

# BEN ALMASSI

## CONTACT:

Division of Arts & Letters  
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## EMPLOYMENT:

Professor of Philosophy and Affiliate Professor of Gender & Sexuality Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Political & Social Justice Studies, Governors State University, University Park IL (2022–present)  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Governors State University, University Park IL (2018–2022)  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Governors State University, University Park IL (2013–2018)  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, College of Lake County, Grayslake IL (2009–2013)  
Predoctoral Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle WA (2005–2009)  
Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle WA (2003–2005)

## EDUCATION:

University of Washington, Seattle WA (2002–2009)  
MA, Philosophy (2004)  
PhD, Philosophy (2009)

Purdue University, West Lafayette IN (1997–2002)  
BA, Philosophy (2002)  
BS, Physics (2002)

## BOOKS:

*Nontoxic: Masculinity, Allyship, and Feminist Philosophy* (Palgrave Macmillan 2022)

*Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds* (Lexington Books 2020)

## JOURNAL ARTICLES:

What We Owe Owls: Nonideal Relationality among Fellow Creatures in the Old Growth Forest  
*Relations: Beyond Anthropocentrism* (forthcoming 2023)

Relationally Responsive Expert Trustworthiness  
*Social Epistemology* 36(5) (2022)

Value Disputes in Urban Ecological Restoration: Lessons from the Chicago Wilderness  
*Studies in History & Philosophy of Science* 87 (2021)

Beyond Science Wars Redux: Feminist Philosophy of Science as Trustworthy Science Criticism  
*Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 34(4) (2019)

Skepticism and Pluralism on Ethics Expertise  
*Social Philosophy Today* 35 (2019)

Epistemic Injustice and its Amelioration: Toward Restorative Epistemic Justice  
*Social Philosophy Today* 34 (2018)

Medical Error and Moral Repair  
*International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 32(2) (2018)

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What's Wrong with Ponzi Schemes? Trust and its Exploitation in Financial Investment  
*International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 32(1) (2018)

Climate Change and the Need for Intergenerational Reparative Justice  
*Journal of Agricultural & Environmental Ethics* 30 (2017)

Ecological Restorations as Practices of Moral Repair  
*Ethics & the Environment* 22(1) (2017)

Toxic Funding? Conflicts of Interest and their Epistemological Significance  
*Journal of Applied Philosophy* 34(2) (2016)

Feminist Reclamations of Normative Masculinity  
*Feminist Philosophy Quarterly* 1(2) (2015)

Medical Ghostwriting and Informed Consent  
*Bioethics* 28(9) (2014)

Trust and the Duty of Organ Donation  
*Bioethics* 28(6) (2014)

Climate Change, Epistemic Trust, and Expert Trustworthiness  
*Ethics & the Environment* 17(2) (2012)

Climate Change and the Ethics of Individual Emissions: A Response to Sinnott-Armstrong  
*Perspectives: International Postgraduate Journal of Philosophy* 4 (2012)

The Consequences of Individual Consumption: A Defense of Threshold Arguments for Vegetarianism and Consumer Ethics  
*Journal of Applied Philosophy* 28(4) (2011)

Disability, Functional Diversity, and Trans/feminism  
*International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* 3(2) (2010)

Conflicting Expert Testimony and the Search for Gravitational Waves  
*Philosophy of Science* 76(5) (2009)

Trust in Expert Testimony: Eddington's Eclipse Expedition and the British Response to General Relativity  
*Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 40(1) (2009)

Experts, Evidence, and Epistemic Independence  
*Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science* 1(1) (2007)

## REVIEWS & REPLIES:

Review, *Reconsidering Reparations* by Olufemi Taiwo (Oxford University Press 2022)  
*Environmental Ethics* (2022)

Review, *Expertise: A Philosophical Introduction* by Jamie Carlin Watson (Bloomsbury Academic 2020)  
*Metapsychology Online Reviews* (2020)

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Reply, “Oral History and the Epistemology of Testimony” by Tim Kenyon  
*Social Epistemology Reply & Review Collective* (2016)

Review, *A Defense of Ignorance*, by Cynthia Townley (Lexington Books 2011)  
*Hypatia* 28(1) (2013)

Review, *The Philosophy of Expertise*, ed. Evan Selinger & Robert Crease (Columbia University Press 2006)  
*Ethics* 117(2) (2007)

