

# ANN C THRESHER

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McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society  
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AOS: Philosophy of Science, Technology Ethics, Applied Ethics, Environmental Ethics  
AOC: Space Ethics, Philosophy of Physics

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## CURRENT POSITION

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Sept 2022 Postdoctoral Researcher with the McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society  
and the Stanford Doerr School for Sustainability  
*Stanford University*

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## EDUCATION

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June 2022 PhD in Philosophy  
The University of California, San Diego  
*Dissertation:* “Putting the Philosophy Back in Natural Philosophy: Ethics, Policy,  
and Using Philosophic Tools to Solve Scientific Problems”  
*Committee:* Craig Callender (Chair), Nancy Cartwright, Reuven Brandt, Elliott  
Sober, Ethan Bier

June 2013 Honours in the History and Philosophy of Science, 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
The University of Sydney  
*Dissertation:* “Time<sup>m</sup> – an Examination of Observer Interaction in Multiple  
Time Dimensions”  
*Supervisor:* Dean Rickles

June 2012 Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with Distinction  
The University of Sydney

June 2012 Bachelor of Science in Physics with Distinction  
The University of Sydney

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### BOOKS

Feb 2023 *The Tangle of Science: Reliability Beyond Method, Rigour, and Objectivity*  
Oxford University Press, with N. Cartwright, E. Montuschi, J. Hardy, and M.  
Soleiman  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198866343.001.0001>

### ARTICLES

Nov 2023 “Circular Spaces and Privileged Times: What the Video Game Asteroids Can  
Teach Us About the A-Theory”, *Synthese*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-023-04325-w>

- Aug 2023 “Big Science Collaborations Must Include Humanities and Social Sciences”, *Nature, Human Behaviour*, with A. Marcoci et al. (Correspondence)  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-023-01674-x>
- Apr 2023 “Key Science Goals for the Next-Generation Event Horizon Telescope”, *Galaxies*, with P. Galison et al.  
<https://www.mdpi.com/2075-4434/11/3/61>
- Feb 2023 “Taking the Long View: Historic, Philosophical and Cultural Aspects of the Next Generation Event Horizon Telescope. *Galaxies*, with M. Johnson et al.  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/galaxies11010032>
- Nov 2020 “When Extinction is Warranted: Invasive Species, Suppression-Drives, and the Worst-case Scenario”, *Ethics, Policy and Environment: 1-27*  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2020.1848197>

## **PAPERS UNDER REVISION OR REVIEW**

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- Revise and Resubmit “Get Angry about Climate Change”, *Environmental Ethics*  
*Eco-emotions, and the theoretical benefits of using anger to combat climate paralysis*
- Under Review “How Research Harms”  
*Scientific harms and the underpinnings of moratoriums and scientific regulation*

## **GRANTS**

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- May 2023 *Accelerating Biological Adaptation to Climate Change*, Center for Coastal Climate Resilience (CCCR) Pilot Funding Initiative, with B. Shapiro, E. Palkovacs and W. Bussiere.
- June 2023 *Facing the Anthropocene: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Environmental Crisis*, Stanford Humanities Center Grant
- Under Review *MSRI 2 Grant – Next Generation Event Horizon Telescope*, National Science Foundation (\$82 Million), invited to second stage

## **CURRENT COLLABORATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

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- Steering Committee – Environmental Biotechnology Council, *Lab to Land & the Aspen Institute*
- Member - Accelerating Biological Adaptation to Climate Change Working Group, *The University of California, Santa Cruz*
- Member - Climate and Energy Policy Program Working Group, *Stanford University*
- Project Lead - Responsible Telescope Siting, *The Next Generation Event Horizon Telescope, Harvard Black Hole Initiative and the Smithsonian Institute*
- Affiliate - The Black Hole Initiative, *Harvard University*
- Member - Religion, Ecology and Environmental Ethics: A Case Study for the Applied Humanities Working Group, *Stanford University*

Associate Member - Astronomy in Culture Working Group, *International Astronomical Union*

Member – Palo Alto Elk Reintroduction Project, *Stanford University*

Lab Member - Hadley Lab (Biology), The Social Ecology Lab (Environmental Behaviour), Environmental Justice Lab, *Stanford University*

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

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2022 Heinrich Hertz Fellow, Lichtenberg group in History and Philosophy of Physics, University of Bonn, Germany

2020 Graduate Scholar, Summer Graduate Teaching Scholarship

2020 Fellow, Friends of the International Centre

2018-20 Research Grant, The Tangle of Science with N. Cartwright

2019 Graduate Fellow, Institute for Practical Ethics, UC San Diego

## **POLICY WORK**

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2023-4 Consultation for the *Subcommittee on Research and Technology* of the *US House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology* on strategies to integrate ethics into the NSF and national science and technology policy.

