

CAITLIN HEPPNER

PhD Candidate, Department of Philosophy, University of Ottawa
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1. EDUCATION

Current Enrollment

PhD Candidate Philosophy Expected: 2025
University of Ottawa (Ottawa, Canada)
Thesis: *Tethered to the Grid: On the Automation of Social Infrastructure*
Supervisors: Dr. Vincent Bergeron and Dr. Jason Millar, CRC (Tier 2) in the
Ethical Engineering of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

Degrees Awarded

MA Interdisciplinary Humanities (Philosophy) 2018
Laurentian University (Sudbury, Canada)
Thesis: *The Ethics and Epistemology of Climate Change Denial*
Supervisor: Dr. Michael Yeo
BA (Hons) Philosophy/English Literature 2016
Laurentian University (Sudbury, Canada)

2. CURRENT POSITIONS & AFFILIATIONS OVERVIEW

SSHRC Funded Doctoral Candidate Department of Philosophy, University of Ottawa
Research Assistant & Research Stream Lead (Ethical Design Tools) Canadian Robotics and AI Ethical Design Lab (CRAiEDL), School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ottawa
Research Fellow Centre for Law, Technology, and Society (CLTS), University of Ottawa
Contract Instructor School of Engineering Design and Teaching Innovation, University of Ottawa
Partial-Load Instructor Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College

3. ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2021 – 2026 **Research Assistant & Research Stream Lead**, Ethical Design Tools, CRAiEDL, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ottawa.
2021 – 2026 **Research Fellow**, Centre for Law, Technology, and Society, University of Ottawa.
2024 – 2026 **Contract Instructor**, School of Engineering Design and Teaching Innovation, University of Ottawa.
2023 – 2025 **Partial-Load Instructor**, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College.
2023 – 2024 **Sessional Instructor**, School of Liberal Arts, Laurentian University.
2023 **Teaching Assistant**, School of Engineering Design and Teaching Innovation, University of Ottawa. Ethics for Design, Robotics, and AI.
2018 – 2024 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Philosophy, University of Ottawa.
Courses (select): Bioethics, Philosophical Issues in Health Care, Critical Thinking and Argumentation, Business Ethics, Scientific Thought and Culture
2017 – 2018 **Research Fellow**, Centre for Evolutionary Ecology and Ethical Conservation (CEECE), Laurentian University.

- 2016 – 2023 **Founding Editor**, *Con Texte: Notes & Inquiries*
<https://pubs.biblio.laurentian.ca/index.php/contexte/index>
- 2016 – 2018 **Research and Teaching Assistant**, Department of Philosophy, Laurentian University. Courses: Nietzsche, Existentialism

4. GRANTS AND AWARDS

Year	Source	Purpose	Primary Investigator(s)	Amount Awarded
Academic Research Funding				
2021 – 2026	CRAiEDL, uOttawa	Research Fellow Bursary (competitive, on-going)	C. Heppner	\$44,000+
2022 – 2023	uOttawa	Excellence Scholarship (competitive)	C. Heppner	\$9,000
2021 – 2023	SSHRC	Doctoral Fellowship (competitive)	C. Heppner	\$40,000
2018 – 2022	uOttawa	Doctoral Admission Scholarship	C. Heppner	\$36,000
2017 – 2018	CEEED, Laurentian University	Graduate Research Fellowship (competitive)	C. Heppner	\$5,000
2016	Laurentian University	Graduate Entrance Scholarship	C. Heppner	\$5,000

5. RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- A1. Heppner, C. (2018). "Self-Identity: Locating Ourselves in Countercultural Creative Space." *Ottawa Hispanic Studies*, vol. 27, pp. 91-107. Print. **R**

Invited Guest Lectures (Academic)

- IL1. Heppner, C. (2025). "An Algorithm for Hiring 'the Best'?" University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, UK. January 28, 2025.
- IL2. Heppner, C. (2024). "Tethered to the Grid and Rendered Intelligible." Critical Pedagogies Group. University of Westminster, London, UK. June 6, 2024.

Upcoming Invited Guest Lectures (Academic)

- UP1. Heppner, C. (2025). University of Essex, Essex, UK. October 2025.

