

Gerard J. Rothfus

John V. Roach Honors College
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, TX 76109

www.gerardrothfus.com
gerard.rothfus@tcu.edu
(412) 915-8561

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

- “The Logic of Intuition”.
- “A Causal Modeler’s Guide to Doing and Allowing Harm”.
- “A Dilemma for Double Effect Reasoners”.
- “Splitting the Atom in Conditional Semantics” (with D. Herrmann).
- “Splitting the Atom 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 the Atom in Rational Choice Theory”
- 30th Biennial Meeting of the PSA, November 2026 (with D. Herrmann)
 - 9th Annual Meeting of the PPE Society, November 2025 (with D. Herrmann)
- “The Logic of Intuition”
- 10th Annual Meeting of the PPE Society, November 2026
- “Causal vs. Evidential Game Theory”
- Texas Tech University, October 2026

“Consequentialism and Its Limits”

- Carolina Public Humanities Lecture, April 2025

“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 Bayesians: 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
- 46th Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, May 2018

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Texas Christian University

- *Capitalism and Socialism* (Spring 2026)
- *The Logic of Democracy* (Fall 2025/2026)
- *Happiness* (Spring 2026, Fall 2025/2026)

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

Session Organizer, *Causation: Philosophical Foundations and Applications for Statistics and Decision Theory*, 10th 30th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association (feat. work by A. Mohseni, D. Herrmann, B. Rushing, and R. Stern), November 2026

Session Organizer, *Intuition in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*, 10th Annual Meeting of the PPE Society (feat. work by A. Mohseni and D. Herrmann), November 2026

Faculty Advisor, BridgeTCU, Fall 2026–Spring 2027

Mentor, College 101 at TCU, Spring 2026

Guest Editor, Special Issue on Dynamic Decision Theory, *Theory and Decision* (with Wolfgang Spohn and Mantas Radzvilas), Spring 2024 –Spring 2026

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

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

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 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:

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, Episteme

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).

Professional Societies:

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society
Philosophy of Science Association
Society for Exact Philosophy
American Catholic Philosophical Association

References

Simon Huttegger

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

Brian Skyrms

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

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

Morehead-Cain Alumni
Distinguished Professor
UNC, Chapel Hill
sayre-mccord@unc.edu

Wolfgang Spohn

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

Last updated: August 18, 2026