## IN EDITED COLLECTIONS:

Social Epistemology

*Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy* (Springer 2022)

Climate Reparations, Compensation, and Intergenerational Restorative Justice

*Environmental Restorative Justice*, ed. Brunilda Pali & Miranda Forsyth (Palgrave Macmillan 2022)

Sins of the Fathers: Historical Injustice and its Repair in *Black Panther*

*Black Panther and Philosophy*, ed. Edwardo Perez & Timothy Brown (Blackwell 2022)

Justice After the Dam Breaks

*Restorative Justice and the Environment*, ed. Carla Boin, Joao Salm & Katia Roncada (AJUFE 2022)

Intellectual Trust in an Examined Life: On Vicious and Virtuous Trust in Philosophy

*The Bright and the Good*, ed. Audrey Anton (Rowman & Littlefield 2018)

Experts in the Climate Change Debate

*Companion to Applied Philosophy*, eds. Kimberley Brownlee, David Coady & Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen (Blackwell 2016)

After Exploitation and Degradation: Prospects for a Model of Environmental Restorative Justice

*Cidadania, Justica Restaurativa e Meio Ambiente*, eds. Enzo Bello & Joao Salm (Lumen Juris 2016)

Expertise in Agriculture: Scientific and Ethical Issues

*Encyclopedia of Food & Agricultural Ethics*, eds. Paul Thompson & David Kaplan (Springer 2015)

‘Jackie Treehorn Treats Objects Like Women, Man!’ The Dude as Feminist Ally

*The Big Lebowski and Philosophy*, ed. Peter Fosl (Wiley 2012)

Public Understanding of Climate Science and the Ethics of Expertise

*Between Scientists and Citizens*, ed. Jean Goodwin (GPSSA 2012)

## RECENT PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY:

Owl vs. Owl in the Old Growth Forest

Earth Week Public Lecture on Values and the Environment, Governors State University (April 2022)

How to do Public Philosophy – In Person, In Print, and Online

Public Philosophy Network, American Philosophical Association, Chicago IL (February 2022)

Restorative Justice and Climate Change

Speaker Series, The Mint House: Oxford Centre for Restorative Practice, Oxford UK (October 2021)

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Climate Justice as Intergenerational Repair

Roundtable on Climate Justice, Governors State University (April 2021)

Reparative Justice and Ecological Restoration

Guest Speaker, Volunteer Site Steward Network, Forest Preserves of Cook County (January 2021)

Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds

Interview, Thought About Food Podcast with Ian Werkheiser (December 2020)

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

Trust in Expertise and Conspiracy Theories

+ Philosophy, Politics & Economics Conference, New Orleans LA (November 2022)

The Masters Tools Challenge for Feminist Allyship Masculinity

+ Feminist Ethics & Social Theory (FEAST) Conference, Clearwater FL (October 2022)

Owl vs. Owl: Toward Interspecies Repair in the Old Growth Forest

+ International Association for Environmental Philosophy (online) (October 2021)

+ Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals, Colloquium Series (online) (October 2020)

Climate Reparations, Compensation, and Intergenerational Restorative Justice

+ Onati Workshop on Environmental Restorative Justice (online) (June 2021)

+ Philosophy and the Climate Crisis, Philosophers for Sustainability (online) (June 2021)

+ North American Society for Social Philosophy (online) (July 2021)

Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds

+ Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University (online) (April 2021)

Reparative Intergenerational Justice in a World of Wounds

+ Climate Justice Workshop, University of Washington (online) (February 2021)

Author-Meets-Critics, *Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds*

+ Association for Practical & Professional Ethics Annual Conference (online) (February 2021)

Good Will, Disinterest, and Owning the Libs: On Affective Indicators of Expert Trustworthiness

+ Social Indicators of Trust in Experts, PERITIA, Institut Jean Nicod (online) (October 2020)

Justice After the Dam Breaks

+ International Webinar on Restorative Justice and the Environment (online) (August 2020)

Advocacy in Reparative Justice

+ Public Philosophy Network, American Philosophical Association, Chicago IL (February 2020)

Origins of the Chicago Wilderness

+ Catholic Intellectual Tradition Quarterly Salon, DePaul University, Chicago IL (November 2019)

