

Brendan I. Fleig-Goldstein

+1 518 929-4078

brendan_fleig-goldstein@brown.edu

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Cognitive Science/Artificial Intelligence, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Epistemology (incl. Formal Epistemology), History of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Ethics

EMPLOYMENT

2025-Current Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Philosophy of AI, Brown University

2024-2025 Director of Cognitive Science, Columbia University

2024-2025 Lecturer in the Discipline of Cognitive Science, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University

EDUCATION

2018-2024 **University of Pittsburgh**

Ph.D., History and Philosophy of Science

—Dissertation: “Philosophical Foundations of Resource Rational Analysis”

Committee: Colin Allen (chair), Edouard Machery, John Norton, Thomas Icard

2018-2024 **University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University**

Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition Graduate Training Certificate

2016-2018 **Stanford University**

M.S., Symbolic Systems

—Master’s Thesis: “The Role of Optimality Claims in Cognitive Modelling”

Committee: Thomas Icard, Todd Davies

2011-2015 **Tufts University**

B.S., Philosophy

B.S., Cognitive & Brain Sciences

Minor in Religion

—Honors: *Summa Cum Laude*; *Phi Beta Kappa*; Highest Thesis Honors in Philosophy

—Philosophy Honors Thesis: “Predictive Cognition and Its Philosophical Implications”

Committee: Daniel Dennett, Brian Epstein

PUBLICATIONS

—“Isaac Newton, Interdisciplinary: Newton’s Cross-Domain Evidential Reasoning”
(**forthcoming**, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*)

In Progress

- A paper on cognitive limitations and epistemic norms (**under review**)
- A paper on normative commitments in AI (**under review**)
- A paper on the logic of theory-testing in resource rational analysis (**under review**)
- A paper on intentionality presupposing (resource) rationality (**draft available**)
- Book Project: The History of Mathematical Psychology (with Colin Allen, Nuhu Osman Attah, Mara McGuire, Dzintra Ullis)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Fall 2025 **Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science**, Philosophy, Brown University

Spring 2025 **Introduction to Cognitive Science**, co-taught with Randy Gallistel, Cognitive Science, Columbia University

Spring 2025 **Topics in Cognitive Science and Philosophy: AI and the Nativism-Empiricism Debate**, Philosophy, Columbia University

Fall 2024 **Cognitive Science and Philosophy**, Philosophy, Columbia University

Spring 2024 **Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science**, HPS, University of Pittsburgh

Fall 2023 **Myth and Science**, HPS, University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2022 **Myth and Science**, HPS, University of Pittsburgh

Fall 2021 **Morality and Medicine**, HPS, University of Pittsburgh

Fall 2013 **Robots, Space, and Civilizations of the Future**, co-taught with Michael Schneider, Experimental College, Tufts University

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2024 **Principles of Scientific Reasoning**,* HPS, University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2020 **Mind and Medicine**, HPS, University of Pittsburgh

Fall 2019 **Morality and Medicine**, HPS, University of Pittsburgh

Fall 2017 **Minds and Machines**, Philosophy Department, Stanford University

Spring 2017 **Alternative Societies**,* Division of Literatures, Cultures, & Languages, Stanford University

Fall 2016 **Minds and Machines**, Philosophy Department, Stanford University

Spring 2016 **Modern Religious Experience**,* Division of Literatures, Cultures, & Languages, Stanford University

Fall 2016 **The Theory of the Subject**,* Division of Literatures, Cultures, & Languages, Stanford

University

Fall 2015 **Minds and Machines**, Philosophy Department, Stanford University

* No Recitations Taught

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2025 **Evolution and Culture as a Mental Operating System**, Meade Anderson Philosophy Conference, Columbia University (Invited Talk)

2025 **Human Rationality and the Study of the Mind**, Cognitive Science Symposium, Columbia/Barnard (Invited Talk)

2024 **Meta-Reflective Capacities and Normative Commitments in AI Systems**, Philosophy of Science Biennial Meeting, Session on Artificial Intelligence (Peer-Reviewed Talk)

2022 **The Unreasonable Ineffectiveness of Mathematics in Psychology**, Philosophy of Science

Biennial Meeting (Peer-Reviewed Poster, with Colin Allen, Nuhu Osman, Mara McGuire, Dzintra Ullis)

2021 **Three Questions About Mathematical Psychology**, Annual Meeting of the Society for Mathematical Psychology (Keynote Talk, with Colin Allen, Nuhu Osman, Mara McGuire, Dzintra Ullis)

2021 **Black Boxes, Evidence, and the Isolation of Inductive Risk**, Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition Brain Bag Series (Invited Talk)

2018 **The Role of Optimality Claims in Cognitive Modeling**, Philosophy of Science Biennial Meeting (Peer-Reviewed Poster)

2017 **Assessing Resource Rational Analysis Approaches**, Stanford Symbolic Systems Forum (Invited Talk)

