

Tanner Leighton

Curriculum Vitae

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🌐 [leightontanner.github.io](https://github.com/leightontanner)

Areas of Specialization and Competence

AOS Philosophy and Ethics of AI; Philosophy of Science; Pragmatism
AOC Philosophy of Language; Philosophy of Mind; Bioethics

Employment

2026–Present **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Department of Philosophy, *Texas A&M University*

Education

2026 **Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science**, *University of Pittsburgh*
Advisor: David Wallace
2019 **B.S. in Physics and Philosophy**, *University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Publications

2025 Leighton, Tanner. "Quantum Theory and Novel Scientific Language: Defending a Pragmatist View." *Philosophy of Science* **92**: 1291–1301. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psa.2025.10128>

Working Papers

Drafts Available Upon Request

"Do LLMs Speak? Framework-Relativity and Linguistic Participation"
"The Irenic Turn: Neo-Pragmatism Beyond Anti-Representationalism"
"Representationalism and Quantum Mechanics: An Irenic-Pragmatist View"
"Edwin C. Kemble, Pragmatism, and the American Reception of the Quantum"

In Progress

Machine Intelligence and Moral Responsibility: A Pragmatist Account (book project)

Talks and Presentations

- 1/2025 "Quantum Theory and Novel Scientific Language: Defending a Pragmatist View." American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division. New York, NY.
- 11/2024 "Quantum Theory and Novel Scientific Language: Defending a Pragmatist View." Philosophy of Science Association 29th Biennial Meeting. New Orleans, LA. (Accepted; unable to present due to illness.)
- 3/2024 "Quantum Theory and Novel Scientific Language: Defending a Pragmatist View." Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Grad Expo. University of Pittsburgh.
- 11/2022 "Can Pragmatism about Quantum Theory be Extended Beyond Non-Relativistic Quantum Mechanics?" Philosophy of Science Association 28th Biennial Meeting. Pittsburgh, PA. (Poster).

10/2022 "Pragmatism, Quantum Theory, and the Standard Model of Particle Physics." HPS Work in Progress Series. University of Pittsburgh.

Teaching Experience

As Instructor of Record

Fall 2025 **Introduction to Bioethics**, University of Pittsburgh.
Student evaluations: 4.71/5.0 overall

Spring 2025 **Introduction to Bioethics**, University of Pittsburgh.
Student evaluations: 4.82/5.0 overall

Fall 2024 **How Science Works**, University of Pittsburgh.
Student evaluations: 4.76/5.0 overall

Spring 2023 **How Science Works**, University of Pittsburgh.
Student evaluations: 4.31/5.0 overall

Fall 2022 **Introduction to Bioethics**, University of Pittsburgh.
Student evaluations: 4.56/5.0 overall

As Teaching Assistant

Spring 2021 **Introduction to Bioethics**, University of Pittsburgh.

Fall 2020 **Introduction to Philosophy of Science**, University of Pittsburgh.

Service

Professional Service

Reviewer for *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* and *Philosophy of Physics*

Reviewer for Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference (2024, 2025)

Departmental and Community Service

Fall 2024 **Co-organizer**, Neo-Pragmatism Reading Group (with Tushar Menon), University of Pittsburgh. Sponsored by the Departments of History and Philosophy of Science and Philosophy.

2024–2025 **First-Year Mentor** to Tzvetan Moev, HPS First-Year Mentoring Program, University of Pittsburgh.

2022–2023 **First-Year Mentor** to Kabir Bakshi, HPS First-Year Mentoring Program, University of Pittsburgh.

July 2020 **Volunteer**, Pittsburgh Summer Program (PSP) for undergraduates interested in philosophy of science.

Outreach and Inclusive Teaching

Summer 2016 **Physics and Math Teacher**, *Cristo Rey Newark High School*.

Taught introductory physics and algebra to 9th and 10th grade students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds as part of a summer credit recovery and enrichment program.

Honors and Awards

University of Minnesota

April 2019 **Sigma Pi Sigma**, National Physics Honor Society Member, University of Minnesota Chapter.

April 2018 **Harry and Viola St. Cyr Scholarship in Physics:** selected by the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Physics Education Committee; to be used as “financial support for summer or academic year research.”

References

Professor David Wallace (Dissertation Advisor)
Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
Email: david.wallace@pitt.edu

Professor Martin Peterson (Professional Reference)
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
Email: martinpeterson@tamu.edu

Professor Michael Nielsen (Professional Reference)
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
Email: michael.nielsen@tamu.edu

Professor Paolo Palmieri (Teaching Reference)
Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
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Professor Marian Gilton (Dissertation Committee Member)
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Professor Emeritus Richard Healey (Dissertation Committee Member)
Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona
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Professor Peter J. Lewis (Professional Reference)
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