Environmental Justice and Restorative Justice without Romanticism

+ Conference on Philosophy of the City, University of Detroit–Mercy, Detroit MI (October 2019)

+ International Society for Environmental Ethics Summer Conference, Blue River OR (July 2019)

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Ethics after Error: Malpractice, Mistrust, and the Limits of Medical Moral Repair

+ Medical Humanities Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (September 2018)

Trustworthy Science Criticism in Distrustful Times

+ Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle WA (November 2018)

+ Consortium on Socially Relevant Philosophy of Science and Engineering, Atlanta GA (June 2018)

+ Questioning Science in Uncertain Times Workshop, Ohio State University (February 2018)

Relational Autonomy, Trust, and the Varieties of Medical Ethics Expertise

+ North American Society for Social Philosophy, Oakland University, Oakland MI (July 2018)

+ Medical Humanities Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (September 2016)

Surgical Masks and Masked Review: Authorial Identity, Anonymity, and Implicit Bias in Peer Review

+ Medical Humanities Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (September 2017)

After Epistemic Injustice: Toward Reparative Epistemic Justice

+ North American Society for Social Philosophy, Loyola University, Chicago IL (July 2017)

+ Epistemology Brown-Bag Series, Northwestern University, Evanston IL (May 2017)

+ Feminist Epistemologies, Metaphysics, Methodologies & Science Studies Biennial Conference, University of Notre Dame, South Bend IN (October 2016)

Climate Change and the Prospects for a Theory of Intergenerational Environmental Reparative Justice

+ Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL (April 2016)

+ International Society for Environmental Ethics, Meeting, St. Louis MO (February 2015)

Teaching Chemistry Ethics to Chemistry Majors

+ Consortium on Socially Relevant Philosophy of/in Science & Engineering, Detroit MI (April 2015)

Environmental Restoration as Moral Repair

+ Central States Philosophical Association, Northwestern University, Evanston IL (October 2014)

+ Conference on Advancing Public Philosophy, Emory University, Atlanta GA (March 2013)

+ Conference on Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainability, BYU, Provo UT (November 2012)

Conflicts of Interest, Community-based Research, and Trustworthy Science Communication

+ Normative Aspects of Science Communication, Iowa State University, Ames IA (June 2014)

Feminist Allyship and Situated Knowledge

+ Feminist Epistemologies, Metaphysics, Methodologies & Science Studies Biennial Conference, University of Waterloo, Waterloo ON (August 2014)

Feminist Reclamations of Masculinity

+ Northeast Modern Languages Association, Harrisburg PA (April 2014)

+ Society for Analytical Feminism, Chicago IL (February 2012)

Peer Review in an ArXival Age

+ Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice, University of Toronto, Toronto ON (June 2013)

+ Workshop on the Social Organization of Scientific Inquiry, University of Pittsburgh (April 2013)

+ FEMMSS Biennial Conference, Pennsylvania State University, State College PA (May 2012)

+ Society for Social Studies of Science, Cleveland OH (November 2011)

+ Canadian Society for History & Philosophy of Science, Fredericton NB (6.2011)

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## Trusting Others and Knowing for Oneself

- + Conference on Value Inquiry, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green KY (April 2013)
- + Philosophy Colloquium, Purdue University-Calumet, Hammond IN (November 2010)

## Public Understanding of Climate Science and the Ethics of Expertise

- + Between Scientists & Citizens, Iowa State University, Ames IA (June 2012)

## Climate Change and the Ethics of Individual Emissions: A Response to Sinnott-Armstrong

- + Association for Practical & Professional Ethics, Cincinnati OH (March 2012)
- + International Society for Environmental Ethics, Chicago IL (February 2012)

## Ghostwriting in Medical Research

- + Medical Humanities Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (September 2011)

## Climate Change, Epistemic Trust, and the Ethics of Expertise

- + NSF Workshop on Climate Ethics, University of Alaska-Anchorage (September 2011)

## Writing Wrongs: Plagiarism, Ghostwriting, and the Epistemology of Testimony

- + Indiana Philosophical Association Fall Meeting, Hanover College, Hanover IN (October 2011)
- + Conference on Value Inquiry, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale IL (April 2010)

## A Defense of Threshold Arguments for Moral Vegetarianism and Consumer Ethics

- + Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics, Fredericton NB (June 2011)
- + Association for Practical & Professional Ethics, Cincinnati OH (March 2010)

