PAUL J. KELLY

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Department of Philosophy, Texas State University
paul.j.kelly@txstate.edu | pauljkelly.weebly.com

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

Specialization: Philosophy of science (cognitive science and biology); ethics (technology and data)
Competence: Philosophy of artificial intelligence; philosophy of mind; philosophy of religion

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Texas State University, *Assistant Professor of Instruction*	August 2026 – Present
University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Lecturer / Teaching Assistant*	January 2018 – August 2025
Indiana University Bloomington, *Lecturer / Teaching Assistant*	August 2016 – May 2017
City Colleges of Chicago, *Lecturer*	August 2013 – May 2015
Tufts University, *Teaching Assistant*	January 2011 – December 2012

EDUCATION

PhD	(Expected 2027)	Philosophy (*Minor: Ethics*)	University of Wisconsin–Madison
MA	2017	History and Philosophy of Science	Indiana University Bloomington
MA	2013	Philosophy	Tufts University
BS	2009	Philosophy (*summa cum laude*)	Towson University

DISSERTATION

"Questions Put to Nature": Scientific Inquiry, Explanation, and Understanding
Co-chairs: Lawrence Shapiro and Aja Watkins
Committee: Elliott Sober, Lauren Ross, Colin Allen, Gary Lupyan, and Michael Titelbaum

PUBLICATIONS

Kelly, Paul J. (2023) "Helping Novice Students Understand How Logic Relates to Philosophy." *American Association of Philosophy Teachers Studies in Pedagogy* 8: 124-126.

Kelly, Paul J. (2023) *Review of Peter Godfrey-Smith, Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, 2nd ed.* *Teaching Philosophy* 46 (2): 261-264.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Philosophy of Science (Cognitive Science and Biology)

"*These Hypotheses Should Be Considered First*": *Research Questions and the Justification of Hypothesis Prioritization*
Society for Philosophy and Psychology (June 2026)

Explanatory Aptness: Justifying Model Type Selection in Scientific Research
Rotman Graduate Student Conference: Philosophical Issues in the Life Sciences (May 2026)
Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf VIII (September 2025)

Towards a Pragmatic-Inferentialist Account of Model-Based Explanation
Philosophy of Science Association (November 2024) [poster]
International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (October 2024)
Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf VII (October 2024)
Society for Philosophy and Psychology (June 2024) [poster]
University of Notre Dame Annual HPS Conference: Unity and Disunity in Science (April 2024) [poster]

Dynamical Models, Scientific Understanding, and Explanatory Unification
International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (December 2023)
Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf VI (September 2023)
Society for Philosophy and Psychology (June 2023)
Wisconsin Philosophical Association (April 2023)

Varieties and Relationships of New Mechanistic Views
NeuroExp 2023: Berlin Workshop on Neuroscientific Explanation (October 2023)

What Justifies the Model-to-Mechanism Mapping Requirement?
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (March 2022)
APA Central Division Meeting (February 2022)

How Do Functional Models in Cognitive Science Represent and Explain?
APA Eastern Division Meeting (January 2022) [poster]
Society for the Metaphysics of Science (September 2021)
Society for Philosophy and Psychology (July 2021)
Rotman Institute of Philosophy Graduate Conference: Complexity and Explanation (May 2021)

Does Methodological Adaptationism Presuppose a False Dichotomy?
University at Albany Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Biology (April 2021)
APA Central Division Meeting (February 2021)
Philosophy of Science Association (January 2021) [poster]

On the Scientific Legitimacy of Animal Beliefs
New School Graduate Conference, Animalhouse: Animals and Their Environs (April 2021)
Minnesota Philosophical Society (October 2019)

How Should a Physicalist Respond to the Knowledge Argument?
APA Pacific Division Meeting (April 2019)

Can the Decisions of Historical Scientists Be Judged as Rational?
Indiana University History and Philosophy of Science Graduate Conference (March 2016)

Ethics

On the Plausibility of a Dispositional Analysis of Intrinsic Value
New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society (May 2021)
Wisconsin Philosophical Association (August 2020)

Ethical Naturalism, Causal Reference, and Closing the Revised Open Question Argument
Towson University Philosophy Forum Lecture Series (February 2013)

Philosophical Pedagogy

Forestalling Hermeneutical Injustice Through Pedagogy: Philosophy Instruction in the Age of Trolling
Central AAPT–APA Teaching Hub (February 2026)

