

Cameron Pattison

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Department of Philosophy
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AREAS

Areas of Specialization: Philosophy of Computing, Applied Ethics, Formal Epistemology, Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Epistemology, Ethics, Ancient Philosophy, Islamic Philosophy

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, Vanderbilt University 2023–2029 (expected)
Dissertation: The Ethics of Epistemic Mediation
Advisors: Rob Talisse and David Thorstad
Teaching Certificate (Spring 2025)
AI and Data Ethics (AIDE) Fellowship, Northeastern University (Summer 2025)

M.A. Philosophy, Boston College 2021–2023

B.A. Philosophy, with honors, Colorado College, *Magna Cum Laude* 2014–2018

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed and Edited Volumes

Pattison, C. (forthcoming). “Non-Ideal Foundations for Preference-Based AI Alignment.” *Philosophy & Technology*. (Accepted April 2026.)

Pattison, C. (2025). “Justin Humphreys: *Inventing the Imagination*” (book review). *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*.

Pattison, C. (2024). “Revelation in al-Fārābī’s Virtuous City.” In *Mind, Soul and the Cosmos in the High Middle Ages*, Springer Studies in the History of Philosophy.

Pattison, C., Olea, C., Tucker, H., Phelan, J., Zhang, S., Lieb, M., Schmidt, D., & White, J. (2024). “EPÉE: Evaluating Personified Expert Effectiveness.” *CS & IT Conference Proceedings*.

Public Philosophy

Pattison, C., Ricks, V., & Wihbey, J. (2025). “How AI-Driven Search May Reshape Democracy, Economics, and Human Agency.” *Tech Policy Press*.

Under Review

“Blind Refusal: Unintended Consequences of LLM Safety Training” (with Lorenzo Manuali and Seth Lazar), submitted to *COLM 2026*. arXiv preprint.

“Representative Already: A Dilemma for Informal Representation Theory,” under review at *Free & Equal*.

“Credence Preservation Error: An Epistemic Objective for Evaluating Stand-In Summaries,”
under review at *Philosophy of Science*.

RESEARCH

- Researcher**, ANU MINT Lab — *Evading Unjust Policy* 2025–present
Investigating compliance overspill in LLM safety systems — cases where AI refusals block ethically and legally permissible actions. Designed evaluation dataset, LLM-as-judge pipeline, and operational validity gates. Paper targeting COLM 2026.
- Principal Investigator**, Lacy-Fischer Interdisciplinary Research Grant 2025–present
Computational text analysis and topic modeling examining ideological differences in AI research across institutional contexts (with Sociology Department).
- Researcher**, Vanderbilt University, Levin Lab 2025–present
Experimental design and philosophical framing for AI-driven chatbot interventions aimed at improving students’ moral reasoning.
- Researcher**, Vanderbilt & Harvard — The Galen Project 2024–present
Evaluating AI translations of ancient Greek medical texts against expert human translations using automated MT metrics, expert MQM annotation, and blind preference surveys (with Classics and the Center for Hellenic Studies).
- Research Affiliate**, ANU MINT Lab 2024–present
Editor, *Philosophy of Computing Newsletter* (weekly and monthly editions; 911 subscribers).
- Researcher**, Vanderbilt & Harvard — Source Analysis Engine Project 2024–present
Computational approaches to classical source analysis using multi-shot API prompting and vector similarity search.
- Ethicist**, Vanderbilt University, RPW Center 2023–2024
Ethical analysis and research design for IRB-approved study on vulnerability to AI-driven phishing attacks.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Computational Approaches to Philosophical Text Analysis,” Vanderbilt DSI Mar 2025
“AI Reasoning and the Taking Condition,” Invited Talk, MINT Lab (ANU) Oct 2024
“Mimēsis in Early Islamic Philosophy,” Int’l Society for Neoplatonic Studies Jun 2024
“Al-Fārābī on the Imagination,” Boston College GSA Conference Mar 2024
“On ‘Wanting’ in *Gorgias* 467a–468e,” Tennessee Philosophical Association Oct 2023
“Socrates’ Critique of Interpretation in *Protagoras* 341e–348b,” Boston College Apr 2023

