

Updated August 24th, 2026

## Research

- AOS Philosophy of Technology, Social Philosophy of Language, Social Metaphysics, Social Epistemology  
AOC Philosophy of Social Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

## Employment

- 2026-present **Associate Professor**, *School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science, University of Leeds*  
2019-2026 **Assistant Professor**, *Philosophy Department, Northwestern University*  
2018-2019 **Weinberg College Fellow**, *Philosophy Department, Northwestern University*

## Education

- 2018 **PhD, Philosophy**, *University of Texas at Austin*  
'This Machine Kills Fascists: Detecting Propaganda with Formal Models of Mass Discourse Structure'  
Committee: Josh Dever (chair), David Beaver, L. Ray Buchanan, Hans Kamp, Craig Roberts, Jason Stanley.  
2015 **MA, Philosophy**, *University of Texas at Austin*  
'Discourse-Level Information Structure and the Challenge of Higher Order Discourse'  
2012 **BA, Philosophy and Writing**, *University of Victoria, Canada*

## Publications

- 2026 **Deepfakes, Public Announcements, and Political Mobilization**, *Oxford Studies in Epistemology* (8), 117-139.  
2026 **Social Movements and the Synecdoche Problem**, *Noûs*, 60(2), 385–412.  
2025 **The Politics of Past and Future: Synthetic Media, Showing, and Telling**, *Philosophical Studies*, 182, 137-158.  
2025 **What is Social Organizing?**, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 110(2), 460-496.  
2023 **On Group Lies and Lying to Oneself: Comment on Jennifer Lackey's 'The Epistemology of Groups'**, *Asian Journal of Philosophy*, 2(73).  
2023 **Luck and the Value of Communication**, *Synthese*, 201(96), 1-19.  
2023 **Against Irrationalism in the Theory of Propaganda**, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 9(2), 303-317.  
2021 **Propaganda, Irrationality, and Group Agency**, *Routledge Handbook of Political Epistemology*, (Eds. Michael Hannon, Jeroen de Ridder), Routledge, 226-235.  
2019 **In defense of political correctness and against 'political correctness'**, *Ethics, Left and Right: The Moral Issues that Divide Us*, (Ed. Bob Fischer), Oxford University Press, 380-388; 392-394.

## In Preparation and Under Review

### Sousveillance and Synthveillance

A paper about the political aesthetics and epistemology of synthetic media

## Deepfakes, Disruption, and Use Case Diversity

A paper developing a risk-screening tool for determining how likely a given use of recording technologies is to be undermined by synthetic disruption.

## Crisis and Indexicality

A paper about knowledge, ignorance, and political crisis.

## The Avoidance of Address: Speech and Nonrecognition in Public Spaces

A paper about how we justify ignoring others who address us.

## Collective address

A paper arguing that we sometimes address our speech to groups collectively, rather than distributively.

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## Public Philosophy

### Writing

[‘Not all Propaganda aims to Persuade’](#), *LA Times*, Op-ed, 2022.

[‘Of Martyrs and Robots: Propaganda and Group Identity’](#), *The Yale Review*, Article, 2018, 1-11.

### Podcast Appearances

[‘How Does Propaganda Work?’](#), *What’s Left of Philosophy*, 2023.

[‘On Propaganda, Irrationality, and Group Agency’](#), *Parc Media*, 2021.