## The Varieties of Expertise

- + Epistemology Brown-Bag Series, Northwestern University, Evanston IL (January 2011)

## Trust and Ponzi Schemes

- + Vincentian Business Ethics Conference, DePaul University, Chicago IL (October 2010)

## Trust in Testimony – Interpersonal and Evidential

- + American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago IL (February 2010)

## Trust in Expert Testimony: The 1919 Eclipse Expedition and the British Response to General Relativity

- + International History & Philosophy of Science Teaching, University of Notre Dame (June 2009)
- + Canadian Society for History & Philosophy of Science, Saskatoon SK (May 2007)

## Conflicting Expert Testimony and the Search for Gravitational Waves

- + Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Pittsburgh PA (November 2008)
- + Canadian Society for History & Philosophy of Science, Vancouver BC (June 2008)

## *On Liberty* as Feminist Methodology

- + Feminist Epistemologies, Metaphysics, Methodologies & Science Studies Biennial Conference, University of Washington, Seattle (November 2004)

## Genetic Therapy Ablism

- + Oklahoma State University Ethics Center Conference, Tulsa OK (February 2003)

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## COMMENTARIES:

Commentary: Beba Cibralic, “The Impermissible Targeting of ‘Voluntary’ Human Shields”  
+ American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago IL (February 2022)

Discussant, Visiting Fellows Roundtable (multiple presenters)  
+ DePaul Humanities Center, DePaul University, Chicago IL (February 2020)

Commentary: Julie Gibson, “Climate Justice for the Dead and the Dying”  
+ International Society for Environmental Ethics Summer Conference, Blue River OR (July 2019)

Commentary: Xiaoqian Hu, “Wave Function Anti-Realism”  
+ Illinois Philosophical Association, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL (October 2017)

Discussant, Poster Session (multiple presenters)  
+ Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL (April 2016)

Commentary: Donald Bungum, “Authorization and Address in Group Testimony”  
+ American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago IL (March 2016)

Commentary: Jean Goodwin, “What is ‘Responsible Advocacy’ in Science? Good Advice.”  
+ Great Plains Society for the Study of Argumentation, Iowa State University (June 2012)

Author-Meets-Critics: Matthew C. Altman, *Kant and Applied Ethics* (John Wiley & Sons, 2011)  
+ Association for Practical & Professional Ethics, Cincinnati OH (March 2012)

Commentary: Clark Wolf, “Climate, Environmental Management, and Intergenerational Debt”  
+ NSF Workshop on Climate Ethics, University of Alaska-Anchorage (September 2011)

Commentary: Jennifer Lackey, “Deficient Testimonial Knowledge”  
+ American Philosophical Association Central Division, Minneapolis MN (April 2011)

Commentary: Erica Neely, “Pointing Out the Experts”  
+ Ohio Philosophical Association, Dayton University (April 2011)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

### *Introductory Courses:*

Biomedical Ethics  
Contemporary Moral Problems  
Environmental Ethics  
Feminist Philosophy  
First Year Seminar  
Interdisciplinary Humanities  
Introduction to Ethics  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Introduction to Social & Political Philosophy  
Logic & Practical Reasoning  
Medical Humanities  
Philosophical Issues in Religion  
Scientific Reasoning

### *Intermediate & Advanced Courses:*

Advanced Ethics  
Chemistry Ethics  
Environmental Justice  
Ethics in Healthcare  
History & Philosophy of Science  
Interdisciplinary Ethics  
Interdisciplinary Theories  
Political Philosophy / Political Theory  
Race, Gender, Justice, and Identity  
Studies in the History of Philosophy  
Theories of Gender & Sexuality  
Theories of Social Justice  
Theory of Knowledge



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## **HONORS & AWARDS:**

Book Award Finalist, North American Society for Social Philosophy (2021)  
Awarded Sabbatical Leave, Governors State University (2020)  
Visiting Fellowship, DePaul Humanities Center, DePaul University (2019-2020)  
Awarded Tenure, Governors State University (2018)  
Awarded Tenure, College of Lake County (2012)  
Distinguished Dissertation Award, Philosophy Department Nominee, University of Washington (2009)  
Graduate Teaching Award, Philosophy Department, University of Washington (2008)  
Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Washington (2007)  
Research Fellowship, Philosophy Department, University of Washington (2002)  
Outstanding Graduate in Philosophy, Purdue University (2002)  
Steven C. Beering President's Scholarship, Purdue University (1997-2002)

