

Gerard J. Rothfus

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Research Areas

AOS: Ethics, Decision Theory, PPE

AOC: Logic, Game Theory, Philosophy of Science

Employment

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Teaching Assistant Professor (2022-present)

Department of Philosophy

Core Faculty in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

University of Konstanz

Postdoctoral Researcher (2020-2022)

Koselleck Project on the Foundations of Decision and Game Theory

Director: Wolfgang Spohn

California State University, Long Beach

Lecturer (2019)

Department of Philosophy

Education

University of California, Irvine

Ph.D., Philosophy (2020)

M.A., Mathematical Behavioral Science (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).

“Deference and Decision” (with D. Herrmann).

“Consequentialism without Consequences” (with D. Herrmann).

“Playing with Your (Epistemic) Emotions: How Feelings Predict Biased Information Seeking” (with G. Orona and A. Mohseni)

Presentations

“Consequentialism and Its Limits”

- Carolina Public Humanities Lecture, February 2025 (upcoming)

“Purified Utility Programming”

- 8th Annual Meeting of the PPE Society, November 2024 (with B. Rushing)

“Deference and Decision”

- Duke-UNC Epistemology Workshop, November 2024

“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 (Stockholm), 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 (Bristol-LSE-Michigan-Irvine), 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
 - 46th 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 2025/2024/2023)
- *Practical Ethics* (Fall 2023)
- *Bioethics* (Spring 2024/2023, Fall 2022)
- *Logic and Decision Theory* (Fall 2023/2022)

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 2020/2018, Spring 2018/2017/2016)
- *Voting and Political Manipulation* (Winter 2019)
- *Naturalized Epistemology* (Fall 2018)
- *Philosophy of Biology* (Winter 2017/2015)
- *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/Fall 2024

Session Organizer, *Rational Agency and Artificial Intelligence*, 8th Annual Meeting of the PPE Society (feat. work by A. Mohseni, B. Levinstein, D. Herrmann, and B. Rushing), November 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,
Philosophers' Imprint, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science,
Theory and Decision, Philosophical Quarterly, Theoria, Ergo, Analysis

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
Logic and Philosophy of Science
University of California, Irvine
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Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

Morehead-Cain Alumni
Distinguished Professor
UNC, Chapel Hill
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Brian Skyrms

Distinguished Professor
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Wolfgang Spohn

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