How the Philosophy of Understanding Can Inform Philosophical Pedagogy
Eastern AAPT–APA Teaching Hub (January 2024) [poster]

Knowing When to Walk Away: Teaching Students to Identify Interlocutors Arguing in Bad Faith
Central AAPT–APA Teaching Hub (February 2023) [poster]

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Savvas Ioannou, 'Intuition of Mind-Brain Distinctness: Why Do We Have It?' New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society (May 2021)

Caner Turan, 'Are Ambitious Evolutionary Debunking Arguments Self-Refuting?' University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate Philosophy Conference (May 2021)

Tim Aylsworth and Clinton Castro, 'An Imperfect Duty to Be a Digital Minimalist?' APA Pacific Division Meeting (April 2021)

Alison Springle, 'Instructive Attitudes.' APA Central Division Meeting (February 2020)

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

Texas State University
Philosophy and Critical Thinking (4x)

University of Wisconsin–Madison
Introduction to Philosophy (2x; Enrollment 100+)
Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy (2x; Enrollment 100+)
Contemporary Moral Issues (3x; Enrollment 100+)
Ethics in Business (Enrollment 100+)
Introduction to AI and Data Ethics
The Meaning of Life

Indiana University Bloomington
Issues in Biomedical Ethics

City Colleges of Chicago
Introduction to Philosophy (6x)
Philosophy of Religion (5x)
Ethics (2x)
Logic

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Wisconsin–Madison
Introduction to Philosophy (12 sections; Instructors: John Bengson, Lawrence Shapiro, and Arun Baxter)
Introductory Ethics (5 sections; Instructor: Russ Shafer-Landau)
Contemporary Moral Issues (4 sections; Instructor: Russ Shafer-Landau)

Indiana University Bloomington
The Atomic Bomb: The Risks and Benefits of Radioactivity (Instructor: Jordi Cat)

Tufts University
Philosophy of Biology (Instructor: Patrick Forber)
Introductory Ethics (2 sections; Instructor: David Denby)
Knowing and Being (Instructor: David Denby)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lupyan Lab, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Visiting Graduate Student* — August 2023 – May 2024
Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, *Graduate Student Affiliate* — August 2023 – May 2025
University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Project Assistant to James Messina* — Summer 2021
University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Project Assistant to Elliott Sober* — Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Fall 2019

HONORS & AWARDS

Fellowships & Grants
Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center for STS Research Fellowship (2023, 2024, 2025)
Graduate Peer Mentor Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison Graduate School (2023)
Richard W. McHugh Memorial Scholarship, University of Wisconsin–Madison (2022)
Nominee, Capstone Teaching Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison (2021)

Travel Funding
Society for Philosophy and Psychology Travel Award (2023, 2024, 2026)
University of Wisconsin–Madison Graduate School Student Research Grant (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
APA Graduate Student Travel Stipend (2019, 2021, 2022, 2024)
National Science Foundation Travel Grant Award (2024)
Presidential Scholars in Society and Neuroscience Travel Award (2023)
Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics Honorarium (2023)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Center for Canon Expansion and Change, Program on Canon Expansion and Inclusive Teaching (June 2026)
Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics, Workshop on Professional Business Ethics (May 2023)
AAPT–APA Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy, Seminar on Course Design (July 2022)
The Discussion Project, Seminar on Discussion-based Courses (August 2021)

MENTORING

Mentor, Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, UW–Madison (2022 – 2023)
Supervised two first-generation undergraduates, in a year-long project on model-based scientific representation. Final project was presented at the UW–Madison Undergraduate Symposium and the Wisconsin Philosophical Association.

SERVICE

Professional Service
Council Member, APA Graduate Student Council (July 2022 – June 2024)
Vice Chair, APA Graduate Student Council (July 2023 – June 2024)
Secretary, APA Graduate Student Council (July 2022 – June 2023)

Departmental Service

Director of Professional Engagement, Graduate Association of Philosophy, UW–Madison (2023 – 2024)
Colloquium Committee, Department of Philosophy, UW–Madison (2023 – 2024)
Prospective Student Weekend Organizing Committee, UW–Madison (2024)

Conference Organization

AAPT–APA Teaching Hub, Eastern Division Meeting (January 2024)
AAPT–APA Teaching Hub, Central Division Meeting (February 2023)
Indiana University History and Philosophy of Science Graduate Conference (March 2016)