Conference Paper Presentations

- CP1. Heppner, C. (2024). "Techno-Dreamscapes and Panoptic Nightmares: An Inquiry into Robotic Governance." *Unmasking Objectivity*, New School for Social Research, NY, USA. March 21-23, 2024. **R**
- CP2. Millar, J & Heppner, C. (2023). "Toward an Ethical Framework for Testing Safety-Critical AI in Public." *WeRobot 2023*, Boston University. September 29-30, 2023. **R**
- CP3. Heppner, C. (2021). "Facts and Values in the Life Sciences." *Colloquium on Research in the Human Sciences*, International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Human Sciences (ICIRHS), Laurentian University. **R**
- CP4. Heppner, C. (2018). "Cleaning Up the Wrack." *The Wrack Zone*, Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada, University of Victoria. **R**
- CP5. Heppner, C. (2018). "Becoming Worthy." *Expressions and Images of the Posthuman*, Posthumanism Research Institute, Brock University.

- CP6. Heppner, C. (2018). “Cosmic Horror and Deleuze’s Impersonal Self.” *Graduate Student Critical Reflections Conference*, Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor. **R**
- CP7. Heppner, C. (2017). “Locating Ignorance.” *9th Annual Graduate Conference*, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Ottawa. **R**

Publications (Other)

- PO1. Millar, J., & **C. Heppner**. *The Critical Research into Tech Toolkit*. With J. Bailey, J. Burkell, J. Redden, & V. Steeves. <https://www.craiedl.ca/the-crit-toolkit/home>

Refereed Journal Issues Edited

- ED1. “Humanities in Crisis” *Con Texte: Notes & Inquiries*, vol. 3, 26 May 2022. Edited by **C. Heppner**, A. Maina, M.-J. Charrier, E. Kotow, S. Girard, and S. Feldman.
- ED2. “Posthumanism: Current State and Future Research.” *Con Texte: Notes & Inquiries*, vol. 2, 25 October 2018. Edited by A. Beaulieu, **C. Heppner**, and M. Boucher.
- ED3. “The Humanities as a Form of Resistance.” *Con Texte: Notes & Inquiries*, vol. 1, 31 December 2017. Edited by **C. Heppner**, G. Thériault, D. Sauve, and M. Sanders.

Conferences & Workshops Organized

- CO1. *Designing Resistance Workshop 2024*. (Apr 24 – 26, 2024). CRAiEDL with the eQuality Project. University of Ottawa. Ottawa, Canada.
- CO2. *Designing Resistance Workshop 2023*. (Feb 27 & 28, 2023). CRAiEDL with the eQuality Project. University of Ottawa. Ottawa, Canada.
- CO3. *Colloquium on Research in the Human Sciences*. (2021). International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Human Sciences (ICIRHS), Laurentian University. Sudbury, Canada.
- CO4. *Philosofest*. (2019). Graduate Philosophy Student Association Conference. University of Ottawa. Ottawa, Canada.

Academic Works In-Progress

- WIP1. Millar, J., & **Heppner, C.** “Toward an Ethical Framework for Testing Safety-Critical AI in Public.” [In-progress].

Public Presentations & Media Engagement

- ME1. “Anti-abortion and pro-choice advocates react to U.S. Supreme Court leak on abortion.” (2022, May 5). *Sudbury.com*, commentator on behalf of the Sudbury Manitoulin Abortion Support Collective. Official statement and professional commentary.
- ME2. **Heppner, C.** & A. Desjardins. (2021, March 19). “Sudbury Manitoulin Abortion Support Collective.” *CBC Radio*, Up North with Jonathon Pinto. Interview.
- ME3. Heppner, C. (2021, March 7). Presentation of the film *Never Rarely Sometimes Always*. Indie Cinema. Sudbury, Canada.
- ME4. Heppner, C. *Cogito*. Radio host and interviewer, CKLU 96.7fm. Sept. 2017 – March 2018. 24 Episodes. Host and interviewer.
- ME5. “Philosophical Lunches.” Public Philosophy, University of Sudbury. Sept. 2017 – February 2018. Organizer and presenter.

Theatre and Creative Writing

- CW1. Bradley, L., R. Duthie, J. Hazelton, M. Heiti, **C. Heppner**, & P. Ryan. (2023). *Gonzo*. Crestfallen Theatre.
- CW2. Heiti, M. & **C. Heppner**. (2020). “The Distance of Space.” *ArtsEverywhere* Musagetes.
- CW3. Heiti, M., L. Bradley, R. Duthie, C. Eckhert, & **C. Heppner**. (2016). *#TheWaterTower*. Commissioned by the Sudbury Theatre Centre. Directed by Matthew Heiti.

