# Parisa Moosavi

2026/11/01

Department of Philosophy
S424 Ross Building
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto ON, Canada

pmoosavi@yorku.ca
https://parisamoosavi.com

## EMPLOYMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| 2026- | Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, York University |
| 2020-2026 | Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, York University |
| 2019-2020 | Post-Doctoral Fellow in *Ethics and Artificial Intelligence*, Department of Philosophy, York University |

## EDUCATION

| | |
|---|---|
| 2019 | PhD, Philosophy, University of Toronto<br>Dissertation: *From Function to Flourishing: Neo-Aristotelian Ethics and the Science of Life* |
| 2012 | MS, Science and Technology Studies, Virginia Tech |
| 2012 | MA, Philosophy, Virginia Tech |
| 2007 | MS, Artificial Intelligence, Sharif University of Technology<br>Thesis: *Incorporating Intrinsic 'Emotional' Dispositions in Machine Learning* |
| 2005 | BS, Computer Engineering, Shahid Beheshti University<br>Thesis: *An Ontology for Psychological Disorders* |

## PUBLICATIONS

*Refereed Publications:*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Forthcoming* | "Function in Ethics", in *Philosophy of Biological Functions,* ed. Justin Garson, Zdenka Brzović and Predrag Šustar, Rutledge. |
| 2026 | "Should We Worry about the Moral Status of Non-sentient AIs?" in *Contemporary Debates in the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, ed. Sven Nyholm, John Zerilli, Atoosa Kasirzadeh, Wiley-Blackwell. |
| 2024 | "Will Intelligent Machines Become Moral Patients?", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 109, 95-116. |
| 2024 | "The Function Argument for Ascribing Interests", *Synthese* 203, 157. |
| 2022 | "Neo-Aristotelian Naturalism as Ethical Naturalism", *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 19 (4): 335-360. |

2022 "Natural Goodness without Natural History", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research,* 104 (1): 78-100.

2020 "Is the Neo-Aristotelian Concept of Organism Presupposed in Biology?", in *Aristotelian Naturalism: A Research Companion*, ed. Martin Hähnel, Springer, 329-342.

2019 "From Biological Functions to Natural Goodness", *Philosophers' Imprint,* Vol. 19, No. 51, 1-20.

2018 "Neo-Aristotelian Naturalism and the Evolutionary Objection: Rethinking the Relevance of Empirical Science", in *Philippa Foot on Goodness and Virtue*, ed. John Hacker-Wright, Palgrave Macmillan, 277-307.

2017 "On the Relevance of Evolutionary Biology to Ethical Naturalism", in *The Ethics of Nature and The Nature of Ethics*, ed. Gary Keogh, Lexington Books, 37-50.

## PRESENTATIONS

*Invited Talks:*

2026 "Virtue and Wellbeing: An Aristotelian Developmental Account", *ModHap* (*Modeling Human Happiness*) Workshop, University of Oslo, October 2026.

2025 "Finding the Good in Teleology: An Aristotelian Account", Workshop on *Functions and Norms,* University of Luxembourg, June 2025.

2024 "Moral Particularism and the Prospects of Machine Ethics", Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences Speaker Series, Iran, March 2024

2024 "AI as Moral Patient", Panel at the Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, March 2024.

2024 "Moral Particularism and the Prospects of Machine Ethics", University of Toronto Alumni Speaker Series, March 2024

2023 "Why Neo-Aristotelian Naturalism Is a Form of Ethical Naturalism" Workshop on Neo-Aristotelian Ethical Naturalism, July 2023.

2021 "Can Artificial Intelligence Master Moral Deliberation?". Virtual Metaethics Colloquium, June 2021.

2020 "Natural Goodness without Natural History", Department of Philosophy, York University, March 2020.

2020 "Can Artificial Intelligence Master Moral Deliberation?", School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Arizona State University, February 2020.

2020 "Natural Goodness without Natural History", Department of Philosophy, University of Cincinnati, January 2020.

2020 "If Non-Sentient Organisms Can Have Rights, Why Can't Robots?", *Ethics of AI in Context* Speaker Series, Centre for Ethics, Toronto, January 2020.

2019 "On the Moral Psychology of Intelligent Machines", Cognitive Science Speaker Series, York University, Toronto.

2019 "Can Artificial Machines Have a Natural Good?", the UQAM Workshop on Functions, the University of Quebec at Montreal.

*Refereed Talks:*

2025 "Virtue and Happiness as Manifestations of Practical Reason", Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Toronto, June 2025.

2020 "Neo-Aristotelian Naturalism as Ethical Naturalism", Eastern APA (Colloquium), Philadelphia, January 2020.

2019 "The Good of Non-Sentient Organisms and the Moral Status of Robots", The 4TU.Ethics Conference on the 'Ethics of Disruptive Technologies', Eindhoven, Netherlands.

2019 "Neo-Aristotelian Naturalism as Ethical Naturalism", Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Vancouver.

2018 "Natural Goodness and Biological Goodness", Eastern APA (Symposium), Savannah.

2017 "Virtue, Natural Goodness, and Biological Functions", *Virtue, Skill, and Practical Reason* Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.

2017 "Reconciling Neo-Aristotelian Ethical Naturalism with Biological Functions", Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Toronto.

2017 "On the Concept of Organism in Biology: A Step toward a Biologically-Grounded Ethical Naturalism", Eastern APA (Symposium), Baltimore, Maryland.