2023-4 Steering Committee – National Environmental Biotechnology Council *Lab to Land and the Aspen Institute*

## **SELECT RESEARCH TALKS AND WORKSHOPS**

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2024 Plenary Panellist for “Working with Scientists”, *BSPS*, The University of York

2024 Environmental Biotechnology Private Roundtable, *Aspen Ideas: Climate*, The Aspen Institute, Miami, USA

2024 Workshop, *Environmental Biotechnology in Place*, Lab to Land, Paicines Ranch

2024 Workshop, *New Thinking in Conservation*, UC San Diego

2024 “ngEHT: Responsible Siting”, *Equitable Astrophysics: Peru*, Harvard University

2023 “Values, Ethics, and Environmental Education Beyond Science”, *Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Climate Education*, Harvey Mudd College

2023 “Planet-sized Integrated Philosophy of Science” (Symposium), *British Society for the Philosophy of Science*, Bristol

2023 “Consulting Ethicists for Policy and Research”, *Biosecurity and Biodefence for Congressional Staffers*, Stanford University

- 2023 “Resolving Earth Problems with Black Hole Telescopes; Socially and Environmentally Responsible Siting Practices”, *Black Hole Initiative Conference*, Harvard University
- 2023 “When Extinction is Warranted – Invasive Species, Gene-Drives and the Worst-Case Scenario, ”, *Woods Institute Environmental Forum*, Stanford University
- 2023 Workshop, *Accelerating Adaption*, University of Santa Cruz Center for Coastal Climate Resilience and the Lab to Land Institute, USA
- 2023 “What Sustainability Needs from Synthetic Biology” (Panellist), *Symposium on Synthetic Biology*, Stanford University, USA
- 2022 “How Research Harms”, *Department Seminar*, Bucknell University, USA
- 2022 “What the Video Game Asteroids Can Teach Us About Presentism”, *International Association for the Philosophy of Time*, Barcelona, Spain
- 2022 “Telescope Siting Ethics”, *Inaugural Next Generation Event Horizon Telescope Meeting*, Granada, Spain
- 2022 “Pedagogy and Play” (Panel), *Philosophy Justice Games*, UC San Diego, USA
- 2022 “When Extinction is Warranted”, *CHESS*, The University of Durham, UK
- 2022 “The Tangle of Science” (Keynote) *Reliability in Science and Philosophy Symposium*, The University of Kent, UK
- 2022 “Reliability in Modelling” (Panel), *ngEHT History, Philosophy, Culture Working Group Plenary Session*, Harvard University, USA
- 2021 “Circular Spaces and Privileged Times”, *Philosophy of Science Association*, Baltimore, USA
- 2017 “Paradoxes, Parallel Worlds, and Comic Books” *San Diego Comic-Con Academic Conference*, San Diego, USA

## **CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANISED**

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- 2023 Organiser, “Workshop on Intervening in Nature” (WIN), Catalina Island, USA
- 2023 Organiser, “History, Philosophy and Culture Conference”, *The Next Generation Event Horizon Telescope* Collaboration in association with the *Black Hole Institute*, Harvard University, USA
- 2022 Organiser, “The Ethics of Telescope Siting Workshop”, *The Next Generation Event Horizon Telescope* Collaboration in association with the *Black Hole Institute*, Harvard University, USA
- 2018 Assistant Organiser, “Time and the Observer Workshop”, UC San Diego, La Jolla, USA

- 2015 Organiser, “Einstein’s Legacy: Celebrating 100 Years of General Relativity” Conference, *Royal London Mathematical Society (LMS)* (with the *Institute of Physics* and the *Royal Astronomical Society*) University of London, London, UK
- 2015 Assistant Organiser, “Time, Identity, and the Future” Conference, *Centre for Time*, University of Sydney, Blue Lagoon, Iceland
- 2015 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Programme Manager & Organiser, “Queen of the Sciences: A Celebration of Numbers and the London Mathematical Society”, “Women in Mathematics Day” & “British (Applied) Mathematics Colloquium”, *Royal London Mathematical Society*, London, Oxford & Cambridge, UK

