

RAMI EL ALI

CONTACT INFORMATION: COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2022-present	University of Arizona, College of Information Sciences Teaching Assistant
2022	Lebanese American University, Department of Humanities Associate Professor of Philosophy
2015-2021	Lebanese American University, Department of Humanities Assistant Professor of Philosophy
2014-2015	Lebanese American University, Department of Humanities Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
2010-2014	University of Miami, Department of Philosophy Teaching Assistant
2008-2013	American University of Beirut, Department of Philosophy Instructor (part-time)
2008-2010	York University, Department of Philosophy Teaching Assistant
2006-2008	American University of Beirut, Department of Philosophy Instructor

EDUCATION

2022- present	PhD in Information, University of Arizona
2010- 2014	PhD in Philosophy, University of Miami Dissertation Title: <i>Illusionism: Making the Problem of Hallucinations Disappear</i> (recipient of the 2013-14 David John Ruggiero Award for best dissertation in the humanities) Committee: Elijah Chudnoff (Chair), Otávio Bueno, Simon Evnine, Susanna Schellenberg (external member)
2008 - 2010	PhD in Philosophy, York University (before transferring to Miami)
2004 - 2006	MA in Philosophy, American University of Beirut Thesis Title: <i>On the Intentionality of Emotions</i> Committee: Hans Muller, Muhammad Ali Khalidi, Jeremy Koons
1999 - 2004	BBA in Business Administration, American University of Beirut

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of mind and cognitive science, philosophy of perception, philosophy of digital and virtual technology, philosophy of games

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Aesthetics, applied ethics, epistemology, existentialism, phenomenology

SOFTWARE

Adobe Premiere Pro, Aseprite, Blender, C#, Python, R, and Unity

LANGUAGES

English (native fluency), Arabic (native fluency)

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming **A two-dimensional account for evaluating virtual acts**, Finding our Place in the Digital World: Philosophical Essays on Technology, Phenomenology, and the Environment. Springer.
- Forthcoming **Virtual realism and perceptual experience in virtual reality**, *Facets of Reality*. 45th International Wittgenstein Symposium edited collection. De Gruyter
- Forthcoming **Video game aesthetics & the sense of presence**, Evans, L.(ed.) *Virtual Reality Gaming: embodiment, presence, immersion*. Emerald.
- 2024 **What in the world are hallucinations?**, Masrouf, F. & Beck, O.(Eds) [The Relational View of Perception: New Essays](#). Routledge.
- 2024 **What Does Phenomenal Particularity Commit Us to?**, Brogaard, French, & Bueno, (eds.) [The Roles of Representation in Visual Perception](#). Synthese Library
- 2024 **What are virtual items, and are they real?**, [Asian Journal of Philosophy](#)
- 2023 **The values of the virtual**, [Journal of Applied Philosophy](#) 40:2 231-245
- 2022 **The video gamer's dilemmas**, [Ethics and Information Technology](#) 24,18
- 2018 **Does hallucinating involve perceiving?**, [Philosophical Studies](#) 175, 601-627
- 2018 **Malik's The Systems of Whitehead's Metaphysics**, On the Philosophical Thought of Charles Malik Vol. I: Whitehead, Reason, and Spirit. Edited and published by Notre Dame University Press, Lebanon.
- 2015 **A new solution to the gamer's dilemma**, [Ethics and Information Technology](#) 17, 267-274

IN PROGRESS

The limits of perception (monograph)
Seeing in virtual reality
Treating discursive AI as moral patients
Extended responsibility
The varieties of transhumanism
Virtual reality design ethics (with Leonard Brown)
What is ethically distinctive about virtual reality?
Two hells with other people
Proximal and distal causes in perception
Dissimulation, coloration, and social perception
Perception and sensibility in Levinas' *Totality and Infinity*

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2016 **Levinas' Totality and Infinity: A Reader's Guide** by William Large, [Phenomenological Reviews](#)
- 2015 **Hallucinations: Philosophy and Psychology** ed. MacPherson and Platchias, [Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences](#) 15, 455-460

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- April 2025 **Naive realism without disjunctivism**, APA Pacific Division 2025.
- February 2025 **A two-dimensional account for evaluating virtual acts**, Digital Worlds Workshop. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- August 2024 **The reality of the virtual**, 45th International Wittgenstein Symposium 2024
- April 2024 **Homeless in the Metaverse: access, privacy, and autonomy**, Digital Worlds Workshop, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- May 2023 **A multidimensional view of videogames**, Tucson Game Developers
- Mar 2023 **The distinctive moral landscape of virtual reality**, School of History, Philosophy, and Religion, Oregon State University
- Jan 2023 **The values of the virtual**, College of Information Sciences, University of Arizona
- May 2021 **Naive realism and hallucinatory perception**, New Waves in Relationalism Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Sep 2019 **Hallucinations and picture perception**, European Society for Philosophy & Psychology
- Aug 2019 **What in the world are hallucinations?**, Philosophy of Language & Mind 5, St. Andrews University
- Jun 2018 **Is all virtual reality equally real?**, Distributed Interactive Systems lab, Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica
- Mar 2018 **Agency, dissimulation, and social perception**, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division
- Jan 2018 **Do visual hallucinations involve perception?**, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division
- Aug 2017 **Are visual hallucinations perceptions?**, ECAP9: European Society for Analytic Philosophy
- May 2017 **Is all virtual reality equally real or unreal?**, Phenomenology and Virtuality Conference, Husserl Archives, KU Leuven
- Mar 2017 **Direct social perception and dissimulation**, 'Empathy, Direct Perception and Other Minds' Spring School, Center for Subjectivity Research, University of Copenhagen

