

Ashar Khan

PhD Student, University of Waterloo
 200 University Avenue West
 Waterloo, ON, Canada N2L 3G1
 ashar.khan@uwaterloo.ca
 www.asharkhan.ca

Research Areas

AOS History and Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology.
 AOC Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic.

About

My interests lie in the history and philosophy of science, particularly exploring causation, explanation, modelling, measurement, idealization, laws of nature, theory change, and the history of twentieth-century philosophy of science. Additionally, I'm interested in the philosophy of biology, health, and medicine, where I'm working on several projects analyzing conceptual and methodological issues in the scientific study of obesity and energy metabolism.

Education

Current
 (Started Fall 2024) **PhD Student**, Philosophy
 University of Waterloo, Department of Philosophy
 Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
 Co-Supervisors: Doreen Fraser and Patricia Marino

2023 — 2024 **Master's Degree**, Philosophy
 University of Western Ontario, Department of Philosophy
 London, Ontario, Canada
 Master's Thesis Supervisor: Wayne Myrvold

2012 — 2017 **Honours Bachelors of Arts**, Philosophy and History
 University of Toronto
 Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Publications

2026 (Under Review) Khan, A. (2026). "*A Partial History of Causal Thinking in Obesity Research.*" *History and Philosophy of Life Science.*

Research Experience

Winter 2025 **Research Assistant**, with Doreen Fraser.
University of Waterloo.

Teaching

Spring 2026 **Instructor**, University of Waterloo
PHIL 256/PSCYH 256 (Introduction to Cognitive Science)

Winter 2026 **Instructor**, University of Waterloo
PHIL 240 (Introduction to Formal Logic)

Fall 2025 **Teaching Assistant**, University of Waterloo
PHIL 240 (Introduction to Formal Logic)

Spring 2025 **Co-Instructor**, University of Waterloo
PHIL 256/PSCYH 256 (Introduction to Cognitive Science)

Winter 2025 **Instructor**, University of Waterloo
PHIL 145 (Critical Thinking)

Fall 2024 **Co-Instructor**, University of Waterloo
PHIL 145 (Critical Thinking)

Winter 2024 **Teaching Assistant**, University of Western Ontario
PHILOSOP 2400 (Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind)

Fall 2023 **Teaching Assistant**, University of Western Ontario
PHILOSOP 1230 (Reasoning and Critical Thinking)

Talks

2026 Khan, A. (2026) “**Robustness Analysis and the Energy Balance model of Obesity**,” *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS)*. Halifax, NS, Canada.

2026 Khan, A. (2026). “**Why Energy Balance Bust Hold (and Why That Doesn’t Explain Obesity)**,” *51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy (SEP)*. Vancouver, BC, Canada.

2026 Khan, A. (2026). “**Robustness Analysis and the Energy Balance model of Obesity**,” *Rotman Graduate Student Conference 2026: Philosophical Issues in the Life Sciences*. London, ON, Canada.

2025 Khan, A. (2025). “**Philosophical Perspectives on the History of Causal Modelling in Obesity Research**,” *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS)*. Toronto, ON, Canada.

Awards

- 2025 **Bronze Essay Prize** for best Graduate Essay, for “*Robustness Analysis and the Energy Balance Model of Obesity.*”
University of Waterloo, Department of Philosophy.
- 2025 **Congress Funding Award.** \$500, University of Waterloo.
- 2024 **Congress Funding Award.** \$400, University of Waterloo.
- 2022 **Entrance Scholarship,** \$1,000, University of Western Ontario.

Service

- 2025 Member, **Colloquium Planning Committee,**
Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA).
University of Waterloo.
Waterloo, ON, Canada.

Professional Memberships

Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS).
Society for Exact Philosophy (SEP).

Public Philosophy

- 2022 — 2023 **Thing-in-itself Podcast,** Youtube and Podcast Series

From 2022 to 2023, I produced a YouTube interview series featuring open-ended, long-form conversations with philosophers and scientists, exploring topics in the philosophy of science, biology, and the mind. While this project was fairly amateurish, as it was aimed at a general audience of undergraduates, as well as graduate students and professional scholars, it is not a fair reflection of my current professional work in philosophy. However, it greatly helped me hone my skills in public communication.

- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, July 30). *Luiz Pessoa on the integrative framework, emotions, cognition* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3k0Jyac02Y&t=107s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, July 1). *Michael Graziano on consciousness, attention schema theory, AI* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp5yqBEknUI&t=18s>

- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, July 1). *Katharina Pistor on law, the code of capital, law & capitalism* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RSBfXXWdBU&t=29s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, May 20). *Richard Brown on higher order thought theories of consciousness* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RSBfXXWdBU&t=29s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, April 13). *Alex Rosenberg on scientism, reductionism, and the manifest image* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9agVl8OYlJc&t=8s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, April 2). *Nicolas Gisin on intuitionism, indeterminacy, quantum gravity* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkbEesuHSNc&t=13s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, March 10). *Sheldon Solomon on death, psychiatry, existentialism, politics* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4IrlvIw3ro&t=34s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, February 10). *Dean Rickles on quantum gravity, time, QBism, monism, string theory* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGIsZW2kgXI&t=63s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, February 9). *Justin Garson on madness, psychiatry, functions, evolution* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTBm_SExMFI&t=34s
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, January 29). *Lee Cronin on life, assembly theory, evolution, entropy, time* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcIWDZXTLWk&t=30s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, January 23). *Anthony Chemero on 4E CogSci, ecological psych., dynamical systems* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FsZkfanlIM&t=2s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, January 21). *Fred Cummins on joint speech, 4E CogSci, ecological psychology* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSwe1yHETmc&t=33s>
- 2023 Khan, A. (2023, January 9). *Robert Sternberg on the psychology of IQ, intelligence, wisdom, love* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyQ_nO0IeSY&t=10s
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, November 19). *David Christian on big history, future history, and global identity* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJwHH9A4st8&t=15s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, October 31). *Donald Hoffman on perception, consciousness, spacetime, spirituality* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvIKVF906q4&t=5s>

- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, October 27). *Karl Friston on the FEP, cognition, life, agency, enactivism* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ece7IK8VDU&t=4s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, October 5). *Michael Strevens on explanation and modern scientific knowledge* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4cXGUiKjr8&t=3s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, October 1). *Michael Levin on the foundations of cognition* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C96Hq8kDORU&t=1434s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, September 19). *Raymond Tallis on human experience, naturalism, philosophy & art* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qD4qDqcehbI&t=2s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, August 16). *Craig Callender on time, QG, blackhole thermodynamics, ethics* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVCM-3krEqE&t=28s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, August 4). *Gregg Henriques on the new unified theory of psychology* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gm7-i9FX478>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, July 11). *Iris Berent on language, innate knowledge, human nature* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A52LS7xaau8&t=2s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, June 5). *Gualtiero Piccinini on computation and the mind* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoIapLxfCrY>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, May 24). *Paul Thagard on cognition, consciousness, misinformation, balance* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSUp6aBkcZg&t=6493s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, May 4). *Herbert Gintis on behaviour, economics, altruism and cooperation* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XI6655Y-is&t=1s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, April 23). *Tim Maudlin on time, quantum mechanics, metaphysics, non-locality* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QURmQA3WHEg&t=3612s>
- 2022 Khan, A. (2022, March 30). *James Robert Brown on mathematics, platonism, philosophy of science* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfquMAqTKPs&t=2s>

Skills

Programming Languages LaTeX, Python, MATLAB, Java, CSS, Adobe XD, Figma.

Language Proficiency English, Hindi, Urdu, and Arabic.

Non-Academic Professional Experience

2022 **Campaign Manager,**
Javed Faruqui's Campaign for School Board Trustee (Wards 9 and 10).
Mississauga, ON, Canada.

2022 — 2023 **Private Consultant for Business Strategy.**
Toronto, ON, Canada.

2016 — 2021 **Co-founder and CEO,** Kettle Tech Inc. (Ed-Tech, SaaS product).
Toronto, ON, Canada.