6. ACTIVITIES

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Courses Taught

2025S	DTO 5310 Ethics for Design, AI & Robotics <i>MA DTO, School of Engineering Design and Teaching Innovation, University of Ottawa. Online</i>	Graduate. Enrollment: 60 No. Credits: 3 Lecture hours/week: 3
2025W	DTI 5310/IAI5310 Ethics for Design, AI & Robotics <i>MA/PhD DTI/IAI, School of Engineering Design and Teaching Innovation, University of Ottawa.</i>	Graduate. Enrollment: 60 No. Credits: 3 Lecture hours/week: 3
2024F	DTI 5310/IAI5310 Ethics for Design, AI & Robotics <i>MA/PhD DTI/IAI, School of Engineering Design and Teaching Innovation, University of Ottawa.</i>	Graduate. Enrollment: 70 No. Credits: 3 Lecture hours/week: 3
2024F	ENGL 1561 Business Communication <i>School of Liberal Arts, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. Online</i>	Undergraduate. Enrollment: 35 No. Credits 3.
2024F	PHIL 10025W Environmental Ethics (x2) <i>Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College, Mississauga, Canada. Online</i>	College. Enrollment: 42 No. Credits 3 Lecture hours/week: 6
2024W	PHIL 10025W Environmental Ethics (x2) <i>Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College, Mississauga, Canada. Online</i>	College. Enrollment: 42 No. Credits 3 Lecture hours/week: 6
2023F	PHIL 10025W Environmental Ethics (x2) <i>Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College, Mississauga, Canada</i>	College. Enrollment: 42 No. Credits 3 Lecture hours/week: 6
2023S	Spring 2023: PHIL 10025S Environmental Ethics <i>Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College, Mississauga, Canada</i>	College. Enrollment: 33 No. Credits 3 Lecture hours/week: 6
2023W	ENGL 1706-04 Introduction to Writing and English Studies <i>School of Liberal Arts, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada</i>	Undergraduate, Enrollment: 28 No. Credits: 3, Lecture hours/week: 3
2023W	ENGL 1706-06 Introduction to Writing and English Studies <i>School of Liberal Arts, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada</i>	Undergraduate. Enrollment: 21. No. Credits: 3 Lecture hours/week: 3
2023W	PHIL 10025W Environmental Ethics <i>Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College, Mississauga, Canada</i>	College. Enrollment: 40 No. Credits 3 Lecture hours/week: 3

Guest Lectures (Teaching)

- 2023F **Guest Lecture, DTI 5310/IAI 5130/DCL 5204 Ethics for Design, AI, & Robotics**
MA/PhD DTI/IAI/LLM, School of Design Technology and Innovation, University of Ottawa
Graduate, No. of Students: 63, Guest Lecture
- 2021W **Guest Lecture, HUST 6056 Studies in Interdisciplinary Research**
PhD in Human Sciences, Laurentian University, Sudbury Canada
Doctoral, No. of Students: 15, Guest Lecture
- 2018W **Guest Lecture, PHIL 3517 Existentialism**
Department of Philosophy, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada
Undergraduate, No. of Students: 25, Guest Lecture

Course Development

- 2023F **Teaching Assistant, DTI 5310 Ethics for Design, Robotics, and AI**
Faculty of Engineering, uOttawa, Ottawa, Canada
Graduate. As Dr. Millar's TA, I was responsible for updating and co-creating new material for the in-person seminar, adding new material and new activities in line with work we co-developed in the CRAiEDL lab.
- 2023S **Instructor, ENGR 1606 Introduction to Technical Writing for Engineers**
Faculty of Engineering, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada
Undergraduate.
- 2023W **Instructor, ENGL 1706 Introduction to Writing and English Studies**
School of Liberal Arts, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada
Undergraduate.
- 2023W **Partial-Load Instructor, PHIL 10025 Environmental Ethics**
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College, Mississauga, Canada
College.
- 2020F **Teaching Assistant, PHI 2397 Business Ethics**
Department of Philosophy, uOttawa, Ottawa, Canada
Undergraduate. As Dr. Aronovitch's TA, I was responsible for updating the in-person business ethics course for the online learning platform Brightspace. I was responsible for the creation of all online material, classroom management, assignment and exam creation, and on-going tutoring responsibilities online.

