RAMI EL ALI

School of History, Philosophy, and Religion, Oregon State University
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2026-present	Oregon State University, School of History, Philosophy, and Religion Assistant Professor of Philosophy
2022-2026	University of Arizona, College of Information Sciences Teaching Assistant
2022	Lebanese American University, Department of Humanities Associate Professor of Philosophy & Chair of Philosophy Program
2015-2021	Lebanese American University, Department of Humanities Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Chair of Philosophy Program
2014-2015	Lebanese American University, Department of Humanities Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
2010-2014	University of Miami, Department of Philosophy Teaching Assistant
2008-2010	York University, Department of Philosophy Teaching Assistant
2006-2013	American University of Beirut, Department of Philosophy Instructor (full-time until 2008, part-time 2008-2013)

EDUCATION

2022- 2026	PhD in Information, University of Arizona Dissertation Title: *Living with Virtual Reality: A Philosophical Account of VR and its Social Impact* Committee: Zack Lischer-Katz (Chair), Bryan Heidorn, Clayton Morrison, Jonathan Weinberg, and Ren Boz
2010- 2014	PhD in Philosophy, University of Miami Dissertation Title: *Illusionism: Making the Problem of Hallucinations Disappear* (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: *On the Intentionality of Emotions* Committee: Hans Muller, Muhammad Ali Khalidi, Jeremy Koons
1999 - 2004	BBA in Business Administration, American University of Beirut

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of mind & cognitive science, philosophy of technology, philosophy of games, human-computer interaction, interactive simulations, entertainment & serious video games, VR/AR

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Epistemology, language, metaphysics, early modern philosophy, existentialism, phenomenology

SOFTWARE

C#, Python, R, Blender, Unity, Unreal, TouchDesigner, Adobe Premiere Pro, Aseprite

LANGUAGES

English (native fluency), Arabic (native fluency)

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming	**The Ethics of Games,** The International Encyclopedia of Ethics. Wiley.
Forthcoming	**Virtual Reality and Immersive Pictures,** Van de Mosselaer, N. & Wildman, N. (eds.) *Digital Aesthetics*. Wiley
Forthcoming	**A two-dimensional account for evaluating virtual acts,** Werkheiser, I & Butler, M. (eds.) *Finding our Place in the Digital World: Philosophical Essays on Technology, Phenomenology, and the Environment*. Springer.
Forthcoming	**Digitalism and Perception in Virtual Reality,** Kappes, Y., Passinsky, A., De Rizzo, J & Schnieder, B. (eds.) *Facets of Reality.* De Gruyter.
2025	**Video game aesthetics & the sense of presence**, Evans, L. (ed.) Virtual Reality Gaming: embodiment, presence, immersion. Emerald Publishing.
2025	**What in the world are hallucinations?**, *Masrour, F. & Beck, O.*(eds.) The Relational View of Perception: New Essays. Routledge.
2024	**What Does Phenomenal Particularity Commit Us to?**, Brogaard, French, (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**, *Malik, H. & Nasrallah, T.* (Eds). On the Philosophical Thought of Charles Malik Vol. I: Whitehead, Reason, and Spirit. Notre Dame University Press.
2015	**A new solution to the gamer's dilemma**, Ethics and Information Technology 17, 267-274

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

June 2026	**When good systems make bad games (and bad systems make good ones)**, American Society for Aesthetics. (Rocky Mountain Division)
April 2026	**Avatars and the Avatarial Relation** (with Yen-Tung Lee), Digital Worlds Workshop. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
February 2026	**Why perceptual experiences in virtual reality are nonveridical**, University of Miami
February 2026	**When good systems make bad games (and bad systems make good ones)**, The 4th Annual Philosophy of Video Games Conference. Florida Atlantic University
November 2025	**Fly me to the (virtual) moon**, Arizona Astrobiology Center. University of Arizona
November 2025	**VR experience is nonveridical**, Virtual Reality as Metaphor Workshop. Scripps College
September 2025	**Towards a unified account of the sense of presence in virtual reality**, Social Bridges conference. Technische Universität Dresden
September 2025	**Why VR experience is nonveridical**, Perception in Games and Virtual Worlds III. Game Philosophy Network
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	**Right and wrong in a virtual world,** UTRGV Digital Worlds Podcast
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

VIRTUAL REALITY VIDEO ART, ARCHIVES, MUSEUMS, AND GAMES

2025-In Progress	VR game: 'To Die on Hitbox Hill' (with Omar Khouri)
2025-In Progress	VR video art: 'Perception' (tentative title, with Joseph Farbrook)
2024-In Progress	VR video art: 'Build them and they will fall' (with Andrés Caballero)
2024-In Progress	VR video art: 'Spacetime Elevator', Tucson Dusk Festival 2024
2024-In Progress	VR video art: 'Sleeping God'
2024-In Progress	VR archive: 'Shared Churches', documenting shared Catholic and Protestant German churches during the Reformation
2023-In Progress	VR museum: 'What do we see?', an interactive museum of illusions

