

Ben Levinstein

Curriculum Vitæ

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Employment

- 2017-Present **Assistant Professor**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2016-2017 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Rutgers University
2015-2016 **James Martin Research Fellow**, Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford
2013-2015 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, University of Bristol
Epistemic Utility Theory: Foundations and Applications

Education

- 2013 **PhD**, *Philosophy*, Rutgers University—New Brunswick
2007 **AB**, *Philosophy with Mathematics Minor*, University of Chicago, with honors.

Areas of Specialization

Epistemology • Decision Theory • Philosophy of Science • Philosophy of Computation

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mathematics • Game Theory • Logic

Publications

Book

- 2023 *Epistemic Utility Theory*. Coauthored with Jason Konek. Under contract with Cambridge University Press.

Papers

- Forthcoming* Accuracy, Deference, and Chance. *The Philosophical Review*.
- Decision Theory without Luminosity (*with Yoaav Isaacs*). *Mind*.
 - Evidential Decision Theory and the Ostrich (*with Yoaav Isaacs*). *Philosophers' Imprint*.
 - Probability and Informed Consent (*with Nir ben Moshe & Jonathan Livengood*). *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*.
- 2021 Deference Done Better (*with Kevin Dorst, Bernhard Salow, Brooke Husic, & Branden Fitelson*.) *Philosophical Perspectives*. 35(1): 99–150. (B.L., K.D., and B.S. are first authors.)
- Strict Propriety is Weak (*with Catrin Campbell-Moore*). *Analysis*. 81(1):8–13.
- 2020 Cheating Death in Damascus (*with Nate Soares*). *The Journal of Philosophy*. 117(5):237–266.

- Act Consequentialism without Free Rides (*with Preston Greene*). *Philosophical Perspectives*. 34:88–116.
- 2019 The Foundations of Epistemic Decision Theory (*with Jason Konek*). *Mind*. 128(509): 69–107.
- Imprecise Epistemic Values and Imprecise Credences. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 97(4): 741–760.
- An Objection of Varying Importance to Epistemic Utility Theory. *Philosophical Studies*. 176(11):2919–2931.
- 2017 A Pragmatist’s Guide to Epistemic Utility. *Philosophy of Science*. 84(4):613–638.
- Accuracy Uncomposed: Against Calibrationism. *Episteme*. 14(1): 59–69. Symposium on Richard Pettigrew’s *Accuracy and the Laws of Credence*.
- Permissive Rationality and Sensitivity. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 94(2): 342–370.
- 2015 With All Due Respect: The Macro-Epistemology of Disagreement. *Philosophers’ Imprint* 15(13):1-20.
- 2012 Leitgeb and Pettigrew on Accuracy and Updating. *Philosophy of Science* 79(3):413-424.
- 2007 Facts, Interpretation, and Truth in Fiction. *British Journal of Aesthetics* 47(1):64-75.
- Other*
- 2015 Co-author of *Systemic Risk of Modelling in Insurance*. White Paper and Risk Scorecard

Grants, Honors, Fellowships, and Awards

- 2022-2023 Open Philanthropy Course Development Grant (\$58,000)
- 2019–2022 Mellon *New Directions* Fellowship (\$256,000)
 - 2019 Teacher Recognized as Excellent (for *Decision Theory Graduate Seminar*, F 2019)
 - Teacher Recognized as Excellent (for *Symbolic Logic*, S 2019)
 - Teacher Recognized as Excellent (for *Formal Logic and Philosophy*, S 2019)
- 2018 Teacher Recognized as Excellent (for *Logic and Reasoning*, F 2018)
- 2017 Scholar’s Travel Award (\$1,050)
- 2015 Senior Fellow, Munich Center For Mathematical Philosophy
James Martin Fellowship, Martin School, University of Oxford
- 2012 Mellon Summer Grant (\$5,000)
 - Departmental Mellon Grant (\$1,125)
 - Groningen Summer School Scholarship (€500)
 - Travel Grant (\$300)
- 2011 Travel Grant (\$300)
- 2010 Travel Grant (\$300)
- 2007-2009 Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers University

