

# Adam Elga: Curriculum Vitae

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## Education and Employment

Princeton University Dept. of Philosophy  
Professor, 2012-present; Associate Professor, 2007-2012; Assistant Professor, 2001-2007  
Ph.D. in Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2001  
A.B. (Highest Honors) in Philosophy, Princeton University, 1996

## Drafts

- [Fragmentation and logical omniscience](#). With [Agustín Rayo](#).

## Publications

- [Fragmentation and information access](#). Forthcoming in *The Fragmented Mind*, Cristina Borgoni, Dirk Kindermann, and Andrea Onofri, eds. Oxford University Press. With [Agustín Rayo](#).
- [Why We Don't Have Enough Backup Ventilators](#). *Route Fifty*, April 10, 2020. With [Daniel Oppenheimer](#)
- [Newcomb University: A Play in One Act](#). *Analysis* 80(2): 212-221, 2020.
- [The Policy Consequences of Cascade Blindness](#). *Behavioural Public Policy*, 1-22, 2018. With [Daniel Oppenheimer](#).
- [Improving students' understanding and analytical reasoning: A quasi-experimental field study of argument visualization with first-year undergraduates](#). *Nature Partner Journals: Science of Learning* 3(21), 2018. With Simon Cullen, Eva van der Brugge, and Judith Fan.
- [Bayesian humility](#). *Philosophy of Science* 83 (July): 305-323, 2016.
- [The puzzle of the unmarked clock and the new rational reflection principle](#). *Philosophical Studies* 164(1): 127-139, 2013.
- [How to disagree about how to disagree](#). *Disagreement*. Richard Feldman and Ted Warfield, eds. Oxford University Press, 2010.
- [Subjective Probabilities Should be Sharp](#). *Philosophers' Imprint*, 10(5), 2010. Reprinted in *The Philosopher's Annual* 30, Patrick

- Grim, Billy Dunaway, J. Dmitri Gallow, Alex Silk, eds, 2011.
- [Reflection and Disagreement](#). *Noûs*, 41(3): 478-502, 2007. Reprinted in *The Philosopher's Annual 27*, Patrick Grim, Ian Flora and Alex Plakias, eds, 2007, and *Social Epistemology: An Anthology*, Dennis Whitcomb and Alvin Goldman, eds, Oxford University Press, 2011.
  - ["Isolation and folk physics."](#) *Causation, Physics, and the Constitution of Reality: Russell's Republic Revisited*. Huw Price and Richard Corry, eds. Oxford University Press, 2007.
  - "Irreversibility" and "Time." Entries in *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia*, Sahotra Sarkar and Jessica Pfeifer, eds. Routledge Reference, 2006.
  - ["I can't believe I'm stupid."](#) *Philosophical Perspectives* 19(1): 77-93, 2005. With Andy Egan.
  - ["On overrating oneself... and knowing it."](#) *Philosophical Studies*, 123: 115-124, 2005.
  - ["Defeating Dr. Evil with self-locating belief."](#) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 69(2), 2004.
  - ["Bayesianism, infinite decisions, and binding."](#) *Mind* 113: 251-283, 2004. With [Frank Arntzenius](#) and [John Hawthorne](#).
  - ["Infinitesimal chances and the laws of nature."](#) *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 82(1):67-76, 2004. Reprinted in *Lewisian Themes*, Frank Jackson and Graham Priest, eds. Oxford University Press, 2008.
  - [Statistical Mechanics and the Asymmetry of Counterfactual Dependence](#). *Philosophy of Science* (suppl. vol. 68, PSA 2000): S313-S324, 2001.
  - ["Self-locating belief and the Sleeping Beauty problem."](#) *Analysis* 60(2), 2000. Reprinted in *Arguing About Knowledge*, Duncan Pritchard, Ram Neta, eds. Routledge, 2010, and *Philosophy of Probability: Contemporary Readings*, Antony Eagle, ed. Routledge, 2011.
  - ["A coupled attractor model of the rodent head direction system"](#) (with [A. David Redish](#) and [David S. Touretzky](#)). *Network* 7: 671-685, 1996.

