Ben Caplan

25 July 2026

Department of Philosophy, University of Kansas, 3075 Wescoe Hall
Lawrence, KS USA 66045
caplan@ku.edu // bdcaplan.ca

Employment

Professor, University of Kansas, 2017–

Professor, Ohio State University, 2013–2017

Associate Professor, Ohio State University, 2006–2013

Associate Professor (untenured), University of Manitoba, 2005–2006

Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba, 2002–2005

Other positions

Affiliate, Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, University of Oslo, 2012–2017

Visiting Professor, Umeå University, May 2015

Visiting Scholar, Pluralisms Global Research Network, Veritas Research Center, Yonsei University, Spring 2014

Guest Lecturer, University of Helsinki, November 2013

Visiting Scholar, University of Copenhagen, Spring 2011

Visiting Associate Professor, UCLA, Spring 2006

Instructor, UCLA, Summer 2000, Summer 2001

Education

PhD, Philosophy, UCLA, 2002

BA (Honours), Philosophy, McGill University, 1996

Areas of specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language, History of Analytic Philosophy

Areas of competence

Logic, Philosophy of Art

Publications (* = invited)

forth. "E. E. Constance Jones on the Import and Significance of Categorical Sentences"*
Women in the History of Philosophy of Science and Analytic Philosophy, edited by Michele Vagnetti & Andreas Vrahimis. Springer.

2026 "Empty Names"*
International Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics, edited by Hilary Nessi & Peter Milin, 3rd ed., vol. 2, 268–274. Elsevier. DOI:10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.00382-3

"Existence"*
International Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics, edited by Hilary Nessi & Peter Milin, 3rd ed., vol. 2, 280–285. Elsevier. DOI:10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.01121-2

"Grounding Sexual Identity"
Ergo 13 (26): 778–800. DOI:10.3998/ERGO.9872

2023 "E. E. Constance Jones on Existence in a Region of Supposition"
Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy 11 (7): 1–26.
DOI:10.15173/jhap.v11i7.5485

"Hylomorphic Propositions"* (**Ben Caplan**, Chris Tillman, & Eileen S. Nutting)
The Routledge Handbook of Propositions, edited by Chris Tillman & Adam Russell Murray, 333–346. Routledge. DOI:10.4324/9781315270500-24

2022 "E. E. Constance Jones on Unique Existence"
Asian Journal of Philosophy 1 (1), Article 20. DOI:10.1007/s44204-022-00022-6

"E. E. Constance Jones on Existence in Fiction and Imagination"*
Studia Semiotyczne (*Semiotic Studies*) 36 (1): 175–191. (Special issue: *Proper Names and Modes of Existence*, edited by Piotr Stalmaszczyk.)

2021 Review of Michael McKinsey, *Consequences of Reference Failure**
Philosophical Quarterly 71 (3): 666–669. DOI:10.1093/pq/pqaa058

"Fregean Theories of Names from Fiction"*
The Routledge Handbook of Linguistic Reference, edited by Stephen Biggs & Heimir Geirsson, 384–396. Routledge. DOI:10.4324/9781003111894-37

2018 "Constitutive Essence and Partial Grounding" (Eileen S. Nutting, **Ben Caplan**, & Chris Tillman)
Inquiry 61 (2): 137–161. DOI:10.1080/0020174x.2017.1392895

2017 "Counting Again" (David Sanson, **Ben Caplan**, & Cathleen Muller)
Grazer Philosophische Studien 94 (1–2): 69–82. DOI:10.1163/18756735-000017

2016 "Soames's New Conception of Propositions"*
Philosophical Studies 173 (9): 2533–2549. DOI:10.1007/s11098-016-0633-3

"The Extraordinary Impossibility of Sherlock Holmes"*
Res Philosophica 93 (2): 335–355. DOI:10.11612/resphil.2016.93.2.7

2015 "Brutal Identity"* (**Ben Caplan** & Cathleen Muller)
Fictional Objects, edited by Stuart Brock & Anthony Everett, 174–207. Oxford University Press. DOI:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198735595.003.0008