Selected Talks

- 2022 **Humeanism Defeated**

- University of Chicago Theoretical Philosophy Workshop
- Trustworthy Forecasts**
- First Interdisciplinary Workshop on Interactive Causal Learning
- 2021 **EDT and the Ostrich**
- Northeastern Epistemology Workshop
- 2020 **Accuracy, Deference, and Chance**
- Formal Epistemology Workshop at UC Irvine. **Commentator:** Richard Bradley
- 2019 **Accuracy, Deference, and Chance**
- University of São Paulo
- University of Gdansk
- Probability and Informed Consent**
- Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University
- Goodhart's Law in Medicine**
- Carle Hospital Bioethics Series, Urbana, IL
- 2018 **An Objection of Varying Importance to Epistemic Utility Theory**
- Formal Epistemology Workshop at the University of Toronto. **Commentator:** James Joyce
- Comments on *Radical Markets***
- Northwestern University panel on Richard Posner's and Glenn Weyl's book organized by the Department of Economics
- 2017 **Cheating Death in Damascus**
- Duke University
- University of Kent
- Northwestern University
- Formal Epistemology Workshop at the University of Washington. **Commentator:** R.A. Briggs
- Imprecise Credences and Imprecise Epistemic Value**
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- Scoring Rules**
- Uptake, Chicago, IL
- 2016 **Causal and Logical Instability in Decision Theory**
- Kansas State University
- Total Utilitarianism for Belief**
- Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm
- Higher-Order Evidence, Accuracy, and Information Loss**
- University of Bristol
- Logical Decision Theory and Its Consequences**
- Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge
- Imprecise Credences and Imprecise Epistemic Value**
- Hong Kong University
- National University of Singapore

- 2015 **Moral Enhancement and Humanity's Future**
- Life 2.0 Conference, Istanbul
- Imprecise Credences from Imprecise Values**
- University of Bristol
- A Pragmatic Vindication of Epistemic Utility Theory**
- Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
- With All Due Respect: The Macro-Epistemology of Disagreement**
- UCSD
- 2014 **The Foundations of Epistemic Decision Theory**
- LSE
 - UW-Madison
 - Hong Kong University
 - ILLC, Amsterdam
 - Formal Epistemology Workshop at USC. **Commentator:** Michael Caie
- Permissive Rationality and Sensitivity**
- Lingnan University
- 2013 **Scoring Rules from the Bottom up: A Pragmatic Vindication of Epistemic Utility Theory**
- Epistemic Utility Summer School, University of Bristol
- 2012 **Leitgeb and Pettigrew on Accuracy and Updating**
- Formal Epistemology Workshop at the the Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy. **Commentator:** Chris Meacham
 - Groningen/Munich Summer School: Formal Methods in Philosophy
- What Your Credence Tells Me About Whether p**
- Frontiers of Rationality and Decision at the University of Groningen
 - Rutgers University Graduate Colloquium

Teaching

UIUC

- 2020 Theory of Knowledge
Logic and Reasoning
- 2019 Formal Logic and Philosophy
Symbolic Logic
Graduate Seminar on Decision Theory
Logic and Reasoning
- 2018 Introduction to Philosophy
Graduate Seminar on Theory of Knowledge
Theory of Knowledge
Logic and Reasoning
- 2017 Introduction to Philosophy
Theory of Knowledge

Rutgers

2016 Applied Symbolic Logic (Instructor)

Oxford

2016 The Ethics and Epistemology of Existential Risk (Tutor)

Bristol

2014 Probability and Rationality (co-Instructor with *Jason Konek*)

Introduction to Epistemology (Tutor)

Rutgers

2012 Applied Symbolic Logic (Instructor)

2011 The Ethics of Food (TA)

Introduction to Logic (Instructor)

2010 Introduction to the Philosophy of Mathematics (Instructor)

Introduction to Ethics (TA)

2009 Introduction to Philosophy (TA)

The University of Chicago

2005-6 First Year Calculus (TA)

Other

2008-9 Mathematics Tutor, Bunting-Cobb Program, Rutgers University

2006 Tutoring Manager, PrepMe Corporation

Committee Memberships

Dissertation Steven Lee, Jim Keller

Prelim Xiaomeng Bu, Adam Estrup, Derrick Baker (chair)

Honors Jake Kokoris, Alex Sardjev

Service

Referee *Analysis, AJP, BJPS, Cambridge University Press, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, Episteme, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Mind, Minds and Machines, Nous, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Review, Philosophy of Science, Philosophical Studies, Res Philosophica, Review of Symbolic Logic, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Synthese, Utilitas*

2019 Scientific Committee for the *Formal Epistemology Workshop*

2018 Scientific Committee for the *Formal Epistemology Workshop*

Medical Ethics Committee, Carle Hospital

2017 Scientific Committee for *AI, Ethics, and Society* Conference

2016 Scientific Committee for the *Formal Epistemology Workshop*

2010 Graduate Student Representative at Faculty Meetings, Rutgers University

2009 Referee for Rutgers/Princeton Graduate Conference