Responsibility" facilitator of speaker at a one-day workshop for AWARE-AI NSF Research Traineeship Program. Rochester Institute of Technology. November 2022.
- "AI, Justice, and Democracy" facilitator of and speaker at a one-day workshop for AWARE-AI NSF Research Traineeship Program. Rochester Institute of Technology. April 2022.
- "The Convergent Evolution of Welfare and Value" *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division*. Vancouver, BC April 2022.
- "Welfare, Affect, and Moral Standing" *Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals Colloquium Series*. Zoom. March 2022.
- "The Consistency Case for Invertebrate Moral Standing," *Invertebrate Animal Sentience Webinar* major two-session remote seminar hosted by Wellbeing International with over 2,000 registrants in attendance. October 2021
- "Normativity and Moral Value." *NIH Joint Bioethics Colloquium on Normative Ethics in Relation to Evolutionary Moral Psychology*, National Institute of Health and George Washington University, online. April 2021
- "Normativity in the Living World." *Evolution of Normativity Series*, York University and John Carrol University, online. April 2021

Invited panelist/presenter for two-day workshop on Allen Buchanan's forthcoming book, "Beyond Tribalism: The Evolution of Exclusive Morality," *The Center for Philosophy of Freedom*. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. March 2019

"Robot Crickets and Arthropod Intelligence: How Insect Models Shape Metaphors of Mind." *Stan McKenzie Salon Speaker Series* titled "Liberal Arts and AI," Rochester Institute of Technology. December 2018

"Arthropod Intelligence: What Entomology Can Teach AI" *Artificial Intelligence Seminar Series*, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. November 2018

"Simplicity and Models of Mind" invited speaker at the *Cognitive Science Colloquium Series* at the Center for Cognitive Science, University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. November 2018

"Cognitive Bias and Moral Deliberation: The Case of Invertebrate Animals." "Ethics in Entomology: Considerations for Research and Policy" symposium at the *Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America and the Entomological Society of Canada*, Vancouver, Ca. November 2018

"Experimentation and Manipulation," *Philosophy of Science Association*, Seattle WA. November 2018.

"Minds Without Spines" *Seminar Series* at the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford University, Oxford, England. June 2018

"Minds Without Spines: Toward a More Comprehensive Animal Ethics." *Animal Philosophy Lecture Series*. Williams College, MA. April 2018

"Minds Without Spines: Implications of Invertebrate Cognition for Cognitive Science and Animal Ethics" *Cognitive Science Lecture Series*. York University. Toronto, CA. February 2018

"Minds Without Spines: Toward a More Comprehensive Animal Ethics" *Hale Ethics Series*, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester NY. October 2017

"Experimenting and Intervening" *Upstate Philosophy of Science Workshop Series*, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY. August 2017

"Is Behavioral Flexibility Evidence of Cognitive Complexity?" *Faculty Works-in-Progress Series* Northeastern University. January 2017

"Simplicity in Cognitive Modeling" *Colloquium Series for the Adaptive Rationality & Adaptive Behavior and Cognition Groups*, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin Germany. July 2016

"No Simplicity Simpliciter" *Mind-Brain Lecture Series* at the Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Humboldt University. Berlin, Germany. July 2016

"Smart Moves: Is Behavioral Flexibility Evidence of Cognitive Complexity?" *Convergent Minds: Investigating the Evolution of Cognitive Complexity in Nature* at Boston University. October 2015

Invited Commentary for Marta Halina's "Inference and Error in Comparative Psychology: The Case of Mindreading" *Minds Online Conference*. September 2015

"Experimenting and Intervening" *Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference* at Macquarie University. July 2015

"Behavioral Flexibility as Evidence of Cognitive Complexity: The Argument Behind the Intuition" *Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Colloquium* at Washington University-St. Louis. March 2015

"Behavioral Flexibility as Evidence of Cognitive Complexity: The Argument Behind the Intuition" *Saint Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association Conference*. St. Louis University, March 2015

"Experiment and Animal Minds: Why Statistical Choices Matter" *Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*, November 2014

"A Critique of the Principle of Cognitive Simplicity in Comparative Cognition" *History and Philosophy of Science Research Group* at the University of Cambridge, UK. October 2014

"How Parsimony Biases Experimental Design in Comparative Cognition." *Philosophy of Scientific Experimentation Conference 4 (PSX4)* hosted by The Center for Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh, April 2014

- “A Critique of the Principle of Cognitive Simplicity in Comparative Cognition.” *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP)*. February 2014
- “A Critique of the Principle of Cognitive Simplicity in Comparative Cognition.” *Fourth Conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA)* at the University of Helsinki. August 2013 (accepted but unable to attend)
- “Constructing the Null Hypothesis: Epistemic and Non-Epistemic Values in Statistical Methods.” *Symposium Session at the APA Pacific Division*. San Francisco, CA. March 2013
- “A Critique of the Principle of Cognitive Simplicity in Comparative Cognition.” *39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology* at Brown University. May 2013 (poster)
- “Coping with Interdisciplinarity in Animal Studies.” *Navigating a Multispecies World: A Graduate Student Conference on the Species Turn*. Harvard University. April 2013
- Invited Commentary for Dan W. Brock’s “Physician-Assisted Suicide and End-of-Life Issues.” *Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion 2013–2014 Lecture Series*. October 2013
- “The False Dichotomy Between Experiment and Observation: The Case of Comparative Cognition.” *Philosophy of Scientific Experimentation Conference 3 (PSX3)*. University of Colorado. October 2012
- “The Importance of Attending to the Null Hypothesis in Comparative Psychology: Replacing Occamism with Empirical Information in Statistical Analysis.” *Animal Cognition Conference*. Ruhr Universität. Bochum, Germany. June 2012
- “Sentimentality and Objectivity: Challenging the Ideal of Emotional Detachment in Comparative Cognition.” *Minding Animals Conference* at Utrecht, Netherlands. July 2012 (poster)
- “Experiment and Observation in Comparative Cognition.” Indiana University Center for Integrative Study of Animal Behavior. September 2012
- Invited Commentary for Ronald Sandler’s “Climate Change, Ecosystem Management, and Ecological Virtue.” *Boston University Karbank Symposium in Environmental Philosophy*. April 2010
- “Irreversible Loss of Personhood: Toward a Viable Model of Human Death.” *Graduate Student Presentation Series*, Boston University. June 2008