## Honors and awards

- Member, Princeton Institute for Advanced Study (School of Social Science), 2014-2015
- David A. Gardner Magic Project Grant for "Cascading failures and risk pollution", 2014-2015
- Grant from Princeton 250th Anniversary Fund for Innovation in

- Undergraduate Education, 2013
- Philosopher's Annual selection for "[Subjective Probabilities Should be Sharp](#)," chosen as one of the ten best philosophy papers published in 2010
  - Grant from Princeton 250th Anniversary Fund for Innovation in Undergraduate Education, 2009
  - David A. Gardner Magic Project Grant for "The neural basis of free will and consciousness", 2008-2009
  - Philosopher's Annual selection for [Reflection and Disagreement](#), chosen as one of the ten best philosophy papers published in 2007
  - William G. Bowen Presidential University Preceptorship, Princeton University, 2004-2007
  - Sponsored Freshman Seminar, Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion, 2004
  - Old Dominion Faculty Fellow, Princeton University Council of the Humanities, 2002, 2004
  - Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University Dean of Undergraduate Education, 2001
  - Josephine De Kármán Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, De Kármán Fellowship Foundation, 2000
  - Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University grant to attend Jerusalem Summer School in Economic Theory, 1999
  - Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, Mellon Fellowship Foundation, 1996
  - Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1996
  - John Martyn Warbeke Prize in Metaphysics and Epistemology, Princeton University Department of Philosophy, 1996

## Presentations

### Upcoming

- "Fragmentation and logical omniscience" (joint presentation with Agustin Rayo), Eastern Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, January 9, 2020
- "Confession of a causal decision theorist", Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2020

### Past

- "The price of self-doubt", Online Conference on Disagreement and Self-Doubt, University of Leeds, October 21, 2020
- "Fragmented decision theory and fragmented Bayesian thought", Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Princeton University [Paper

- accepted; event canceled due to Covid-19]
- Invited participant, NYU Epistemology Workshop, March 13, 2020 [Event canceled due to Covid-19]
  - "Causal decision theory does not exist", Rutgers Probability Workshop, January 27, 2020.
  - "Causal decision theory does not exist", Seminar in Logic, Games and Language, CUNY Graduate Center, Nov 1, 2019
  - "Fragmentation, mathematical ignorance, and the metalinguistic reply", Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Toronto, June 14, 2018
  - "Fragmentation, mathematical ignorance, and the metalinguistic reply", University of Graz, January 16, 2018 (remote presentation)
  - "Mental fragmentation and logical omniscience" (joint presentation with Agustin Rayo), Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 12-16, 2017
  - "Bayesian humility", Philosophy of Science Reading Group, Rutgers University, February 3, 2017.
  - "Bayesian humility and an introduction to ultralimits", Philosophy of Science Reading Group, Rutgers University, February 3, 2017
  - "Fragmented decision theory" (joint presentation with Agustin Rayo), Eastern Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, January 5, 2017
  - "Fragmented decision theory", Foundations of Probability Seminar, Rutgers University, November 7, 2016
  - "Cascading failures and gambling tasks", Social Psychology Research Seminar, Princeton University, November 9, 2015
  - "Decision theory, logical omniscience, and mental fragmentation", University of Southern California, April 10, 2015
  - "When do evolutionary and neuroscientific debunking arguments undermine moral judgments?" (discussion session), UC Santa Barbara, January 8, 2015
  - "Risk pollution and cascading failures", Casualty Actuaries of the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference, October 8, 2014
  - Harvard University (Law School guest speaker), March 7, 2014
  - "Cascading failures and gambling tasks", UCLA Cognitive Psychology Forum, January 10, 2014
  - "Risk pollution: How to destroy probabilities and lives by trying to make things safer", Oxford University, November 22, 2013
  - "Suspiciously-formed preferences", University of Missouri, October 18, 2013
  - "Suspiciously-formed desires", City University of New York Graduate Center, October 9, 2013
  - "How to destroy probabilities and lives by trying to make things

