

# Maegan Fairchild

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## Research

### Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic

### Areas of Competence

Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics

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## Employment

### University of Michigan

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, *August 2020 - Present*

LSA Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellow, *2018-2020*

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## Education

### University of Southern California

Ph.D. Philosophy, August 2018

Dissertation: *Unlimited Ontology and Its Limits*

Chairs: Gabriel Uzquiano, John Hawthorne

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B.A. in Philosophy with Honors, *Summa Cum Laude*, May 2012

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## Publications

“Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissivism”, *Nous*, forthcoming.

“Varieties of Plenitude”, *Philosophy Compass*, 2020. doi: 10.1111/phc3.12654

“The Barest Flutter of the Smallest Leaf: Understanding Material Plenitude”, *Philosophical Review*, 2019. doi: 10.1215/00318108-7374932

“Against Conservatism in Metaphysics” with John Hawthorne, *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement*, 2018. doi: 10.1017/S1358246118000103

“A Paradox of Matter and Form”, *Thought*, 2017. doi: 10.1002/tht3.230

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## Honors & Awards

2019 – Philosophers Annual Selection for “Barest Flutter”  
*Selected as one of the ten best philosophy papers published in 2019.*

2018 – PhD Achievement Award, USC.  
*Awarded annually to six doctoral students university-wide.*

2016 – Award for Excellence in Teaching, USC.  
*Awarded to one teaching assistant per department.*

- 2015 – Award for Excellence in Teaching, USC.  
*Awarded to one teaching assistant per department.*
- 2014 – Dornsife Graduate Teaching Award, USC.  
*Awarded annually to four teaching assistants in College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.*

## Fellowships & Grants

- 2021-2022 – Harrington Faculty Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin.  
*University-wide research fellowship awarded to five scholars within eight years of their first tenure-track appointment, on the basis of departmental nomination.*
- 2020 – Rackham Curricular Development Supplemental Grant, UM. *(with Angela Sun)*
- 2017 - 2018 – Dissertation Completion Fellowship, USC.  
*Competitive university fellowship for advanced graduate students.*
- 2017 – Summer Research and Writing Grant, USC.
- 2017 – Provost’s Fellowship Travel and Research Award, USC.
- 2017 – Flewelling Summer Fellowship, USC.  
*Competitive departmental funding for summer research.*
- 2015 - 2016 – Graduate Fellow of the Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics, USC.
- 2015 – Flewelling Summer Fellowship, USC.
- 2015 – New Insights & Directions For Religious Epistemology Visiting Fellowship, Oxford.
- 2012 - 2017 – University Provost Doctoral Fellowship, USC.  
*Competitive five-year University Fellowship*

## Presentations

- \* indicates COVID-19 Postponements & Cancellations*  
*◇ indicates Philosophy Department Colloquia*

### **Titles TBD**

- Mar 2021 – UMMA Panel on *Art and Algorithmic Intelligence*
- June 2021 ◇ University of Hamburg
- Sept 2021 ◇ University of Pittsburgh

### **Incredible Ontology and the Maxim of Honesty**

- Mar 2021 ◇ Duke University
- Feb 2021 ◇ Boise State University
- July 2020 – Early Career Metaphysics Working Group I
- June 2020 – Group for Analytic Metaphysics and Epistemology, Texas A&M University
- \*June 2020 – Jowett Society; Oxford University

### **Algorithms and Authenticity**

- Feb 2021 - Boise State University (*Public Talk*)
- Mar 2021 - Guest at Rima Basu’s seminar on *Structural Injustice*; Claremont McKenna College

### **Hybrid Contingentism**

- Jan 2021 ◇ UNC Chapel Hill
- Oct 2020 – Metaphysics Bootcamp Virtual Workshop; Indiana University Bloomington
- Oct 2020 ◇ University of Texas, Austin

### **Plenitude, Combinatorialism, and Humility**

- Feb 2020 – Metaphysics & Epistemology Speaker Series, Princeton University  
\*March 2020 – Workshop on Material Plenitude; University of Texas, Austin

### **Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissivism**

- Feb 2020 ◊ University of Virginia  
Oct 2019 – Metaphysics and Epistemology Conference, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Sept 2019 ◊ University of Vermont  
Sept 2019 – Workshop in Metaphysics, Mind, & Language, University of Notre Dame  
Aug 2019 – Vancouver Summer Philosophy Workshop; Vancouver, British Columbia

### **No Substitutions: Explanation and Asymmetry in Plato’s *Euthyphro***

- April 2018 – Conference in Honor of Dr. James Leshner, UNC Chapel Hill

### **Against Conservatism in Metaphysics (with John Hawthorne)**

- March 2018 – Pacific APA, Book Symposium on Dan Korman’s *Objects*; San Diego, CA

### **Plenitude Without Universalism**

- June 2017 – Arché Philosophical Research Center, University of St Andrews; St Andrews, UK

### **Plenitude and Paradox**

- May 2016 – Graduate Women in Metaphysics Workshop; Northampton MA  
Nov 2015 – UCSB Philosophy Graduate Student Society, UC Santa Barbara  
March 2015 – SoCal PhilMath, PhilLogic, and Foundations of Mathematics Workshop; Irvine, CA

### **Minorities and Philosophy: Inclusive Pedagogy (with Liam Kofi Bright)**

- April 2015 – Pacific APA, American Association of Philosophy Teachers; Vancouver, British Columbia

