

MATTHEW SHIELDS
CURRICULUM VITAE

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Epistemology; Philosophy of Language; Metaphilosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

20th-century Philosophy (esp. pragmatism); Jewish Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Wake Forest University (2022-present)

Postdoctoral Fellow, University College Dublin and the PERITIA project (2021-2022)

Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Colorado Boulder (2019-2021)

EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy, Georgetown University (2019)

MA in Philosophy, Georgetown University (2012-2015)

BA in Humanities, Yale University (2010), with distinction, *magna cum laude*, and *Phi Beta Kappa*

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 13.) “Diving for Pearls: Conceptual Abandonment, Conceptual Engineering, and the Limits of Thought and Language” (forthcoming) *Philosophical Studies*
- 12.) “Conceptual Inquiry and Pragmatism: Reply to Phelan” (forthcoming) *Contemporary Pragmatism*
- 11.) “The Perils of Epistemic Idealism” (forthcoming) *Inquiry*
- 10.) “On the Value of Changing Your Mind” (2025) *Episteme*: 1-23 (doi:10.1017/epi.2024.54)
- 9.) “Truth from the Agent Point of View” (2023) *The Philosophical Quarterly* 73 (4): 1205-1225.
- 8.) “Conceptual Engineering, Conceptual Domination, and the Case of Conspiracy Theories” (2023) in *Social Epistemology* 37 (4): 464-480.
* Reprinted in *The Philosophy of Conspiracy Theories: Concepts, Methods and Theory* (2024), ed. M Dentith. Abingdon: Routledge, 60-76.
- 7.) “Rethinking Conspiracy Theories” (2022) *Synthese* 200 (4): 1-29.
- 6.) “Conceptual Domination” (2021) *Synthese* 199: 15043-15067.
- 5.) “On Stipulation” (2021) *European Journal of Philosophy* 29 (4): 1100-1114.
- 4.) “Conceptual Change and Future Paths for Pragmatism” (2021) *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 59 (3): 405-434.
- 3.) “Conceptual Change in Perspective” (2020) *Inquiry* 63 (9-10): 930-958.
- 2.) “Philosophical Speech Acts” (2020) *Philosophy* 95 (4): 497-521.
- 1.) “On the Pragmatics of Deep Disagreement” (2018 online first/2021 in print) *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy* 40 (5): 999-1015.

BOOKS REVIEWS, HANDBOOKS, AND INVITED REPLIES

- 4.) “Methodological Questions in the Philosophy of Conspiracy Theories and Applied Epistemology” (2025) *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 14 (3): 56-63.
- 3.) “Hazards of Conceptual Engineering: Revisiting the Case of ‘Conspiracy Theory’” (2024) *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 13 (2): 74-90.
- 2.) “Hilary Putnam” (2023) co-authored entry with Maria Baghramian in *The Routledge Companion to Pragmatism*, eds. Scott Aikin and Robert B. Talisse. New York: Routledge, 75-80.
- 1.) “Rorty and Metaphilosophy” (2022) in *Metascience* 31(3): 423-426.

TEACHING

At Wake Forest University as instructor of record

Epistemology (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2025)
Knowledge, Power, and Politics (Fall 2024)
Contemporary Philosophy (Spring 2023)
Problems of Philosophy (Fall 2022 and 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
Independent Studies on Richard Rorty (Fall 2023) and on Evidence Resistance (Spring 2025)
Honors Thesis Advisor: Emilie Fazio (AY 2024-2025); Joe Wyche (AY 2023-2024)
Honors Thesis Second Reader: Harry Apazidis (AY 2024-2025)

At University College Dublin as instructor of record

Applied Epistemology (Spring 2022)

At University of Colorado Boulder as instructor of record

Philosophy of Language (Spring 2021 x2, for philosophy majors and for graduate students)
Twentieth-Century Philosophy (Fall 2020)

- Full title: Philosophy of Language, Epistemology, and Metaphilosophy in Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy (for philosophy majors)

Philosophy & Gender (Fall 2019, Spring 2020 x3, Summer 2020, Spring 2021 x2)
Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2019, Fall 2020 x2)
Reading, Writing, & Reasoning (Fall 2019)

At Georgetown University as instructor of record

Introduction to Logic (Spring 2018)
Jewish Philosophy (Fall 2017)*
Beginning Logic (Fall 2016)*
Philosophy of Language (Spring 2016)
Ways of Knowing: Introduction to Epistemology (Summer 2015)
* Nominated for the Graduate Student Teaching Award

At Georgetown University as discussion section leader

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2019)
Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2018)
Responsibilities: Leading two weekly discussion sections of 20-25 students for a lecture course of 200+ students; grading for these sections; holding office hours.