- safer", University of Pennsylvania, October 4, 2013
- "Does disagreement about disagreement refute conciliationism?" UC Santa Barbara, June 11, 2013
  - "Crossword puzzles, fragmented belief, and logical omniscience", University of California Berkeley Working group in the history and philosophy of logic, mathematics, and science, April 24, 2013
  - "Self-effacing conciliationism", Syracuse University, March 22, 2013
  - "Self-effacing conciliationism", Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, February 21, 2013
  - "Belief fragmentation", Yale University (graduate seminar visit), November 27, 2012
  - "The puzzle of the unmarked clock and the new rational reflection principle", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 1, 2012
  - "How to destroy probabilities", Keynote address at Princeton/Rutgers graduate philosophy conference, March 31, 2012
  - "The puzzle of the unmarked clock", Stanford University, February 3, 2012
  - "How to destroy probabilities and lives by trying to make things safer", California Institute of Technology, January 6, 2012
  - "Uncertainty about rationality and the new rational reflection principle", Amherst College, October 27, 2011
  - "Comments on Miriam Schoenfield's 'Chilling Out on Epistemic Rationality'", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 2, 2011
  - "Don't trust anyone, not even yourself", "Knowledge, metacognition and modes of justification" conference, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France, June 24, 2011
  - "Comment on Williams's 'Decision making under indeterminacy'", Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Southern California, May 20, 2011
  - Guest leader of seminar session on ethics and disagreement, Princeton University, April 6, 2011
  - "Don't trust anyone, not even yourself", Brown Epistemology Workshop, March 13, 2011
  - "Antidepressants and choosing your own desires", Princeton Theological Seminary, February 1, 2011
  - "Belief fragmentation and logical omniscience", University of California, Riverside, January 11, 2011
  - "Localism vs globalism about rationality", Princeton Philosophy of Economics/Decision Theory Reading Group, November 19, 2010

- "The problem of contingency", philostv.com [web video discussion](#) with Roger White and Joshua Schechter, November 14, 2010
- "Don't trust anyone, not even yourself", Princeton Philosophical Society, March 28, 2010
- "The alien-creation dilemma", Princeton Bioethics Forum, February 12, 2010
- "Subjective probabilities should be sharp", University of Michigan, November 5, 2009
- "Representing normative uncertainty", University of Massachusetts, Amherst, October 9, 2009
- "Fragmented belief states and logical omniscience" (Joint presentation with Agustin Rayo), CUNY Graduate Center, October 2, 2009
- "Representing normative uncertainty", Princeton University, May 6, 2009
- "How to be incoherent, and why", UC Santa Cruz, April 17, 2009
- Guest seminar presentation on logical omniscience, MIT, April 2, 2009
- "Philosophy of economic disaster", MIT IAP lecture, Cambridge MA, January 9, 2009
- "Antidepressants, happiness, and free will: Should we put Prozac in the water supply?" (joint presentation with Shana Stein Elga), Paideia discussion group, Princeton University, December 9, 2008
- "Lucky to be rational", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 6, 2008
- Joint presentation on disagreement with Tom Kelly, "Knowledge, faith, and disagreement" conference, Princeton University, April 26, 2008
- Guest seminar presentation on time travel, MIT, March 14, 2008
- Disagreement seminar presentation, Brown University, March 13, 2008
- "How to be incoherent, and why", Arizona Ontology Conference, January 9, 2008
- Reply to Francis Kamm's "What is and Is Not Wrong with Enhancement?", Princeton University Center for Human Values, December 5, 2007
- Joint presentation on disagreement with Tom Kelly, Behrman Fellows meeting, November 27, 2007
- "What does disagreement about disagreement teach us about disagreement?" University of Wisconsin, October 26, 2007
- "Comments on Jill North's 'The Structure of Physics'", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 8, 2007
- "Lucky to be rational, lucky to be wise", Oxford University, Oxford,