2014 "Against a Defense of Fictional Realism" (**Ben Caplan** & Cathleen Muller)
Philosophical Quarterly 64 (255): 211–224. DOI:10.1093/pq/pqt043

"Serial Fiction, Continued"
British Journal of Aesthetics 54 (1): 65–76. DOI:10.1093/aesthj/ayt050

2013 "Benacerraf's Revenge" (**Ben Caplan** & Chris Tillman)
Philosophical Studies 166 (1 Supplement): S111–S129.
DOI:10.1007/s11098-012-0064-8

"Not the Optimistic Type" (**Ben Caplan**, Chris Tillman, Brian McLean, & Adam Murray)
Canadian Journal of Philosophy 43 (5–6): 575–589.
DOI:10.1080/00455091.2013.870731

Reprinted in *New Essays on the Nature of Propositions*, edited by David Hunter & Gurpreet Rattan, 61–75. Routledge, 2015.

2011 "Never Been Kicked"*
Fight Club, edited by Thomas E. Wartenberg, 132–162. Routledge.
DOI:10.4324/9780203808009

"Ontology"* (Carl Matheson & **Ben Caplan**)
The Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music, edited by Theodore Gracyk & Andrew Kania, 38–47. Routledge. DOI:10.4324/9780203830376

"Ontology of Music"* (**Ben Caplan** & Carl Matheson)
Aesthetics: A Reader in Philosophy of the Arts, 3rd ed., edited by David Goldblatt & Lee B. Brown, 171–176. Prentice Hall.

Reprinted in *Aesthetics: A Reader in Philosophy of the Arts*, 4th ed., edited by David Goldblatt, Lee B. Brown, & Stephanie Partridge, 196–201. Routledge, 2017. DOI:10.4324/9781315303673

"Ontological Superpluralism"*
Philosophical Perspectives 25: 79–114. DOI:10.1111/J.1520-8583.2011.00209.X

"Descriptivism, Scope, and Apparently Empty Names" (Andrew Cullison & **Ben Caplan**)
Philosophical Studies 156 (2): 283–288. DOI:10.1007/s11098-010-9589-x

"Presentism and Truthmaking"* (**Ben Caplan** & David Sanson)
Philosophy Compass 6 (3): 196–208. DOI:10.1111/j.1747-9991.2010.00380.x

2010 "Parts of Singletons" (**Ben Caplan**, Chris Tillman, & Patrick Reeder)
Journal of Philosophy 107 (10): 501–533. DOI:10.5840/jphil20101071036

"The Way Things Were" (David Sanson & **Ben Caplan**)
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 81 (1): 24–39.
DOI:10.1111/j.1933-1592.2010.00357.x

2008 "Modality, Individuation, and the Ontology of Art" (Carl Matheson & **Ben Caplan**)
Canadian Journal of Philosophy 38 (4): 491–517. DOI:10.1353/cjp.0.0030

Review of Trenton Merricks, *Truth and Ontology**
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/truth-and-ontology/

"Defending 'Defending Musical Perdurantism'" (**Ben Caplan** & Carl Matheson)
British Journal of Aesthetics 48 (1): 80–85. DOI:10.1093/aesthj/aym037

2007 "On the Content of Experience" (Timothy Schroeder & **Ben Caplan**)
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 75 (3): 590–611.
DOI:10.1111/j.1933-1592.2007.00094.x

Review of Julian Dodd, *Works of Music: An Essay in Ontology**
British Journal of Aesthetics 47 (4): 445–446. DOI:10.1093/aesthj/aym029

"Fine Individuation" (Carl Matheson & **Ben Caplan**)
British Journal of Aesthetics 47 (2): 113–137. DOI:10.1093/aesthj/ayl051

"Millian Descriptivism"
Philosophical Studies 133 (2): 181–198. DOI:10.1007/s11098-005-4544-y

"A New Defence of the Modal Existence Requirement"
Synthese 154 (2): 335–343. DOI:10.1007/s11229-005-3491-7

2006 "Empty Names"*
The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics, 2nd ed., edited by Keith Brown, Vol. 4, 132–136. Elsevier. DOI:10.1016/b0-08-044854-2/01164-0

"Existence"*
The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics, 2nd ed., edited by Keith Brown, Vol. 4, 371–373. Elsevier. DOI:10.1016/b0-08-044854-2/01167-6

"Kaplan, David"*
The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2nd ed., edited by Donald Borchert, Vol. 5, 38–40. Macmillan.

