

EMMA STAMM, PhD
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OVERVIEW

AOS: Critical Theory; Science and Technology Studies; Critical AI Studies

AOC: Political Theory; Philosophy of Technology; Philosophy of Science

Dissertation: "Hallucinating Facts: Psychedelic Science and the Epistemic Power of Data";
Advisors: Francois Debrix, Virginia Tech Department of Political Science (Chair); Tim Luke,
Virginia Tech Department of Political Science; Rebecca Hester, Virginia Tech Department of
Science, Technology, and Society; Ashley Shew, Virginia Tech Department of Science,
Technology, and Society

EDUCATION

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University <i>Doctor of Philosophy in Cultural and Social Thought</i>	Blacksburg, VA 2020
The New School University <i>Master of Science in Nonprofit Management</i>	New York, NY 2015
Bard College <i>Bachelor of Arts in English Literature</i>	Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 2011

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Faculty

Lenox Institute for Advanced Study

- Original in-person course "Is Everything Predictable?: AI, Prediction Markets, and the Politics of Possibility" (Fall 2026)

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication

New , Fall 2026

- Original in-person course "Theory of the Digital" (Fall 2026)

Teaching Faculty

Acid Horizon Research Commons, Spring 2026; Fall 2026

- Original online courses “Anti-Civilization: Recovering from Industry and Progress” (Summer 2026) and “Acid Communism: A World That Could Be Free” (Winter 2026)

Assistant Professor of Science, Technology, and Society (STS)

SUNY Farmingdale, Fall 2023-Fall 2024

- Designed and taught undergraduate courses emphasizing social and humanistic study of science and technology. Averaged one hundred students per semester without assistance (4/4 teaching load). Courses taught: “Scientific Thinking”; “Data and Society”; “Generative A.I.: Choices and Challenges.”
- Developed course “AI Ethics” for new AI Management major.
- Reported program outcomes through contribution to self-assessment studies.
- Assessed teaching methods routinely to promote student engagement, content accessibility, and ensure that students are being appropriately challenged.
- SUNY certified in online teaching.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Villanova University, Fall 2021-Spring 2023

- Designed and taught undergraduate courses on ethics of computing, general Western ethics, and scientific epistemology. Averaged one hundred students per semester without assistance (4/4 teaching load). Courses taught: “Computer Ethics” and “Knowledge, Reality, Self.”
- Assessed teaching methods routinely to promote student engagement, content accessibility, and ensure that students are being appropriately challenged.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication

New York University, Spring 2021

- Taught core undergraduate course “Privacy and Media” without assistance (one section).

Adjunct Assistant Professor of History

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021

- Designed and taught new undergraduate course “Introduction to Data in Social Context” without assistance (one section/semester)

Instructor of Record, Political Science

Virginia Tech, Spring 2019 and Fall 2019

- Taught core undergraduate course “Introduction to Political Theory” without assistance (one section/semester).

Instructor of Record, Religion and Culture

Virginia Tech, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

- Taught core undergraduate course “Introduction to Arts and Humanities: Becoming Modern” without assistance (one section/semester)

LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

Co-Founder and Executive Director

Lenox Institute for Advanced Study

- Co-founded and leader of a mission-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to public education and interdisciplinary scholarship on science, technology, and society
- Develops organizational strategy, programming, and partnerships, overseeing the launch and growth of public events
- Manages fiscal operations, including budgeting, fundraising strategy, and expense tracking.
- Directs communications and outreach efforts across email, social media, and stakeholder networks.

Chair, Search and Hiring Committee

SUNY Farmingdale, 2023-2025

- Led two tenure-track faculty search committees (Spring 2024 and Fall 2024).
- Wrote interview questions and candidate evaluation forms.
- Scheduled and directed candidate interviews.
- Led evaluation process to determine first-round and final-round candidates.
- Enforced HR ethics guidelines during the search process.

Student advisor, STS Department

SUNY Farmingdale, 2023-2025

- Guided students in developing a unique plan of study within a highly flexible interdisciplinary major.
- Assisted with registration and course selection targeting students' interests and post-college goals (e.g., completion of prerequisites for post-bachelor's programs).
- Provided career advice and feedback on professional materials, e.g. résumés and statements of purpose.
- Enforced FERPA guidelines in all communications and across software packages.
- Averaged six advising sessions/week.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Doctoral Dissertation

- Stamm, Emma. (2020). "Hallucinating Facts: Psychedelic Science and the Epistemic Power of Data." An intervention in data positivism and techno-solutionism examining research methods across the history of psychedelic science.

