

Sina Fazelpour

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Education

- University of British Columbia** *Present*
PhD candidate in philosophy.
- University of Toronto** *06-2013*
B.A. in Philosophy. Awarded The Sanford Gold Medal for highest overall standing in the specialist program in philosophy.
- University of Toronto** *10-2010*
M.Sc in Medical Biophysics. Dissertation: “Non-invasive Assessment of Pulmonary Wave Reflection Using Phase Contrast Magnetic Resonance Imaging.”
- McMaster University** *06-2007*
B.Eng in Electrical and Biomedical Engineering, with high distinction

Visting Scholar

- Carnegie Mellon University** *Winter 2019*
Working under the supervision of Zachary Lipton

Publications

- Steel, D. **Fazelpour, S.**, Crewe, B. & Gillette, K. (forthcoming) Information elaboration and epistemic effects of diversity. *Synthese*.
- Steel, D. **Fazelpour, S.**, Gillette, K., Crewe, B., & Burgess, M. (2018) Multiple diversity concepts and their ethical-epistemic implications. *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 8(3): 761–780.
- Ransom, M., **Fazelpour, S.**, & Mole, C. (2017). Attention in the predictive mind. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 47, 99–112.
- Fazelpour, S.**, & Thompson, E. (2015). The Kantian brain: brain dynamics from a neurophenomenological perspective. *Current opinion in neurobiology*, 31, 223-229.
- Hojjat, S. P., **Fazelpour, S.**, & Shirani, S. (2007). Multiple description coding of video using phase scrambling. In *IEEE Pacific Rim Conference on Communications, Computers and Signal Processing*

Work in Progress

- Fazelpour, S.** & Ransom, M. Is attention just optimizing expected precision? To be published in S. S. Gouveia, D. Mendonça, & M. Curado (Eds.) *The Philosophy and Science of Predictive Processing*. Bloomsbury Publishing (under contract, expected 2019).
- Fazelpour, S.** & Steel, D. Demographic diversity, trust and conformity: a simulation-based approach (draft available).
- Fazelpour, S.** Where “could” and “should” could and should meet: a decision-theoretic approach to counterfactual relevance (draft available).
- Fazelpour, S.** & Lipton, Z. The aspirations and shortcomings of causal approaches to algorithmic fairness.
- Kryklywy, J.H., **Fazelpour, S.** Ransom, M. Jativa, M., & Todd, R.M. (pre-registered experiment) Assessing predictive coding and affective salience. University of British Columbia, 2018. Registered at aspredicted.org (8379)

Awards and Honours

W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics Fellowship, 2018-2019
Public Scholars Initiative Research Fellowship, University of British Columbia, 2017-2019
Don Brown Graduate Teaching Award, 2018
UBC Ambassador for Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2018-2019
Templeton Foundation Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy Fellow, 2016
Honorable mention for the William James Prize, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2016
Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships Program—Doctoral Scholarships, 2014-2017
University of British Columbia Four-Year Fellowship, 2013-2017
The Sanford Gold Medal in Specialist Program in Philosophy, Victoria College, Toronto, 2013
Dean's list, University of Toronto, 2011-2013
Victoria College, The Regents In-Course Scholarship, 2012
The Walter and Mary Tuohy Award, 2012
PEM Research in Progress Seminar Award, The Hospital for Sick Children
Research Training Competition Award, The Hospital for Sick Children
Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2008-9 (Declined)
Dean's list, McMaster University, 2004-2007
The Dr. Harry Lyman Hooker Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence, 2005-2007
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Award for Undergraduate Summer Research, 2005
Member of The National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents (NODET), Iran, 1994-2001

Research Experience

W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics *09-2018-Present*
Graduate Fellow

Developed an agent-based model of inter-group trust and conformity dynamics for studying the impact of diversity on group performance in simulation setting. School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia.

Motivated Cognition Lab, University of British Columbia *09-2016-Present*
Affiliated Researcher

Developed a computational model of affect-biased attention and designed an experiment for empirically testing the model in collaboration with Dr. Rebecca Todd's Motivated Cognition Lab.

W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics *09-2017-08-2018*
Research Assistant

Developed a taxonomy of distinct concepts and measures of diversity and evaluating their application to explanations of the cognitive benefits of diversity for deliberative mini-publics. Assistant to Dr. Daniel Steel.

The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto *06-2007-06-2010*
Graduate researcher

Developed an algorithm for decomposing blood flow dynamics in pulmonary arteries using phase-contrast MRI, Assistant to Dr. Christopher Macgowan, department of diagnostic imaging.

Signal Processing Lab, McMaster University *04-2005-11-2005*
Undergraduate research assistant

Developed a new recovery technique using phase scrambling for video segments over unreliable networks. Signal Processing Lab, electrical and computer engineering department, Assistant to Dr. Shahram Shirani.

Teaching Experience

Cognitive Systems Program, University of British Columbia

Instructor

COGS300: Understanding and Designing Cognitive Systems. Winter 2018; Fall 2018.

Philosophy Department, University of British Columbia

Instructor

PHIL125: Introduction to Scientific Reasoning. Winter 2017.

Philosophy Department, University of British Columbia

Teaching assistant

Teaching assistant for various courses at different levels, including ethics, symbolic logic, biomedical ethics, philosophy of law, philosophy of mind and cognitive science. Winter 2014-Fall 2017.

Teaching Awards and Recognitions

Don Brown Graduate Teaching Award, 2018

Teaching training

Certificate Program in Advanced Teaching and Learning at University of British Columbia.

Instructional Skills Workshop, UBC Graduate Pathways to Success.

Professional Services

Reviewer, *Synthese*, *Minds online*, *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*.

UBC Ambassador for Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences Meetings 2018 and 2019

Co-organizer, Trust and Transparency in Machine Learning Systems Reading Group, University of British Columbia, 2018-Present

Co-organizer, Workshop on Causation and Counterfactuals in Philosophy, Science, and Law, University of British Columbia, 2018

Organizer, Graduate Student Colloquium Series, Philosophy Department, University of British Columbia, 2016

Skills

Counterfactual inference, Causation and explanation, Agent-based modeling, Probability, Graphical models, Time-frequency analysis, Signal processing, Medical imaging, Biomedical instrumentation and design, Matlab, Python and R (basics).

Languages

Persian (native speaker), English (fluent)