Review of Stefano Predelli, *Contexts: Meaning, Truth, and the Use of Language**
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews
ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/contexts-meaning-truth-and-the-use-of-language/

"On Sense and Direct Reference"*
Philosophy Compass 1 (1): 171–185. DOI:10.1111/j.1747-9991.2006.00014.x

> Reprinted in *On Sense and Direct Reference: Readings in the Philosophy of Language*, edited by Matthew Davidson, 2–16. McGraw-Hill, 2007.

"Defending Musical Perdurantism" (**Ben Caplan** & Carl Matheson)
British Journal of Aesthetics 46 (1): 59–69. DOI:10.1093/aesthj/ayj004

2005 "Against Widescopism"
Philosophical Studies 125 (2): 167–190. DOI:10.1007/s11098-004-7814-1

"Why So Tense about the Copula?"
Mind 114 (455): 703–708. DOI:10.1093/mind/fzi703

"Fusions and Ordinary Physical Objects" (**Ben Caplan** & Bob Bright)
Philosophical Studies 125 (1): 61–83. DOI:10.1007/s11098-005-7809-6

Review of Jerrold J. Katz, *Sense, Reference, and Philosophy**
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews
ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/sense-reference-and-philosophy/

2004 "Creatures of Fiction, Myth, and Imagination"
American Philosophical Quarterly 41 (4): 331–337.

Review of Alan Berger, *Terms and Truth: Reference Direct and Anaphoric**
Dialogue 43 (3): 617–619. DOI:10.1017/s0012217300003188

"Can a Musical Work Be Created?" (**Ben Caplan** & Carl Matheson)
British Journal of Aesthetics 44 (2): 113–134.
DOI:10.1093/bjaesthetics/44.2.113

2003 "Putting Things in Contexts"
Philosophical Review 112 (2): 191–214. DOI:10.1215/00318108-112-2-191

2002 "Quotation and Demonstration"
Philosophical Studies 111 (1): 69–80. DOI:10.1023/a:1021235311442

2001 "What's Puzzling Gottlob Frege?"(Mike Thau & **Ben Caplan**)
Canadian Journal of Philosophy 31 (2): 159–200.
DOI:10.1080/00455091.2001.10717564

Works in progress

Elements of Jones

"John Neville Keynes and E. E. Constance Jones on the Connotation of Proper Names"

"Lewis's Trilemma and Propositional Structure" (with Chris Tillman), promised to a volume edited by Paolo Bonardi, Naoya Fujikawa, & Youchi Matsusaka

"Mythical Creatures: The Return?"

"What is Momentum?"

Presentations (* = invited)

2026 "All the World's a Worm, Maybe?" (with Carl Matheson)
CarlCon, University of Manitoba*

"Lewis's Trilemma and Propositional Structure" (with Chris Tillman)
European Congress of Analytic Philosophy

"Mythical Creatures: The Return?"
The Philosophical Legacy of Saul Kripke, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*

2025 "Does Thor Exist?"
Nordic Metaphysics Network, University of Agder*

"John Neville Keynes and E. E. Constance Jones on the Connotation of Proper Names"
Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*
Midsommar Workshop on Mind and Language, Umeå University*
The Nature of the Objects of Thought and Assertion, University of Southampton*

"Mythical Creatures: The Return?"
Fiction and Myth Workshop, UC Davis*
Umeå University*

"What Is Momentum?"
Denison University*

2024 "Grounding Sexual Identity"
University of Canterbury*
University of Otago*

"John Neville Keynes and E. E. Constance Jones on the Connotation of Proper Names"
DavidFest, University of Buffalo*
University of Canterbury*

