

Maegan Fairchild

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Appointments

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan, *2025 - present*
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan, *2020 - 2025*
LSA Collegiate Fellow, University of Michigan, *2018-2020*

Visiting

Harrington Faculty Research Fellow, University of Texas at Austin, *2021 - 2022*

Education

University of Southern California, Ph.D. Philosophy, *August 2018*
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A. Philosophy with Honors, *May 2012*

Publications

‘Symmetry and Hybrid Contingentism’. in Peter Fritz and Nicholas K. Jones (eds.), *Higher-Order Metaphysics*. Oxford University Press. June 2024.

‘Plenitude, Coincidence, and Humility’. *Philosophical Perspectives*, 36: 59 - 77. December 2022. doi: 10.1111/phpe.12161

‘Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissivism’. *Nous*, 56 (3):619-638. September 2022. doi: 10.1111/nous.12376

‘Varieties of Plenitude’. *Philosophy Compass*, 15 (3):1–11. March 2020. doi: 10.1111/phc3.12654

‘The Barest Flutter of the Smallest Leaf: Understanding Material Plenitude’. *Philosophical Review*, 128 (2):143-178. April 2019. doi: 10.1215/00318108-7374932

‘Against Conservatism in Metaphysics.’ *with John Hawthorne*. *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement*, 82: 45-75. July 2018. doi: 10.1017/S1358246118000103

‘A Paradox of Matter and Form’. *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*, 6 (1):33-42. March 2017. doi: 10.1002/tht3.230

Book Reviews

Review of *Bounds of Possibility: Puzzles of Modal Variation*, by Cian Dorr, John Hawthorne, and Juhani Yli-Vakkuri. *Philosophical Review*, October 2023.

Select Works in Progress

‘Maximalist Design’	‘Doxastic Rights and Wrongs’ <i>with Renee Jorgensen</i>
‘Sentimental Kinds’	‘Fluxxiness and Inscription: Two Kinds of Unity’ <i>with Thi Nguyen</i>
‘Fuzzy Plenitude’	‘Incredible Ontology’

Honors & Awards

- 2025 – Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award, University of Michigan — *selected by the LSA Executive Committee from among those recommended for promotion to associate, in recognition of outstanding undergraduate teaching.*
- 2020 – *Philosopher’s Annual* selection for “Barest Flutter of the Smallest Leaf: Understanding Material Plenitude”. —*selected as one of the ten best philosophy papers published in 2019.*
- 2018 – PhD Achievement Award, University of Southern California — *awarded to six doctoral students university-wide.*
- 2016 – Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Southern California — *awarded to one teaching assistant per department.*
- 2015 – Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Southern California.
- 2014 – Dornsife Graduate Teaching Award, University of Southern California — *awarded to four teaching assistants in College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.*

Fellowships & Grants

- 2021-2022 – Harrington Faculty Research Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin — *fully funded university research fellowship awarded to five external scholars within eight years of their first tenure-track appointment.*
- 2020 – Rackham Curricular Development Supplemental Grant, University of Michigan (*with Angela Sun*)
- 2017 - 2018 – USC Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Southern California
- 2017 – Summer Research and Writing Grant, University of Southern California
- 2017 – Provost’s Fellowship Travel and Research Award, University of Southern California
- 2017 – Flewelling Summer Research Fellowship, University of Southern California
- 2015 - 2016 – Graduate Fellow of the Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics at USC
- 2015 – Flewelling Summer Research Fellowship, University of Southern California
- 2015 – New Insights & Directions For Religious Epistemology Visiting Fellowship, Oxford
- 2012 - 2017 – Provost’s Doctoral Fellowship, University of Southern California

Presentations

- * *indicates COVID-19 Related Cancellations*
- ◇ *indicates Philosophy Department Colloquia*

SCHEDULED AND UPCOMING

March 2026 · “Sentimental Kinds”, Philosophy Mountain Workshop

April 2026 · “Choice and Ontological Responsibility”, Johns Hopkins Metaphysics Workshop

Sentimental Kinds

June 2025 · Metaphysics in the Blue Ridge; Virginia Tech

March 2025 · 4th Annual SoCal Metaphysics Network; UC Irvine

Aug 2024 · International Wittgenstein Symposium: Facets of Reality, Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria

Apr 2024 · Princeton Metaphysics Conference

Doxastic Rights and Wrongs *with Renee Jorgensen*

May 2025 · Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop; University of Alabama

Fluxxiness and Inscription: Two Kinds of Unity *with Thi Nguyen*

Feb 2025 · Central APA Invited Symposium on “Rigidity, Centralization and Diversity: The Philosophy of Bureaucracy and Scale”

Apr 2023 · Early Career Women in Metaphysics Working Group IV

Oct 2022 ◇ University of Washington, Seattle

Maximalist Design

Oct 2024 ◇ University of Colorado, Boulder

May 2024 · “Alien Structure: Language and Reality” Workshop; Uppsala University, Sweden

Mar 2024 ◇ University of Massachusetts, Amherst

July 2023 · Higher-Order Metaphysics Workshop; University of Oxford

Sep 2023 · Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics; Indianapolis, IN

(How) Does Fullness Explain?