U.K., February 9, 2007

- "Subjective probabilities should be sharp", MITing of the minds conference, Cambridge MA, January 28, 2007
- "Large number battle" (joint presentation with Agustin Rayo), MIT IAP lecture, Cambridge MA, January 26, 2007
- "Lucky to be rational", NYU Mind and Language seminar, New York, NY, January, 23, 2007
- "Reflection and Bootstrapping", APA Eastern Division Meeting, Washington D.C., December 30, 2006
- "Lucky to be rational, lucky to be wise", University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, Nov 3, 2006
- "Lucky to be rational, lucky to be wise", University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, November 1, 2006
- "Lucky to be rational, lucky to be wise", Harvard University Metaphysics and Epistemology Workshop, Cambridge, MA, October 19, 2006
- "Reflection and disagreement", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 1, 2006
- "Reflection and disagreement", Formal Epistemology Workshop, Berkeley, CA, May 27, 2006
- "Cartwright on causal laws", guest presentation at NYU graduate seminar "Metaphysics of Causation", New York, NY, March 29, 2006
- "Ordinary objects: Comments on Korman", APA Pacific Division Meeting, Portland, OR, March 24, 2006
- "Reflection and disagreement", University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, March 9, 2006
- "Should your beliefs survive scrutiny of their origins?", Russelian Society, Sydney, Australia, March 8, 2006
- "The problem of access omniscience", Probability Conference, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, March 2, 2006
- "Reflection, disagreement, bootstrapping", Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, February 16, 2006
- "Comments on Strevens", Arizona Ontology Conference, Tucson, AZ, January 13, 2006
- "Self-locating probabilities", guest presentation at University of Michigan graduate seminar "Relative Truth", Ann Arbor, MI, January 24, 2006
- "Comments on Maudlin and Albert", APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York, NY, December 2005
- "Why are causal graphs so sparse?", The Origins and Functions of Causal Thinking II, Pasadena, CA, November 11, 2005
- "Comments on Roger White's 'Epistemic Permissiveness'",

Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA,  
August 2005

- "Isolation and folk causation", Rutgers University Workshop on Physicalism, April 22, 2005
- "Solidarity and disagreement", University of Michigan, February 18, 2005
- "Comments on Sarah Stroud's 'Epistemic partiality in friendship'", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 2004
- "Chances and branches", Metaphysics of Science Workshop, University of Reading, April 30, 2004
- "Chances and branches", Oxford University, April 28, 2004
- "Are accurate self-evaluations rational?", Princeton Cognitive Psychology Discussion Group, April 21, 2004
- "Should your beliefs survive scrutiny of their origins?", Southern Methodist University, April 8, 2004
- "Should your Convictions Survive Contemplation of their Origins?", University of Rochester, March 5, 2004
- "Comments on 'Chance and Counterfactuals'", APA Eastern Division Meeting, Washington D.C., December 2003
- "Chances and branches", University of Delaware, October 10, 2003
- "Waffling to avoid doublethink", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, Washington, August 2, 2003
- "Counterfactuals for decision", University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, July 16, 2003
- "Ungrounded desires", Australasian Association for Philosophy Annual Conference, Adelaide, Australia, July 9, 2003
- "Comments on Kutach and Frisch", APA Central Division Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio, April 24, 2003
- "Computing the halting function with a billiard-ball supertask", Oxford-Princeton philosophy of physics workshop, Oxford, U.K., March 18, 2003
- "Physics of computation", Columbia University, New York, NY, March 8, 2003
- "Memory Failure, Reflection, and Epistemic Solidarity", City University of New York, New York, NY, February 26, 2003
- "Why Neo was too confident that he'd escaped the Matrix", MIT independent activities period, Cambridge, MA, January 22, 2003
- "When not to take a sure thing", University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland, October 26, 2002
- Comments on Christopher Hitchcock's "Beauty and the Bets", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 3, 2002



- "Self-locating beliefs about chance" Philosophy Program, RISS, Australian National University, Canberra, July 19, 2002
- "Computing the halting function with a billiard-ball supertask" Australasian Association for Philosophy Annual Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand, July 8, 2002
- "The Direction of Time and the Direction of Experience" University of Massachusetts, Amherst, February 22, 2002
- "Wormholes for fun and profit", MIT IAP, January 2002

## Visiting Fellowships

- Member, Princeton Institute for Advanced Study (School of Social Science), 2014-2015
- Klein Visitor, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, October 17-19, 2013
- Distinguished Visitor, UC Santa Cruz Linguistics and Philosophy Group, Santa Cruz, CA, April 15-16, 2009
- Visiting Fellow, Philosophy Program, RISS, Canberra, Australia, February-March 2006
- Visiting Fellow, Philosophy Program, RISS, Canberra, Australia, June 2002

