

James Gillard

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Research Interests

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Ethics, Moral Epistemology, Philosophy of AI

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Ancient Philosophy, Moral Psychology, Emotions

Education & Appointments

Research Affiliate – Postdoctoral, University of Texas at Austin	2026–present
Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin	2018–2026
M.A. in Philosophy, Georgia State University	2015–2017
Master of Theological Studies, Harvard Divinity School	2013–2015
B.A. (Hons) in English Language and Literature, University of Oxford	2008–2011

Papers

UNDER REVIEW

Black Box Testimony: When Are We Justified in Believing LLM Outputs?
Autonomous Weapons: Proportionality, Probability and Uncertainty
Hunches

REVISE & RESUBMIT

Did Socrates Want to be Executed? The Rhetoric of Pleasure and Pain in the Apology

Teaching

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

Contemporary Moral Problems, UT Austin	Fall 2023; Spring 2024
Topics in Biology, Georgia State University	Fall 2017
New Student Orientation, Georgia State University	Fall 2017
Biomedical Ethics, Georgia State University	Fall 2017
Introduction to Ethics, Georgia State University	Fall 2017 (2 sections); Spring 2017
Introduction to Philosophy, Georgia State University	Summer 2017
Critical Thinking, Georgia State University	Fall 2016 (4 sections); Summer 2016

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Medicine, Ethics, and Society, UT Austin	Spring 2023
Problems of Knowledge & Valuation, UT Austin	Fall 2022
Existentialism, UT Austin	Spring 2020

OTHER TEACHING

Volunteer Teaching Assistant/Lecturer, Texas Prison Education Initiative 2022

Talks

AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS AND THE PROBLEM OF UNKNOWN UNKNOWN

Ethical and Social Perspectives on New Military Technologies
Royal Military Academy, Belgium February 2026

BLACK BOX TESTIMONY: WHEN ARE WE JUSTIFIED IN BELIEVING LLM OUTPUTS?

Philosophy of AI and Technology, University of Manitoba January 2026

2nd Sawyer Philosophy Conference on Ethics of Technology: Promises and Perils,
Illinois Institute of Technology November 2025

Testimony, University of Bucharest May 2025

HUNCHES

School of Civic Leadership, University of Texas at Austin December 2024

Grants and Awards

Civitas Dissertation Fellowship 2024–2026

Provost's Graduate Excellence Fellowship 2018–2023

Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, Georgia State University 2017

College Prize for Performance in Final Examinations, Jesus College, Oxford 2011

References

JOHN BENGSON

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KARL SCHAFER

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ROBBIE KUBALA (TEACHING)

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