

Maegan Fairchild

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Research

Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic

Areas of Competence

Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics

Employment

University of Michigan

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, *August 2020 - Present*

LSA Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellow, *2018-2020*

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

Publications

“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

Honors & Awards

2019 – Philosophers Annual Selection for “Barest Flutter”
Chosen 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 General Education Graduate Assistant Award, USC.
University award given annually to four teaching assistants in Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences on the basis of departmental nomination

Fellowships & Grants

- 2020 – Rackham Curricular Development Supplemental Grant, UM. (*with Angela Sun*)
- 2017 - 2018 – Dissertation Completion Fellowship, USC.
Competitive university fellowship for advanced graduate students.
- 2017 – USC Graduate School 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, University of Oxford.
- 2012 - 2017 – University Provost Doctoral Fellowship, USC.
Competitive five-year University Fellowship

Presentations

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

Hybrid Contingentism

- Oct 2020 – Metaphysics Bootcamp Virtual Workshop; Indiana University Bloomington
Oct 2020 ◇ University of Texas, Austin

Incredible Ontology and the Maxim of Honesty

- 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
*Apr 2020 ◇ Iris Einheuser Lecture, Duke University

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, VA

- Oct 2019 – Metaphysics and Epistemology Conference, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Sept 2019 ◊ University of Vermont, VT
- Sept 2019 – Workshop in Metaphysics, Mind, & Language, University of Notre Dame, IN
- 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 Lesher, UNC Chapel Hill ; Chapel Hill, NC

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; Santa Barbara CA
- 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 Infinitists”
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; USC

Visiting Activity & Workshops

- Fall 2020 – Early Career Metaphysics Working Group II; *co-organized with Li Kang*
- Summer 2020 – Early Career Metaphysics Working Group I; *organized by 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 2016 – *Academic Visitor*, New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology; University of Oxford.

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*)

Advising – 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

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.

Leadership & Service

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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

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, Synthese, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
Conferences – Mount Holyoke Summer Philosophy Conference (2020), USC/UCLA Graduate Conference (2013-2016)