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## Selected Presentations

- May 2026 **‘Recording the State in a Time of Synthetic Media’**, *University of Oregon New Media and Culture Annual Lecture*, Eugene, OR, USA, *invited*
- April 2026 **‘Concerns and Challenges for International Scholars,’** panel member, *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*, online, *invited*
- April 2026 **‘Philosophy and Political Repression,’** facilitator, *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*, online, *invited*
- March 2026 **‘Migra Watch and the Epistemic Practices of Surveillance from Below’**, *UNC Chapel Hill Applied Epistemology in Times of Political Crisis Workshop*, Chapel Hill, NC, USA, *invited*
- Feb 2026 **Comments on ‘Inquiry and Deception’**, by Yasha Sapir and Brian Haas, *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting*, Chicago, IL, USA, *invited*
- Jan 2026 **‘Addressing persons, Addressing Bodies’**, *University of Leeds*, Leeds, UK
- Nov 2025 **‘Deepfakes, Disruption, and Use Case Diversity’**, *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA, *refereed*
- Nov 2025 **Comments on William M. Paris’ ‘Race, Time and Utopia’**, *Northwestern Critical Theory Workshop*, Evanston, IL, USA, *invited*
- June 2025 **‘Deepfakes, Public Announcements, and Political Mobilization’**, *Summer Immersion Program in Philosophy*, keynote, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, *invited*
- May 2025 **‘Social Movements and the Synecdoche Problem’**, *colloquium*, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VI, USA, *invited*
- April 2025 **‘The Politics of Past and Future’**, *53rd Annual CSUF Philosophy Symposium - Deception and Distrust: The Dark Side of Discourse*, California State Fullerton, Fullerton, CA, USA, *invited*
- Jan 2025 **‘Communicative Intention and the Management of Epistemic Dependence’**, *Havana Normative Philosophy Workshop*, Havana, Cuba, *invited*
- Oct 2024 **‘Showing and Telling in Democratic Politics’**, *Workshop in Applied Philosophy*, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, USA, *invited*
- Oct 2024 **‘Large Language Models are Responsive to the Semantic Properties of their Prompts’**, *MINT-Yale Law School Workshop on Normative Philosophy of Computing*, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA, *refereed*

- April 2024 **'Interrogating Collective Authenticity as a Norm for Online Speech'** (co-written with Michael Barnes), *2024 Social Philosophy Workshop: Explanation, Imagination and Transformation*, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, USA, *invited*
- March 2024 **Comments on Cory Wimberly's 'Big Data, Marketing, and Online Spaces'**, *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*, Portland, OR, USA, *invited*
- March 2024 **'Deepfakes, Public Announcements, and Political Mobilization'**, *MINT Lab Meeting*, Canberra, Australia, *invited*
- Feb 2024 **'Of Spellbooks and Promptology: Foundation Models and Communications Technology'**, *MINT Lab and ADM+S workshop on Generative AI and Normative Philosophy of Computing*, Kioloa, Australia, *invited*
- Dec 2023 **'Interrogating Authenticity as a Norm for Online Speech'** (co-written with Michael Barnes), *Oxford-Berlin Early Career Colloquium for Normative Philosophy of Computing*, Berlin, Germany, *refereed*
- Nov 2023 **'The Politics of Past and Future: Synthetic Media, Showing, and Telling'**, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA, *refereed*
- Oct 2023 **'Social Movements as Units of Explanation'**, *Colloquium*, Loyola University, Chicago, USA, *invited*
- June 2023 **'Theories of Propaganda and New Technology: Applications and Interventions (translational tutorial, taught with Michael Barnes)**, *Association for Computing Machinery Conference on Fairness Accountability and Transparency (ACM FAccT)*, Chicago, IL, USA, *refereed*
- May 2023 **'Deepfakes, Public Announcements, and Political Mobilization'**, *International Conference on Computer Ethics: Philosophical Enquiry (CEPE)*, Chicago, IL, USA, *refereed*
- April 2023 **Comments on Mie Inouye's 'The American Organizing Tradition and the Problem of Democratic Transitions'**, *Social Philosophy: Identity, Alienation, Emancipation*, Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA, *invited*
- April 2023 **'Recent work on propaganda' (panel member)**, *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, USA, *invited*
- March 2023 **'Social Movements as Units of Explanation'**, *Language and Value Workshop*, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, USA, *invited*
- Jan 2023 **'Video Deepfakes and the Future of Evidence in Politics'**, *Philosophy, AI and Society Workshop*, Stanford, CA, USA, *refereed*
- Jan 2023 **'Toward a Theory of Social Organizing' Symposium**, *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting*, Montreal, Canada, *refereed*
- Dec 2022 **'Social Movements as Units of Explanation'**, *3rd Annual Political Epistemology Network Conference*, Amsterdam, Netherlands, *refereed*
- Nov 2022 **'What Kind of Object is a Social Movement?'**, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA, *refereed*
- Aug 2022 **'What Kind of Object is a Social Movement'**, *International Social Ontology Society*, Vienna, Austria, *refereed*
- July 2022 **'What Kind of Object is a Social Movement?'**, *Social Movements and Social Ontology Workshop*, online, *refereed*
- June 2022 **'What is Social Organizing'**, *Social Metaphysics Workshop*, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA, *refereed*
- June 2022 **'What is Social Organizing'**, *Global Theory Workshop*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA, *invited*
- April 2022 **'Macrocommunication'**, *National University of Singapore*, online, *invited*
- March 2022 **'Toward a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *University of Leeds 'Group Thinking: New Foundations' Seminar*, online, *invited*