At Georgetown University as teaching assistant

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2012, Fall 2015)
Introduction to Logic (Spring 2013)
Responsibilities: Grading for the class; holding office hours.

INVITED TALKS

10.) “Just How Social is Epistemology Anyway?” August 5th, 2025 at the Midwest Early-Career Social Philosophy of Technology Workshop at the University of Notre Dame
9.) “Power and Psychologizing” September 25th 2024 for the Applied Epistemology Project at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

INVITED TALKS (CONTINUED)

- 8.) “The Impossibility of Conceptual Abandonment” May 11th 2024 at the Southern California Pragmatist Forum
- 7.) “On the Value of Changing Your Mind” October 10th 2023 at the Center for International Philosophy at Beijing Normal University
- 6.) “The Perils of Epistemic Idealism” September 19th 2023 at the Oslo Mind, Language, and Epistemology Network Special Seminar: Critical Political Epistemology at the University of Oslo
- 5.) “Rethinking Conspiracy Theories” April 14th 2023 for PhilMod
- 4.) “Conceptual Domination” March 4th 2022 at the University of Pittsburgh Words Workshop
- 3.) Invited panel member for “Future Research Avenues in Conspiracy Theory Theory” February 6th 2022 at Pitzer College
- 2.) “Practices of Samesaying” June 16th 2020 ConceptLab at the University of Oslo
- 1.) “On Stipulation” June 26th 2019 at the ConceptLab at the University of Oslo

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 24.) “Zetetic Attributions” at the 2026 Inquiry Network Workshop at Toronto Metropolitan University
- 23.) “The Impossibility of Conceptual Abandonment” at the 2025 Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
- 22.) “The Perils of Epistemic Idealism” at the 2023 Philosophy and Politics of Journalism II at MANCEPT
- 21.) “The Perils of Epistemic Idealism” at the 2023 Argumentation in the Power and Politics of Democracy Conference at the Argumentation Network of the Americas
- 20.) “Rationality, Bad Beliefs, and the Ends of Interpretation” at the 2023 North Carolina Philosophical Society at Duke University
- 19.) “Alice Ambrose and the History of Analytic Metaphilosophy” at the 2022 TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Workshop at Tilburg University
- 18.) “Making Conceptual Disputes Explicit” at the 2022 Metalinguistic Disagreement and Semantic Externalism Conference at NOVA University of Lisbon
- 17.) “Alice Ambrose and the History of Analytic Metaphilosophy” at the 2022 New Voices on Women in the History of Philosophy Conference at Paderborn University
- 16.) “Conceptual Engineering or Conceptual Domination? The Case of Conspiracy Theories” at the 2022 International Conference on the Philosophy of Conspiracy Theory at Pitzer College
- 15.) “Why Truth Deflates” at the 2021 Truth Without Borders workshop at the University of Waikato
- 14.) “Pragmatism, Representationalism, and Conceptual Engineering” at the 2021 Traditional Entanglements of Conceptual Engineering: American and Cambridge Pragmatism at the University of Bologna
- 13.) “Rethinking Conspiracy Theories” at the 2021 Conference on the Philosophy of Conspiracy Theories at University College Dublin
- 12.) “Conceptual Domination” at the 2019 BPPA Masterclass at the University of St Andrews
- 11.) “On Stipulation” at the 2019 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
- 10.) “The Pragmatics of Changing the Social World” at the 2017 Critical Social Ontology Workshop at Saint Louis University

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED)

