N. Ángel Pinillos

Chair & Professor of Philosophy · Arizona State University
sites.google.com/view/pinillos/home · pinillos@asu.edu

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, Rutgers University, 2006. Dissertation: *On Referring to the Same Thing*. Certificate in Cognitive Science, Rutgers University. Advisors: Stephen Neale, Kit Fine, John Hawthorne and Ted Sider

B.S., Mathematics, Tufts University, 1996.

Academic Appointments

Arizona State University, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Tempe, AZ

Chair (Head) of Philosophy	2024–present
Professor of Philosophy	2024–present
Associate Professor of Philosophy (with tenure)	2012–2024
Assistant Professor of Philosophy	2006–2012

Books

Why We Doubt: A Cognitive Account of Our Skeptical Inclinations. Oxford University Press, 2023.

Doubt in an Uncertain World: A Philosophical Theory of Doubt. Under contract, Oxford University Press.

Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy (editor, with Shaun Nichols and Joshua Knobe). Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

Founder

publicscholarship.org — the largest discovery search engine of public-facing scholarship in the world.

Articles & Chapters

2026

"Capturing the Signal in Public Humanities." *Public Humanities* 2: e48. 2026.

2025

"Cohen on the Attraction and Defeat of Skeptical Hypotheses." In Juan Comesaña and Matthew McGrath (eds.), *Knowledge and Rationality: Essays in Honor of Stewart Cohen*, 116–132. Routledge, 2025.

"Précis of *Why We Doubt*." *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 14(4): 269–273. 2025.

"Replies to Commentators." *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 14(4): 317–329. 2025.

2024

"Bank Cases, Stakes and Normative Facts." In Shaun Nichols and Joshua Knobe (eds.), *Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy, Volume 5*. Oxford University Press, 2024.

2022

"Bayesian Sensitivity Principles for Evidence-Based Knowledge." *Philosophical Studies* 179(2): 495–516. 2022.

2021

"Evidence Sensitivity as a Heuristic for Doubt." *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 45: 223–239. 2021.

2020

"De Jure Anti-Coreference and Mental Files." In Rachel Goodman, James Genone, and Nick Kroll (eds.), *Singular Thought and Mental Files*, 187–206. Oxford University Press, 2020.

2019

"A Counterfactual Explanation for the Action Effect in Causal Judgment." With Paul Henne, Laura Niemi, Felipe De Brigard, and Joshua Knobe. *Cognition* 190: 157–164. 2019.

"Knowledge and the Permissibility of Action." *Synthese* 196(5): 2021–2043. 2019.

"Asymmetric Belief Sensitivity and Justification Explain the Wells Effect." With Sara Jaramillo and Zachary Horne. *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. 2019.

2018

"Skepticism and the Acquisition of 'Knowledge.'" With Shaun Nichols. *Mind & Language* 33(4): 397–414. 2018.

"Skepticism and Evolution." In Brian Kim and Matthew McGrath (eds.), *Pragmatic Encroachment in Epistemology*, 141–169. Routledge, 2018.

2017

"Cause by Omission and Norm: Not Watering Plants." With Paul Henne and Felipe De Brigard. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 95(2): 270–283. 2017.

2016

"Ambiguous Reference." With Shaun Nichols and Ron Mallon. *Mind* 125(497): 145–175. 2016.

"Experiments on Contextualism and Interest Relative Invariantism." In Justin Sytsma and Wesley Buckwalter (eds.), *A Companion to Experimental Philosophy*, 349–358. Blackwell, 2016.

2015

"A Bayesian Framework for Knowledge Attribution: Evidence from Semantic Integration." With Derek Powell, Zachary Horne, and Keith J. Holyoak. *Cognition* 139: 92–104. 2015.

"Millianism, Relationism, and Attitude Ascriptions." In Andrea Bianchi (ed.), *On Reference*, 322–334. Oxford University Press, 2015.

"Ambiguity and Referential Machinery." In Jussi Suikkanen (ed.), *Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Language*, 139–156. Bloomsbury, 2015.

2014

"Experimental Evidence in Support of Anti-Intellectualism About Knowledge." With Shawn Simpson. In James R. Beebe (ed.), *Advances in Experimental Epistemology*, 9–44. Bloomsbury, 2014.

"Semantic Integration as a Method for Investigating Concepts." With Derek Powell and Zachary Horne. In James R. Beebe (ed.), *Advances in Experimental Epistemology*, 119–144. Bloomsbury, 2014.

"Attitudes, Supervaluations, and Vagueness in the World." In Ken Akiba (ed.), *Vague Objects and Vague Identity: New Essays on Ontic Vagueness*, 155–172. Springer, 2014.