## Service (Departmental)

- Beta tester for department web page launch, 2020
- Philosophy Department Placement Committee Chair, 2016-17, 2020-21
- Philosophy Department Placement Committee, 2004-5, 2007-8, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2019-21
- Philosophy Department liaison to learning management system committee, 2018-19
- Presenter at information session for philosophy graduate students: "How to get the most out of graduate school", 2015, 2019, 2020
- Philosophy Department Graduate Committee 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-21
- Philosophy Department Graduate Admissions Screening Committee, 2005, 2012-19
- Philosophy Department Computer Committee Chair, 2007-8, 2010-14, 2018-19
- Philosophy Department Computer Committee, 2007-8, 2008-9, 2010-14, 2018-19
- Philosophy Department Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2010-11, 2013-14

- Philosophy Department ad-hoc committee on the international network in analytic philosophy (CRNAP), Fall 2010, 2011-12
- Philosophy Department ad-hoc committee on the experience of graduate students in the department, 2011-13
- Liason to Princeton Program in Neuroscience, 2006-present
- Philosophy Department Appointments Committee, 2007-8
- Philosophy Department Colloquium Committee, 2004-5, 2007-8
- Philosophy Department Seminar Committee Chair, 2008-9
- Philosophy Department Seminar Committee, 2008-9
- Philosophy Department Graduate Committee, 2008-9, 2017
- Volunteer member of Philosophy Graduate Admissions Final Round Committee, 2007

### **Service (University and other)**

- Director of Program in Linguistics, 2020-present
- Program committee, Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of California-Irvine, 2020
- Executive Committee of Program in Linguistics, 2018-present
- Application reviewer for Princeton Society of Fellows program, 2018
- Butler College Faculty Fellow, 2013-present
- Executive Committee for PIIRS Research Community on Global Systemic Risk, 2012-16
- Phi Beta Kappa Selection Committee, 2005-6
- Application reviewer for the Martin A. Dale '53 Fellowship, 2016-17
- Presentation on argument mapping, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, December 2, 2015
- Leader of Butler/Wilson college roundtable on drug-induced desires, November 20, 2015.
- University Committee on Library and Computing, 2011-14
- Nominating Editor, *Philosopher's Annual*, 2011-present
- Application reviewer for Princeton Society of Fellows postdoctoral fellowship, 2013-14
- Faculty liason to senior thesis writing group, 2013-14
- Leader of university-wide Major Choices roundtable for potential philosophy majors ("Confession of a compatibilist about free will"), September 21, 2012.
- Liason to Princeton Program in Neuroscience, 2006-2016
- Application reader for Princeton Society of Fellows, November 2011
- Co-leader (with Steven Gubser) of Butler/Wilson college roundtable on "Time travel and faster-than-light motion", November 17, 2011

- Presenter at teaching training event, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, November 3, 2011
- Philosophy department representative to Princeton undergraduate majors fair, November 19, 2010
- Program committee, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2009
- Co-organizer of information session for philosophy graduate students: "How to get the most out of graduate school", May 15, 2009
- Co-editor of issue of *Philosophical Studies* containing proceedings of 2009 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, 2009
- External dissertation examiner, Australian National University, February 11, 2009
- Co-organiser of conference "Knowledge, Faith and Disagreement: the epistemological significance of religious pluralism", April 2008
- Consultant for McGraw Center External Review Committee, April 25 and December 9, 2008
- Majors Initiative Butler College presentation, February 20, 2007
- Presenter at New Faculty Orientation, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, September 2002 and September 2006
- Philosophy Representative to USG Majors Day, November 2006
- Referee for *Nous*, *Synthese*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, Oxford University Press
- Co-organizer of Oxford-Princeton philosophy of physics conference, May 2002
- Participant, Princeton humanities symposium dinner for prospective undergraduates, Fall 2001

## External Supervision

- Adam Bales, external dissertation examiner, University of Cambridge, September 2017
- Adam Bales, external examiner ("Decision and Dependence"), Monash University, July 2013.
- Adam Bales, external examiner ("Expanding the bounds of rationality: four optimistic pieces"), Monash University, July 2013.
- Brian Kim, external examiner, Columbia University, September 2012.
- Aidan Lyon, external examiner ("Three Concepts of Probability"), Australian National University, February 2009.
- Will Fleisher, external committee member, Rutgers University,

2016-18.

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