- March 2022 **'Toward a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *Critical Social Ontology Society Workshop*, online, *refereed*
- Feb 2022 **'Against Irrationalism in the Theory of Propaganda'**, *University of Sheffield Colloquium*, online, *invited*
- Feb 2022 **'Toward a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *Social Ontologies of Oppression, Solidarity, and Care*, Chicago, IL, USA, *invited*
- Feb 2022 **'Against Irrationalism in the Theory of Propaganda'**, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA, *refereed*
- Jan 2022 **'Toward a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *University of Chicago Theoretical Philosophy Workshop*, online, *invited*
- Nov 2021 **Comments on Cory Wimberly's 'How Propaganda Became Public Relations: Foucault and the Corporate Government of the Public'**, *Radical Philosophy Association Meeting*, online, *invited*
- Aug 2021 **'Towards a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *International Social Ontology Society Meeting*, online, *refereed*
- May 2021 **'Against Irrationalism in the Theory of Propaganda'**, *Propaganda and Legitimate Political Persuasion Workshop*, L'Ecole Normale Supérieure/ online, *invited*
- Dec 2020 **'On the Value of Gricean Communication'**, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, online, *refereed*
- Oct 2020 **'Propaganda, Groups, and Individuals'**, *Invited Colloquium*, University of Illinois at Chicago/ online, *invited*
- March 2020, cancelled **'Two Critiques of a Liberal Conception of Propaganda'**, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA, *refereed*
- Feb 2020 **'Propaganda, Groups, and Individuals'**, *Invited Colloquium*, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL, USA, *invited*
- Aug 2019 **'On the (Relative) Value of Communication'**, *Ontario Meaning Workshop*, Ontario, Canada, *invited*
- June 2019 **'Luck and the Value of Communication'**, *5th Biennial Mentoring Workshop for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy*, Boston, MA, USA, *refereed*
- April 2019 **'Protest and Propaganda'**, *Bowling Green Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy: 'The Ethics of Public Discourse'*, Bowling Green, OH, USA, *refereed*
- Nov 2018 **'On the Discourse-Structural Dynamics of Higher Order Utterances'**, *New York Philosophy of Language Workshop*, New York, NY, USA, *invited*
- Nov 2018 **'Propaganda for Realists'**, *Northeastern Illinois State University Colloquium*, Chicago, IL, USA, *invited*
- June 2018 **'Polarization as Propaganda'**, *The Prindle Institute for Ethics Applied Epistemology Research Retreat*, Greencastle, IN, USA, *refereed*

## --- Awards and Fellowships

- 2023-2024 **Educational Technology Fellowship**, *IT Teaching and Learning Technologies*, Northwestern University
- 2023-2024 **Faculty Fellowship**, *Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities*, Northwestern University
- 2015 **Doctoral Fellowship**, *Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada*

## --- Teaching

### Courses at University of Leeds

- HPSC3113: History and Philosophy of AI
- PHIL2635: Universal Science

## Courses at Northwestern University

- Phil 109-6: First-year Seminar on Propaganda  
Phil 225: Minds and Machines (Philosophical Issues in Generative AI)  
Phil 253: Introduction to the Philosophy of Language  
Phil 328: Classics of Analytic Philosophy  
Phil 353: Philosophy of Language (Language and Context; Language and Technology)  
Phil 410: Address (graduate seminar)  
Phil 423: Language and Politics in Analytic Philosophy (graduate seminar)  
Phil 459: Metaphysics of Social Collectivity (graduate seminar)  
Phil 488: Professional Skills (graduate seminar)

## Courses at UT Austin (as instructor of record)

- PHL312: Introduction to Logic  
PHL313: Introduction to Symbolic Logic  
PHL304: Contemporary Moral Problems

## Supervision

### Graduate Students

- Present **Bella Braxton**, *Northwestern Philosophy*  
Doctoral Committee Member
- Present **Dominique Codjia**, *Northwestern Philosophy*  
Doctoral Committee Member
- Present **Isaac Shur**, *Northwestern Philosophy*  
Doctoral Committee Member
- 2024 **Amelia Godber**, *L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and L'Institut Jean Nicod*  
Doctoral Thesis Committee Member, Rapporteur.