- Feb 2017 **Living with others: four basic concepts from phenomenology**, Colloquium, American University of Beirut
- Feb 2016 **The illusionist view of hallucinations**, Normativity Workshop, at New York University Abu Dhabi
- Nov 2014 **A new solution to the gamer's dilemma**, The 8th Philosophy of Computer Games Conference - Freedom in Play, at Bilgi University

SELECTED PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

- Forthcoming **What are virtual objects?**, [The Philosophers' Magazine](#)
- 2022 **The diversity of values in virtual reality**, [Justice Everywhere blog](#)
- 2022 **Un viol dans le viol? (Is rape in the metaverse really rape?)**, [Philosophie Magazine](#) (interview)
- 2021 **The allure of the metaverse**, [The Philosopher & the News podcast](#) (interview)
- 2020 **Becoming virtual**, [PechaKucha](#), Alserkal Avenue (presentation)
- 2018 **We're virtually there: ethics and digital technology in the coming years**, [Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung](#)
- 2018 **Philosophy for the future**, [TEDx](#), Lebanese American University (presentation).
- 2017 **Does hallucinating involve perceiving?**, [Imperfect Cognitions](#)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Fall 2024 *Graduate College Fellowship Award*, College of Information Sciences, University of Arizona
- Spring 2024 *Graduate Teaching Associate Excellence Award*, University of Arizona
- Spring 2024 *Travel Grant*, School of Information, University of Arizona
- Spring 2024 *Graduate College Fellowship Award*, College of Information Sciences, University of Arizona
- Fall 2023 *Graduate College Fellowship Award*, College of Information Sciences, University of Arizona
- Spring 2023 *Graduate College Fellowship Award*, College of Information Sciences, University of Arizona
- Spring 2023 *Travel Grant*, College of Information Sciences, University of Arizona
- 2022-2027 *Graduate Scholarship*, College of Information Sciences, University of Arizona
- 2020-2022 *Faculty fellow*, Center for Innovative Learning, Lebanese American University
- Spring 2018 *Course release*, School Research & Development Council, Lebanese American University
- 2016-2018 *Travel award*, School Research & Development Council, Lebanese American University (five awards)

2014-2015	<i>David John Ruggiero Award</i> for best dissertation in the humanities, Center for the Humanities, University of Miami
2014-2015	<i>Dissertation Fellowship</i> , University of Miami, Center for the Humanities (declined after receiving job offer)
Summer 2014	<i>Summer Ethics Grant</i> , University of Miami, Department of Philosophy
2010-2015	<i>Individual PhD Research Account</i> , University of Miami, Department of Philosophy
2008-2009	<i>Individual Graduate Scholarship</i> , York University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-2024	University of Arizona <i>Ethics in a Digital World</i> (3 times) <i>Great ideas of the Information Age</i> (2 times) <i>Digital Dilemmas</i> (1 time)
2014-2022	Lebanese American University <i>Topics in Philosophy: Perception, Belief, and Imagination</i> (1 time) <i>Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Psychology</i> (1 time) <i>Philosophy of Language</i> (1 time) <i>Philosophy of Mind</i> (1 time) <i>Minds & Machines</i> (1 time) <i>Emmanuel Levinas</i> (1 time) <i>Nietzsche</i> (3 times) <i>Phenomenology & Existentialism</i> (5+ times, including honors seminar) <i>Early Modern Philosophy</i> (1 time) <i>Philosophy of Art</i> (2 times) <i>Philosophy in Literature and Film</i> (5+ times, including honors seminar) <i>Metaphysics</i> (5+ times) <i>Theory of Knowledge</i> (2 times) <i>Philosophy of Religion</i> (5+ times, including honors seminar) <i>Ethics</i> (2 times) <i>Visual Culture</i> (1 time) <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> (2 times)
2010-2014	University of Miami <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> (2 times) <i>Contemporary Moral Issues</i> (1 time) <i>Philosophy of Perception</i> (1 time) <i>The Phenomenological Movement</i> (1 time) <i>Early Modern Philosophy</i> (1 time)
2006-2013	American University of Beirut <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> (10 times) <i>Applied Philosophy</i> (7 times) <i>Ethics</i> (7 times) <i>Philosophical Classics</i> (4 times)