2023 Comments on Cameron Kirk-Giannini
Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

"E. E. Constance Jones on Ontological Pluralism"
University of Missouri*

2022 Comments on Julie Wulfemeyer
PRISM Workshop, University of Kansas*

"E. E. Constance Jones on Ontological Pluralism"
Western Canadian Philosophical Association

2019 "E. E. Constance Jones on Ontological Pluralism"
Fort Hays State University*

"Fregean Theories of Names from Fiction"
Canadian Philosophical Association*
McKinseyFest, Wayne State University*

2018 Comments on Rik Hine
Kansas Philosophical Society, Kansas State University*

2017 Comments on Dan Korman
SPAWN, Syracuse University*

"Constitutive Essence and Partial Grounding" (with Eileen Nutting & Chris Tillman)
Essence and Identity Workshop, Univeristy of Oslo*

2016 "Hylomorphic Propositions" (with Chris Tillman & Eileen Nutting)
In Need of Ground and Explanation Workshop, University of Agder*
Propositions Workshop, University of Manitoba*

"Ontology Before (and After) the End of Art" (with Carl Matheson)
University of Kansas*

"Soames's New Conception of Propositions"
Author-meets-critics session on Scott Soames, *Rethinking Language, Mind, and Meaning*, Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

2015 "The Extraordinary Impossibility of Sherlock Holmes"
Umeå University*

"Ontology Before (and After) the End of Art" (with Carl Matheson)
Auburn Philosophy Conference, Auburn University*
Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*
Philosophy of Art in Canada, Western Canadian Philosophical Association*

2014 Comments on Nellie Wieland
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

"Hylomorphic Propositions" (with Chris Tillman & Eileen Nutting)
Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
Denison University*
First Veritas Philosophy Conference, Underwood International College, Yonsei International Campus*
Hongo Metaphysics Club, Tokyo Forum for Analytic Philosophy, University of Tokyo*
Kansas State University*
UC Davis*
University of Kansas*

"Recombination under the Spotlight" (with Sam Cowling)
Keynote address, Second Seoul Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Seoul National University*

2013 Comments on Geoff Georgi
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

Comments on Noa Latham
Philosophy of Time Society, Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

Comments on Alyssa Ney
Metaphysical Virtues, Western Michigan University*

"Empty Names and Gappy Propositions"
University of Bergen*
University of Tromsø—The Arctic University of Norway*

"Hylomorphic Propositions" (with Chris Tillman & Eileen Nutting)
Canadian Philosophical Association
University of Helsinki*
University of Manitoba*
Umeå University*

"Not the Optimistic Type" (with Chris Tillman, Brian McLean, & Adam Murray)
Western Canadian Philosophical Association

"Serial Fiction, Continued"
Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics*
Philosophy of Art, Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik*

2012 "Benacerraf's Revenge" (with Chris Tillman)
LOGOS, University of Barcelona*

Comments on Chris Barker
Something about Vagueness, Ohio State University*

Comments on Patrick Monaghan
Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

Comments on Pablo Rychter
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

"King and Soames on Propositions" (with Chris Tillman)
Society for Exact Philosophy
Western Canadian Philosophical Association
Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, University of Oslo*

"Serial Fiction, Continued"
Art and Metaphysics, Lingnan University*
Metaphysics and Epistemology Workshop, University of Copenhagen*
PERSP Space and Time Workshop on Time and Identity, University of Barcelona*

2011 "Brutal Identity" (with Cathleen Muller)
Metaphysics and Epistemology Workshop, University of Copenhagen*
Norwegian University of Science and Technology*
Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, University of Oslo*
Logic, Language, and Mind Seminar; Stockholm University*

Comments on Nicholas Georgalis
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

Comments on Dwayne Moore
Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

"Ontological Superpluralism"
Metaphysics and Epistemology Workshop, Aarhus University*
KTH Royal Institute of Technology*

"Russell's Other Objection to Meinong"
The Foundation Crisis: Which Crisis?, Université de Montréal*
Western Michigan University*

