

NATHAN LAUFFER

West Palm Beach, Florida, USA | ☎ (719) 337-2829 | ✉ lauffne@pba.edu | natelauffer.com

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- 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 |
| <i>Committee:</i> 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. 'Obligations to Know as a Problem for the Ignorance Norm?' *American Philosophical Quarterly* (Forthcoming).
2. 'Suboptimal Knowledge.' *Philosophical Studies* (Forthcoming).
3. 'Confirmation and Inquisitive Invariance.' *Thought* (Forthcoming).
4. 'Rational Inconsistency against Non-Skeptical Infallibilism.' *Acta Analytica* (2026).
5. 'Reconsidering Normative Defeat.' *Synthese* (2025).
6. 'On Group Background Beliefs.' *Philosophical Studies* (2022).

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. Paper on hedging and ignorance (Under review).
2. Paper on the temporal dimensions of inquiry (In progress).
3. Paper on assertion and evidence sources (In progress).
4. Paper on belief and statistical evidence (In progress).
5. Paper on the preface paradox (In progress).

PRESENTATIONS

Speaker

- February 2026 'Hedging Without Ignorance,' APA Central Division Meeting.
- 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

Peter van Elswyk

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
Northwestern University
Kresge Hall 3-419
1880 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
847-491-2555
peter.vanelswyk@northwestern.edu