

JOSHUA BRECKA

Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto (2026-2027)
Supervisor: Jennifer Nagel

Course Instructor, Toronto Metropolitan University International College (2023-present)

Education

University of Toronto, Ph.D., Philosophy (Aug. 2026)
Dissertation: *Non-Traditional Agents: Knowledge and Trust*
Committee: David J. Barnett (chair), Jennifer Nagel, Sara Aronowitz, Nathan Howard,
Karina Vold (Internal Examiner), Sanford Goldberg (External Examiner)

Abstract: My dissertation considers how agents other than individual people, like groups and artificial intelligence, can be knowers and the proper objects of trust.

Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), MA, Philosophy, (2020)
Supervisor: David Hunter

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

Research Areas

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

AOC: Aesthetics, Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics

Publications

Articles

Forthcoming. "Pascal's Wager Makes Being an Atheist Supererogatory", *Faith and Philosophy*.

2026. "Aesthetic Exploration, Just Relations, and the Value of Bodily Beauty", *Debates in Aesthetics*. 2(2): 57-73.

2026. “Social Knowledge and Rational Group Action”, *Synthese*. 207(87): 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-026-05459-3>
2025. “Creatures and Creators: God, Humanity, and Artificial General Intelligence”, *Religious Studies*. 61(3): 743-745. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0034412525000289>
- Winner of the inaugural [Big Question Competition](#)
2024. “Relational Egalitarianism and Aesthetic Equality”, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*. 60: 577–594. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10790-024-10010-z>
2024. “Epistemic Autonomy, Trust, and Conflicts of Interest: A Reply to McBrayer”, *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*. 13(6): 31–39. <https://wp.me/p1Bfg0-8U6>

Book Chapters

2026. “Collective Epistemic Dilemmas.” In E. Schmidt & M. Grajner (Eds.), *Epistemic Dilemmas and Epistemic Normativity*. Routledge, 210-228.

Unpublished Manuscripts

- [title withheld] A paper about the axiology of theism. (under review)
- [title withheld] A paper about trust in AI. (under review)
- “Plantinga’s EAAN and Knowledge-First Naturalism” (draft available)
- “Towards an Ideal Aesthetic Observer Theory” (draft available)
- (with Joseph Wilson, Christina Getson, Madison Mackley, Rebekah Gelpi, and Manuella Collis) “Mapping Concepts of Trust Among AI Users” (in progress)
- “Testimonial Transmission and Group Knowledge” (in progress)
- “Is Moral Encroachment Evidence for Theism?” (in progress)
- “Betrayal as Participant Surprise” (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)

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)

Invited

Title to be determined

Canadian Journal of Philosophy Workshop on Thomas Grudmann's *Expert Authority and the Limits of Critical Thinking*, Arizona State University (Feb. 2027)

Title to be determined

Virginia Philosophy of Religion Workshop, University of Richmond (Oct. 2026)

What Are AI Chatbots and Should We Trust Them?

University of Toronto, Philosophy for Youth Summer Camp (July 2026)

On the Possibility of Trustworthy AI

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

Other Research Experience

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, (S2019)

Project: *Aesthetics and Nature* (Bloomsbury Press, 2024)

Supervisor: Glenn Parsons

Awards

(Awards in CAD unless otherwise stated)

U of T Philosophy Graduate Student Service Award x4 (\$1 000 each; 2023-26)

Schwartz Reisman Institute Embedded Ethics Education Initiative Graduate Teaching Fellowship (\$1 400; 2025-26)

Pronovost Morgan Family Foundation Fellowship in Ethical AI (\$5 000; 2025-26)

Schwartz Reisman Institute Graduate Fellowship (\$7 500; 2024-25)

Pronovost Morgan Family Foundation Fellowship in Ethical AI (\$5 000; 2023-24)

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (\$60 000; 2023-25)

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15 000; 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) (x11): (S2023 – F2026)

Lead Writing Teaching Assistant

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

Embedded Ethics Initiative

- Received specialized training for teaching TAs how to teach writing particularly in the context of technology ethics

Teaching Assistant

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, (F2025-W2026)

Embedded Ethics Initiative

- Delivered ethics modules to thousands of undergraduate computer science students

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

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

Professional Service

Referee

Journals: *Religious Studies* (x2)

Conference Organizing

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

“Markets and Morality”, University of Toronto 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 Coordinator, University of Toronto, (2020–2026)

References

David James Barnett

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University of Toronto
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Nathan Howard

Associate Professor,
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Jennifer Nagel

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Elizabeth Jackson

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Sara Aronowitz

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Philip Clark (Teaching Reference)

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