## **PEER REVIEW:**

*Conservation & Society; De Ethica; Episteme; Ethics & the Environment; Ethics, Policy & Environment; Feminist Philosophy Quarterly; Hypatia: Journal of Feminist Philosophy; International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics; International Studies in Philosophy of Science; Journal of Applied Philosophy; Journal of Ethics; Journal of Social Philosophy; Kennedy Institute for Ethics Journal; Medicine, Healthcare & Philosophy; Philosophy of Science; Philosophical Quarterly; Social Epistemology; Synthese; Theoria; Third World Quarterly; Topoi*

## **GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

### *Program Service:*

Geography: Search Committee Chair (2014-2015)  
Gender & Sexuality Studies: Steering Committee Member (2016-2018; 2021-present)  
Interdisciplinary Studies: Advisory Council Member (2017-present)  
Interdisciplinary Studies: Program Chair, Program Revision, Curriculum Development (2022-present)  
Interdisciplinary Studies & Philosophy: Search Committee Chair (2022-2023)  
Philosophy: Advising, Coordination, Curriculum Development (2013-present)  
Political & Social Justice Studies: Program Revision and Curriculum Development (2018)  
Religious Studies: Advising, Coordination, Curriculum Development (2013-present)  
Restorative Justice Certificate: Program Creation and Curriculum Development (2021-present)

### *Divisional Service:*

Division of Arts & Letters Curriculum Committee (2017-2019; 2021-present)  
Division of Arts & Letters Faculty Research Series Coordinator (2015-present)  
Division of Arts & Letters Personnel Committee (2019-2021)

### *University Service:*

1964 Civil Rights Act Fiftieth Anniversary Conference, Planning & Program Committee Chair (2014)  
Faculty Development Committee Member (2014-2019)  
Faculty Senate Taskforce on Scheduling (2017-2018)  
Institutional Policies Committee Member (2016-2018)  
Men's Global Leadership Initiative Planning Committee Member and Workshop Facilitator (2014)  
Strategy 2025 Subcommittee Chair on Social, Ethical & Environmental Responsibility (2018-2021)  
Sustainability Advisory Council Member (2019-present)  
University Personnel Committee (2021-present)

### *Union Service:*

UPI Local 4100 (GSU Chapter) Area Representative and Organizing Team Member (2021-present)  
UPI Local 4100 (GSU Chapter) Bargaining Team Member (2015-2016; 2018-2019; 2021-present)



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## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Conference on Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology Program Committee Member, University of Texas at Dallas (2017–2018)

Ethics Bowl, Judge for Upper Midwest Regional Competition (2010; 2014; 2015; 2016) and Two-Year College (2017) Competition; Coach for College of Lake County (2013) and University of Washington (2005; 2006)

Facilitator and Instructor, Prison-Neighborhood Arts Project, Stateville Correctional Center (2012–2014)

Feminist Philosophy Brown-Bag Series Coordinator, College of Lake County, Grayslake IL (2010–2013)

Illinois Accreditation Initiative Humanities & Fine Arts Faculty Review Panel, (2014–present)

Organizer, “*The Shaky Game* at Twenty-Five” (Invited Symposium, American Philosophical Association

Pacific Division); and Roundtable Discussion and Celebration of Arthur Fine, Seattle WA (4.2012)

Peer Mentor, Philosophers Cocoon (2016; 2018; 2021)

Public Philosophy Network, Executive Board Member, Nominating Committee Chair, and Treasurer (2021–present)

## REFERENCES:

Arthur Fine  
Emer. Professor, Philosophy  
University of Washington  
afine@uw.edu

Sara Goering  
Assoc. Professor, Philosophy  
University of Washington  
sgoering@uw.edu

Alison Wylie  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of British Columbia  
alison.wylie@ubc.ca

Rebecca Munk  
Chair, Philosophy Dept.  
College of Lake County  
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Mike Hart  
GSU Chapter President  
UPI Local 4100  
mhart@govst.edu

Jason Zingsheim  
Dean, College of Arts & Science  
Governors State University  
jzingsheim@govst.edu