### COMMENTS

- January 2020 – Kathrin Koslicki’s *Form, Matter, Substance*  
Eastern APA Book Symposium, Philadelphia, PA
- March 2019 – Kris McDaniel’s “Chain, chain, chain...”  
Vancouver Regress Conference, Simon Fraser University; Vancouver, British Columbia
- Feb 2019 – Ross Cameron’s “Metaphysical Explanation for Ontological Coherentists and Infnitists”  
Arizona Ranch Metaphysics Workshop; Tuscon, AZ
- June 2016 – Nina Emery’s “Against Radical Quantum Ontologies”  
Cambridge Midsummer Philosophy Workshop, Cambridge University; Cambridge, UK
- March 2016 – Callie Phillips’ “Quantificational Structure and the Substantivity of Ontological Disputes”  
Central APA; Chicago, IL
- Feb 2016 – Cruz Davis’ “Not a Matter of Space”  
USC/UCLA Graduate Conference

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### Visiting Activity & Workshops

- 2020-2021 – Early Career Metaphysics Virtual Working Group; *co-organized with Li Kang*  
March 2020 – TEAM Workshop Invited Participant; Princeton University

- Jan 2020 – Arizona Ranch Metaphysics Workshop  
June 2019 – Pre-Tenure Women In Philosophy Workshop; Boston, MA  
July 2017 – Ontology and Metaontology, CEU Summer Institute; Budapest, Hungary  
Summer 2017 – *Arché Visiting Student*, Arché Research Centre for Logic, Language, Metaphysics, and Epistemology; University of St Andrews.  
August 2016 – Metaphysical Mayhem; Rutgers University  
Summer 2015 – *Academic Visitor*, New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology; University of Oxford.
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## Teaching Experience

### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

- Spring 2021 – Introduction to Metaphysics (*partnered with the University of Michigan Museum of Arts Curriculum/Collection Project*)  
Modal Logic (*Graduate & Undergraduate*)  
Fall 2020 – Introduction to Philosophy  
Honors Introduction to Logic  
Spring 2020 – Introduction to Philosophy  
Spring 2019 – Revisionary Ontology (*Graduate Seminar*)

- Independent Studies* – Readings Course (*Graduate*): Social Ontology, for Gillian Gray  
Readings Course (*Graduate*): Metaphysics of Free Will, for Emma Hardy  
Honors Conversion (*Undergraduate*), for Allison Kolpak

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

- Fall 2014 – Elementary Formal Logic I: Propositional  
Fall 2014 – Elementary Formal Logic II: Predicate and Beyond
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## Teaching Outreach

- 2019-2020 – Supervisor, CEAL Course Development Project (*with Laura Soter*)  
Worked with Laura Soter to develop an outreach-oriented introductory philosophy course, in collaboration with Michigan’s “Philosophy With Kids” program.
- Fall 2017 – Philosophy of Art, *Los Angeles LGBT Youth Education Center*  
Developed and taught a six-session mini-course at the Los Angeles LGBT Youth Center as a part of my work with “Corrupt The Youth” LA, an education outreach program with the mission of bringing philosophy to those who lack access to it.
- 2013- 2016 – USC Logic Web, *Lead Tutorial Designer*  
Transformed lecture content into a series of interactive visual tutorials for USC LogicWeb; a free online resource designed to support the study of propositional and predicate logic.

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## Leadership & Service

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2021 - 2022 – APA Nominating Committee, Central Division
- 2018 - 2019 – Mentor, Job Candidate Mentoring Project for Women in Philosophy
- 2016 - 2019 – Board of Advisors, Minorities and Philosophy
- 2017 - 2018 – Assistant Organizer, “Corrupt the Youth” Los Angeles
- 2013 - 2016 – Co-Founder and Organizer, Minorities and Philosophy

### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2021 – LSA Nominating Committee, University of Michigan
- 2017 - 2018 – Director of Academic Affairs, USC Graduate Student Government
- 2017 - 2018 – Member, USC Graduate School Advisory Council
- 2017 - 2018 – Member, Academic Affairs Committee of the USC Board of Trustees
- 2016 - 2017 – Senator, USC Graduate Student Government
- 2016 - 2017 – Member, USC University Mental Health Student Advisory Board
- 2016 - 2017 – Member, USC GSG Campus Affairs Committee
- 2016 - 2017 – Member, USC GSG Academic Affairs Committee

### DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

#### *University of Michigan*

- 2020 - 2021 – Job Placement Committee
- 2020 - 2021 – Training & Evaluation Committee for Graduate Student Instructors
- 2019 - Present – Philosophy Faculty Working Group Founder & Organizer

#### *University of Southern California*

- 2016 - 2017 – Vice President, USC Philosophy Graduate Student Association
- 2014 -2016 – Co-Organizer, Philosophy Graduate Student Peer Mentoring Program
- 2014 - 2015 – President, USC Philosophy Graduate Student Association
- 2014 - 2015 – Student Representative, Departmental Colloquium Committee
- 2013 - 2016 – Chapter Representative, USC Minorities and Philosophy Chapter

### REFEREEING

- Journals – *Journal of Symbolic Logic, Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophical Quarterly, Disputato, Metaphysics Synthese, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- Conferences – Mount Holyoke Summer Philosophy Conference (2020), USC/UCLA Graduate Conference (2013-2016)