



## Will Fleisher

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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Department of Philosophy  
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3700 O St. NW  
Washington DC 20057

### Academic Appointments

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<a href="#">Georgetown University</a> Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Dept. of Philosophy Research Assistant Professor, Center for Digital Ethics	Aug. 2022 – Present
<a href="#">Northeastern University</a> Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Khoury College of Computer Sciences	Jul. 2020 – Jun. 2022
<a href="#">Washington University in St. Louis</a> McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program	Sep. 2018 – Jun. 2020

### Education

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<b>PhD</b> Rutgers University, Philosophy Dissertation: <i>Endorsement and Inquiry</i> . Supervised by Ernest Sosa (chair), Branden Fitelson (chair), Susanna Schellenberg, Andy Egan, Adam Elga	Oct. 2018
<b>MA</b> Virginia Tech, Philosophy	May 2011
<b>BA</b> Miami University, Philosophy and History	May 2006

### Research Areas

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**Areas of Specialization** Epistemology, Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

**Areas of Competence** Ethics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language

### Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed)

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1. Fleisher, W. (forthcoming). "Algorithmic Fairness Criteria as Evidence," *Ergo*.
2. **Fleisher, W.**, Cibralic, B., Basl, J., Ricks V., & Smith M. (2025). "Responsibility and Accountability in an Algorithmic Society," *Philosophy & Technology*, 38(4), 1–31.
3. Fleisher, W. (2025). "Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity," *Noûs*, 59(1), 289–314.
4. Fleisher, W. (2023). "Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons," *Philosophical Studies*, 180(4) 1343–1371.
5. **Fleisher, W.** & Šešelja, D. (2023). "Responsibility for Collective Epistemic Harms," *Philosophy of Science*, 90(1): 1–20.
6. Fleisher, W. (2023). "Fragmentation and Old Evidence," *Episteme*, 20 (3): 542–567.
7. Fleisher, W. (2022). "Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI," *Episteme*, 19 (4): 534–560.
8. Fleisher, W. (2022). "Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons," *Studies in Hist. and Phil. of Science, Pt. A* 94: 17–30.
9. Fleisher, W. (2021). "Endorsement and Assertion," *Noûs* 55(2): 363–384.
10. Fleisher, W. (2021). "How to Endorse Conciliationism," *Synthese* 198(10): 9912–9939.
11. Fleisher, W. (2020). "Publishing without (some) belief," *Thought*, 9(4): 237–246.
12. Fleisher, W. (2019). "Method Coherence and Epistemic Circularity," *Erkenntnis*, 84 (2): 455–480.
13. Fleisher, W. (2018). "Rational Endorsement," *Philosophical Studies*, 175(10): 2649–2675.
14. Fleisher, W. (2017). "Virtuous Distinctions," *Synthese*, 194 (8): 2973–3003.

## Conference Proceedings (Peer Reviewed, Archival)

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15. Fleisher, W. (2026). "Inductive Risk of AI Hype" *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '26)*. Forthcoming.
16. Fazelpour, S. & **Fleisher, W.** (2025). "The Value of Disagreement in AI Design, Evaluation, and Alignment," *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '25)*.
17. Wang Y., Bone R., **Fleisher W.**, Gresenz C., Mitchell J., van der Klaauw W., Wang C. and Singh L. (2025). "Using Under-Represented Subgroup Fine Tuning to Improve Fairness for Disease Prediction," *Proceedings of the 18th International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies, Volume 2: HEALTHINF*, p. 240–253.
18. Fleisher, W. (2021). "What's Fair about Individual Fairness?" *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES '21)*, 480–490.
19. Liu, D., Shafi, Z., **Fleisher, W.**, Eliassi-Rad, T., & Alfeld, S. (2021). "RAWLSNET: Altering Bayesian Networks to Encode Rawlsian Fair Equality of Opportunity," *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES '21)*, 745–755.

## Book Chapters (\* = Peer Reviewed; \*\* = Editor Reviewed)

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20. Fleisher, W. (forthcoming). "A Defense of Endorsement," in *Attitude in Philosophy*, edited by S.C. Goldberg and M. Walker. Oxford University Press.\*\*
21. **Fleisher, W.**, Friedman D.C., & Šešelja D. (2025). "Expert Judgment: Overlooked Epistemic Reasons," in *The Epistemology of Experts: New essays*, edited by A. Eder, P. Brössel, and T. Grundmann. Routledge.\*

