

Nicholas Osaka

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Areas of Competency: Philosophy of Technology, Feminist Philosophy, Social Epistemology, Ethics

Areas of Interest: Disability Theory, Queer Theory, Asian Philosophies (incl. Japanese Ethical Philosophies)

EDUCATION

- M.A.** Ethics and Applied Philosophy with a graduate certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, 2024
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- B.A.** Philosophy (*summa cum laude*), University of North Carolina at Charlotte 2022
- B.S.** Computer Science (*summa cum laude*) with a minor in Mathematics, University of North Carolina at Charlotte 2022

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

- 2024 – Present Data Platform Engineer The Hartford
- 2022 – 2024 Technology, Data, & Analytics Leadership Development Program Associate The Hartford
- Data Engineering Rotation (12 months)
- Solution Architecture Rotation (12 months)

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Osaka, Nicholas. "Talking Past Meaning Making: Large Language Models and Hermeneutical Dilution" in *Finding our Place in the Digital World: Philosophical Essays on Technology, Phenomenology, and the Environment*, eds. Michael Butler and Ian Werkheiser. Springer Publishing, TBA. [Forthcoming].

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2025 "Interpreting Our World Through Datasets: Large Language Models and Epistemic Harms" at the 2nd Annual Susanne E. Foster Graduate Philosophy Conference on AI Ethics and Society. Marquette University, Milwaukee. April 5, 2025.
- 2024 "Analyzing the Bootstrapping Problem of Web3: A Tri-Conditional Approach" at the 33rd Annual Association for Practical and Professional Ethics International Conference. Cincinnati. February 24, 2023. [Joint presentation with Violet Victoria].
- 2023 "A Bootstrapping Problem for Web3 Adoption" at the 6th Transatlantic Conference on the Ethics of Business, Trade, & Global Governance: Ethics and Sustainability in Banking and Finance. St. Andrews, Scotland. November 23, 2023. [Joint presentation with Violet Victoria].
- "Why a Socialist Cryptocurrency Can Never Exist: The Hermeneutical Resources of Virtual Money and Cryptocurrency" at the 61st Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy [Friday individual paper session]. Toronto Metropolitan University, Ontario. October 13.
- "Feminist Practices of the Nikkei: Japanese Diasporic Feminisms Between and Across Generations" at the 16th meeting of *philoSOPHIA*: a feminist society. UNC Charlotte, NC. June 2.
- "Japanese Anarcha-Feminism through the Seitō Literary Magazine" at Marquette University's Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference on Hidden Figures. Marquette University, WI. March 24.
- 2022 "Japanese Ethical Philosophy and Algorithm Design" at the 22nd Annual Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. UNC Asheville, NC. April 16.

Workshop Presentations

- 2025 “Talking Past Meaning Making: Large Language Models and Hermeneutical Dilution” at the Digital Worlds Workshop. University of North Dakota & University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, Virtual. April 25.
- 2023 “Non-Fungible Tokens and Neoliberal Asset Logics/Economies via the Metaverse” at the Digital Worlds Workshop. University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, Virtual. April 23.

Invited Commentaries

- 2024 Comments on Jennifer Jill Fellow’s “Binary Bonding: Programming Care and Scripting the Self”, at the Digital Worlds Workshop. University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, Virtual. April 20.

Invited Presentations/Talks

- 2024 “Moving Past Models: AI from a Public Policy Perspective.” Invited presentation to the Charlotte AI Research club. September 9.

Guest Lectures

- 2024 “The Future/Past of Work: AI, Labor, and Biopolitics.” Lecture in Aileen Benedict’s Introduction to Data Mining class, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. October 17.
- 2023 “Problematizing Classification Systems and Methods: Historical Sketches and Illustrations.” Lecture in Aileen Benedict’s Introduction to Data Mining class, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. October 6.
- 2022 “Problems in Computer Vision Classification.” Lecture in Aileen Benedict’s Introduction to Data Mining class, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. October 5.

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY AND WRITING

- 2023 “[Naming and Muddling: Messiness as Pedagogy](#).” Blog of the American Philosophical Association, Graduate Student Reflection Series. July 5. [Invited]

SERVICE**Profession**

- 2022 – Present Disability and Accessibility Committee, *philoSOPHIA*: a feminist society
- 2024 Judge, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Competition
- 2023 – 2024 Organizer, Panel Moderator for the 2024 Ethics and Applied Philosophy Graduate Conference (UNC Charlotte)
- 2022 – 2023 Organizer, Panel Moderator, and Reviewer for the 2023 Annual Ethics and Applied Philosophy Graduate Conference (UNC Charlotte)
- 2022 Reviewer for the 2022 Ethics and Applied Philosophy Graduate Conference (UNC Charlotte)

University

- 2023 – 2024 Co-President, Philosophical Union of UNC Charlotte
- 2022 – 2023 Treasurer, Philosophical Union of UNC Charlotte

Non-Academic

- 2024 Advisor, [AI 2030 platform — Encode Justice](#)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Internal — UNC Charlotte

2024	The Graduate School, Conference Travel Merit Scholarship	\$1200
2024	Ann C. Carver Graduate Essay Contest, Honorable Mention	\$200
2023	Center for Professional & Applied Ethics, Conference Travel Funding	\$750
2023	Graduate and Professional Student Government, Conference Travel Funding	\$500
2022	Graduate and Professional Student Government, Conference Travel Funding	\$250
2020	Atkins Library Undergraduate Research Award	\$1000

External

2022	Prize for Paper Presentation, 22 nd Annual Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference	\$100
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

American Philosophical Association

Association for Computing Machinery — Special Interest Group on Accessible Computing (ACM SIGACCESS)

Association for Professional and Practical Ethics

CERTIFICATIONS

Amazon Web Services Certified Solutions Architect Associate (AWS-SAA-C03)

HashiCorp Terraform Associate (HCTA0-003)

CITI Program IRB Members Certification

CITI Program Social and Behavioral Sciences: Responsible Conduct of Research Certification

CITI Program Engineering: Responsible Conduct of Research Certification

Amazon Web Services Certified Cloud Practitioner (AWS-CLF-C02)