## **REFeree WORK**

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*MIT Press, Biology & Philosophy, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Medicine Healthcare & Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Philosophical Psychology, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Synthese, Foundations of Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Philosophical Quarterly, Australian Journal of Philosophy*

## **PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING & RELATED ACTIVITIES**

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- Program Development Taskforce, Master’s in AI Program, RIT (launched 2024)
- Program Development Taskforce, Cognitive Science Ph.D. Program, RIT (launched 2025)
- Ethics Advisor, Anthrobots project at the Levin lab, Tufts University (2022)
- Referee, Austrian Science Fund (2021)
- Panelist, National Science Foundation, remote (Fall 2021, 2 days)
- Panelist, National Science Foundation, remote (Spring 2020, 3 days)
- Panelist, National Science Foundation, Washington D.C. (Spring 2019, 3 days)
- Panelist, National Science Foundation, Washington D.C. (Fall 2019, 3 days)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**North Carolina State University** *The Scientific Method (advanced undergraduate / graduate)*  
*Philosophy of Science*  
*Seminar: Animal Cognition (advanced undergraduate/graduate)*  
*Philosophy, Evolution, and Human Nature (advanced undergraduate/graduate)*

**Rochester Institute of Technology** *Introduction to Moral Issues*  
*Responsible Knowing*  
*Bioethics and Society*  
*Philosophy of Mind*  
*Philosophy of Science*  
*Seminar: Philosophy of Experiment*  
*Seminar: Animals, Minds, and Morals*  
*Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (graduate course for engineers in the M.S. in AI Program)*

**Northeastern University** *Moral and Social Problems in Healthcare*  
*Philosophy of Science (Capstone course)*

**Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität** *Philosophy of Experiment (graduate seminar)*

**Washington University in St. Louis, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program** *Introduction to Cognitive Science*

**Boston University** *Ethics of Healthcare (advanced undergraduate/graduate)*  
*Introduction to Ethics (supervised one graduate student teaching fellow)*  
*Medical Ethics (supervised four graduate student teaching fellows)*  
*Introduction to Ethics*  
*Philosophy of Science*

## **GRADUATE THESIS SUPERVISION AND COMMITTEE WORK**

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May 2022: Ricardo Ernesto Aguilera Ochoa, "Reference, Not Representation: Descriptive and Causal-historical Bridges Between Models and the World"

## **SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

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**2024-present** LACSI Steering Committee, NCSU  
**2024** LACSI Speaker Series Co-Organizer, NCSU  
**2024** Committee Member, Logic Search Committee, NCSU  
**2023** Co-Chair AI/Cog Sci Search Committee, RIT

<b>2023</b>	Ezra Hale Series on Artificial Intelligence, co-organizer and moderator
<b>2023</b>	Philosophy Faculty Colloquium Series, co-organizer and moderator
<b>2020-2024</b>	Elections Committee, RIT
<b>2019-2020</b>	Master's in Artificial Intelligence Taskforce Committee, RIT
<b>2018-2020</b>	Ph.D. in Cognitive Science Development Committee, RIT
<b>2017-2018</b>	RIT Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, co-organizer
<b>2015</b>	Co-organizer of the joint Washington University-St. Louis and Boston University international conference, " <i>Convergent Minds: Investigating the Evolution of Cognitive Complexity in Nature</i> ," hosted by Boston University's Center for Philosophy and History of Science
<b>2014-2016</b>	Co-organizer of the PNP/Medical School Colloquium Series at Washington University in St. Louis
<b>2012-2013</b>	Founder of weekly Boston University Dissertation Writing Group
<b>2011</b>	Boston University Center for the Philosophy and History of Science Colloquium, titled "Animal Minds," co-organizer and moderator
<b>2009-2010, Summer 2010</b>	Boston University Graduate Student Presentation Series (BU GSPS), organizer and moderator
<b>2008-2009</b>	President of the Philosophy Graduate Student Association

## **LANGUAGES**

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English (native), Russian (native), Italian (some reading)

## **REFERENCES**

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### **DR. KRISTIN ANDREWS**

Professor of Philosophy and  
York Research Chair in Animal Ethics  
York University  
Email: andrewsk@yorku.ca

### **DR. COLIN ALLEN**

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Email: prof.colin.allen@gmail.com

### **DR. ALISA BOKULICH**

Professor of Philosophy  
Boston University  
Email: abokulich@bu.edu

### **DR. RON MALLON**

Chair and Professor of Philosophy and  
Director of Philosophy-Neuroscience-  
Psychology (PNP) Program  
Washington University-St. Louis  
Email: rmallon@artsci.wustl.edu

### **DR. DALE JAMIESON**

Professor of Philosophy and  
Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies  
Director, Center for Environmental and Animal  
Protection  
Affiliated Professor of Law, Medical Ethics, and Bioethics  
Founding Director of Environmental Studies Program  
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