

# Gerard J. Rothfus

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## Research Areas

**AOS:** Decision Theory, Normative Ethics

**AOC:** Logic, Game Theory, Philosophy of Science

## Employment

### University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Teaching Assistant Professor, August 2022 - present

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program

### University of Konstanz

Postdoctoral Researcher, October 2020 - July 2022

Koselleck Project on the Foundations of Decision and Game Theory

Supervisor: Wolfgang Spohn

### California State University, Long Beach

Lecturer, August 2019 - December 2019

Department of Philosophy

## Education

### University of California, Irvine

Ph.D., Philosophy, Summer 2020

M.A., Mathematical Behavioral Science, Summer 2019

Thesis: "The Logic of Planning"

Committee: Simon Huttegger (chair), Brian Skyrms, and Jeffrey Barrett

### Pepperdine University

B.S., Mathematics, B.A., Philosophy, *cum laude*, April 2014

## Publications

“A Causal Modeler’s Guide to Double Effect Reasoning”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (forthcoming).

“Prediction Impairs Deliberation”, *Ergo* (forthcoming).

“Evidence, Causality, and Sequential Choice”, *Theory and Decision* (forthcoming).

“A Plan-Based Causal Decision Theory”, *Analysis* (2022).

“Bradley Conditionals and Dynamic Choice” (with S. Huttegger), *Synthese* (2021).

“Dynamic Consistency in the Logic of Decision”, *Philosophical Studies* (2020).

## Book Reviews

Review of Richard Pettigrew’s *Accuracy and the Laws of Credence* (with Chad Marxen), *Philosophy of Science* (2018).

## Works in Progress

“A Causal Modeler’s Guide to Doing and Allowing Harm”.

“Is the Means Principle Dynamically Coherent?”.

“Dependency Equilibria: Extending Nash Equilibria to Entangled Belief Systems” (with W. Spohn and M. Radzvilas), draft under review.

“Deference and Decision” (with D. Herrmann), draft under review.

## Presentations

“Deference and Decision”

- Duke-UNC Epistemology Workshop, November 2024 (anticipated)

“Purified Consequentialism and AI Safety”

- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the PPE Society, November 2024 (anticipated)

“Purified Consequentialism”

- ILIAD Conference on AI Alignment, September 2024

“The Bayesics: Introductions to Decision Theory and Bayesian Epistemology”

- ILIAD Conference on AI Alignment, September 2024 (joint tutorials with D. Herrmann and A. Mohseni)

“A Dilemma for Double Effect Reasoners”

- PPE Workshop, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, August 2024

“Is the Means Principle Dynamically Coherent?”

- Workshop on Dynamic Decision Theory and Social Contract Theory, Institute for Future Studies, December 2023

“A Causal Modeler’s Guide to Trolleyology”

- Causal Incentives Working Group, November 2023

“The Jeffrey-Bolker Decision Framework”

- Workshop on Agent Foundations for AI Alignment, October 2023 (joint tutorial with D. Herrmann)

“Dignity and Uncertainty”

- PPE Workshop, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, August 2023
- Formal Rationality Forum, March 2023

“Dynamic Consistency for Two Kinds of Moral Absolutism”

- Workshop on Issues in Dynamic Decision Theory, University of Konstanz, July 2023

“Prediction Impairs Deliberation”

- Duke Causation Group, Duke University, February 2023

“Rationality and Ratifiability”

- PPE Workshop, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, August 2022

“Stochastic Agency and Rational Deliberation”

- ELP, University of Konstanz, April 2021

“Planning and the Norms of Rational Choice”

- Philosophy Day, California State University, Long Beach, December 2019

“Newcombian Tragedy”

- Probability in Philosophy Conference, Australian Catholic University, November 2019

“Conditionals and Dynamic Choice”

- Luce 2019 Conference, University of California, Irvine, May 2019

“Evidence, Causality, and Sequential Choice”

- Foundations of Normative Decision Theory Workshop, Oxford University, June 2018
- Topics in Scientific Philosophy Conference in honor of Brian Skyrms, U.C. Irvine, February 2018
- 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, May 2018

## Teaching Experience

*Instructor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*

- *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Capstone* (Fall 2024/Spring 2024/Spring 2023)
- *Practical Ethics* (Fall 2023)
- *Bioethics* (Spring 2024/Spring 2023/Fall 2022)
- *Logic and Decision Theory* (Fall 2023/Fall 2022)

*Instructor, University of Konstanz, Germany*

- *Collective Choice and Social Welfare* (Summer 2022)
- *Formal Epistemology* (Winter 2021/2)
- *Introduction to Inductive Logic* (Summer 2021)

*Instructor, University of California, Irvine*

- *Introduction to Inductive Logic* (Spring 2020)
- *Introduction to Symbolic Logic* (Summer 2019)

*Instructor, California State University, Long Beach*

- *Rationality and Decisions* (Fall 2019)

*Teaching Assistant, University of California, Irvine*

- *Probability/Statistics* (Winter 2020/Spring 2018/Winter 2018/Spring 2017/2016)
- *Voting and Political Manipulation* (Winter 2019)
- *Naturalized Epistemology* (Fall 2018)
- *Philosophy of Biology* (Winter 2017/Winter 2015)
- *Behavioral Economics* (Fall 2016)
- *Business Decisions* (Fall 2015)
- *The Good Life: Happiness and Well-Being* (Spring 2015)

## Professional Service and Engagement

Guest Editor, Special Issue on Dynamic Decision Theory, *Theory and Decision*  
(with Wolfgang Spohn and Mantas Radzvilas), Spring 2024

Member, Teaching Assistant Professor in PPE Search Committee,  
UNC, Chapel Hill, Spring 2023/Spring 2024

Discussion Leader, National Undergraduate PPE Colloquium,  
Feb 2024/March 2023

Undergraduate Thesis Committee Member, UNC, Chapel Hill, Apr 2024

Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl, Apr 2024  
Judge, North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl, Jan 2023/2024  
Outreach Speaker, Carolina Meadows, Feb 2024  
Moderator, UNC Undergraduate Reading Group on *Expert Political Judgment* (Tetlock), Fall 2023  
Member, Program Committee for Workshop on Issues in Dynamic Decision Theory, University of Konstanz, July 2023  
Member, Postdoctoral Researcher Koselleck Project Search Committee, University of Konstanz, Spring 2021  
Member, Program Committee for Formal Epistemology Workshop (FEW) 2020  
Organizer, U.C. Irvine Formal Epistemology Reading Group, 2016-2019  
Journal Referee: *Philosophy of Science*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Ergo*, *Analysis*, *Theory and Decision*, *Philosophical Quarterly*  
Manuscript Editing Projects:  
*The Probabilistic Foundations of Rational Learning* by Simon Huttegger,  
*Reflexive Rationality* by Wolfgang Spohn (MS),  
*Frege's Conception of Identity* by Ulrich Pardey and Kai Wehmeier, (MS).

## References

### **Simon Huttegger**

Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science  
University of California, Irvine  
shuttegg@uci.edu

### **Geoffrey Sayre-McCord**

Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
sayre-mccord@unc.edu

### **Brian Skyrms**

Distinguished Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science  
University of California, Irvine  
bskyrms@uci.edu

### **Wolfgang Spohn**

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy  
University of Konstanz  
wolfgang.spohn@uni-konstanz.de

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