2013

"Justified True Belief Triggers False Recall of 'Knowing.'" With Derek Powell, Zachary Horne, and Keith J. Holyoak. *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, 1151–1156. 2013.

2012

"Knowledge, Experiments, and Practical Interests." In Jessica Brown and Mikkel Gerken (eds.), *Knowledge Ascriptions*, 192–219. Oxford University Press, 2012.

2011

"Coreference and Meaning." *Philosophical Studies* 154(2): 301–324. 2011.

"Time Dilation, Context, and Relative Truth." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 82(1): 65–92. 2011.

"Some Recent Work in Experimental Epistemology." *Philosophy Compass* 6(10): 675–688. 2011.

"Philosophy's New Challenge: Experiments and Intentional Action." With Nick Smith, G. Shyam Nair, Peter Marchetto, and Cecilea Mun. *Mind & Language* 26(1): 115–139. 2011.

2008

"Representing as the Same." *Proceedings of the XXII World Congress of Philosophy* 39: 209–214. 2008.

2003

"Counting and Indeterminate Identity." *Mind* 112(445): 35–50. 2003.

Other Publications

"Why Are Humanists So Bad at Defending the Humanities?" *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 2026. Featured in *Arts and Letters Daily*, June 26, 2026.

"Where Is MAGA's Plan to Unify the Country?" *The Fulcrum*, July 2025.

"Knowledge, Ignorance and Climate Change." *The New York Times* (Op-Ed), November 26, 2018. Among the most-emailed *Times* articles for two consecutive days; anthologized in Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley (eds.), *Question Everything*, W. W. Norton / Liveright, 2022.

Review of Jennifer Saul, *Simple Sentences, Substitution, and Intuitions*. *Mind* 119(474): 523–526. 2010.

"Experimental Philosophy." With Wesley Buckwalter, Joshua Knobe, Shaun Nichols, Philip Robbins, Hagop Sarkissian, Chris Weigel, and Jonathan Weinberg. *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, 2010.

Unpublished Manuscripts

"Knowledge and Moral Relativism." Manuscript, 2010.

"De Jure Coreference and Transitivity." Manuscript, 2009.

"Names, Logical Form and Syntactic Externalism." Manuscript, 2008.

Papers in Progress

"Doubt and Weak Belief."

"That We Are Hell Solves the Problem of Evil and Divine Hiddenness." With J. W. Gaberdiel and M. Judson.

"How Probable Is It That We Are in the Afterlife?" With J. W. Gaberdiel.

"Discourse about AI in Public Scholarship." With Hunter Priniski.

"A Modest Solution to the Skeptical Paradox." With Branden Fitelson.

"Moral Valence of the Symptoms of the Disorder." With Andreas De Block and Kristien Hens.

"Multiple Criteria with Concepts." With Ben Phillips and E. Neufeld.

TALKS

(Invited) University of Glasgow, Scotland. May 2027

(Invited) Anbar Lecture at Syracuse University. April 2027

(Invited) Symposium Speaker on Doubt and Confidence. American Philosophical Association. Denver, CO. February 2027.

(Invited) Panel member on whether AI should be used in philosophical writing. American Philosophical Association. Boston, MA. January 2027.

(Refereed) "Five Theories, Three Experiments: Adjudicating Models of Natural Kind Categorizations." European Experimental Philosophy. Sardinia, Italy. September 2026

(Invited) "Is There an Analysis of Doubt?" Berlin, Germany. June 2026.

(Invited) "Skepticism as a Mindset." Fifth Annual Formal and Experimental Philosophy Workshop (FAX5). March 2026.

(Invited) Templeton Foundation Humility in Inquiry Final Conference. September 2025.

(Invited) "Doubt and Conspiracy Theory." Scripps College. March 2025.

(Invited) "Humility and Skepticism." Northeastern University. Fall 2024.

(Invited) Comments on Paolo Bonardi. Pacific APA, Portland. March 2024.

(Invited) "The Attraction of Skepticism." Skepticism in the Real World Workshop, Tempe, AZ. January 2024.

(Invited) "Externalism About Contextualism." Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany. December 2023.

(Invited) "The Attraction of Skepticism." East Carolina University. November 2023.

(Invited) "Skepticism and Humility." UNC–Chapel Hill. November 2023.

(Invited) "The Point of Skepticism." University of British Columbia. September 2023.

(Invited) Three Lectures. National University of San Marcos, Lima, Peru. Spring 2023.

(Invited) "Knowledge and Doubt." Washington University in St. Louis (Philosophy Colloquium). January 2023.

(Invited) Workshop on Doubt. Helsinki. November 2022.

(Invited) Conference on Ordinary Language. Berlin. June 2022.

(Refereed) "Sensitivity Principles." Society for Exact Philosophy, Toronto. May 2019.

(Invited) "De Jure Anti-Coreference." Ohio State University. April 2019.