2016 "Can the Biological Accounts of Function Be Applied to Human Morality", the Fourth European Advanced School in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences (EASPLS 2016): *Function and Malfunction in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences, and the Social Sciences*, Klosterneuburg, Austria.

2016 "Neo-Aristotelian Naturalism and the Dilemma of Natural Normativity," Pacific APA Pacific (Colloquium), San Francisco.

2015 "On the Relevance of Evolutionary Biology to Ethical Naturalism," Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Ottawa.

2015 "On the Relevance of Evolutionary Biology to Ethical Naturalism," *The Ethics of Nature – The Nature of Ethics* Conference, University of Manchester.

2011 "The Pragmatic Condition on Epistemic Justification," Annual Meeting of the Virginia Philosophical Society, Williamsburg, Virginia.

2011 "Fuzziness and Probability in Controversy: A Socio-Historical Perspective," Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, Cleveland, Ohio.

2011 "Outside Authority of the Abstract: A Case Study in the History of Logic and Mathematics," The *Outside Authority* Graduate Conference, Virginia Tech.

2011 "The Problem of Technology Control in the Age of Information Technology," International Biennial Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology (SPT2011), Denton, Texas.

2008 "Adaptive Hope as an Emotion for Reinforcement Learning Agents," (with S.B. Shouraki and M. Feyzbakhsh) in Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Distributed Human-Machine Systems (DHMS 2008), Athens.

2008 "A 'Doubt' Driven Method for Adapting the Exploration Rate in XCS," (with S.B. Shouraki), Accepted for Presentation in 9th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Soft Computing (ICAISC 2008).

## HONORS AND AWARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| 2026-2028 | SSHRC Insight Development Grant ($54,043), "Metaethical Foundations for Machine Ethics," Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. |
| 2019-2020 | David Savan Dissertation Prize, University of Toronto |
| 2017-2018 | Doctoral Completion Award, University of Toronto (CAD 23,600) |
| 2016-2017 | Superior Graduate Course Instructor Teaching Award, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, University of Toronto |
| 2016-2017 | Centre for Ethics Doctoral Fellowship, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto |
| 2016-2017 | Ontario Graduate Scholarship (CAD 15,000) |
| 2015-2016 | Philosophy of Science Award, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto |
| 2012-2013 | Best essay on Theory of Scientific Change, Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto |
| 2012-2017 | Jackman Junior Fellowship, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, University of Toronto (CAD 35,000) |

## TEACHING

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| W 2026 | York University | Ethics of AI Graduate Seminar |
| F 2020 – W 2026 | York University | Justice, Law, and Morality (×13); Ethics (×5) |
| W2025 | York University | Issues in Contemporary Metaethics Graduate Seminar: Reason, Virtue, and Happiness |
| F 2021, F 2023 | York University | Core Practical Philosophy Graduate Seminar (×2) |
| F 2019 - W 2020 | York University | Ethics and Societal Implications of Artificial Intelligence (×2) |
| S 2016 - S 2017 | University of Toronto | Bioethics (×2) |
| S 2015 | University of Toronto | Introduction to Ethics |
| S 2012 | Virginia Tech | Language and Logic |

## GRADUATE SUPERVISION AND COMMITTEES

PhD Dissertation Supervisor:

2026-present Eryn Spicer, title TBD, York University.

PhD Dissertation Committee Member:

2026-present Sage Cugino, title TBD, York University.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2026-present | Ashton Black, title TBD, York University. |
| 2023-present | Fatima Sadek, *Moral Progress in a Morally Pluralistic World*, York University. |
| 2023-present | John Buchanan, *Constructing Reasons out of Crooked Timber*, York University. |
| 2021-2024 | Rand Hirmiz, *The Ethical Implications of AI in Healthcare*, York University (defended July 2024). |

PhD Defence External Examiner:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2025 | Tugba Yoldas, *Taking Artificial Intelligences Seriously: The Grounds of Well-Being and Obligations to Artificial Moral Patients*, University of Alberta (defended January 2025). |
| 2026 | Paal Kvarberg, *Public Models of Welfare,* University of Oslo (defended October 2026). |

## INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

York University

| | |
|---|---|
| 2025-2026 | File Preparation Committee (Tenure & Promotion)<br>Certificate in Practical Ethics Coordinator<br>Computer and Communications Coordinator<br>MA Admissions Committee |
| 2024-2025 | Certificate in Practical Ethics Coordinator<br>Computer and Communications Coordinator<br>Departmental Adjudicating Committee (Tenure & Promotion)<br>Paper Exam Committee |
| 2023-2024 | Colloquium Co-Organizer<br>Computer and Communications Coordinator<br>Social Media Committee<br>MA Admissions Committee |
| 2021-2022 | Colloquium Co-Organizer<br>Departmental Adjudicating Committee (Tenure & Promotion)<br>Teaching and Learning Committee<br>PhD Admissions Committee |
| 2020-2021 | Teaching and Learning Committee<br>Paper Exam Committee |
| 2019-2024 | Co-Organizer of *Ethics of AI* Reading Group |

University of Toronto

| | |
|---|---|
| 2015-2016 | Co-Organizer of Graduate Conference on *Reason and Agency* |

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

| | |
|---|---|
| Referee | *Ergo; Journal of Philosophy;* SSHRC Insight Grant; ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency; *Synthese*; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; *Res Philosophica*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Bioethics*; *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology* |
| Assistant Editor (2017-2020) | PhilPapers' section on Practical Reason |