"King and Soames on Propositions" (with Chris Tillman)
Semantics Workshop of the American Midwest and Prairies (SWAMP), Linguistics, Ohio State University*

"What the Ontology of Music Is"
Theory of Science Forum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

2010 "Brutal Identity" (with Cathleen Muller)
Central States Philosophical Association
Kenyon College*
SPAWN, Syracuse University*
Wayne State University*
Western Canadian Philosophical Association

"Descriptivism, Scope, and Apparently Empty Names" (with Andrew Cullison)
Synners (Syntax and Semantics), Linguistics, Ohio State University*

"Parts of Singletons" (with Chris Tillman & Patrick Reeder)
Canadian Philosophical Association
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association

"Russell's Other Objection to Meinong"
Foundations of Logical Consequence, Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik*

2009 "Against Sonicism" (with Carl Matheson)
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
SUNY-Fredonia*

Comments on Lee Brown
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics*

Comments on Octavian Ion
Canadian Philosophical Association*

Comments on Dan Korman
Central States Philosophical Association*

Comments on Chris Tillman
Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

"Parts of Singletons" (with Chris Tillman & Patrick Reeder)
Society for Exact Philosophy

2008 "Against Sonicism" (with Carl Matheson)
James Madison University*

Comments on Kris McDaniel
Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference*

Comments on Arthur Sullivan
Canadian Philosophical Association*

"Locality and Necessity" (with David Sanson)
Carleton University*
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association

"The Way Things Were" (with David Sanson)
Illinois State University*

2007 Comments on Saikat Guha
Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference*

"Locality and Necessity" (with David Sanson)
University of Maryland*
Ohio State University*

"Modality, Individuation, and the Ontology of Art" (with Carl Matheson)
Auburn University*
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association

"The Way Things Were" (with David Sanson)
Central Michigan University*
Franklin and Marshall College*

2006 "Fine Individuation" (with Carl Matheson)
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*
Western Canadian Philosophical Association

"Frege's Puzzles"
Reference and Attitude, Université du Québec à Montréal*

"Parts of Singletons" (with Chris Tillman & Patrick Reeder)
UC Santa Barbara*

2005 Comments on R. Heck
Frege, Logic and Identity; University of London*

Comments on Bernard Linsky
Canadian Philosophical Association*

Comments on Gideon Rosen
Western Canadian Philosophical Association*

Comments on Ori Simchen
Western Canadian Philosophical Association*

"On the Content of Experience" (with Timothy Schroeder)
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association

"Fine Individuation" (with Carl Matheson)
University of Winnipeg*

"Frege on the Identity Relation and Identity Sentences: A Reply to Heck" (with Michael Thau)
Frege, Logic and Identity; University of London*

"Millian Descriptivism"
University of Calgary*
University of Nottingham*

"Modality, Individuation, and the Ontology of Art" (with Carl Matheson)
McGill University*

"Parts of Singletons" (with Chris Tillman & Patrick Reeder)
Ohio State University*
Syracuse University*

"The Way Things Were" (with David Sanson)
Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
Canadian Philosophical Association
Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference

2004 Comments on David Braun
Workshop on *De Re* Belief, Queen's University*

Comments on Mark McCullagh
Canadian Philosophical Association*

Comments on Steve Savitt
Western Canadian Philosophical Association*

"Millian Descriptivism"
Canadian Philosophical Association
Queen's University*

"Putting Things in Contexts"
UMass Amherst*

2003 Comments on Tim Kenyon
Canadian Philosophical Association*

"Creatures of Fiction, Myth, and Imagination"
Humanities Institute, University of Manitoba*

"Meinong for Non-Meinongians"
Western Canadian Philosophical Association

"Putting Things in Contexts"
DavidFest, UCLA*

"In the Realm of the Senses"
University of Manitoba*

2002 "Creatures of Fiction, Myth, and Imagination"
University of Manitoba*

"Empty Names and Gappy Propositions"
University of British Columbia*

"In the Realm of the Senses"
Purdue University*
University of Alberta*

"Putting Things in Contexts"*
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association