Refereed Journal Articles

- Stamm, Emma. (2022). "The Digital Image of Thought," *La Deleuziana* vol. 14, pp. pp. 7-18

- Stamm, Emma. (2020). "Anomalous Forms in Computer Music," *M/C — A Journal of Media and Culture* vol. 23.5
- Stamm, Emma. (2019). "The Electric Kool-Aid Turing Test: Psychedelics, Phenomenology and Automated Intelligence," *Spheres Journal for Digital Cultures* vol. 5, pp. 1-12
- Stamm, Emma. (2015). "We Are All Anonymous: Challenging Hacktivist Stereotypes," *SPECTRA* vol. 4.2

Book Reviews

- September 2021: Review of *The Constitution of Algorithms: Ground-Truthing, Programming, Formulating* by Florian Jatón, *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*
- November 2019: Review of *Contingent Computation: Abstraction, Experience, and Indeterminacy in Computational Aesthetics* by M. Beatrice Fazi, *Evental Aesthetics* vol. 8.1 pp. 139-149
- November 2018: Review of *Technosystem: The Social Life of Reason* by Andrew Feenberg, *Humanities and Technology Review* vol. 37, pp. 98-105
- January 2018: Review of *Animal Constructions and Technical Knowledge* by Ashley Shew, *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*

Encyclopedia Entries

- Stamm, Emma. (2022). "Computer and Information Ethics," *Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy*. Springer, Dordrecht.

Select Non-Academic Publications

- March 4 2026: "Measuring What Matters in Large Language Model Performance: Taking stock of LLM benchmark," *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery*
- January 20 2026: "The future is reversible: A decades-old idea could fuel innovation for years to come," *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery*

- November 6 2025: “AI Safety Connect Addresses a Key Concern at the U.N. General Assembly,” *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery*
- August 7 2025: “Scrutinizing LLM Reasoning Models,” *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery*
- May 24 2023: “Ten Year of Psychedemia—and the Future” *Journal of Psychedelic Studies*
- September 1 2022: “Who Can It Be Now,” *Real Life Magazine*
- December 1 2020: “Robinhood's Gamification of Investing Combines Surveillance Capitalism with Finance Capitalism,” *Vice Motherboard*
- August 18 2020: “Exploring Interdisciplinary Pedagogy with ‘Data in Social Context,’” Davitt, M., Ireland, L., Stamm, E. and Ewing, T., *SPECTRA Journal* vol. 7.2 pp. 25-29
- July 2019: “Tune In, Turn On, Rise Up” *Commune Mag*
- May 9 2019: “Present Perfect: How Chats and Live Streams Let Us Consume ‘Real Time’ As a Commodity,” *Real Life Magazine*
- October 4 2018: “Ordinary Doses: New Research into Psychedelic Drugs is Constrained by Technological Solutionism,” *Real Life Magazine*
- December 21 2017: “Immortal Techniques: 23AndMe Makes the Human Body Immortal at Last,” *The New Inquiry*
- October 2017: “Obfuscating Biopolitics,” *2600, The Hacker Quarterly*, Autumn 2017, pp. 54-57
- April 16 2015: “404 Error: Big Confusion — What Is An Interface Hack, Anyway?,” *Cyborgology*

Select presentations

- November 13-14: Invited presenter for Durations conference, New York, NY (forthcoming)
- September 16 2026: “Does Expertise Matter?: Authority in the Age of Infinite Information” (forthcoming)
- September 3 2026: “The Rebirth of Language: LLMs and the Power of Style,” public presentation for Weirdosphere Learning Platform (forthcoming)

- September 1 2026: Invited presenter for New School MFA in Transdisciplinary Design “Convenings” (forthcoming)
- June 10 2026: “Do Words Still Mean Things?: Language and Communication in the Age of AI,” Lenox Institute for Advanced Study program at Index Space Chinatown; also forthcoming in online format through Weirdosphere learning platform
- April 30 2026: “Technology, Media, and Learning Book Talk: Cultural AI with Leif Weatherby” Columbia University New York, NY
- January 30 2026: “Philosophy as Mediation: Implications for AI,” Saddleback College Emeritus Institute, Mission Viejo, CA (online)
- September 16 2025: “The Vanished Flower: How Personal Taste Models the Infinite,” public presentation for Weirdosphere learning platform
- March 26 2025: “Generative AI and the Artistic Mind,” public presentation at Little Honey, Brooklyn NY
- September 19 2024: “Transformer Architectures and the Relativization of the Negative,” *3ICEAI (3rd International Conference on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence) Joint Meeting*, University of Azores - Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores (online)
- April 7 2024: “Psychedelic Fascism in the Digital Age,” *California Ideology Conference*, UC Santa Cruz | Santa Cruz, CA
- August 14 2022: “Psychedelic Science in the Age of Digital Media,” *Psychedemia*, The Ohio State University | Columbus, OH
- June 23 2022: “Data Power and the Image of Thought,” *Dialogues in Data Power*, Online
- October 9 2021: “Let X Be Unknown,” *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference (4S)*, Online
- June 29 2021: “The Data-Image: Thought as Currency in the Age of Datafication,” *Society for Philosophy and Technology 2021 Conference (SPT)*, Online
- September 20 2020: “Can Computation Produce Novelty?: the Case of Live-Coding Music,” *Reclaim Futures*, Online
- December 16 2019: “How Psychedelic Drug Research Figures Persons In/Out of Data” *Figurations: Persons In/Out of Data*, Goldsmiths University of London

