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Philosophy & AI | Vanderbilt University

Cameron Pattison

Research Areas

Areas of Specialization:
Philosophy of Computing
Islamic Philosophy
AI Ethics

Areas of Competence:
Ancient Philosophy
Philosophy of Mind
Epistemology
Ethics

Education

2023–2029 **Ph.D. Philosophy**, *Vanderbilt University*, Expected 2029
Concentration: Philosophy of AI, Islamic Philosophy

2021–2023 **M.A. Philosophy**, *Boston College*

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

Research & Project Experience

2025–Present **Researcher**, *Vanderbilt University, Levin Lab*
- Project on improving students' moral reasoning through AI-driven chatbot interventions
- Investigating whether conversational AI can foster moral competency in undergraduate students
- Conducting research on complementary human-AI interactions in educational contexts
- Responsibilities include experimental design, philosophical framing, and pilot study facilitation

2024–Present **Source Analysis Engine Project**, *Vanderbilt & Harvard*
- Collaborating with faculty in Classics department at Vanderbilt and Harvard on computational approaches to classical source analysis
- Developing two parallel methodologies: (1) multi-shot API prompting and (2) vector store with similarity search
- Working on large-scale text analysis for classical scholarship
- Investigating epistemic and representational issues in AI-driven textual analysis

2024–Present **AI Ethics Researcher**, *Vanderbilt University, RPW Center*
- Leading initiatives on AI applications in humanities research and teaching
- Co-directing the AI and the Human seminar to increase interdisciplinary collaboration at Vanderbilt University

2024–Present **Research Affiliate**, *ANU MINT Lab*
- Communications and resource management for the Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory Lab
- Engaged with collaborative projects at the intersection of moral evaluation, AI governance, and data analysis
- Contributing to interdisciplinary research on evaluating AI systems

2024–Present **AI Scholars Program**, *VALIANT (Vanderbilt Lab for Immersive AI Translation)*
- Exploring immersive technologies and the ethical implications of AI translation systems

2023–2024 **Ethicist**, *Vanderbilt University, RPW Center*
- IRB-approved study testing increased vulnerability in the face of AI-driven phishing attacks
- Provided ethical analysis, assisted in research design, and contributed to data interpretation regarding AI-based manipulation risks

Publications

2025   **Justin Humphreys: Inventing the Imagination (book review)**, Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal

2024   **Revelation in al-Fārābī's Virtuous City**, Springer Studies in the History of Philosophy, *Philosophy of Mind; Mind, Soul and the Cosmos in the High Middle Ages*

2024   **EPÉE: Evaluating Personified Expert Effectiveness**, *CS & IT Conference Proceedings* (co-authored)

Under Review

2025   **Nothing Infers: AI, Human Cognition, and the Taking Condition**

Selected Presentations

Mar 2025   **"Computational Approaches to Philosophical Text Analysis,"** Vanderbilt Data Science Institute

Oct 2024   **"AI Reasoning and the Taking Condition,"** Invited Talk at the MINT Lab (ANU)

Jun 2024   **"Mimēsis in Early Islamic Philosophy,"** Int'l Society for Neoplatonic Studies (ISNS)

Mar 2024   **"Al-Fārābī on the Imagination,"** Boston College GSA Conference on *The Imagination: Powers and Possibilities*

Oct 2023   **"On 'Wanting' in Gorgias 467a-468e,"** Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference

Apr 2023   **"Socrates' Critique of Interpretation in Protagoras 341e-348b,"** Boston College Graduate Colloquium

Teaching Experience

2024–Present   **Co-Director, *AI and the Human***, *Vanderbilt University*, RPW Humanities Center

2024–Present   **Philosophy of Mind Directed Reading**, *Vanderbilt University*, Department of Philosophy

2024–Present   **Teaching Assistant, General Logic**, *Vanderbilt University*, Department of Philosophy

2024   **Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Philosophy**, *Vanderbilt University*, Department of Philosophy

2024   **Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Ethics**, *Vanderbilt University*, Department of Philosophy

2022–2023   **English as a Foreign Language Instructor**, *Tayba Association for Orphans*, Morocco