2017 **The Predictive Mind: Empirical Evidence and Philosophical Import**, Stanford Symbolic

Systems Symposium (Invited Talk)

LABORATORY RESEARCH

2014-2015 **Human-Robot Interaction Laboratory**, Research Assistant, Tufts University, PIs: Matthias Scheutz, Megan Strait

SERVICE

2024-current Independent Research Supervisor: Max Medvedev (Columbia University), Rachel Rumstein (Columbia University), Bonnie Yang (Barnard College), Daniel Mun (Bergen Technical High School)

2023-current Coordinator, ALIUS International Research Group

- 2024 Graduate Participant, PSP4: 2024 Pittsburgh Summer Program for Underrepresented Groups in Philosophy of Science
- 2022-2023 Departmental Graduate Representative, HPS, University of Pittsburgh
- 2023 Graduate Participant, PSP4: 2023 Pittsburgh Summer Program for Underrepresented Groups in Philosophy of Science
- 2020 Graduate Participant, PSP4: 2020 Pittsburgh Summer Program for Underrepresented Groups in Philosophy of Science

MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Mathematical Psychology
Philosophy of Science Association
Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition at Pitt and CMU
ALIUS Research Group
American Philosophical Association
European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism

REFERENCES

Colin Allen (Supervisor), Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of California Santa Barbara. colinallen@ucsb.edu

Edouard Machery, Distinguished Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh. machery@pitt.edu

Thomas Icard, Professor of Philosophy at Stanford University. icard@stanford.edu

Christopher Peacocke, Johnsonian Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University. cp2161@columbia.edu

John Morrison, Professor of Philosophy at Barnard College, Columbia University. jmorrison@barnard.edu

C. Randy Gallistel (Teaching Reference), Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University. randy.gallistel@gmail.com

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSEWORK IN PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science - Dennett (Tufts University)
Cognition of Society and Culture - Jackendoff (Tufts University)
Moral Psychology - White (Tufts University)
Information, Computation, and Intelligence - Icard (Stanford University)
Philosophy of Neuroscience - Skowkowski (Stanford University)
Conceptual Foundations of Neuroscience - Cao (Stanford University)
Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science - Allen (Pitt HPS)

Cognitive Modeling - Allen (Pitt HPS)
Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy of Science - Allen (Pitt HPS)
Perception - Chirimuuta (Pitt HPS)

General Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Science - Smith (Tufts University)
Social Dimensions of Scientific Knowledge - Longino (Stanford University)
Scientific Philosophy from Kant to Kuhn - Friedman (Stanford University)
Philosophy of Science Core Seminar - Woodward (Pitt HPS)
Causation - Woodward (Pitt HPS)
Causation and Explanation in the Life Sciences - Woodward (Pitt HPS)
Confirmation - Norton (Pitt HPS)
Models and Modeling in Science - Batterman (Pitt HPS)
Realism - Chirimuuta (Pitt HPS)
Measurement - Machery (Pitt HPS)

General Philosophy

Metaphysics - Epstein (Tufts University)
Epistemology - Azzouni (Tufts University)
Philosophy of Mind - White (Tufts University)
Philosophy of Language - Ninan (Tufts University)
Rationality - Dorst (Pitt Philosophy)
First Person Knowledge - McDowell (Pitt Philosophy)
Meta-vocabularies of Reason (audit) - Brandom (Pitt Philosophy)

History

Aristotle's Metaphysics - Olfert & Smith (Tufts University)
Aristotle's De Anima - Code (Stanford University)
History of Science I Core Seminar - Dietrich & Chirimuuta (Pitt HPS)
History of Science II Core Seminar - Dietrich & Palmieri (Pitt HPS)
History of Genetics - Dietrich (Pitt HPS)
Newton - Gilton (Pitt HPS)

Logic and Formal Epistemology

Logic - Epstein (Tufts University)
Modal Logic - Ninan (Tufts University)
Metalogic - Icard (Stanford University)
Computation and Logic - Steinert-Threlkeld (Stanford University)
Modal Logic - van Benthem (Stanford University)

Decision Theory - Seidenfeld (CMU)
Topology of Scientific Inquiry (audit) - Kelly (CMU)
Set Theory (audit)- Kelly (CMU)

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSEWORK OUTSIDE OF PHILOSOPHY

Computer Science

Artificial Intelligence - Blumer (Tufts University)
Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science - Schwarz (Stanford University)
Computer Organization and Systems - Lee (Stanford University)
Computation and Cognition: The Probabilistic Approach - Goodman (Stanford University)
Parallel Distributed Processing - Plaut (Carnegie Mellon University)
Web Applications - Rosenblum (Stanford University)

Neuroscience

Understanding Techniques of Neuroscience - Newsome (Stanford University)
Cognitive Neuroscience - Olson (Carnegie Mellon University)
Advanced Cellular Neuroscience - Gittis (Carnegie Mellon University)
Systems Neuroscience - Turner (Pitt Neurosciene)