

NATHAN LAUFFER

College Park, Maryland, USA | ☎ (719) 337-2829 | ✉ nlauffer@umd.edu | natelauffer.com

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

- AOS** Epistemology (traditional, formal, and social)
AOC Philosophy of Language; Applied Ethics (especially AI and Technology); Philosophy of Religion; Logic

EMPLOYMENT

- Palm Beach Atlantic University** Assistant Professor of Philosophy 2026 – present
University of Maryland, College Park Lecturer in Philosophy 2025 – 2026
Metropolitan State University of Denver Lecturer in Philosophy 2024 – 2025

EDUCATION

- Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL Ph.D., Philosophy 2017 – 2024
Committee: Baron Reed (Chair), Jennifer Lackey, Sanford Goldberg, Fabrizio Cariani (external, UMD)
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI M.A., Philosophy 2015 – 2017
Biola University, La Mirada, CA B.A., Philosophy 2011 – 2014

PUBLICATIONS

1. 'Suboptimal Knowledge.' *Philosophical Studies* (Forthcoming).
2. 'Confirmation and Inquisitive Invariance.' *Thought* (Forthcoming).
3. 'Rational Inconsistency against Non-Skeptical Infallibilism.' *Acta Analytica* (2025).
4. 'Reconsidering Normative Defeat.' *Synthese* (2025).
5. 'On Group Background Beliefs.' *Philosophical Studies* (2022).

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. Paper on the temporal dimensions of inquiry (Under review at *Noûs*).
2. Paper on the Ignorance Norm (Under review at *APQ*).
3. Paper on assertion and evidence sources (In progress).
4. Paper on hedging and ignorance (In progress).
5. Paper on belief and statistical evidence (In progress).

PRESENTATIONS

Speaker

- Jan 2026 'Temporal Asymmetries of Inquiry,' APA Eastern Division Meeting (co-authored with Fabrizio Cariani).
- Oct 2025 'Hedging Without Ignorance,' UMD College Park Philosophy Department.
- Feb 2025 'Confirmation and the Norms of Inquiry,' MSU Denver Philosophy Department.
- Feb 2024 'Suboptimal Knowledge,' 17th Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference.
- Jan 2023 'On Group Background Beliefs,' APA Eastern Division Meeting.

- Feb 2022 'The Heresy of Normative Defeat,' APA Central Division Meeting.
- Jan 2017 'Certainty about Rationality,' Arizona State University Graduate Philosophy Conference.
- Oct 2016 'Certainty about Rationality,' Talbot School of Theology (Invited).

Commentator

- Jan 2025 Pol Pardini Gispert, 'Is Incoherence Within The Epistemic Normative Domain Undesirable?', APA Eastern.
- Feb 2024 Joshua Brecka, 'Lackey on Social Knowledge and Rational Group Action,' APA Central.
- Feb 2023 Mario Günther, 'Legal Proof Is Rational Belief of Guilt,' APA Central.
- Jan 2022 Amandine Catala and Luc Faucher, 'Autism and Epistemic Disablement,' APA Eastern.
- Apr 2021 Tez Clark, 'Functionalism and Moral Testimony,' 12th ND/NU Graduate Epistemology Conference.
- Feb 2019 Trystan Goetze, 'Epistemic Culpability,' APA Central.
- Apr 2018 Caitlin Fitchett, 'Against Epistemic Partiality in Friendship,' 9th ND/NU Graduate Epistemology Conference.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- **Distinguished Teaching Award** (2016–17) — Western Michigan University, Department of Philosophy.
- **Delbert J. Hansen Outstanding Philosophy Major Award** (2013–14) — Biola University, Department of Philosophy.

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

- Editorial Assistant, *Episteme*, Cambridge University Press (2019–2024).
- Journal Reviewing: *Analysis* (×1), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (×1), *Erkenntnis* (×1), *Philosophical Quarterly* (×3), *Philosophical Studies* (×1), *Synthese* (×5).