2019–2021   **Assistant Director**, *Brunswick School Vermont*
- Designed and taught courses, handled strategic planning and administration for a new campus
- **Courses Taught:** *Riddles and Fire – Ancient Greek Philosophy, Homer to Frost – Ancient & Modern Poetry, Humanity and the Wilderness – Environmental Literature, Constructing Legacies – Site-Based Learning, Building Community – Service-Based Learning*

2019   **Poetry Teacher**, *Sharon Academy*, High School

Related Work

2023–2024   **Writing Tutor**, *College Transitions*

2022–2023   **Writing Specialist**, *Boston College*

2018–2019   **Tutor**, *Sharon Academy*, High School

2015–2018   **Writing Tutor**, *Colorado College Writing Center*

Editorial Work

2024	**Communications and Resource Management**, *MINT Lab (ANU)*
2023	**Indexing**, *SUP*
	Maimonides Guide of the Perplexed
2021–2023	**Editor and Communications Director**, *Harvard Ibn Arabi Seminar*
2017–2018	**Editor in Chief**, *Colorado College*
	Anamnesis Philosophy Journal

Grants, Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

2024	Vanderbilt Award for Doctoral Discovery (VADD) $5000
2024	Vanderbilt University Graduate School Travel Grant $2000
2024	Berry Publication Prize $200
2024	Berry First-Year Teaching Award $500
2024	Vanderbilt Philosophy Department Travel Grant $800
2023	Russell G. Hamilton Scholar $5000
2022	Ernest Fortin Memorial Foundation Summer Grant $2400
2018	J. Glen Gray Award, Colorado College $500
2018	Distinction in Philosophy, *Magna Cum Laude*, Colorado College
2018	Phi Beta Kappa

Relevant Skills

- **Technical:** Python, LLM Prompt Engineering, Vector Databases, Natural Language Processing, Basic Statistical Analysis
- **Research Methods:** Qualitative and Quantitative Research Design, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Sociotechnical Analysis
- **AI Ethics:** Fairness Assessment, Bias Evaluation, Representational Harm Analysis, AI Governance
- **Project Management:** Research Coordination, Cross-disciplinary Communication, Timeline Management

Professional Affiliations

2024–Present	Vanderbilt Lab for Immersive AI Translation (VALIANT)
2024–Present	Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (MINT) Lab (ANU)
2023–Present	American Philosophical Association Central Division
2023–Present	Tennessee Philosophical Association
2022–Present	Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group
2023–2025	International Society for Neoplatonic Studies
2021–2023	Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy

Languages

English	Native
Greek	Reading proficiency
Arabic	Reading and speaking proficiency
Spanish	Reading and speaking proficiency

Intensive Language Experiences

| Classical Greek | Paideia Institute (2021), Summer Language Institute UChicago (2020), Class Abroad in Greece, Colorado College (2017) |

Modern Standard Arabic	Yallah Al-Quds (2021), Qasid Arabic (audit, 2020–2021), AALIM Morocco (2017)
Classical Arabic	Qasid Summer Program (Jordan, 2024), Harvard Divinity School Summer Language Program (2022)
Historical Linguistics	Harvard Extension School (2021)

Graduate Coursework

Vanderbilt University (PhD Coursework)

Spring 2025

- PHIL 9020.01: Contemporary Metaethics
- PHIL 9020.02: Philosophy of Emotion
- PHIL 9020.03: Epistemology

Fall 2024

- DS 5690: Generative AI Models in Theory and Practice (Audit)
- PHIL 9010: History of Philosophy – Kant's Ethics
- PHIL 9010: History of Philosophy – Maimonides and Friends
- PHIL 9020: Topics in Philosophy – Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory

Spring 2024

- ARA 5202: Intermediate Arabic (Audit)
- PHIL 3891: Selected Topics – Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- PHIL 9010: History of Philosophy – American Ethics
- PHIL 9020: Topics in Philosophy – Ethics and Animals

Fall 2023

- PHIL 8000: Teaching/Research Methods
- PHIL 9000: Figures in Philosophy – Aristotle
- PHIL 9010: History of Philosophy – Spinoza's Ethics
- PHIL 9020: Topics in Philosophy – Moral Psychology

References

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