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Spring 2026	*Travel Grant,* College of Information Science, University of Arizona
Fall 2025	*Graduate College Fellowship Award,* College of Information Sciences, University of Arizona
Spring 2025	*Travel Grant,* College of Information Science, University of Arizona
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 Science, University of Arizona
Fall 2023	*Graduate College Fellowship Award,* College of Information Science, University of Arizona
Spring 2023	*Graduate College Fellowship Award,* College of Information Science, University of Arizona
Spring 2023	*Travel Grant,* College of Information Science, 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	*David John Ruggiero Award* for best dissertation in the humanities*,* Center for the Humanities, University of Miami
2014-2015	*Dissertation Fellowship,* University of Miami, Center for the Humanities (declined after receiving job offer)
Summer 2014	*Summer Ethics Grant,* University of Miami, Department of Philosophy
2010-2015	*Individual PhD Research Account,* University of Miami, Department of Philosophy
2008-2009	*Individual Graduate Scholarship*, York University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-2024	**Oregon State University** *Technology & Ethics* (1 time) *AI Ethics* (1 time) *Philosophy of Video Games* (1 time)
2023-2026	**University of Arizona** *Ethics in a Digital World* (9 times) *Great Ideas of the Information Age* (2 times)

Digital Dilemmas (1 time)
Video Game and Virtual Reality Ethics (1 time)

2014-2022 **Lebanese American University**
Topics in Philosophy: Perception, Belief, and Imagination (1 time)
Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Psychology (1 time)
Philosophy of Language (1 time)
Philosophy of Mind (1 time)
Minds & Machines (1 time)
Emmanuel Levinas (1 time)
Nietzsche (3 times)
Phenomenology & Existentialism (5+ times, including honors seminar)
Early Modern Philosophy (1 time)
Philosophy of Art (2 times)
Philosophy in Literature and Film (5+ times, including honors seminar)
Metaphysics (5+ times)
Theory of Knowledge (2 times)
Philosophy of Religion (5+ times, including honors seminar)
Ethics (2 times)
Visual Culture (1 time)
Cultural Studies: 20th century (1 time)
Introduction to Philosophy (2 times)

2010-2014 **University of Miami**
Introduction to Philosophy (2 times)
Contemporary Moral Issues (1 time)
Philosophy of Perception (1 time)
The Phenomenological Movement (1 time)
Early Modern Philosophy (1 time)

2006-2013 **American University of Beirut**
Introduction to Philosophy (10 times)
Applied Philosophy (7 times)
Ethics (7 times)
Philosophical Classics (4 times)

ACADEMIC ADVISING

2014-2022 **Lebanese American University (undergraduate theses)**
Shared Emotions
Heidegger and Social Media
Arendt on the Banality of Evil
Sartre and Free Will
Collective Self-Deception
Shared Emotions
Berkeley's Idealism
Consciousness

Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence
The Phenomenological Mind
De Beauvoir and Sartre
The Philosophy of Sport

2019-2022 **External Thesis Advising**
A Naive Realist Account of Intuition, Abdullah Salah Alothman's MA thesis, 2019. University of Miami
An Epistemology and Phenomenology of Perceptual Recognition, Adam Hauptfeld's PHD dissertation, 2021. University of Miami

2020-2022 **Advisory Board**
Sectarianism and Intergroup Conflict, Center for Applied Social Cognition Research (CASCR), Lebanese American University

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2015-2019 General Assembly member of the grassroots political activist group, Beirut Madinati. Played various roles, including work on the: ethics committee, mediation committee, platform writing committee, university recruitment, and public event planning.

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, Journal of Contemporary Chinese Philosophy, Mind, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophia, Philosophy & The Mind Sciences, Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Quarterly, Pacific 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
Neural Networks - Clayton Morrison (audit)
Machine Learning - Clayton Morrison (audit)

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

Bryan Heidorn
Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Information Science, and Director of the Center for Digital Society and Data Studies
College of Information Science
University of Arizona
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College of Information Sciences
University of Arizona
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Elijah Chudnoff
Professor of Philosophy
Philosophy Department
University of Miami
Email: echudnoff@gmail.com

Ian Werkheiser
Professor of Philosophy
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University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Email: ian.werkheiser@utrgv.edu

Joseph Farbrook
Associate Professor of Art
College of Fine Arts
University of Arizona
Email: farbrook@arizona.edu

Leonard Brown
Assistant Research Professor of Human-Computer Interaction and Games for Learning
Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
College of Information Science
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e-mail: ldbrown@arizona.edu

Mary Peterson
Emeritus Professor of Psychology
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Otávio Bueno
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Philosophy Department
University of Miami
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Paul Tabar
Professor of Sociology & Chair of the Department of Humanities (2015-2019)
Department of Humanities
Lebanese American University
Email: ptabar@lau.edu.lb

Simon Evnine
Professor of Philosophy
Philosophy Department
University of Miami
Email: sevnine@miami.edu

Susanna Schellenberg
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy & Cognitive Science
Department of Philosophy
Rutgers University
Email: susanna.schellenberg@rutgers.edu

Zack Lischer-Katz
Assistant professor in digital curation and preservation
College of Information Science
University of Arizona
Email: zlkatz@arizona.edu