Session Chairing

'AI Agency: Ethics and Aesthetics,' APA Central Division Meeting (February 2026)
'Causation,' Philosophy of Science Association (November 2024)
'The Impact of AI on Teaching,' Eastern AAPT–APA Teaching Hub (January 2024)
'Epistemological Frameworks for the Mind/Brain,' ISPSM (November 2023)
'UW–Madison Undergraduate Symposium' (April 2023)
'Philosophy in Times of Crisis,' APA Central Division Meeting (February 2023)
'Teaching and the Philosophy Job Market,' Central AAPT–APA Teaching Hub (February 2023)
'Moral Permissivism and Necessity,' APA Central Division Meeting (February 2023)
'Mechanisms,' Philosophy of Science Association (November 2021)
'Philosophy of Religion,' New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society (May 2021)
'Issues in Cognition,' APA Central Division Meeting (February 2021)
'Virtues, Values, and Counterfactuals in Science,' APA Central Division Meeting (February 2020)

Refereeing

Journals: Teaching Philosophy; topiCS: Topics in Cognitive Science
Conferences: Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2x); New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society (2x)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association of Philosophy Teachers; American Philosophical Association; Philosophy of Science Association; International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind; Society for Philosophy and Neuroscience; Society for Philosophy and Psychology; Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Lawrence Shapiro
Berent Enç Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin–Madison
lshapiro@wisc.edu

Elliott Sober
Hans Reichenbach Professor & William F. Vilas Research Professor of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin–Madison
ersober@wisc.edu

Colin Allen
Distinguished Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of California, Santa Barbara
colinallen@ucsb.edu

Elisabeth Lloyd
Arnold & Maxine Tanis Chair
History & Philosophy of Science
Indiana University, Bloomington
ealloyd@indiana.edu

Gary Lupyan
Professor
Department of Psychology
University of Wisconsin–Madison
lupyan@wisc.edu

Aja Watkins
Assistant Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin–Madison
aja.watkins@wisc.edu

TEACHING REFERENCES

Russ Shafer-Landau
Elliott R. Sober Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin–Madison
shaferlandau@wisc.edu

Alan Rubel
Professor & Director
The Information School
University of Wisconsin–Madison
arubel@wisc.edu

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

General Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Science (George Smith)
Modern Philosophy of Science (Jordi Cat)
Contemporary Philosophy of Science (Jordi Cat)
Integrated History & Philosophy of Science (Jutta Schickore)
Science & Values (Jutta Schickore)
Causal Inference (Patrick Forber & George Smith)
Formal Epistemology (Patrick Forber)
Bayesian Epistemology (Michael Titelbaum)
Incommensurability (Hayley Clatterbuck) ‡
Parsimony (Elliott Sober) ‡
Philosophy of Climate & Environmental Sciences (Aja Watkins) ‡

Philosophy of Cognitive Science & Biology

Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science (Daniel Dennett)
Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science (Colin Allen)
Comparative Cognition (Colin Allen)
Embodied Cognition (Lawrence Shapiro)
Philosophy of Biology (Elisabeth Lloyd)
Darwin & Religion (Lisa Sideris)
Biological & Cosmic Design Arguments (Elliott Sober)
Linguistic & Nonlinguistic Thought (Hayley Clatterbuck) ‡
Consciousness & Intentionality (Farid Masrour) ‡

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Mind (Stephen White)
Greatest Philosophy of Mind Hits of the '80s and '90s (Lawrence Shapiro)
Greatest Philosophy of Mind Hits of the '00s and '10s (Lawrence Shapiro) ‡
Belief (Jesse Steinberg) ‡

Ethics

Ethical Theory (Avner Baz)
Kant's Ethics (Allen Wood)
Free Will (Daniel Dennett)
The Moral Universe (Russ Shafer-Landau & John Bengson)
Spinoza's *Ethics* (Steven Nadler)
Metaethics (Lionel McPherson)
Justice & Equality (Harry Brighouse) ‡
The Ethics of A.I. & Machine Learning (Annette Zimmermann) ‡

Other Courses

Proseminar in Philosophy (John Mackay)
Graduate Writing Seminar (Nancy Bauer & David Denby)
Logic (George Smith)
History of Analytic Philosophy (Dilip Ninan)
History of Science to 1750 (Domenico Bertoloni Meli)
Theory of Knowledge (Adam Leite)
Aristotle's *Metaphysics* (Paula Gottlieb)
Dispositions (Jesse Steinberg)

‡ Denotes audited courses