Mentoring Activities

- Fall 2024 **Project Supervisor, Autonomous Weaponry Immersion, Honours Capstone**
CRAiEDL, School of Engineering Design & Teaching Innovation, uOttawa
Supervised 5 undergraduate honours students in the development of the RoboMaster S1 immersive experience.
- 2024S – Pres. **Ethical Design Tools Research Stream Lead**
CRAiEDL, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ottawa
- 2023W – 2023S **Project Supervisor, SSHRC Connection Grant Writing**
CRAiEDL, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ottawa

- 2022W – 2024S Grant writing team of graduate students (2) and law students (4).
Research Lead, Designing Resistance Workshop
CRAiEDL, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ottawa
- 2023W Supervised team of law students (5) in the development of workshop.
Teaching Supervisor, Classroom
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College
 Supervised 6 teaching assistants in creating supplementary course materials and tutoring activities.
- 2016F – 2023S **Editor-in-Chief, Con Texte**
Faculty of Arts, Laurentian University
 Supervised three different editorial groups in the development of three issues of Con Texte.

PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Conferences

- Mar. 2021 **Peer Reviewer, Colloquium on Research in the Human Sciences**
Laurentian University, 8 manuscripts
- Nov. 2019 **Peer Reviewer, Philosofest**
University of Ottawa, 19 abstracts

Publishing

- 2021 – 2022 Desk Editor, Con Texte, Iss. 3
- 2017 – 2018 Desk Editor, Con Texte, Iss. 2
- 2016 – 2017 Desk Editor, Con Texte, Iss. 1

7. ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

- 2021 – 2024 **Lead Research Assistant**, Canadian Robotics and AI Ethical Design Lab (CRAiEDL)
- 2021 – 2024 **Research Fellow**, Centre for Law, Technology, and Society (CLTS)
- 2022 – 2024 **Core Member**, Thinking Together Research Group
- 2020 – 2024 **Member**, Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy (CSWIP)
- 2018 – 2024 **Member**, Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada (ALECC)
- 2018 – 2022 **Member**, Posthumanism Research Institute (PRI), Brock University
- 2018 – 2022 **Steering Committee Member**, International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Human Studies, (ICIRHS), Laurentian University
- 2018 – 2021 **Member**, Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA)

8. ACADEMIC SERVICE (SELECT)

- 2024 **Workshop Chair**, *2024 Designing Resistance Workshop*, University of Ottawa, CRAiEDL. Ottawa, Canada.
- 2023 – 2024 **Workshop Organizer**, *2024 Designing Resistance Workshop*, University of Ottawa, CRAiEDL. Ottawa, Canada.
- Lead organizer, responsible for all aspects of planning, organization, administration, and implementation.
 - Project manager for graduate student research team, website team, and video production
 - Grant writer, responsible for budget, event co-ordination

2024	Debate Judge , <i>Artificial Intelligence in Health Care</i> , University of Ottawa Bioethics Club, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada.
2023	Design Judge , <i>Design Day</i> , University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada.
2022 – 2023	Workshop Organizer , <i>2023 Designing Resistance Workshop</i> , University of Ottawa, CRAiEDL. Ottawa, Canada. • Lead organizer, responsible for all aspects of planning, organization, administration, and implementation. • Project manager for graduate student research team • Grant writer, responsible for budget, event co-ordination
2022 – 2023	Speaker Series Chair , <i>Ethics of AI Speaker Series</i> , University of Ottawa • Supervised and directed all aspects of planning, organization, and implementation
2020 – 2021	Conference Chair/Organizer (English panels), <i>Colloquium on Research in the Human Sciences</i> . International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Human Sciences (ICIRHS). Laurentian University. Sudbury, Canada. • Co-directed conference management, logistics, and planning • Reviewed manuscripts for paper presentations
2018 – 2021	Steering Committee Member , International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Human Studies (ICIRHS). • Affiliated with research network and ongoing research activities at ICIRHS
2018	Conference Chair/Organizer , <i>Philosofest</i> . Graduate Philosophy Student Association Conference. University of Ottawa. Ottawa, Canada. • Directed conference management, logistics, and planning • Reviewed abstracts for paper presentations
2018 – 2020	Treasurer , Graduate Philosophy Student Association, University of Ottawa • Managed accounts, event planning, advertising, and budgeting
2017 – 2018	Program Representative , Graduate Student Association, Laurentian University • Represented humanities and arts graduate students
2017 – 2018	Graduate Student Representative , Council for English Language Programming, Laurentian University
2017	Student Representative , Department of Philosophy Program Review, Laurentian University
2017	Student Representative , Interdisciplinary Humanities MA Program Review, Laurentian University
2016 – 2018	Student Representative , HuMA Council, Laurentian University