Service to the Department

- Lecturer Representative, Philosophy Department, University of Maryland, College Park (2025–2026).
- PPE Delegate for Recruiting Events, University of Maryland, College Park (2025–2026).
- Co-developer of 'Algorithms and Belief,' a course offered by the philosophy department at MSU Denver (2024–2025).
- Co-organizer, 12th Annual Northwestern–Notre Dame Graduate Epistemology Conference (2020–2021; delayed one year due to pandemic).
- Co-organizer, 11th Northwestern–Notre Dame Graduate Epistemology Conference (2018–2019).
- Epistemology Brownbag Series Coordinator, Northwestern University (2017–2020).

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Maryland, College Park

- Theory of Knowledge (Spring 2026)
- Early Modern Philosophy (Spring 2026)
- Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2026)
- AI and Ethics (Fall 2025)
- Philosophy of Religion (Fall 2025)
- Contemporary Moral Issues (Fall 2025)

Metropolitan State University of Denver

- Language, Logic, and Persuasion (Fall 2024; Spring 2025)
- Philosophy of Religion (Fall 2024)

- Morality and the Good Life (Spring 2025)

Northwestern University

- Elementary Logic I (Summer 2024)
- Introduction to Philosophy (Summer 2022)

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

- Epistemology (Spring 2024)
- Critical Thinking (Fall 2022; Fall 2023)
- Ethics (Spring 2023)
- Philosophy of Religion (Spring 2023)

Loyola University

- Social-Political Philosophy (Fall 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022)
- Ethics (Fall 2021; Spring 2023)

Western Michigan University

- Critical Thinking (Fall 2016; Spring 2017)
- Ethics in Engineering (Summer 2016)

COURSES TA'D

Northwestern University

- Philosophy of Natural Science (Mueller, Winter 2023)
- Ethical Problems and Public Issues (Horne, Fall 2022; Winter 2024)
- Punishment and Incarceration (Lackey, Spring 2021)
- Elementary Logic II (Ebels-Duggan, Winter 2021)
- Philosophy of Language (Hyska, Fall 2020; Spring 2024)
- Metaphysics (Cariani, Spring 2020)
- Philosophy of the Universe (Cariani, Fall 2019)
- Early Modern Philosophy (Reed, Spring 2019)
- Introduction to Philosophy (Glanzberg, Fall 2018)

Western Michigan University

- Critical Thinking (Paul, Spring 2016)
- Ethics (Dolson, Fall 2015)

Biola University

- Introduction to Logic (Ciocchi, Fall 2014; Spring 2015)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Editorial Assistant to Dr. Fabrizio Cariani (Sep–Dec 2019) for *The Modal Future*, Cambridge University Press (2021).
- Editorial Assistant to Dr. Alexander Sager (Sep 2015–Jan 2016) for the 2nd edition of *Business in Ethical Focus*, Broadview Press (2016).

REFERENCES

Jennifer Lackey

Wayne & Elizabeth Jones Professor of Philosophy
Professor of Law (courtesy)
Director, Northwestern Prison Education Program
Department of Philosophy, Northwestern University
Kresge 3512, 1880 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
847-491-2557
j-lackey@northwestern.edu

Baron Reed

Professor of Philosophy
Deputy Director, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs
Department of Philosophy, Northwestern University
Kresge 3512, 1880 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
847-467-6370
b-reed@northwestern.edu

Caleb Cohoe

Professor of Philosophy and Chair
Department of Philosophy
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Campus Box 49
Denver, CO 80217
303-615-0303
ccohoe1@msudenver.edu

Sanford Goldberg

Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities
Department of Philosophy
Northwestern University
Kresge 3512, 1880 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
847-491-8524
s-goldberg@northwestern.edu

Fabrizio Cariani

Professor of Philosophy and Chair
Department of Philosophy
University of Maryland
Skinner Hall, 4300 Chapel Lane
College Park, MD 20742
301-405-5689
fabrizio@umd.edu