Ashar Khan

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www.asharkhan.ca

Research Areas

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

Education

2024 — Present	**PhD Student (Philosophy).** University of Waterloo. Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Co-Supervisors: Doreen Fraser and Patricia Marino.
2023-24	**MA (Philosophy)**. University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. Master's Thesis Supervisor: Wayne Myrvold.
2012-17	**HBA (Philosophy and History)**. University of Toronto. Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Publications

Forthcoming	(Under Review). **Robustness Analysis and the Confirmation of Structural Constraints: The Case of Obesity Modelling**. *Biology and Philosophy.*

Research Experience

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

Other Refereed Contributions

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	"Robustness Analysis and Models of Obesity," *Rotman Graduate Student Conference 2026: Philosophical Issues in the Life Sciences*. London, ON, Canada.

Non Refereed Contributions

2026	"Robustness Analysis and the Energy Balance Model of Obesity," *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS)*. Halifax, NS, Canada.
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.

Teaching

Fall 2026	**Instructor.** PHIL 251 (Metaphysics and Epistemology). University of Waterloo.
Spring 2026	**Co-Instructor**. PHIL 256/PSCYH 256 (Introduction to Cognitive Science). University of Waterloo.
Winter 2026	**Instructor.** PHIL 240 (Introduction to Formal Logic). University of Waterloo.
Fall 2025	**Teaching Assistant**. PHIL 240 (Introduction to Formal Logic). University of Waterloo.
Spring 2025	**Co-Instructor**. PHIL 256/PSCYH 256 (Introduction to Cognitive Science). University of Waterloo.
Winter 2025	**Instructor**.PHIL 145 (Critical Thinking). University of Waterloo.
Fall 2024	**Co-Instructor.** PHIL 145 (Critical Thinking). University of Waterloo.

Winter 2024	**Teaching Assistant**. PHILOSOP 2400 (Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind). University of Western Ontario.
Fall 2023	**Teaching Assistant**. PHILOSOP 1230 (Reasoning and Critical Thinking). University of Western Ontario.

Awards & Scholarships

Scholarships

2024-27	University of Waterloo Graduate Scholarship. $25,150. University of Waterloo.
2025-26	Philosophy Graduate Scholarship. $2,151. University of Waterloo.
2024-25	University of Waterloo Senate Graduate Scholarship. $125. University of Waterloo.
2023-24	Western Graduate Research Scholarship (WGRS). $4550. University of Western Ontario.
2023	Entrance Scholarship. $1000. University of Western Ontario.

Awards

2026	Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award in Philosophy. $200, University of Waterloo.
2026	Graduate Student Research Dissemination Award (GSRDA). $500. University of Waterloo.
2026	Best Poster Talk. Rotman Graduate Student Conference 2026: Philosophical Issues in the Life Sciences.
2026	Congress Funding Award. $500. University of Waterloo.
2026	Department of Philosophy Graduate Essay Prize, for “Robustness Analysis and the Energy Balance Model of Obesity.” $250. University of Waterloo.
2025	Congress Funding Award. $400. University of Waterloo.

Service

2026-Present	**President**, *University of Waterloo, Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA)*. Waterloo, ON, Canada.
2026	**Workshop Organizer**, Marco Tang, "Adaptive Preferences and Epistemic Injustice." *University of Waterloo, Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA)*. Waterloo, ON, Canada.
2026	**Workshop Organizer**, NASSP (North American Society for Social Philosophy) Workshop. *University of Waterloo, Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA)*. Waterloo, ON, Canada.
2026	**Reviewer**, *Philosophy of Science*.
2026	**Judge**, *Ethics Bowl Canada*. 2026 National Championships. Dalhousie University, Halifax NS.
2026	**Workshop Organizer**, CPA (Canadian Philosophical Association) Workshop. *University of Waterloo, Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA)*. Waterloo, ON, Canada.
2025	**Workshop Organizer**, Curtis Brown, "Hume's Theory of Factional Politics." *University of Waterloo, Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA)*. Waterloo, ON, Canada.
2025-26	**Head of Colloquium Committee**, *University of Waterloo, Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA)*. Waterloo, ON, Canada.

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 and brain sciences. 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 reflection of my current professional work in philosophy. However, it greatly helped me develop my skills in public communication.

2023 Luiz Pessoa on the integrative framework, emotions, cognition [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3k0Jyac02Y&t=107s

2023 Michael Graziano on consciousness, attention schema theory, AI [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp5yqBEknUI&t=18s

2023 Katharina Pistor on law, the code of capital, law & capitalism [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RSBfXXWdBU&t=29s

2023 Richard Brown on higher order thought theories of consciousness [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RSBfXXWdBU&t=29s

2023 Alex Rosenberg on scientism, reductionism, and the manifest image [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9agVl8OYlJc&t=8s

2023 Nicolas Gisin on intuitionism, indeterminacy, quantum gravity [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkbEesuHSNc&t=13s

2023 Sheldon Solomon on death, psychiatry, existentialism, politics [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4IrlvIw3ro&t=34s

2023 Dean Rickles on quantum gravity, time, QBism, monism, string theory [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGIsZW2kgXI&t=63s

2023 Justin Garson on madness, psychiatry, functions, evolution [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTBm_SExMFI&t=34s

2023 Lee Cronin on life, assembly theory, evolution, entropy, time [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcIWDZXTLWk&t=30s

2023 Anthony Chemero on 4E CogSci, ecological pscyh., dynamical systems [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FsZkfanlIM&t=2s

2023 Fred Cummins on joint speech, 4E CogSci, ecological psychology [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSwe1yHETmc&t=33s

2023 Robert Sternberg on the psychology of IQ, intelligence, wisdom, love [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyQ_nO0IeSY&t=10s

2022 David Christian on big history, future history, and global identity [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJwHH9A4st8&t=15s

2022 Donald Hoffman on perception, consciousness, spacetime, spirituality [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvIKVF906q4&t=5s

2022 Karl Friston on the FEP, cognition, life, agency, enactivism [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eece7IK8VDU&t=4s

2022 Michael Strevens on explanation and modern scientific knowledge [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4cXGUIkJr8&t=3s

2022 Michael Levin on the foundations of cognition [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C96Hq8kDORU&t=1434s

2022 Raymond Tallis on human experience, naturalism, philosophy & art [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qD4qDqcehbI&t=2s

2022 Craig Callender on time, QG, blackhole thermodynamics, ethics [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVCM-3krEqE&t=28s

2022 Gregg Henriques on the new unified theory of psychology [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gm7-i9FX478

2022	Iris Berent on language, innate knowledge, human nature [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A52LS7xaau8&t=2s
2022	Gualtiero Piccinini on computation and the mind [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoIapLxfCrY
2022	Paul Thagard on cognition, consciousness, misinformation, balance [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSUp6aBkcZg&t=6493s
2022	Herbert Gintis on behaviour, economics, altruism and cooperation [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XI6655Y-is&t=1s
2022	Tim Maudlin on time, quantum mechanics, metaphysics, non-locality [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QURmQA3WHEg&t=3612s
2022	James Robert Brown on mathematics, platonism, philosophy of science [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfquMAqTKPs&t=2s

Non-Academic Work Experience

2016-21	Co-founder and CEO, Kettle Tech Inc. (SaaS).