

Maegan Fairchild

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Appointments

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

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](https://doi.org/10.1111/phpe.12161)
- ‘Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissivism’. *Nous*, 56 (3):619-638. September 2022. doi: [10.1111/nous.12376](https://doi.org/10.1111/nous.12376)
- ‘Varieties of Plenitude’. *Philosophy Compass*, 15 (3):1–11. March 2020. doi: [10.1111/phc3.12654](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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.

Honors & Awards

- 2020 – *Philosopher’s Annual* selection for “Barest Flutter of the Smallest Leaf: Understanding Material Plenitude”.
- 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.*
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Fellowships & Grants

- 2021-2022 – Harrington Faculty Research Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin — *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
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Presentations

* *indicates COVID-19 Related Cancellations*

◇ *indicates Philosophy Department Colloquia*

TBD

Feb 2025 · Central APA (Invited Symposium on Thi Nguyen)

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

(How) Does Fullness Explain?

Sept 2024 · Workshop on “Idealism, Rationalism, and Explanation”, UBC

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

Sentimental Kinds

Aug 2024 · Annual Wittgenstein Symposium: Facets of Reality – Contemporary Debates, Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria

Apr 2024 · Princeton Metaphysics Conference

Maximalist Design

Oct 2024 ◇ University of Colorado, Boulder

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

Mar 2024 ◇ University of Massachusetts Amherst

July 2023 · Oxford Higher-Order Metaphysics Workshop

Sep 2023 · Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (MAWM)

Fluxxiness and Inscription *with Thi Nguyen*

Apr 2023 · Early Career Women in Metaphysics Working Group IV

Oct 2022 ◇ University of Washington, Seattle

Fuzzy Plenitude

June 2022 · SIFA Lecture at the Sixth Italian Conference in Analytic Metaphysics
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; Oxford University (*)

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 · Guest at Rima Basu's seminar on *Structural Injustice*; 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
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Comments and Special Panels

- 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 Infnitists". 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.
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Workshops & 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.
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Teaching Experience

- at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*
Fall 2024 – Proseminar (*graduate*)
– Honors Introduction to Logic

- Fall 2023 – Proseminar (*graduate*)
- Winter 2023 – Optimistic Metaphysics (*graduate*)
- Fall 2022 – Introduction to Philosophy
 - Advanced 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). Alice Kelly (Member). Gabrielle Kerbel (Transition Committee Member). Alison Weinberger (Transition Committee Member). Valerie Trudel (Transition Committee Member). Kent Mussell (UT Austin, External Member).

Teaching Mentor. Francisco Calderón (CRLT Certificate, 2023). Gillian Gray (CRLT Certificate, 2022). Ariana Peruzzi (CRLT Certificate, 2021). Laura Soter (CRLT Certificate, 2020).

Individual Instruction. Independent Study (*Graduate*): Topics in Metaphysics, for Lila Graham
 Independent Study (*Graduate*): Topics in Metaphysics, 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

Teaching 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.
- 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. 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 – 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

- 2023 - Present – Associate Editor, *Journal of the APA*
- 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 created 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

at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- 2022 - Present – Graduate Professionalization Chair
- 2020 - 2021 – Job Placement Committee
- 2020 - 2021 – Training & Evaluation Committee for Graduate Student Instructors
- 2019 - 2020 – Philosophy Faculty Working Group Organizer

at the 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

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, Synthese