

Michael Zahorec

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Employment

Lecturer 2026–present
University of Georgia
Department of Philosophy and Institute for AI (joint appt.)

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy 2026
Florida State University
Scientific Kinds, Knowledge, and Ontology
Courtney Fugate (chair), John Schwenkler, Zina Ward,
Nathanael Stein, Michael Kaschak

M.S. Computer Science 2025
Florida State University
Assessing the Explainability of Large Language Models
Guang Wang (chair), Shayok Chakraborty, Ang Li

M.A. Philosophy 2022
Florida State University

B.M.E. Mechanical Engineering and Philosophy 2019
University of Dayton

Areas

AOS Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of AI, AI/Data Ethics
AOC Philosophy of Mind, Action, Language, and Cognitive Science

Publications

AI as Idea Generator Forth.
Under contract. Final manuscript in preparation.
Artificial Intelligence in Research & Education, AI & Society,
Oxford University Press. Editors M. Dennis, V. Sikimić, P.
Hacker.

Understanding AI: Concepts, Aims, Prospects <i>Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence</i> . Springer. Editors D. Černý, V. Mařík, and J. Wiedermann.	Forth.
Linguistic Corpora and Ordinary Language: On the Dispute Between Ryle and Austin About the Use of ‘Voluntary’, ‘Involuntary’, ‘Voluntarily’, and ‘Involuntarily’ M. Zahorec (Primary), R. Bishop, N. Hansen, J. Schwenkler, J. Sytsma. <i>Experimental Philosophy of Language: Perspectives, Methods and Prospects</i> . Springer. Editor David Bordonaba-Plou. https://philpapers.org/rec/Z AHLCA .	2023
Getting Clear about Opacity: A Variety of Terminologies and Their Significance in the Era of Generative AI Invited to revise and resubmit at <i>Philosophy & Technology</i> .	R&R

Presentations

Kinds Are What There Is – and How We Think of It American Philosophical Association Pacific, Workshop Session	2026
Invited Commentary on Amelia Kahn’s “Bullshit without Bullshitters: How LLMs ‘Assert’ without Intentions” Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Conference	2026
AI as Idea Generator Florida Philosophical Association	2026
Illinois Philosophical Association	2025
The Limits of AI Understanding and What They Mean for Users Sawyer Conference on Ethics of Technology (Illinois Tech)	2025
Black Boxes, Rules, and Reasons: On Understanding and Responsible Use of AI Alabama Philosophical Society	2025
Massive Complexity: The Heart of Concerns and Disagreements about AI American Philosophical Association Eastern, Society for Metaphysics of Science	2025

Getting Clear About Opacity	
Paper Workshop, Florida State University (not peer reviewed)	2024
Semantic, Technical, and Normative Tangles: Three Levels of Disagreement about AI	
AI Revolution: From Machines to Morals (Utah State University)	2024
Nature and Natural Kinds	
Alabama Philosophical Society	2024
Natural Kinds: Towards a Revised Approach	
Duke-UNC Graduate Philosophy Conference	2024
Mississippi Academy of Sciences	2024

Teaching

University of Georgia (Instructor of Record)	
ARTI(LING)(PSYC)(PHIL) 3550 : Introduction to Cognitive Science	Fa26(×2)
CSCI(ARTI) 4550/6550 : Artificial Intelligence	Fa26
Florida State University (Instructor of Record)	
Reasoning and Critical Thinking	Sp23
Environmental Ethics	Su23
Symbolic Logic (Upper Level)	Sp22
Florida State University (Graduate Teaching Assistant)	
Introduction to Biomedical Ethics	Fa25, Sp26
Data Ethics (Graduate)	Fa23, Sp25
American Philosophy: Pragmatism	Sp24
Symbolic Logic (Upper Level)	Fa20, Sp21
Philosophy of Mind	Fa22
Philosophy of Language	Fa21
Introduction to Philosophy	Sp20, Su21, Fa24
Bioethics	Fa19, Su22
University of Dayton (Undergraduate Teaching Assistant)	
Engineering Analysis (Systems Modeling and ML)	Sp19
Physics I	Sp18
Introduction to Philosophy	Fa17, Fa18

