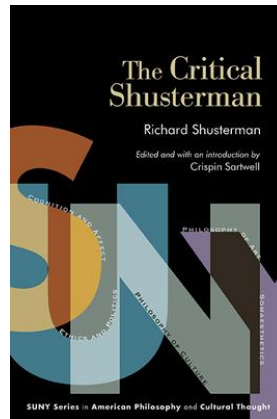


FAU Philosophy Department Highlights

Research Highlights (Books, Journals, and Talks)

- *The Critical Shusterman* by Richard Shusterman, edited and introduced by Crispin Sartwell (SUNY, 2025).

Sartwell's insightful introduction enables readers to grasp the breadth of Shusterman's philosophical contributions while highlighting their systematic coherence. It situates Shusterman within contemporary debates and offers directions for future development of his thought.



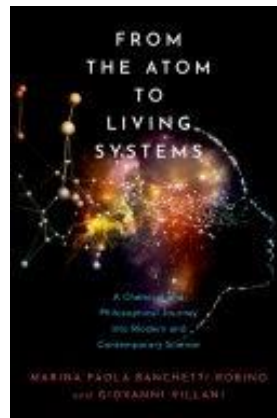
- *Why It's OK to Be a Gamer* by Sarah Malanowski & Nicholas R. Baima (Routledge, 2024).

This book challenges the assumption that gaming is childish, addictive, or frivolous. It argues that video games can enhance our well-being by fostering friendships, developing virtuous character, offering aesthetic experiences, and supporting relaxation and psychological resilience.



- *From the Atom to Living Systems: A Chemical and Philosophical Journey* by Marina Paola Banchetti-Robino & Giovanni Villani (Oxford University Press, 2023).

This interdisciplinary work traces the evolution from atoms to life through the lenses of chemistry, systems science, and complexity theory. It defends a non-reductive, holistic view of nature and explores the philosophical implications of life's emergence.



- “Mind Design, AI Epistemology, and Outsourcing” by Steven Gupka, Garrett Mindt, and Susan Schneider, in *Social Epistemology* (2025).

This paper examines how AI-enhanced cognition affects epistemic responsibility. It argues that outsourcing intellectual labor to AI does not absolve individuals of accountability for errors, and that responsibility may extend to those who design and market such technologies.

- “On the Very Idea of Social Enantiomorphism” by Clevis Headley, in *Foundations of Chemistry* (2025).

Headley introduces the concept of social enantiomorphism to address how liberalism can account for difference without reducing it to sameness. Using the chemical concept of chirality, he reframes social identities as non-superimposable yet structurally related mirror images.

- “Mills, Contracts, and the Limits of Liberalism” by Clevis Headley, in *The Philosophy of Charles Mills: Race and the Relations of Power*, edited by Mark Westmoreland (Routledge, 2024).

Charles W. Mills’s *The Racial Contract* is widely read and influential, especially in Africana philosophy and critical race theory. Headley argues, however, that its critique of liberalism is philosophically flawed and questions whether liberalism can be reworked to address racial injustice.

- Susan Schneider delivered a keynote address at *How the Light Gets In*, the world's largest philosophy and music festival (London, September 2025).

Nicholas Baima and Sarah Malanowski speak at the *16th Celtic Conference in Classics* hosted by Coimbra University (July 2025).



Student Achievements

- Rachid Lopez (Fall 2024, BA in Philosophy) accepted into the MA Philosophy program at Brandeis University.
- Carson Williams (Summer 2025, BA in Philosophy) accepted into the MA Philosophy program at Louisiana State University.
- Kayla Die (Philosophy BA student) attended the 2025 Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy.
- Carson Williams completed an honors thesis titled **"The Cognitive Phenomenology of Aesthetic Experience"** (Summer 2025).



Curricular Updates

- The BA in Philosophy curriculum has been revised and improved.
- Ask about our new joint BS in Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy (a collaboration with Computer Science).
- New BA Tracks Coming Soon:
 - Law & Philosophy
 - Science & Philosophy
- Upcoming Courses:
 - Philosophy of Video Games
 - Science Fiction & Philosophy
 - Comparative Philosophy
 - South Asian Philosophy
- Bhagavan Sambhavnath Endowed Assistant Profess to begin Fall 2027 thanks to very generous donations.

Recent Events

- *MindFest 2025* at the Center for the Future of Mind, AI & Society. Organized by Dr. Susan Schneider, this annual event convenes global experts to explore consciousness, AI, and the future of humanity.

The 2025 conference focused on LLM-based agents and the nature of sentience, with keynote speakers including Tam Hunt, Jonathan Schooler, and Zoltan Istvan. In partnership with **Closer to Truth* (PBS), hosted by Robert Lawrence Kuhn, the event featured student presentations, interdisciplinary panels, and international collaboration.



Upcoming Events

- *Jain Philosophy Symposium*, October 10–11, 2025
- *AFK in Philosophy*: 4th Annual Philosophy of Video Games Conference, February 27–28, 2026
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- *MindFest 2026*, April 1–2, 2026

