

Emily A. Heydon

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program
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Education

- 2028 (Expected) Ph.D., Philosophy, The State University of New York at Buffalo.
AOS: Game Theory, Evolutionary Game Theory, PPE, Philosophy of Biology
AOC: Decision Theory, Philosophy of Science, Political Philosophy
- 2020-2024 Ph.D. student, Logic and Philosophy of Science, UC Irvine.
- 2020 B.A., Philosophy and Environmental Sciences, University of Notre Dame.
Also completed all degree requirements for B.S. in Environmental Sciences.

Publications

- 2023 “Exploring an Evolutionary Paradox: An Analysis of the ‘Spite Effect’ and
the ‘Nearly Neutral Effect’ in Synergistic Models of Finite Populations.”
Philosophy of Science 90 (5):1437-1448.

Papers in Progress and Under Review

- Draft Available* “Constructed Games.” An analysis of how niche construction impacts the dynamics
of evolutionary games.
- In Preparation* “The Social and Political Limits of Ecological Rationality.”
On preserving the rationality of minoritized and impoverished agents.
- “Why Sociopaths Tithe.” On the type of free-rider that Buchanan overlooked.
- “Reputation, Retaliation, and Noisy Information.” On how errors allow defectors to
exploit cooperative individuals in sparsely connected social networks.
- “A New Account of Environment-Dependent Incentive Modification.” On why and
when players are incentivized to modify or misrepresent game environments.

Invited Talks

- 2025 “Niche Construction and the Evolution of Cooperation.” The Puzzle of Social Behavior: Game Theory and Beyond Workshop, Bielefeld, Germany.
- 2024 “Niche Construction and (Co)Evolutionary Games.” University at Buffalo Philosophy Research Forum, Buffalo, New York.

Refereed Talks

- 2025 “Constructed Games.” European Philosophy of Science Assoc. 10th Biennial Meeting, Groningen, Netherlands.
- 2024 “Reputation, Retaliation, and Noisy Information.” Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society 8th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- “Reputation, Retaliation, and Noisy Information.” (Poster.) Philosophy of Science Assoc. 29th Biennial Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2022 “Exploring an Evolutionary Paradox: An Analysis of the ‘Spite Effect’ and the ‘Nearly Neutral Effect’ in Synergistic Models of Finite Populations.” Philosophy of Science Assoc. 28th Biennial Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Academic Awards and Fellowships

- Schomburg Fellowship, University at Buffalo, 2024-2028
- James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University, 2020 (declined)
- University Scholars Fellowship, Duke University, 2020 (declined)
- USS Bowfin Memorial Scholarship, 2015-2019
- Dolphin Scholarship, 2016-2019
- National Merit Scholarship, 2015

Courses Taught

- As Instructor of Record:*
- Environmental Ethics (UB, Summer 2026)
 - Contemporary Moral Problems (UB, Fall 2025)
- As Teaching Assistant:*
- Meaning of Life (UB, Spring 2026)
 - Computer-Based Research in the Social Sciences (UCI, Fall 2023)
 - Philosophy of Sex (UCI, Winter 2022)
 - Critical Thinking (UCI, Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021)
 - Introduction to Scientific Inquiry (UCI, Winter 2021)

Service Work

Chair, student-led department climate committee, UCI Logic & Philosophy of Science, 2022-23

Panelist, Wonder Philosophy (Irvine), panel on marginalized experiences in philosophy grad school, 2022

Associate Chair, student-led department climate committee, UCI Logic & Philosophy of Science, 2021-22

Representative, student-led department climate committee, UCI Logic & Philosophy of Science, 2020-21

Selected Graduate Coursework

Taken for credit; all "A" grades.

Foundations of PPE (UB, Fall 2025)

Institutions, Change, and Diversity in the Open Society (UB, Spring 2025)

Game Theory (UB, Fall 2024)

Chance and Probability (UCI, Spring 2022)

Philosophy of Science (UCI, Fall 2021)

History of Analytic Philosophy II (UCI, Spring 2021)

Incompleteness (UCI, Spring 2021)

Decision Theory and Deliberation (UCI, Winter 2021)

Metalogic (UCI, Winter 2021)

Set Theory (UCI, Fall 2020)