GRETCHEN ELLEFSON

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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Philosophy 2025-Present
Southern Utah University

Assistant Professor of Philosophy 2019-2025
Southern Utah University

EDUCATION

PhD Northwestern University, Department of Philosophy 2019
Dissertation: "Communicative Context and Normativity"

BA Seattle University, Department of Philosophy 2012
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
Honors Thesis, "The Reference of Empty Names"

RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization
Philosophy of Language (especially Social Philosophy of Language), Social Philosophy of Technology, Artificial Communication,

Areas of Competence
Logic, Feminist Philosophy, Epistemology, Ethics, Metaphysics

PUBLICATIONS

"Conversational Goals and Internet Trolls." 2025. *Conversations Online*. Edited by Jennifer Saul, Sanford Goldberg, and Patrick Connolly. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

"Authority, Accommodation, and Illocutionary Success." 2025. *Synthese* 205 (55). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-025-04912-z

"Conversational Cooperation Revisited." 2021. *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 59 (4): 545-571. https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12437

"Power Matters." Review of *Words Matter* by Sally McConnell-Ginet. 2021. *Metascience* 30: 243-246. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-021-00647-y

Under Review:
"Speakerless Speech in Large Language Models"

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

March 2027	"Digital Authority and Self-Knowledge" (Tentative title), Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, panel on "AI and Epistemic Vulnerability"
August 2025	"Speakerless Speech in LLMs" Midwest Early-Career Social Philosophy of Technology Workshop, University of Notre Dame (Invited)
April 2023	"Power, Authority, and Conversational Context," Seaman Lecture Series, University of Idaho (Invited)
Dec. 2022	"Power, Authority, and Conversational Context," New York Philosophy of Language Workshop (Invited)
July 2022	"Conversational Goals and Internet Trolls," workshop of contributors to *Conversations Online*
March 2022	"Conversational Goals and Internet Trolls", Claremont McKenna College (Invited)
Feb. 2022	"Power and Linguistic Context," APA Central Division Meeting
Oct. 2021	"Witches, Magic, and Philosophical Intuitions," Cogweirdo (organized as part of the Cogtweeto conference series)
August 2019	"The Cooperative Principle Revisited," Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, University of British Columbia
April 2019	"Context, Common Ground, and Consent," Southern Utah University

Feb, 2019 "Context and Women's Speech," University of San Diego

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

April 2026 Panelist, "New Pedagogical Dilemmas," Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, Sponsored by the APA Committee on Women and Gender

March 2024 "Philosophical Epistemology and Situated Knowledge: A Conversation on Feminist Epistemology," Presentation for The Women and Gender Studies Program on International Women's' Day, Southern Utah University

February 2023 Panelist, "Teaching and the Philosophy Job Market," The Teaching Hub at the Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Sponsored by the American Association of Philosophy Teachers

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2023, 2026 Dean's Summer Research Grant (Southern Utah University College of Humanities and Social Sciences), $3500

2024 Participant, Northeast Workshop to Learn About Multicultural Philosophy, funded through NEH grant

2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 Faculty Support Fund Travel Grant

2023 Outstanding Educator Award (SUU Thunderbird Award)
This award is presented to one full-time faculty member at SUU, indicating outstanding teaching effectiveness; scholarly activity; peer respect from fellow colleagues; sincere interest in students; and professional commitment and service to others and the University overall.

SERVICE

Department and University Service

2026-Present President, SUU Chapter of AFT Utah College Council
2023-Present College Curriculum Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, SUU
2019-Present Department Curriculum Committee, Department of Languages and Philosophy, SUU (Chair from 2023-present)
2019-Present Co-Advisor, SUU Philosophy Club

2024-2026	Vice President, SUU Chapter of AFT Utah College Council
2023-2026	Workload and Faculty Salary Equity Committee, SUU (Chair 2024-2026)
2019-2024	Faculty Co-Organizer, SUU Undergraduate Philosophy Conference
2024	Ad Hoc Committee on Programmatic Policy, Department of Languages and Philosophy, SUU
2023	SUU Representative on Quantitative Literacy Committee, USHE "What Is an Educated Person" General Education Conference
2023	Hiring Committee in Philosophy, Department of Languages and Philosophy, SUU
2022	Hiring Committee in Chinese, Department of Languages and Philosophy, SUU
2022	Department Policy Committee, Department of Languages and Philosophy, SUU
2018	Graduate Student Liaison to Search Committee, Philosophy Department, Northwestern University
2014-2018	Organizer, Northwestern University PhLing Philosophy and Linguistics Workgroup
2015-2017	President, Northwestern University Philosophy Graduate Association
2013-2015	Northwestern Philosophy Department Climate Committee (Chair from 2014-2015)

Service to the Profession

2023-2026	APA Committee on Women and Gender
2020	Co-organizer, Intermountain Philosophy Conference
2017-2019	APA Graduate Student Council, 2 year term
2018-2019	Graduate Student Council Liaison to the APA Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession
2016-2017	Co-organizer, Women in Philosophy in the Chicago Area (WIPHICA)

TEACHING

Southern Utah University

AILE 6031: Foundations of Artificial Intelligence Ethics
This is a graduate level course in the AI Literacy and Ethics Graduate Certificate Program

INDS 4900 (Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies): The Philosophy and Anthropology of Climate Change

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 1250: Critical Thinking

PHIL 3010 (Topics in Philosophy): Environmental Philosophy

PHIL 3011 (Topics in Philosophy): Feminist Philosophy

PHIL 3011 (Topics in Philosophy): Speech Act Theory

PHIL 3200: Deductive Logic

PHIL 3300: Theory of Knowledge

PHIL 3400: Mind, Language, and Reality
PHIL 3500: Ethics
PHIL 3700: Political Philosophy
PHIL 4010: Senior Seminar on Philosophy of Action

Guest Lectures

Guest Lecture on Epistemology (with Dr. Sean Murphy) in HONR 2010: Knowledge, Spring 2024
Guest Lecture on Philosophy of Time in HONR 2010: Time, Spring 2023
Guest Lecture on Feminist Epistemology in WGS 2010: Intro to Women and Gender Studies, Spring 2020
Guest Lecture on Applied Ethics in SUU 2250: Exploring Humanity Through Nature, Fall 2019

REFERENCES

Sanford Goldberg
Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University
s-goldberg@northwestern.edu

Casey Rebecca Johnson
Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Idaho
crjohnson@uidaho.edu

Kris Phillips
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Eastern Michigan University
kphill50@emich.edu

Sean Murphy
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Southern Utah University
seanmurphy@suu.edu