TEACHING

- Co-Director, *AI and the Human*, Vanderbilt, RPW Humanities Center 2024–present
Co-Director, AI Alignment Workshop, Vanderbilt University 2025–2026
Philosophy of Mind Directed Reading, Vanderbilt University 2024–2025

Teaching Assistant, General Logic, Vanderbilt University	2025
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Philosophy, Vanderbilt University	2024
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Ethics, Vanderbilt University	2024
English as a Foreign Language Instructor, Tayba Association for Orphans, Morocco	2022–2023
Assistant Director, Brunswick School Vermont	2019–2021
Designed and taught courses; strategic planning and administration for a new campus.	

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

ArXiv Research Analysis Pipeline — Automated download, topic modeling, and sentiment analysis of AI research papers [GitHub]	2025
PhilPapers AI Relevance Classifier — Classification of 5,000+ entries for Philosophy of AI relevance using GPT-4o	2025
Zotero Research Assistant — Conversational AI for literature exploration with semantic search [GitHub]	2025
Source Analysis Recommender — Computational source-relationship identification across Greek and Arabic philosophical texts [GitHub]	2025
Ibn Arabi Translation Project — Interactive parallel text edition with AI-assisted Arabic–English translation [Web]	2025
Classical Text Translation System — Ancient text translation with BLEU and LM-based evaluation [GitHub]	2024
Philosophy Indexer — Automated conceptual index generation across philosophical corpora [GitHub]	2024
Kantian Ethical Analysis Tool — Interactive universalizability testing and categorical imperative analysis [Web]	2024

EDITORIAL WORK

Communications and Resource Management, MINT Lab (ANU)	2024
Indexing, Stanford University Press — <i>Maimonides Guide of the Perplexed</i>	2023
Editor and Communications Director, Harvard Ibn Arabi Seminar	2021–2023
Editor in Chief, <i>Anamnesis Philosophy Journal</i> , Colorado College	2017–2018

SERVICE

Active Member, Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Chapter, Vanderbilt	2025–present
Undergraduate Mentor, Undergraduate Mentoring Program, Vanderbilt	2025–present

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Anchor Award for Research, Vanderbilt Graduate Student Council	2026
Liverpool-Vanderbilt Joint Research Seed Grant (\$15,113) (w/David Thorstad and Robin McKenna)	2025–6

Lacy-Fischer Interdisciplinary Research Grant, PI (\$6,700)	2025
AIDE Fellowship, Northeastern University	2025
Berry Publication Prize	2025
Vanderbilt Award for Doctoral Discovery (VADD) (\$5,000)	2024
Vanderbilt University Graduate School Travel Grant	2024
Berry Publication Prize	2024
Berry First-Year Teaching Award	2024
Vanderbilt Philosophy Department Travel Grant	2024
Russell G. Hamilton Scholar	2023
Ernest Fortin Memorial Foundation Summer Grant	2022
J. Glen Gray Award, Colorado College	2018
Distinction in Philosophy, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> , Colorado College	2018
Phi Beta Kappa	2018

AFFILIATIONS

Vanderbilt Lab for Immersive AI Translation (VALIANT)	2024–present
Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (MINT) Lab, ANU	2024–present
American Philosophical Association, Central Division	2023–present
Tennessee Philosophical Association	2023–present

LANGUAGES

English — Native

Greek — Reading proficiency (UChicago Summer Institute, 2020; Class Abroad in Greece, 2017)

Arabic — Reading and speaking proficiency (Qasid Summer Program, Amman, 2024; Harvard Divinity School, 2022; AALIM Morocco, 2017)

Spanish — Reading and speaking proficiency

REFERENCES

Professor David Thorstad
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Professor Jacob Barrett
Vanderbilt University
Department of Philosophy
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Professor Seth Lazar
Johns Hopkins University
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Professor Allison McCarthy
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society
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Professor Charreau Bell
Vanderbilt University
Computer Science, School of Engineering
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Professor Jesse Spencer-Smith
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