- 9.) “The Pragmatics of Changing the Social World” at the 2016 Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable at University of South Florida
- 8.) “How To Think Diachronically: The (Missed) Encounter Between Quine and Kuhn on Changes in Meaning” at the 2016 the Making of the Humanities V Conference at Johns Hopkins University
- 7.) “Can Reality be Resisted? The Limits of Haslanger’s Account of Social Construction” at the 2016 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (*Winner of the Marc Sanders Graduate Prize*)
- 6.) “On the Self-Concealing of Being in Later Heidegger’s Modernity” at the 2015 Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
- 5.) “Semantics, Pragmatics, and the Philosophical Importance of Creativity: Returning to Sellars on the Question of Conceptual Change” at the 2015 Sellars in a New Generation at Kent State University
- 4.) “Making Sense of Who We Are: Reassessing Arendt’s Account of the Revelatory Quality of Action” at the 2015 Meeting of the Hannah Arendt Circle at Texas A&M University
- 3.) “Squaring the Incommensurable Circle: Developing an Account of Interaction for Longino’s Non-Eliminative Pluralism” at the 2014 European Network for the Philosophy of Social Sciences Conference at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)
- 2.) “Squaring the Incommensurable Circle: Developing an Account of Interaction for Longino’s Non-Eliminative Pluralism” at the 2014 Society for the Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics of Science Conference at the University of Lille 1 and 3
- 1.) “Malick’s *The Tree of Life* and the Problem of Irony” at the 2012 Faith, Film, and Philosophy Seminar at Gonzaga University

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

- 5.) On Amie Thomasson’s *Rethinking Metaphysics* at the 2027 Eastern APA
- 4.) On Gordon Pennycook’s “Using Human-AI Dialogues to Test the (Surprisingly Limited) Effects of Motivated Reasoning” at the 2026 Applied Epistemology Workshop
- 3.) On Anna Boncompagni’s “From Conceptual Engineering to Conceptual Care. A Pragmatist-Feminist Approach” at the 2025 Pacific APA
- 2.) On Jamie Fritz’s “Uncertainty, Belief, and Ethical Risk” at the 2017 Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium
- 1.) On Dustin Locke’s “Knowledge, Explanation, and Motivating Reasons” at the 2013 Reasons and Reasoning Conference at Georgetown University

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2.) “Rethinking Conspiracy Theories” for *Imperfect Cognitions*
- 1.) “An Interview with Matt Shields” for the *Podcaster’s Guide to the Conspiracy*

SELECTED HONORS

ACE Fellow (2025-2027)

- For Wake Forest faculty in support of community-engaged teaching, research, and scholarship. \$1,000 per year award.

SELECTED HONORS (CONTINUED)

ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowship Nomination (2020)

- One of four recent or current graduate students from Georgetown nominated “who are both outstanding scholars and effective communicators to diverse audiences inside and/or outside the classroom”

Visiting Fellowship at the ConceptLab, University of Oslo (2020) [canceled due to COVID-19]

- For presenting and conducting research, NOK 20,000 (or \$2190) stipend award.

Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund Fellowship Nomination (2016)

- One of three graduate students at Georgetown nominated for an “outstanding” academic record.

Marc Sanders Graduate Student Prize (2016)

- Awarded for one of the best three papers by a graduate student at the Eastern APA, \$1,000 award.

Graduate Student Teaching Award Nominations (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

- For graduate students acting as instructor of record.

Lothar Hausmann Memorial Award (2010)

- Given to a Yale senior for excellence in German Studies

SERVICE

Facilitator of CU Non-Permanent Faculty Working Group (part of United Campus Workers Colorado)

Co-founder and co-coordinator of Georgetown’s Philosophy of Language Workshop (2015-2016, 2018-2019)

Co-coordinator for Georgetown’s Diversifying Syllabi Group (Summer 2015-Summer 2016)

Coordinator of Georgetown’s European Philosophy Workshop (2014-2015)

Research Assistant for Professor Kate Withy (Summer 2014)

Referee for *Oxford University Press* for a book manuscript and for a book proposal, for *Routledge* for a book proposal, for *Open Book Publishers* for a book manuscript, for *Philosophical Studies* (x2), *Mind & Language*, *Philosopher’s Imprint* (x2), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (x2), *Social Epistemology* (x4), *Analysis*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Inquiry*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Topoi* (x2), *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Episteme*, *Synthese* (x6), *Ethics and Information Technology*, *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *Philosophy*, *Res Philosophica*

LANGUAGES

Advanced German (spoken and written); Intermediate Spanish (spoken and written)