2001 "Empty Names and Gappy Propositions"
Society for Exact Philosophy

2000 Comments on Michael Nelson
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*

Teaching experience

Undergraduate

Ancient philosophy, Critical thinking, Descartes, History of analytic philosophy, Introduction to philosophy, Logic, Metaphysics, Ontology of art, Philosophy of art, Philosophy of language

Graduate

Frege, History of analytic philosophy, Metaphysics, Modal logic, Ontology of art, Philosophy of language, Philosophy of sports, Social ontology

Course development

Fundamentals of Philosophy of Language (Philosophy 216), University of Manitoba

Philosophy of Social Groups and Identities (Philosophy 335), University of Kansas

Grants, awards, and honors

Byron A. Alexander & John C. Wright Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award, University of Kansas, Spring 2026 (nominated)

Sabbatical, University of Kansas, Fall 2025

Humanities General Research Fund, University of Kansas, 2025–2026

Don and Pat Morrison Excellence in Teaching Award, Philosophy, University of Kansas, 2024–2025

Faculty Professional Leave, Ohio State University, Fall 2013

Standard Research Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), $47,350, 2004–2006, declined 2006–2007

Rudolf and Ina Carnap Essay Prize, Department of Philosophy, UCLA, 1998–1999, 2000–2001, 2001–2002

Robert M. Yost Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Philosophy, UCLA, 1999–2000

First Class Honours, McGill University, 1995–1996

Prince of Wales Gold Medal in Moral and Mental Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, McGill University, 1995–1996

Hugh M. Brock Scholarship, McGill University, 1993–1996

Refereeing

Conferences

Context 05, Canadian Philosophical Association, Graduate Conference in Aesthetics, Ohio Philosophical Association, Society for Exact Philosophy, Western Canadian Philosophical Association

Journals

Acta Analytica, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *Analytic Philosophy*, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, *Asian Journal of Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Australian Journal of Linguistics*, *British Journal of Aesthetics*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Critica*, *dialectica*, *Dialogue*, *Disputatio*, *Ergo, Erkenntnis*, *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, *Estetika*, *HOPOS*, *Inquiry*, *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy*, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Logique et Analyse*, *Metaphysics*, *Mind*, *Mind and Language*, *Norsk Filosofisk Tidsskrift*, *Noûs*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Perspectives*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Philosophical Exchanges*,

Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, *Ratio*, *Review of Symbolic Logic*, *Res Philosophica*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, *Thought*

Presses

Cambridge University Press, Continuum, de Gruyter, MIT, Oxford Bibliographies Online, Oxford University Press, Polity, Princeton University Press, Routledge

Department service (abridged) (* = Ohio State; ** = Manitoba)

Academic Program Committee, 2017–2019, 2020–2022

Annual Evaluation Committee, 2010–2012*, 2013–2015*, 2017–2018, 2020–2023, 2024–2025

Curriculum Committee, 2014–2015*

Faculty Advisor, Miscellaneous Metaphysics Student Group, 2015–2017*

Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate Philosophy Club, 2022–2023, 2024–2025

Graduate Admissions, 2006–2007*, 2009–2010*, 2014–2015*, 2023–2026

Graduate Committee, 2006–2007*, 2007–2008* (chair), 2008–2009*, 2023–2025 (director), Spring 2026 (director)

Placement Director, 2010–2013*, 2014–2016*

Research Committee, 2013–2014*, 2015–2016*

Robinson Essay Committee, 2019–2021, 2022–2024

Scheduling Committee, 2023–2026

Search Committee, 2004–2006**, 2007–2008*, 2022–2023

Teaching Evaluation Committee, 2008–2010*, 2012–2013*

Undergraduate Committee, 2016–2017*

Visiting Speakers' Committee, 2003–2006**, 2018–2021

University service (* = Ohio State)

Faculty Mentor, 2018–2019

Graduate Faculty Representative, PhD defense, 2007–2008* (Linguistics), 2009–2010* (Education)