## Conference Presentations (Peer Reviewed)

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"Inductive Risk of AI Hype" ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), Montreal	Jun. 2026
"Homogenizing Effects of AI in Research" Thinking with Machines Conference, Virginia Commonwealth University	Apr. 2026
"The Value of Disagreement in AI Design, Evaluation, and Alignment" ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), Athens	Jun. 2025
"There are Epistemic Reasons for Action" Inquiry Network Workshop, Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College	Mar. 2025
"Do AI Systems Produce Testimony, or are they Instruments?" Symposium, PSA 2024 [Accepted; Talk canceled due to injury]	Nov. 2024
"Evidence of Fairness: On the uses and limitations of statistical fairness criteria," Symposium, Pacific APA	Apr. 2023
"Resisting Algorithmic Homogenization" (with Sina Fazelpour) Philosophy, AI, and Society Workshop, Stanford University	Jan. 2023
"Understanding, Idealization, and the Disagreement Problem for XAI" Symposium, Philosophy of Science Association Conference	Nov. 2022
"Evidence of Fairness: On the uses and limitations of statistical fairness criteria," AAAI 2022 Spring Symposium: Approaches to Ethical Computing Metrics for Measuring AI's Proficiency and Competency for Ethical Reasoning.	Mar. 2022
"Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons" Symposium, Central APA	Feb. 2022
"Inquisitive Reasons and Intellectual Courage" Social (distance) Epistemology talk series (remote)	Apr. 2020
"How to Endorse Conciliationism" Colloquium, Pacific APA	Apr. 2019

“Rational Endorsement” Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference	Aug. 2017
“Rational Endorsement” Decisions, Games, and Logic Conference, University of Michigan	Jul. 2016
“Rational Endorsement” Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop	Jul. 2016
“Virtuous Distinctions” Northern Graduate Philosophy Conference, NIU	Nov. 2014
“Virtuous Distinctions” Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference, Oxford University	Nov. 2014
“Epistemic Circularity and Mechanism Coherence” Edinburgh Epistemology Conference, University of Edinburgh	Nov. 2011

### Invited Presentations

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“XAI, Disagreement, and Idealized Models” TREAT Workshop, Aarhus University	Jun. 2025
“Inductive Risk of AI Hype” Southern Workshop on Ethics of Emerging Technology, University of Florida	Apr. 2025
“Why Should We Care about Understanding Opaque AI?” Colloquium, Virginia Commonwealth University	Mar. 2025
“Inductive Risk of AI Hype” TechEthics Colloquium, Safra Center, Harvard	Mar. 2025
“Inductive Risk of AI Hype” Invited Symposium, Eastern APA	Jan. 2025
“There are Epistemic Reasons for Action” Work in Progress Workshop, Eastern APA	Jan. 2025
“Why Should We Care about Understanding Opaque AI?” Georgetown University, Humanities Initiative and Center for Digital Ethics	Oct. 2024
“Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity” Georgetown University, Fordham-Georgetown Epistemology Workshop	Jun. 2024
“Understanding Opaque AI” University of London, Being Human in the Age of AI Workshop	May. 2024
“Understanding, Explainable AI, and Disagreement” University of Alabama, Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop	May. 2024
“Understanding Opaque AI” Princeton University, Understanding in Natural and Artificial Minds	Apr. 2024
“Understanding, Legitimacy and Explainable AI” Montgomery College, Humanities days	Oct. 2023
“Understanding, Explainability, and Legitimacy” Northeastern University, IDEAS Program	Jul. 2023
“Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization” Northeastern University, IDEAS Program and AIDE Program	Jul. 2023
“Epistemic Practices: A unified account of epistemic and zetetic normativity” UNED, Madrid, Inquiry and its Norms Workshop	Jul. 2023
“Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization” University of Maryland, College Park	Apr. 2023
“Explainable AI, Disagreement, and Idealization” University of Rochester, Central NY Humanities Corridor Talk series	Apr. 2023
“Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI” Georgetown University, Computer Science Department	Mar. 2023
“Responsible Fact-Checking in Science” (with Dunja Šešelja and Dan Friedman) Inquiry Network WIP Series (remote)	Dec. 2022