(Refereed) "Skepticism and Bayesian Cognition." Buffalo Experimental Philosophy Conference. September 2018.

(Refereed) "Are Omissions Really Less Causal?" With Josh Knobe, Paul Henne, Laura Niemi, and Felipe De Brigard. Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Ann Arbor, MI. July 2018. [Presented by Henne]

(Refereed) "Skepticism: An Evolutionary Perspective." Buffalo Experimental Philosophy Conference. August 2017.

(Invited) "The Allure of Skepticism: Evolutionary Perspectives." Institut Jean Nicod, Paris. 2017.

(Invited) "De Jure Anti-Coreference." Conference on Relational Thought, University of Illinois at Chicago. September 2016.

(Invited) "Referential Ascriptions." University of Warsaw, Poland. April 2016.

(Invited) "The Allure of Skepticism." Arizona State University. December 2015.

(Invited) "The Allure of Skepticism." University of Pittsburgh. October 2015.

(Invited) "De Jure Anti-Coreference and Mental Files." Conference on Mental Files, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey. September 2015.

(Invited) "Coordination in Mind and Language." University of Houston. April 2015.

(Invited) "Coreference and Mental Files." Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, UNAM, Mexico City. April 2015.

(Invited Keynote) "Relativism." Southwest Graduate Conference. 2014.

(Invited) "Intuitions and Perceptions." Authors-Meet-Critics session for *Intuition* by Elijah Chudnoff (Oxford University Press). December 2014.

(Invited) "Bayesian Analysis of Knowledge and Semantic Integration." University of Arizona Experimental Philosophy Group. October 2014.

(Invited) "Ambiguity and Reference." UC Davis Philosophy Colloquium. October 2013.

(Refereed) "Justified True Belief (in a Gettier Case) Triggers False Recall of Knowledge." With D. Powell, Z. Horne, and K. Holyoak. CogSci 2013, Berlin. July 2013. [Co-authors presented]

(Refereed) "Justified True Belief (in a Gettier Case) Triggers False Recall of Knowledge." With D. Powell, Z. Horne, and K. Holyoak. Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Providence, RI. June 2013.

(Invited) "Gettier and Practical Interests." Symposium, Pacific APA. 2013.

(Invited) "Ambiguous Reference." Conference on Empirical Data and Philosophical Theorizing, University of Barcelona, Spain. October 2012.

(Invited) "Three Ways Truth May Be Relative." Boise State University. April 2012.

(Invited) "What Is Experimental Philosophy?" Boise State University. April 2012.

(Refereed) "Relativism: Linguistic or Worldly." Ordinary Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, University of St. Andrews, Scotland. June 2011.

(Invited) "Knowledge and Stakes: Experimental Work." Can Experimental Philosophy Contribute to Traditional Epistemology? San Diego, CA. April 2011.

(Invited) "Experiments and Knowledge." University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. February 2011.

(Invited) "Knowledge and Practical Interests." Conference on Experimental Philosophy, University of Arizona. January 2011.

(Invited) "The Role of Morality and Practical Interests in Knowledge Attributions." Faculty Seminar Series, Arizona State University. January 2011.

(Invited) "Knowledge and Stakes." Group Session on Experimental Philosophy, APA, Boston, MA. December 2010.

(Invited) "Moral Relativism." Arizona State University Philosophy Colloquium. October 2010.

(Invited) "Relationism and Reference." Conference on Reference, University of Parma, Italy. September 2010.

(Invited) "Mental Content and Moral Relativism." Symposium, Pacific APA, San Francisco. 2010.

(Invited) "Philosophical Judgments." University of Arizona Philosophy Department. January 2010.

(Refereed) "Philosophy's New Challenge." AHRC Philosophy Methodology Conference, University of St. Andrews, Scotland. April 2009.

(Refereed) "Relativistic Semantics for Temporal (and Spatial) 'Duration.'" Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference. October 2008.

(Refereed) "Representing as the Same." World Congress of Philosophy, Seoul, South Korea. August 2008. [Accepted; declined due to funding cuts]

(Invited) "Relativism." ASU Ph.D. Applied Linguistics Program Faculty Interests Day. September 2008.

(Refereed) "Coreference and Transitivity." Pacific APA. March 2008. [Commentator: Michael Nelson]

(Invited) "The Role of Meaning in Logical Inference." Vassar College. February 2006.

(Invited) "The Role of Meaning in Logical Inference." Southern Methodist University. February 2006.

(Invited) "The Role of Meaning in Logical Inference." Arizona State University. February 2006.

(Invited) "The Role of Meaning in Logical Inference." University of California, Los Angeles. January 2006.

(Invited) "Frege on Sense." Mt. Holyoke College. January 2006.