Other Teaching Experience

Lectures on AI Ethics and Responsible AI, U Dayton
Data Science Course Development, MathWorks (see Su20, Su21, Su22
industry experience below)

Other Work and Projects

Selected Industry Work Experience

- Humana, Responsible AI Research and Development 2024
Graduate internship (summer)
Implemented LLM evaluation pipelines; assessed generative AI model bias, fairness, toxicity, accuracy, and robustness; literature review of explainability and evaluation methods for generative AI; presented AI ethics material to teams across the company
- MathWorks, Data Science Course Development 2020–2022
Three graduate internships (summers)
Developed instructional materials for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in data science; created Python and MATLAB scripts, assessments, and hands-on projects for learners; developed tools in Python and MATLAB for internal information management

Selected Projects (Funded)

- Tetens Digital Humanities Project ([GitHub](#)) ([Site](#)) 2024–2026
Funded by NEH (\$300K), with Courtney Fugate (PI)
Created digital editions of 18th-century philosophical texts; led technical efforts for text processing, storage, and display; developed Python pipeline to convert texts to TEI XML
- Research Assistant 2023–2024
Assisted with publication of Fugate's facing-page dual-language version of Kant's *Critique of Practical Reason* (Cambridge University Press); developed dual-language book index generator (Python) ([GitHub](#)); implemented automated formatting workflows in InDesign
- Anscombe Search ([Site](#)) 2021–2022
Funded by Collegium Institute (UPenn)
Developed full-stack search application for G.E.M. Anscombe's philosophical corpus; built search infrastructure using Elasticsearch, Python, and JavaScript/HTML/CSS; collaborated with archivists and scholars

Professional Service and Public Philosophy

Philosophical essay commissioned for LeMoyne Arts (Tallahassee)	2026
Interviewed about AI Ethics for FSU Spectrum magazine (Link)	2026
Moderator; <i>Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Higher Education</i> ; FSU; panelists from College of Nursing, Center for the Advancement of Teaching, School of Information, and Learning Systems Institute	2026
Journal referee for <i>Southwest Philosophy Review</i>	2025
Co-organizer of UF-FSU Philosophy Conference	2025
Teaching Assistant Mentor, FSU	2023–2025
Minorities in Philosophy Mentor for Graduate Students, FSU	2022–2024
Minorities in Philosophy Mentor for Undergraduate Students, FSU	2022–2024
Organized Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference, FSU	2021
Vice President, Philosophy Graduate Student Association, FSU	2020–2021
President of the Undergraduate Philosophy Club, Univ. of Dayton	2018–2019

Funding and Awards

Travel and Lodging, Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics	2026
Funded Development, NEH Grant (\$300K) (PI: C. Fugate)	2024–2026
Travel Grant, Graduate Student Resource Center, FSU	2025
Travel Grants, Congress of Graduate Students, FSU	24, 24, 25, 25, 26, 26
Travel Funds, Department of Philosophy, FSU	24, 24, 25, 25, 26, 26
Runner-Up, Cross-Disciplinary Competition at Annual Conference, Mississippi Academy of Sciences	2024
Research Grant, Robert Bradley Grant, FSU, with J. Schwenkler	2022
Funded Development, Collegium Institute, UPenn (\$8K)	2021–2022
Departmental Fellowship, Werkmeister Fund, FSU Phil.	2019–2026
Dean's Scholarship, FSU	2019–2020
James Heft Award of Excellence in Humanities and Engineering, University of Dayton	2019
Richard R. Baker Award of Excellence, “for commitment to philosophical inquiry and assisting other undergraduate students in their pursuit of philosophical studies”, University of Dayton	2019
Rev. Charles Polichcek First Award to the Outstanding Senior in Philosophy, University of Dayton	2019
Rev. Bloemer First Award to the Outstanding Junior in Philosophy, University of Dayton	2018

References

Courtney Fugate

Florida State University

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John Schwenkler

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

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J. Piers Rawling

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Zina Ward

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