

Joshua Brecka

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

University of Toronto, Ph.D., Philosophy (Expected Fall 2026)
Dissertation: Trust in Non-Traditional Agents: Epistemological Dimensions
Committee: David J. Barnett (chair), Jennifer Nagel, Sara Aronowitz, Nathan Howard

Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), MA, Philosophy, (2020)

Humber College, Bachelor's of Music (Honors), (2016)

Research Areas

AOS: Epistemology (Social and Traditional), Philosophy of Religion, AI Ethics

AOC: Aesthetics

Publications

Articles

- (1) 2026. "Social Knowledge and Rational Group Action", *Synthese*. 207(87): 1-24.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-026-05459-3>
- (2) forthcoming. "Aesthetic Exploration, Just Relations, and the Value of Bodily Beauty",
Debates in Aesthetics. 1-9.
- (3) 2025. "Creatures and Creators: God, Humanity, and Artificial General Intelligence".
Religious Studies. 1-3. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0034412525000289>
- Winner of the inaugural [Big Question Competition](#)
- (4) 2024. "Relational Egalitarianism and Aesthetic Equality". *The Journal of Value Inquiry*. 1- 18.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10790-024-10010-z>
- (5) 2024. "Epistemic Autonomy, Trust, and Conflicts of Interest: A Reply McBrayer." *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 13(6): 31–39. <https://wp.me/p1Bfg0-8U6>

Book Chapters

- (1) 2026. "Collective Epistemic Dilemmas." In E. Schmidt & M. Grajner (Eds.), *Epistemic Dilemmas and Epistemic Normativity*. Routledge.

Unpublished Manuscripts

[title withheld] A paper about Pascal's Wager. (under review)

[title withheld] A paper about the axiology of theism. (under review)

"Group Testimony and Group Trust" (draft available)

"Should We Trust AI Chatbots?" (draft available)

"Plantinga's EAAN, Diverse Goals, and Knowledge-First Naturalism" (draft available)

"Towards an Ideal Aesthetic Observer Theory" (draft available)

"Is Moral Encroachment Evidence for Theism?" (in progress)

Presentations

Refereed

(* = online due to Covid-19)

"Is Moral Encroachment Evidence for Theism?"

Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers, Dalhousie University (June 2026)

"Plantinga's EAAN, Diverse Goals, and Knowledge-First Naturalism?"

Canadian Philosophical Association, Dalhousie University (June 2026)

"Plantinga's EAAN, Diverse Goals, and Knowledge-First Naturalism"

Toronto Philosophy of Religion Work-in-Progress Group Conference: Religious Epistemology, TMU (Dec. 2025)

Runner-Up for the Best Essay Prize

"Towards an Ideal Aesthetic Observer Theory"

American Society for Aesthetics (Oct. 2025)

"There is No Special Problem of Epistemic Justification for Scientific Measurement"

Canadian Philosophical Association, George Brown College (June 2025)

Winner of a Congress Graduate Merit Award (\$500 CAD)

"Pascal's Wager Makes Being an Atheist Supererogatory"

Existential Commitments and the Ethics of Belief, Princeton University (March 2025)

"On the Possibility of Trustworthy AI"

Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society (Nov. 2024)

"Collective Epistemic Dilemmas"

Epistemic Norms, Reasons, and Dilemmas, TU Dortmund (Sept. 2024)

"Pascal's Wager Makes Being an Atheist Supererogatory"

Toronto Philosophy of Religion Work-in-Progress Group Conference: God and Value Theory, TMU (June 2024)

"Social Knowledge and Rational Group Action"

Canadian Philosophical Association, McGill University (June 2024)

Winner of a Congress Graduate Merit Award (\$500 CAD)

"Lackey on Social Knowledge and Rational Group Action"

American Philosophical Association (Central) (Feb. 2024)
 “Relational Egalitarianism and Aesthetic Equality”
 American Society for Aesthetics (Nov. 2022)
 “Relational Egalitarianism and Aesthetic Equality”*
 Canadian Philosophical Association (May 2022)
 “Belief-Credence Dualism and Epistemic Peer Disagreement”*
 University of Calgary Philosophy Graduate Conference (May 2022)
 “Relational Egalitarianism and Aesthetic Equality”*
 Fordham Philosophical Society Graduate Conference (Feb. 2022)
 “Divine Judgment and Pragmatic Encroachment: An Argument for Epistemic Anti-Theism”*
 Toronto Philosophy of Religion Work-in-Progress Group: The Axiology of Theism,
 TMU (June 2021)
 “Belief-Credence Dualism and Epistemic Peer Disagreement”*
 Notre Dame/Northwestern Graduate Epistemology Conference (April 2021)
 “Lewis Carroll on Reason”
 University of Toronto Graduate Philosophy Conference (Nov. 2019)
 “Ideal Aesthetic Observer Theories and the Euthyphro Dilemma”
 Western Division of the Canadian Philosophical Association (Oct. 2019)
 “Pessimistic Meta-Induction and Religious Skepticism”
 New Directions in Theology and Philosophy of Science Workshop (Sept. 2019)

Awards

(Awards in CAD unless otherwise stated)

U of T Philosophy Graduate Student Service Award	x4	(\$1000 each; 2026-23)
Schwartz Reisman Institute E3I Graduate Teaching Fellowship		(\$1400; 2025-26)
Pronovost Morgan Family Foundation Fellowship in Ethical AI		(\$5000; 2025-26)
Schwartz Reisman Institute Graduate Fellowship		(\$7500; 2024-25)
Pronovost Morgan Family Foundation Fellowship in Ethical AI		(\$5000; 2023-24)
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship		(\$60, 000; 2023-25)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship		(\$15, 000; 2022)
American Society for Aesthetics Student Travel Grant		(\$1400 USD; 2022)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship		(\$15, 000; 2021)

Teaching

Course Instructor

At the University of Toronto:

PHL242H5S: Science Fiction and Philosophy (S2025)

At Toronto Metropolitan University International College:

CSSH105 Critical Thinking (Tutorial) (S2023-F2025)

Lead Writing Teaching Assistant

Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, (F2024-W2025)
Embedded Ethics Initiative

Teaching Assistant

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, (F2025-W2026)
Embedded Ethics Initiative

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, (W2022)
Course: Knowledge and Reality

Department of Philosophy, Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University),
(F2018, W2019)
Course: Critical Thinking

Grading Assistant

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, (F2023)
Course: Philosophy of Religion

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, (W2023)
Course: Business Ethics

Department of Philosophy, Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University),
(F2019)
Course: Problems in Philosophy

Research Assistant

Department of Philosophy, and Computer Science, University of Toronto, (F2025)
Project: The effectiveness of embedded ethics on undergraduate statistics students
Supervisor: Steve Coyne

Department of Philosophy, Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University),
(S2019)
Project: *Aesthetics and Nature* (Bloomsbury Press, 2024)
Supervisor: Glenn Parsons

Professional Service

Referee

Journals: *Religious Studies*

Conference Organizing

“Epistemology and Rationality Workshop”, University of Toronto, (April 2026)

“Markets and Morality”, University of Toronto Philosophy Graduate Conference, (Nov. 2022)

“Disagreement and Philosophy”, Ryerson University, (March 2020)

Other Service Work

Philosophy Graduate Student Union President, University of Toronto, (2023–2024)

Philosophy Graduate Writing Group Organizer, University of Toronto, (2020-2026)