(In-House) "The Variable." Rutgers University. April 2005.

(Refereed) "Counting and Indeterminate Identity." Eastern APA. December 2002. [Commentator: Terry Parsons; Winner, Graduate Student Prize]

(In-House) "Belief Attributions and the Hidden Indexical Theory." Rutgers University. April 2001.

Comments & Chairing

(Invited) Comments on "The Role of Epistemic Virtue in Science" (Duygu Uygun Tunc and Duncan Pritchard). Central APA. February 2026.

Comments, "The Transitivity of De Jure Coreference: A Case Against Pinillos." Pacific APA, San Francisco. April 2020 (postponed to 2021).

Comments, "Names Are Not Predicates" (Heidi Savage). Pacific APA, San Francisco. April 2016.

Comments (Geoff Georgi). Pacific APA, Vancouver. April 2015.

Comments, "Disagreement Argument in Meta-Ethics." Central APA, New Orleans. February 2013.

Comments, "The T-Schema Argument Against Realism." Pacific APA. April 2011.

Invited comments, Central APA. February 2010 (declined due to funding).

Invited comments, Pacific APA. April 2009 (declined due to funding).

Comments, Vagueness Workshop, Charmey, Switzerland. June 2008.

Chair, session, Central APA. April 2008.

Invited Chair, Workshop on Implicatures, Oslo, Norway. November 2007.

Awards & Grants

Online Undergraduate Research (ASU). $9,000

Templeton Grant ($200,000), Humility in Inquiry (with Ruth Mayo and Elis Miller Larsen): "The Relationship Between 'I Don't Know' Judgments and Humility in Inquiry."

Seed Grant ($8,953), Institute for Humanities Research (2023–2024): "Skepticism in the Real World."

Provost Visiting Scholar, University of Houston. Spring 2015.

Official Nominee, Arizona State University Professor of the Year. 2013.

Fellow ($8,000 research grant), Institute for Humanities Research, Arizona State University. 2010–2011.

Participant ($3,800), NEH Seminar on Experimental Philosophy. Summer 2009.

Center for Cultural Analysis Fellow, Rutgers University. 2005–2006.

Trustee's Fellow, Rutgers University. 1999–2002.

Graduate Student Prize, Eastern APA. December 2002.

SERVICE AT ASU

Head of Philosophy (2024–).

Spearheading Philosophy and AI BA/BS major at ASU (2025-)
https://www.statepress.com/article/2026/04/scitech-ai-philosophy-degree

Artificial Intelligence Academy at ASU (2025).

Work in Progress Organizes Philosophy (2024-)

Chair, Search Committee — Assistant Professor in Artificial Intelligence, Technology, Health and Human Futures (2023–2024).

Chair, Dissertation Committee (Keith Swisher).

Colloquium Coordinator (2021–2024).

Diversity Committee Member (2023–2024; 2019–2020).

Chair, Search Committee — Assistant Professor in Human Futures Technology (2019–2020).

Transdisciplinary Council, SHPRS (2012–2014; 2019–2020).

Director of Graduate Studies, Philosophy M.A. and Ph.D. programs (2014–2019).

Panelist, CLAS New Assistant Professor Workshop Series. November 2018.

In-House Philosophy Faculty Talks Coordinator, SHPRS. Fall 2018.

Search Committee — Assistant Professor, Mind and Metaphysics (2017).

Panelist, "Becoming a Colleague" (ASU CLAS / Fulton). September 2017.

Director, design of online Philosophy 101 (2015–2016).

Chair, Search Committee — Philosophy TT position (2015–2016).

Chair, Diversity Committee, Philosophy (2014–2015).

Advisor, ASU Graduate Club (2008–2009; 2012–2013).

Graduate Committee (2007–2008; 2019–2021).

Curriculum Committee (2012–present).

Departmental Minutes Recorder (2007–2012).

Organizer, Philosophy Colloquia (2007–2016).

IHR Board (2011–2013).

ASU Digital Humanities Board (2013–2014).

Service in the Profession

Organizer, Skepticism in the Real World Workshop, ASU Humanities Institute. January 2024.

Co-Chair, Program Committee, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2018–2019).

Program Director, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, San Diego. 2019.

Executive Committee, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2019–2020).

Organizer, Conference on Experimental Philosophy, Sedona, AZ. December 2016.

Organizer, Conference on Pragmatic Encroachment, Sedona, AZ. February 2017.

Tempe Tetrahedron Speaker (public philosophy). 2012.

Spirit of the Senses Speaker (public philosophy). 2011.

Referee: Oxford University Press (book manuscripts), Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Episteme, Ergo, Philosophical Studies, The Monist, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Synthese, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophia, Mind, Journal of Semantics, Noûs, American Philosophical Quarterly, and the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.