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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- 2023-24 Coordinating Panellist, Ethics and Society Review, *Stanford University*
- 2023 Undergraduate Honours Thesis Supervisor
- 2016-23 Referee: *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *National Science Foundation*, *American Chemical Society: Synthetic Biology*, *Cambridge Prisms*
- 2023 Founder, Stanford Queer Philosophy Reading Group
- 2022 Underrepresented Philosophy of Science Scholars Mentor, Philosophy of Science Association
- 2021 Speaker, “How to Write a Writing Sample”, Summer Program for Women in Philosophy, UC San Diego
- 2020-21 Founding Chair, UC San Diego Philosophy Department Climate Committee
- 2020 Founder, UC San Diego Philosophy Queer Phenomenology Reading Group
- 2018-19 Treasurer, *The American Philosophy of Time Society*

## **PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY**

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- Forth. Responsible Siting Ethics, Podcast
- 2023 [The Tangle of Pseudo-Science](#), *The Philosopher*, Conversation w/ Peter Vickers
- 2023 [Science as Art](#), *The Institute of Art and Ideas*, Article
- 2023 [Science & Ethics](#), *That’s What I Call Science*, Podcast
- 2023 [Physics Got Me Here](#), *Australian Institute of Physics*, Interview
- 2023 [Why Trust Science?](#), *Philosophy Talk*, Podcast
- 2022 [We Could Kill All Mosquitoes \(But Should We?\)](#), *Deutsche Welle*, Interview

## TEACHING

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### **Instructor of Record, Stanford**

2023            Techno-optimism (Can we Invent Our Way Out of Climate Change?), Fall Quarter

### **Instructor of Record, UC San Diego**

2021            Topics in Bioethics (Nature in Crisis), Summer Session

2020            Technology and Human Values (The Philosophy of Robots), Summer Session

### **Teaching Assistant, Stanford**

2023            Ethics of the Anthropocene, Spring Quarter

2023            Exploring Planetary Stewardship, Accelerated Summer Course

### **Teaching Assistant, UC San Diego**

2022, 17        Metaphysics: Nature of Reality

2020, 16, 15    Ethics and Society

2019, 15        Logic

2018            Middle-Level Theory (Graduate Seminar)

2018            Introduction to Ethics

2018            Philosophy of Physics

2018            Games We Play: Games, Performance, and Play

2017            Scientific Reasoning

2017            Introduction to Philosophy

2017            Are We Alone? Aliens, the Other, and Communication

### **Selected Guest Lectures**

#### *Stanford Doerr School for Sustainability, Stanford University*

2023            “Extinction and De-Extinction” for *The Sixth Extinction (And the Other Five)*

2023, 22        “Interdisciplinary Ethics Collaborations” for *Epistemology and Social Values in Interdisciplinary Environmental Research (Grad Seminar)*

2023            “Environmental Ethics Decision Frameworks” for *Research Approaches for Environmental Problem Solving (Grad Seminar)*

2023            “Scientific Reasoning and Logic” for *EIPER (Grad Seminar)*

2023, 22        “Environmental Ethics” for *Introduction to Earth Systems*

#### *d.School, Stanford University*

2023            “Ethical Decision Frameworks” for *Design 361*

2023            “Ethics and Stakeholder Identification” for *Design 301*

#### *Other Institutions*

2022            “The Tangle of Science” for *Philosophy of Science Masters Seminar*, Leibniz University of Hannover

- 2020 “Invasive Species and CRISPR/Cas9” for *Environmental Ethics*, Claremont McKenna College
- 2020 “The Physics of Time” for *Philosophy of Time*, The University of Kent
- 2019 “Time and Time-Travel” for *Philosophy of Physics*, UC San Diego

### **Pedagogy Training**

- 2020 Introduction to College Teaching, Summer Graduate Scholars Teaching Program, 10-week course, UC San Diego
- 2020 Reacting: Games for Education, work with Andy Lamey at UC San Diego. Information on Reacting may be found [here](#).

### **REFERENCES**

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Professor Craig Callender, Philosophy and the Institute for Practical Ethics, UC San Diego  
ccallender@ucsd.edu

Distinguished Professor Nancy Cartwright, Philosophy, Durham University and UC San Diego  
nancy.cartwright@durham.ac.uk

Professor Peter Galison, History and Philosophy of Science and the Black Hole Initiative,  
Harvard University and the Smithsonian Institute  
galisonasst@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Leif Wenar, Philosophy and The Wood’s Institute, Stanford University  
lwenar@stanford.edu