Sept 2024 · Workshop on “Idealism, Rationalism, and Explanation”; University of British Columbia

Sep 2022 · Workshop on Circularity and Regress; University of Virginia

Fuzzy Plenitude

June 2022 · 6th Italian Conference in Analytic Metaphysics and Ontology (*Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA) Keynote Lecture*)

Sep 2021 ◇ University of Pittsburgh

June 2021 ◇ University of Hamburg

Incredible Ontology

Mar 2022 ◇ Theoretical Philosophy Workshop; University of Chicago

Mar 2021 ◇ Duke University

Feb 2021 ◇ Boise State University

July 2020 · Early Career Women in Metaphysics Working Group I

June 2020 · Group for Analytic Metaphysics and Epistemology; Texas A&M

June 2020 · Jowett Society; University of Oxford (*)

Plenitude, Coincidence, and Humility

Mar 2022 ◇ MIT

Feb 2020 · Metaphysics & Epistemology Speaker Series; Princeton University

Mar 2020 · Workshop on Material Plenitude; University of Texas, Austin (*)

Symmetry and Hybrid Contingentism

Jan 2022 ◇ Texas A&M

Mar 2021 · Early Career Women in Metaphysics Working Group III

Jan 2021 ◇ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Oct 2020 · Metaphysics Bootcamp Virtual Workshop; Indiana University Bloomington

Oct 2020 ◇ University of Texas, Austin

On TikTok: Algorithms and Authenticity

Feb 2021 · Boise State University (*Public Talk*)

Mar 2021 · *Structural Injustice* Seminar; Claremont McKenna College

Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissivism

- Feb 2020 ◊ University of Virginia
Oct 2019 · Metaphysics and Epistemology Conference; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Sep 2019 ◊ University of Vermont
Sep 2019 · Workshop in Metaphysics, Mind, & Language; University of Notre Dame
Aug 2019 · Vancouver Summer Philosophy Workshop; Vancouver, British Columbia
Feb 2018 ◊ University of North Carolina Wilmington
Feb 2018 ◊ Cornell University
Feb 2018 ◊ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Jan 2018 ◊ University of Rochester

No Substitutions: Explanation and Asymmetry in Plato's *Euthyphro*

- Apr 2018 · Conference in Honor of Dr. James Lesher; UNC Chapel Hill

Against Conservatism in Metaphysics with John Hawthorne

- Mar 2018 · Pacific APA, Book Symposium on Dan Korman's *Objects*; San Diego, CA

Plenitude Without Universalism

- July 2017 · Ontology and Metaontology CEU Summer Institute; Budapest, Hungary
June 2017 · Arché Reading Retreat; University of St Andrews

Plenitude and Paradox

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

Media and Public Facing

- Jan 2024 - Interviewed in "The Ferrari of Theseus: Philosophy and a \$ 1.87M Pile of Parts" by Eric Weiner (Haggerty Media) *Folio Eddie Award Finalist*
Dec 2021 - Interviewed in "Metaphysics in the Museum" by Gina Balibera (LSA News Online)

Comments and Special Panels

- April 2025 · Martin Glazier's "Perspectival Objects". Princeton Metaphysics Workshop.
Feb 2023 · Cian Dorr, John Hawthorne, and Juhani Yli-Vakkuri's *Bounds of Possibility: Puzzles of Modal Variation*. Central APA Book Symposium; Denver, CO.
Nov 2022 · Comments on Jaime Castillo-Gamboa's "The Argument from Determinate Vagueness". USC/Shandong University Remote Conference.
Apr 2022 · Panel on *Non-Causal Dependence* at the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, with Robin Dembroff, Shamik Dasgupta, Issa Kohler-Hausman, and Fredrick Eberheart. University of California, Berkeley; Berkeley, CA.
Mar 2021 · University of Michigan Museum of Art Panel on *Art and Algorithmic Intelligence*.
Jan 2020 · Kathrin Koslicki's *Form, Matter, Substance*. Eastern APA Book Symposium; Philadelphia, PA.
Mar 2019 · Comments on Kris McDaniel's "Chain, chain, chain...". Vancouver Regress Conference, Simon Fraser University; Vancouver, British Columbia.
Feb 2019 · Comments on Ross Cameron's "Metaphysical Explanation for Ontological Coherentists and Infinitists". Arizona Ranch Metaphysics Workshop; Tuscon, AZ.