Humanities General Research Fund Committee, 2019–2021

Research Excellence Initiative Committee, 2021–2022, 2022–2023 (chair)

Other service

Board of Directors, Canadian Philosophical Association, 2013–2015

Book Award Committee, American Philosophical Association, 2013–2014

Co-organizer, OSU-Maribor conference, Dubrovnik, 2013

Co-organizer, Workshop on Sexuality and Sexual Orientation, SLU-Madrid, 2026

Co-organizer, Western Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference, 2004–2005

Doctoral Fellowships Committee 2 (Humanities), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), 2004–2005

Editorial Board, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 2020–

Insight Grants, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), 2012–2014

Postdoctoral Fellowships Committee 1 (Humanities), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), 2007–2008

Program Committee, Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 2009–2010, 2018–2019 (chair)

Program Committee, Canadian Philosophical Association, 2016–2018

Promotion review, Auburn University, 2018–2019

Promotion review, UC Davis, 2016–2017

Promotion review, University of Minnesota, 2015–2016

Promotion review, University of Saskatchewan, 2013–2014

Promotion review, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, 2022–2023

Subject editor (Philosophy of language), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2007–

Tenure review, Ithaca College, 2013–2014

Tenure review, Lingnan University, 2016–2017

Tenure review, Memorial University Newfoundland, 2009–2010

Tenure review, UC Davis, 2011–2012

Tenure review, Union College, 2024–2025

Tenure review, University of Calgary, 2011–2012

Tenure review, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, 2015–2016

Tenure review, Virginia Tech, 2018–2019

External examinations

Cathal Ó Madagáin, *The Public Dimension of Meaning*, PhD, University of Toronto, 2010–2011

Steffen Borge, *Speaker's Meaning: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*, PhD, Syracuse University, 2009–2010

Stephanie Malik, "Perdurantism, Endurantism, and a New Puzzle of Coincidence," BA, Oberlin College, 2008–2009

Supervision

Dissertation (in progress), KU

Damian Fisher, 2024– ; Si-Won Song (advisor), 2023– ; Maziyar Afifi (advisor),

Spring 2026 –

Dissertation prospectus exam (in progress), KU

Ryan Lemasters, Spring 2026 –

Dissertation, KU

Clint Hurshman, *Artifact Functions: Theory and Applications*, 2025

Bada Kim, *Believing Rationally: Essays on Ideal Rationality, Epistemic Supererogation, and Intrapersonal Permissivism*, 2024

Francisco Pipa, *An Indeterminacy-Based Local Approach and Ontology for Quantum Theory*, 2024

Justin Mullins, *Quine's Methodology: Science, Logic, and Ontology*, 2023

Dissertation, Ohio State

Erin Mercurio (co-advisor), *Pippi Longstocking, Captain Ahab, and Other People: A Defense of Realism about Fictional Objects*, 2021

Eric de Araujo (co-advisor), *Different Samenesses: Essays on Non-Standard Views of Identity*, 2020

Chulmin Yoon (co-advisor), *Essays on De Jure Coreference*, 2020

Evan Woods (co-advisor), *The Problems of the Many*, 2019

Jennifer Gleason (co-advisor), *Mental Disorder: Ameliorating Stigmatization and Reconceptualizing Treatment*, 2019

Scott Brown (advisor), *Essays on Modality and Instantiation*, 2017

David Blanks (advisor), *The Metaphysics of Dispositions: A Case for Counterfactualism*, 2015

Ley Cray (advisor), *Modal Inconstancy: How Our Interests Influence How Things Could Be*, 2012

Cathleen Muller (advisor), *Harry Potter and the Rescue from Realism: A Novel Defense of Anti-Realism about Fictional Objects*, 2012

Patrick Reeder, *Infinitesimals for Metaphysics: Consequences for the Ontologies of Space and Time*, 2012

Salvatore Florio, *The Semantics of Plurals: A Defense of Singularism*, 2010

Michael Jaworski, *Thought without Language: An Interpretationist Approach to the Thinking Mind*, 2010