ACADEMIC ADVISING

2014-2022	Lebanese American University (undergraduate theses) <i>Heidegger and Social Media</i> <i>Arendt on the Banality of Evil</i> <i>Sartre and Free Will</i> <i>Collective Self-Deception</i> <i>Shared Emotions</i> <i>Berkeley's Idealism</i> <i>Consciousness</i> <i>Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence</i> <i>The Phenomenological Mind</i> <i>De Beauvoir and Sartre</i> <i>The Philosophy of Sport</i>
2019-2022	External Thesis Advising <i>A Naive Realist Account of Intuition</i> , Abdullah Salah Alothman's MA thesis, 2019. University of Miami <i>An Epistemology and Phenomenology of Perceptual Recognition</i> , Adam Hauptfeld's PHD dissertation, 2021. University of Miami
2020-2022	Advisory Board <i>Sectarianism and Intergroup Conflict</i> , Center for Applied Social Cognition Research (CASCR), Lebanese American University

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2024-Present	Developing virtual environments for the 'Shared Churches' interdisciplinary project documenting German churches during the Reformation.
2023-2024	Developed a first version of an interactive virtual reality illusion museum, (downloadable at https://idiosyncrami.itch.io/)
2015-2019	General Assembly member of the grassroots political activist group, Beirut Madinati. Played various roles, including steering committee member on the ethics committee, mediation committee, and platform committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

2014-2022	Philosophy program chair, Department of Humanities, Lebanese American University
2018-2022	Designing virtual & augmented reality labs as part of USAID grant, Lebanese American University
2020-2022	Liberal Arts Course Design task force, Lebanese American University
2020-2022	School Planning Council, Lebanese American University
2018-2019	Faculty Senate, Lebanese American University
2016, 2019	Humanities Hiring Committee, Lebanese American University

2016 School Learning Assessment Council, Lebanese American University
2015-2022 Faculty advisor to the Intersectional Feminism Club (2015-2017),
the Philosophy Student Club (2017-2022), and Book club (2021-2022),
Lebanese American University
2015 Department Assessment Committee, Lebanese American University

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Refereed submissions for Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Ethics and Information Technology, European Journal of Analytic Philosophy, Inquiry, IEEE International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality, Journal of the Philosophy of Games, Mind, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophia, Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Quarterly, Southern Journal of Philosophy, Synthese, and Thought.

GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN

University of Arizona

Foundations of Information - Bryan Heidorn
Human-Computer Interaction - Leonard Brown
Computation Social Science - Charles Gomez
Artificial Intelligence - Tyler Millhouse
Game Development - Drew Castalia
Information Research Methods - Andrea Thomer
Independent Study: Ethics of Technology - Zack Lischer-Katz
Independent Study: Perceptual Illusion Design - Drew Castalia
Independent Study: The Psychology of Perception - Mary Peterson
Fundamentals of Statistics - Melissa Flores
Virtual Reality - Lila Bozgeyekli
Transformative Design & Sociotechnical Innovation - Winslow Burlison
Game Artificial Intelligence - Leonard Brown
Immersive Art - Joseph Farbrook
Persons & Autonomy - Mark Timmons & Michael McKenna

University of Miami

History of Logic - Risto Hilpinen
History of Analytic Philosophy - Risto Hilpinen
Epistemology - Otávio Bueno
Formal Logic - Elijah Chudnoff
Extended, Embedded, Embodied and Enacted Cognition - Mark Rowlands
Perception: Direct realism - Otávio Bueno
Idealism - Elijah Chudnoff
Metaethics - Bradford Cokelet
Existentialism - Amie Thomasson

York University

Core Theoretical Philosophy - Muhammad Ali Khalidi & Claudine Verheggen

Metaphysics of Natural Kinds - Muhammad Ali Khalidi
Davidson - Claudine Verheggen
Feminist and Post-Colonial Critiques of Epistemology - Lorraine Code
Kant's Critiques of Pure and Practical Reason - Jim Vernon
Phenomenology and Alterity - Jim Vernon

American University of Beirut

Emotions - Hans Muller
Philosophy of Psychology - Hans Muller
Pragmatism - Muhammad Ali Khalidi
Historiography - Jorge Secada
Early Modern Moral Philosophy - Richard Dean
Kant's Critique of Pure Reason - Gregg Osborne
Nietzsche - Joshua Andresen
Hegel - Jay Gupta

REFERENCES

David Chalmers
Professor of Philosophy and co-director of the Center for Mind, Brain, and Consciousness
Philosophy Department
New York University
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Elijah Chudnoff
Professor of Philosophy
Philosophy Department
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Leonard Brown
Assistant Research Professor
College of Public Health
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Mary Peterson
Professor Emeritus
Psychology Department
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Otávio Bueno
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University of Miami
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Paul Tabar
Professor of Sociology & Chair of the Department of Humanities (2015-2019)
Department of Humanities

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Simon Evnine
Professor of Philosophy
Philosophy Department
University of Miami
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Susanna Schellenberg
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy & Cognitive Science
Department of Philosophy
Rutgers University
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Vahid Behmardi
Professor of Arabic and Persian Literature & Chair of the Department of Humanities (2019-2022)
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Lebanese American University
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