- June 2016 · Comments on Nina Emery’s “Against Radical Quantum Ontologies”. Cambridge Midsummer Philosophy Workshop, Cambridge University; Cambridge, UK.
- Mar 2016 · Comments on Callie Phillips’ “Quantificational Structure and the Substantivity of Ontological Disputes”. Central APA; Chicago, IL.
- Feb 2016 · Comments on Cruz Davis’ “Not a Matter of Space”. USC/UCLA Graduate Conference.
- Apr 2015 · AAPT Panel on Inclusive Pedagogy *with Liam Kofi Bright*. Pacific APA; Vancouver, British Columbia.

Workshop and Visiting Activity

- 2020-present – Early Career Women in Metaphysics Virtual Working Group; *co-organized with Li Kang*
- March 2020 – *Invited Participant*, TEAM Workshop on Epistemology and Metaphysics; Princeton University
- June 2019 – Workshop for Pre-Tenure Women In Philosophy; Boston, MA
- July 2017 – CEU Summer Institute on Ontology and Metaontology; Budapest, Hungary
- Summer 2017 – *Visiting Student*, Arché Research Centre for Logic, Language, Metaphysics, and Epistemology; University of St Andrews.
- August 2016 – Metaphysical Mayhem Summer Workshop; Rutgers University
- Summer 2015 – *Academic Visitor*, New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology; University of Oxford

Teaching and Advising

- Fall 2025 – Topics in Metaphysics
 - Candidacy Seminar (*graduate*)
 - Winter 2025 – Modal Logic (*graduate & undergraduate*)
 - Fall 2024 – Proseminar (*graduate*)
 - Honors Introduction to Logic
 - Fall 2023 – Proseminar (*graduate*)
 - Winter 2023 – Optimistic Metaphysics (*graduate*)
 - Fall 2022 – Introduction to Philosophy
 - Topics in Metaphysics
 - Winter 2021 – Introduction to Metaphysics (*selected for UMMA’s Curriculum/Collection*)
 - Modal Logic (*graduate & undergraduate*)
 - Fall 2020 – Introduction to Philosophy
 - Honors Introduction to Logic
 - Winter 2020 – Introduction to Philosophy
 - Winter 2019 – Revisionary Ontology (*graduate*)
- Graduate Committees.* Emma Hardy (Chair). Gillian Gray (Co-Chair). Gabrielle Kerbel (Member). Alison Weinberger (Transition Committee Member). Valerie Trudel (Transition Committee Member). Lila Graham (Transition Committee Member). Kate Lohnes (Wisconsin-Madison, External Member). Alice Kelly (Member, *defended 2024*).
- Teaching Mentor.* Gabrielle Kerbel (CRLT Certificate, 2024). Francisco Calderón (CRLT Certificate, 2023). Gillian Gray (CRLT Certificate, 2022). Ariana Peruzzi (CRLT Certificate, 2021). Laura Soter (CRLT Certificate, 2020).

Individual Instruction. Readings Course (*Graduate*): Modal Normativism, for Lila Graham
Independent Study (*Graduate*): Topics in Modality and Explanation, for Lila Graham
Independent Study (*Graduate*): Topics in Metaphysics and Ontology, for Alison Weinberger
Readings Course (*Graduate, Co-Directed*): Naturalism in Metaphysics, for Gabrielle Kerbel
Readings Course (*Graduate*): Metaphysics of Food, for Emma Hardy
Independent Study (*Graduate*): Social Ontology and Invisible Identities, for Gillian Gray
Independent Study (*Graduate*): Metaphysics of Free Will, for Emma Hardy
Honors Thesis (*Undergraduate*), for Irene Wang
Independent Study (*Undergraduate*): Fundamentality and Dependence, for Quinn Allchin

Curricular Outreach

- 2019-2020 – Supervisor, CEAL Course Development Project (with Laura Soter). *Supervised the early development of an outreach-oriented introductory philosophy course, in collaboration with Michigan’s “Philosophy With Kids” program.*
- 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. This course was a part of work with the Los Angeles chapter of Corrupt The Youth, an education outreach program with the mission of bringing philosophy to those who lack access to it.*
- 2013- 2016 – Lead Tutorial Designer for USC Logic Web. *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

- 2023 - Present – Associate Editor, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*
- 2020 - Present – Early Career Women in Metaphysics Working Group Coordinator (*with Li Kang*)
- 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. *Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) is an international organization established in 2013 to examine and address issues of minority participation in academic 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

- 2025 - Present – Graduate Placement Chair
- 2022 - Present – Graduate Professionalization Chair
- 2020 - 2021 – Graduate Placement Committee
- 2020 - 2021 – Training & Evaluation Committee for Graduate Student Instructors
- 2019 - 2020 – Philosophy Faculty Working Group Organizer
- 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
- 2013 - 2016 – Chapter Representative, USC Minorities and Philosophy Chapter

REFEREEING

Analytic Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Disputato, Erkenntnis, European Journal of Philosophy, European Research Council, Feminist Philosophy Quarterly, Inquiry, Journal of Symbolic Logic, Metaphysics, Oxford University Press, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Princeton University Press, Synthese