“Understanding, Explainability, and Accountability,” Sonoma State University Center for Ethics, Law, and Society Lecture Series	Nov. 2022
“Responsible Fact-Checking in Science” (with Dunja Šešelja and Dan Friedman) Symposium talk, German Society for Analytic Philosophy Conference	Sep. 2022
“Responsibility for Collective Epistemic Harms” (with Dunja Šešelja) Symposium talk, German Society for Analytic Philosophy Conference	Sep. 2022
“Evidence of Fairness” Milan Workshop on Fairness and ML in Health	Jun. 2022
“Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI” European Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness (Lightning talk)	Jun. 2022
“Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons” Philosophy with Attitude Conference, New Mexico State University	Mar. 2022
“Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI” University of Eindhoven (virtual)	Nov. 2021
“Intellectual Courage and Inquisitive Reasons” Northeastern Epistemology Workshop, Northeastern University	Nov. 2021
“Understanding, Idealization, and Explainable AI” Episteme Conference, Negril, Jamaica	Aug. 2021
“Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons” Colloquium (remote), University of Missouri, St. Louis	Apr. 2021
“Pursuit and Inquisitive Reasons” Keynote Talk, Pursuit 2021 Workshop (remote)	Mar. 2021
“Inquisitive Reasons and Intellectual Courage” St. Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association (remote)	Apr. 2020
“Collective Epistemic Responsibility” (with Dunja Šešelja) Nature of Inquiry Conference, Agnes Scott College	Mar. 2020

## Teaching Experience

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### Ethics of Technology

Phil 2117: Ethical Challenges of AI Georgetown University	Sp. 24; Sp. 26
Phil 3115: AI and Epistemology Georgetown University	Fa. 2024
Phil 2117: Ethical Challenges of AI Georgetown University	Sp. 2024
Phil 8117: Epistemology of AI and the Internet (grad seminar) Georgetown University	Fa. 2023
Phil 117: Introduction to Tech, Ethics, and Society Georgetown University	Fa. 22; Sp. 23

### Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind

Phil 6100: LEMMS graduate proseminar (1/3 of a semester each) Georgetown University	Fa. 23; Spr. 24; Fa. 24; Sp. 26
PNP/Phil. 315: Philosophy of Mind Washington University in St. Louis	Fa. 2019
PNP/Phil. 496: PNP Seminar: Representation Washington University in St. Louis	Sp. 2019
PNP 200: Introduction to Cognitive Science Washington University in St. Louis	Fa. 2018
Phil. 221: Theory of Knowledge Rutgers University	Sp. 2017

### Language, Logic, and Critical Thinking

PNP/Phil. 4061: Topics in Philosophy of Language: Assertion Washington University in St. Louis	Fa. 2019
Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making Rutgers University, Online	Su. 2018
Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making Rutgers University	Fa. 2017
Phil. 109: Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making Rutgers University	Fa. 2016
Phil. 201: Introduction to Logic Rutgers University	Su. 2012
Phil. 1504: Language and Logic Virginia Tech	Su. 2011

## Mentoring Experience

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Georgetown University Philosophy PhD Program Teaching Mentor	2023–
APA Mentoring the Mentors Workshop Panel Speaker, Central APA	2017
Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy Graduate Mentor	2014–2016, 2018
Rutgers Philosophy Undergraduate Mentoring Program Graduate Mentor	2013–2016

## Professional Service

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### Conferences Organized

Bern Normative Philosophy Workshop Organized with Brian Berkey and Meica Magnani	2026
Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (4 <sup>th</sup> Annual) Organized with Brian Berkey	2026
Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual) Organized with Brian Berkey	2025
Fordham-Georgetown Epistemology Workshop Secondary organizer, with John Greco and Stephen Grimm	2024
Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual) Organized with Brian Berkey	2024
Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop (1 <sup>st</sup> Annual) Organized with Brian Berkey	2023
Bayesianism and its Rivals Organized with Branden Fitelson, Ned Hall, and David Thorstad	2022
Bridges II: Conference on Logic and Epistemology Organized with Branden Fitelson	2015
Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference Organizing Committee, Referee	2014
Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference Organizing Committee, Referee	2010
Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference Organizing Committee, Referee	2009

### Referee for:

- *Nature*
- *Mind*

- *Noûs*
- *Philosophical Quarterly*
- *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- *Philosophical Studies*
- *Analysis*
- *Synthese*
- *Erkenntnis*
- *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*
- *Philosophy of Science*
- *Episteme*
- *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*

- *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*
- *Ergo*
- *Dialectica*
- *Ratio*
- *Cambridge University Press*
- *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)*
- *AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES)*
- *Harvard Data Science Review*
- *NeurIPS RegML Symposium*
- *Philosophia*

### **Departmental Service**

Placement Director Georgetown University	2025–2026
Assistant Placement Director Georgetown University	2023–2025
Merit Committee Georgetown University	2022–2025
Graduate Representative to the Faculty Rutgers University	2012–2015
Prospective Student Liaison and Prospective Week Organizer Rutgers University	2014
President Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Society	2009–2011
Investigative and Judicial Panelist Virginia Tech Honor System	2009–2011