

Stephen Petersen

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AREAS

Areas of specialization

Epistemology, philosophy of mind, cognitive science

Areas of competence

Philosophy of science, logic, philosophy of language

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

PhD, philosophy 1996–2003
Belief-Desire Coherence
Committee: Eric Lormand (chair), Jessica Wilson, James Joyce, Thad Polk.

Harvard University

AB, philosophy with mathematics 1988–1992

PUBLICATIONS

- “Analysis, schmanalysis” (forthcoming). In the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*.
- “The ethics of robot servitude” (2007). In the *Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Artificial Intelligence*, 19(1):43–54.
- “Construing faith as action won’t save Pascal’s wager” (2006). In *Philo*, 9(2):221–229.
- “Functions, creatures, learning, emotion” (2004). In Hudlicka, E. and Cañamero, L., editors, *Architectures for Modeling Emotion: Cross-Disciplinary Foundations*, The American Association for Artificial Intelligence, AAAI Press.

UNDER REVIEW

- “Naturalism is (literally) self-explanatory” (a proposal for construing naturalism that saves it from internal incoherence and other objections)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Niagara University, Assistant professor 2006–present
Epistemology
Philosophy of mind
Logic
Introduction to philosophy (multiple times)

Kalamazoo College , Mellon postdoctoral fellow	2004–2006
Metaphysics and mind (team-teaching)	
Early modern philosophy	
Theories of knowledge	
Senior seminar: inference to the best explanation (team-teaching)	
Philosophy of artificial intelligence	
Philosophy of science	
Logic and reasoning	
Introduction to philosophy	
University of Michigan , Visiting assistant professor	2003–2004
Metaphysics and epistemology	
Introductory logic (twice)	
Introduction to philosophy	
University of Michigan , Graduate student instructor (sole instructor)	2000–2002
Philosophy of mind (twice)	
Upper division logic	
Introduction to philosophy (twice)	
Introductory logic	
University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching , Consultant	2000–2003
Helped develop and perform nationally-acclaimed interactive presentations on better university teaching; issues included disability in the classroom, women in the sciences, and hiring practices.	
University of Michigan , Teaching assistant	1997–2000
Ethics (with David Velleman)	
Introduction to philosophy (with Sally Haslanger and then with Louis Loeb)	

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Utilitarian epistemology and the value of knowledge”, the Value of Knowledge Conference, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, summer 2007.

“Minimum message length as a truth-conducive simplicity measure”, the Formal Epistemology Workshop, Carnegie Mellon University, spring 2007.

“Embodied intelligence without the bodies”, the University of Buffalo Center for Cognitive Science, spring 2007.

“Artificial intelligence is possible / Artificial intelligence is impossible”, Niagara University 150th Anniversary Speaker Series, spring 2007.

“Naturalism is (literally) self-explanatory”, the Center for Inquiry, spring 2007.

“When you can both keep it and give it away: the ethics of intellectual property”, 13th Annual International Conference Promoting Business Ethics, fall 2006.

“The ethics of robot servitude”

- North American Computing and Philosophy Conference, summer 2006.
- University of Buffalo Center for Cognitive Science, fall 2006.

- Canisius College, spring 2007.

“Learning and computational epistemology”, invited speaker at Western Michigan University, fall 2005.

“Some future: comments on Gilbert Harman’s *The future of the a priori*”. University of Michigan, spring 2001 colloquium.

FELLOWSHIPS

2004–2006: Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship

2001: Mellon Dissertation Fellowship

2000: Rackham Fellowship

1996-1999: Regents’ Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer review,

Synthese

2006–present

Niagara University,

Search committee

2006–present

Instructional technology committee

2006–present

Kalamazoo College,

Comprehensive exam committee

2005

Revised comprehensive examinations and senior requirements for the philosophy department.

LANGUAGES

Japanese, ancient Greek

REFERENCES

Eric Lormand

University of Michigan

lormand|at|umich.edu

Jessica Wilson

University of Toronto

jessica.m.wilson|at|utoronto.ca

Marc Alspector-Kelly

Western Michigan University

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James Joyce

University of Michigan

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Chris Latiolais

Kalamazoo College (teaching reference)

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Ashley McDowell

Kalamazoo College (teaching reference)
mcdowell|at|kzoo.edu

David Velleman

New York University (teaching reference)
jdvelleman|at|nyu.edu

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