### Undergraduate Students

- 2023 **John Perales**, *Northwestern Philosophy and Political Science*  
Honors Thesis Supervisor
- 2022 **Mackenzie Gentz**, *Northwestern German and Linguistics*  
Honors Thesis Supervisor
- 2022 **Jiarui Yu**, *Northwestern SESP*  
External Reader, Honors Thesis

## Professional Service

### Department-level

- 2024-2026 **Liaison to grad student inclusive philosophy community committee**, *Philosophy Department*
- 2023-2024 **Graduate committee**, *Philosophy Department*
- 2023-2026 **Graduate Admissions Committee**, *Philosophy Department*
- 2023 **Pilot Graduate Professionalization Workshops**, *Philosophy Department*  
Co-organized and co-facilitated two professionalization workshops for department graduate students.
- 2021-2023 **Recording Secretary**, *Philosophy Department*
- 2021-2022 **Graduate Admissions Committee**, *Philosophy Department*
- 2021/2022 **Search Committee**, *Philosophy Department*
- 2020/2021 **Ad-hoc faculty climate committee**, *Philosophy Department*  
Helped assemble a list of faculty contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- 2019/2020 **Visiting Speakers Committee**, *Philosophy Department*

### Institution-Level

- 2023-2024 **Faculty Advisory Board Member**, *Brady Scholars Program in Ethics and Civic Life*
- 2023-2024 **Lead Event Organizer, Moderator**, *Large Language Models and Politics Panel*  
Selected and invited visiting speakers from political science, philosophy, and computer science to discuss the effects of large language models on politics at a January 2024 panel, hosted by the Northwestern Cognitive Science Program.
- 2018/2019, 2022/2023 **Steering Committee Member**, *Northwestern Philosophy and Linguistics Workshop*
- 2020-2023 **Cognitive Science Program Committee**, *Northwestern University*  
Attended quarterly meetings, bottom-lined a colloquium talk by Kevin Dorst, deliberated on distribution of grant funds to students, and made guest presentations to cognitive science classes.
- 2023-2026 **Fellow**, *Willard Residential College*
- 2023-2024 **Lead Event Organizer, Facilitator**, *What is Generative AI for?*  
Invited a speaker and multimedia artist to campus to put on a workshop involving AI image models and a discussion of technology and creativity, hosted by the Media Aesthetics Project and the Center for Global Culture and Communication.
- October 2022 **Facilitator, Co-Organizer**, *Arguments for Abortion Rights: An Interactive Teach In*, co-organized with the Northwestern Women's Center

### In the profession

- 2025 **Witness**, *AAUP v. Rubio*  
As a witness for the American Association of University Professors, my testimony supported the claim that the US governments's detention and attempted deportation of international students and scholars on the basis of their political statements had chilled speech for immigrants across the country. The court ultimately found that the Trump administration had [violated the first amendment rights of international students and scholars](#).
- 2024 **Presenter**, *Malicious Uses of Technology by Students in the Classroom Panel*, 2024 American Philosophical Association Workshop for Philosophy Department Chairs, online
- 2022-2023 **Conference Organizing Committee**, *Social Philosophy: Identity, Alienation, Emancipation*, Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University
- 2021-2022 **Program Committee**, *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting 2022*
- 2018-present **Referee**  
Peer review of articles for journals including *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Metaphysics*, *Episteme*, *Ergo*, *Synthese*, *Critical Philosophy of Race*, *Inquiry*, and *Theoria*; of book proposals for Routledge; and grant applications for the Icelandic Research Fund.

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## References

### **Sanford Goldberg**

Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities  
Northwestern University  
[s-goldberg@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-goldberg@northwestern.edu)

### **Seth Lazar**

Professor, School of Government and Policy  
Johns Hopkins University  
[seth@mintresearch.org](mailto:seth@mintresearch.org)

### **Jennifer Saul**

Professor, Waterloo Chair in Social and Political Philosophy of Language  
University of Waterloo  
[jennifer.saul@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jennifer.saul@uwaterloo.ca)

### **Jason Stanley**

Professor, Department of Philosophy; Bissell-Heyd-Associates Chair, American Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy  
University of Toronto