- October 18 2019: "Psychedelic Drug Research Meets Digital Methods: a Philosophical Consideration," VT Alumni Association 50th Reunion Showcase
- September 6 2019: "Data Ethics and Data Epistemology" *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference (4S)* | New Orleans, LA
- May 21 2019: "Psychedelic Research Methods and the Epistemic Limits of Machines," *The Twenty-First Biannual Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology*, Texas A&M University | College Station, TX
- April 26 2019: "Acid Feminism," *Gender, Bodies and Technology: Technologicals: Power and Resistance*, Roanoke, VA
- April 20 2019: "Machine Learning and the Algorithmic Cancellation of the Future," *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting* | San Diego, CA
- April 12 2019: "Psychedelic Experience and Artificial Intelligence," *Theorizing the Web* | Queens, NY
- October 2 2018: "Psychedelic Science and the Question of Artificial Intelligence," *Intelligent Futures: Automation, AI and Cognitive Ecologies*, University of Sussex | Brighton, England
- September 7 2018: "Encountering Aliens: Digital 'Verfremdungseffekt' and the Theater of the Self," *Subjectivity and Digital Culture*, TU-Dresden | Dresden, Germany
- June 9 2018: "The Unthinkable: Data, Mentality, and Politics," *Human Futures and Intelligent Machines Summit* Virginia | Blacksburg, VA
- April 27 2018: Invited panelist on "Bot Phenomenology" track at *Theorizing The Web*, Queens, NY
- November 7 2017: "The Electric Kool-Aid Turing Test" at *Digital Culture and Communication Section of European Communication Research and Education Association Conference*, University of Brighton | Brighton, England
- April 8 2017: "Vita Obscura: Obfuscating Biopower," *Infosocial Graduate Research Conference*, Northwestern University | Evanston, IL
- April 22 2016: "Block Party People: Off the Bitcoin Chain," *Theorizing the Web* | New York, NY
- April 15 2015: "Wait, What? Interface Hacks as Awareness-Raising Tools," *Theorizing The Web*, New York, NY

- March 21 2015: "We Are All Anonymous: Beyond Hacktivist Stereotypes," *Representations of Resistance* | Blacksburg, VA

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024: Recipient, United University Professions Individual Development Award Program
- 2024: Scholar Remote Fellowship, New York University Faculty Resource Network
- 2024: Summer Scholarship Award for Research, Farmingdale State College
- 2020: Finalist, Emerging Voices Postdoctoral Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)
- 2020: Annual Outstanding Dissertation Award, ASPECT Virginia Tech
- 2019-20: Archival Research Travel Grant, Purdue University
- 2019: Annual Best Graduate Student Essay Award, Society for Philosophy and Technology
- 2019: Designated Virginia Tech "Tech for Humanity" Scholar in Specialty Area "Collective Autonomy"
- 2018-19: TU-Darmstadt Semester Scholarship, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), The German Academic Exchange Service
- 2018-19: Annual Dissertation Research Fellowship, ASPECT Virginia Tech
- 2018-19: Graduate Teaching Fellowship for "Data in Social Context" pedagogy workshop, Virginia Tech
- 2017-18: Graduate Diversity Fellowship for Gender and Digital Media Art Exhibit, Virginia Tech
- 2016-20: Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Virginia Tech

SERVICE TO ACADEMIC PROFESSION

- 2022: Reviewer, *Frontiers in Psychology*

- 2022: Reviewer, *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*
- 2022: Reviewer, *La Deleuziana*
- 2021: Panel chair, 2021 *Society for Philosophy and Technology Biennial Conference*
- 2021: Discussant, 2021 ASPECT Conference
- 2019-20: Editor, *SPECTRA Journal*
- 2020: Reviewer, *First Monday*

SELECT CONTRACT WORK

2012-present: freelance writer, editor, and audio producer. Wrote and edited articles for clients ranging from consumer insights agencies and startups to popular magazines covering technology, science, culture, politics, and society. Bylines in *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery*, *Vice Motherboard*, *Real Life Mag*, *The New Inquiry*, *2600*, and more. Co-host of LEPHT HAND culture and philosophy podcast.