

# Gerard J. Rothfus

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## Research Areas

**AOS:** Ethics, Decision Theory, PPE

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

## Employment

### **Texas Christian University**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (Fall 2025 - Present)  
John V. Roach Honors College

### **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**

Teaching Assistant Professor (Fall 2022 - Spring 2025)  
Department of Philosophy  
Core Faculty in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

### **University of Konstanz**

Postdoctoral Researcher (Fall 2020 - Spring 2022)  
*Koselleck Project on the Foundations of Decision and Game Theory*

### **California State University, Long Beach**

Lecturer (Fall 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

- “Prediction Impairs Deliberation”, *Ergo* (forthcoming).
- “Deference and Decision” (w. D. Herrmann), *Theory and Decision* (2025).
- “A Causal Modeler’s Guide to Double Effect Reasoning”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2024).
- “Evidence, Causality, and Sequential Choice”, *Theory and Decision* (2024).
- “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?”.
- “Splitting Atoms in Rational Choice Theory” (with D. Herrmann).
- “Dependency Equilibria: Extending Nash Equilibria to Entangled Belief Systems” (with W. Spohn and M. Radzvilas).
- “Playing with Your (Epistemic) Emotions: How Feelings Predict Biased Information Seeking” (with G. Orona and A. Mohseni)

## Presentations

- “Splitting Atoms in Rational Choice Theory”
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the PPE Society, November 2024 (with D. Herrmann)
- “Consequentialism and Its Limits”
- Carolina Public Humanities Lecture, April 2025
- “Purified Utility Programming”
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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

“It Pays to be Blaise”

- Mountain-Pacific Regional Meeting, Society of Christian Philosophers, May 2024 (with J. Waldrop)

“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
- 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, May 2018

## Teaching Experience

*Instructor, Texas Christian University*

- *The Logic of Democracy* (Fall 2025)
- *Happiness* (Fall 2025)

*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 –Spring 2025

Discussion Moderator, National Undergraduate PPE Colloquium (UNC/Duke), Feb 2025/Feb 2024/March 2023

Session Organizer, *Rational Agency and Artificial Intelligence*, 8<sup>th</sup> 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

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

Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl, Apr 2025/Apr 2024

Judge, North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl, Jan 2024/Jan 2023

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 Kosselleck 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:

*Mind, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophers' Imprint, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Analysis, Synthese, Ergo, Theoria, Philosophical Quarterly, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Science, Theory and Decision*

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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**Brian Skyrms**

Distinguished Professor  
Logic and Philosophy of Science  
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**Geoffrey Sayre-McCord**

Morehead-Cain Alumni  
Distinguished Professor  
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**Wolfgang Spohn**

Professor Emeritus  
Philosophy  
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