Dissertation prospectus exam, KU

Maziyar Afifi (advisor), 2025; Damian Fisher, 2023–2024; Si-Won Song, 2022–2023; Jihui Huang, 2021–2022; Bada Kim, 2020–2021; Gareth Fuller, 2018–2019

Dissertation prospectus exam, Ohio State

Erin Mercurio, 2018–2019; Chulmin Yoon, 2017–2018; Eric de Araujo (advisor), 2016–2017; Jennifer Gleason (co-advisor), 2016–2017; Giorgio Sbardolini, 2016–2017; Evan Woods (advisor), 2015–2016; Gregory Kierstead, 2013–2014 (Linguistics); Raleigh Miller (advisor),

2012–2013; David Blanks (advisor), 2011–2012; Scott Brown (advisor), 2010–2011; Ley Cray (advisor), 2008–2009; Patrick Reeder, 2008–2009; Cathleen Muller (advisor), 2007–2008

Candidacy exam, Ohio State

Erin Mercurio, 2017–2018; Ben Cleary (advisor), 2016–2017; Eric de Araujo (advisor), 2015–2016; Jennifer Gleason (co-advisor), 2015–2016; Giorgio Sbardolini, 2015–2016; Nathan Smith, 2015–2016; Chulmin Yoon (co-advisor), 2015–2016; Evan Woods (advisor), 2014–2015; Teresa Kouri, 2012–2013; Keren Wilson, 2012–2013; Raleigh Miller (advisor), 2011–2012; Eric Snyder, 2011–2012; David Blanks (advisor), 2010–2011; Scott Brown (advisor), 2009–2010; Patrick Hoffman, 2009–2010; Michael Martin, 2008–2009; Ley Cray (advisor), 2007–2008; Cathleen Muller, 2006–2007; Patrick Reeder, 2006–2007

Qualifying paper, KU

Ryan Lemasters (advisor), 2025; Maziyar Afifi (advisor), 2023

MA thesis, KU

Christian Pollock, "Is Knowledge Required for Virtue? A Critical Response to Julia Driver's Virtues of Ignorance," 2021–2022

Monica Casares (advisor), "Amending Haslanger's Theory of Race," 2020–2021

MA thesis, Manitoba

Joe LoVetri (advisor), "Metaphysics of Laws of Nature," 2005–2006

Dave McElhoes, "Systems of Parts and Persons: A Functionalist Approach to Personal Identity," 2005–2006

Sam Cowling (advisor), "Neither Simples nor Gunk," 2004–2005

Lowell Friesen (advisor), "A New Defence of Natural Class Trope Nominalism," 2004–2005

Mark Barber (advisor), "Sets and Fictions," 2003–2004

Lori Callaghan, "Artworks as Abstract Objects," 2003–2004

Dale C. Matthew, "Justification, Truth and Internalism," 2002–2003

Cynthia Read, "A Diachronic Identity Criterion for Artworks," 2002–2003

BA honors thesis, KU

Catherine O'Lear, "Transsexual Phenomenology: Reevaluating the Possibility of Gendered Embodiment," 2024

Vanna Legler, "Bioethics' Disability Problem: The Right to Good Deaths," 2023–2024

Weston Curnow, "An Inquiry into the American Sublime," 2023–2024

Jack Benkelman, "The Divided Mind: A Spinozan Account of the Implicit–Explicit Belief Divergence," 2022–2023

BA honors thesis, Ohio State

Laura Geracioti (advisor), "Fictional Names and Fictional Characters," 2016–2017

Kyrsten French (advisor), "A New Version of Physicalist Color Realism," 2012–2013

Gabbrielle Johnson (advisor), "Reference Magnetism and Macro-Naturalism," 2010–2011

Cosette Bons Welling, "Is It Daxing? The Effect of Learning Formats on Preschoolers' Acquisition of Novel Dynamic Relations" (Psychology), 2010–2011

Julian Condo, "Poetic Progress in the Odes of John Keats" (English), 2007–2008

Professional affiliations

American Philosophical Association, Canadian Philosophical Association