

# 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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## Appointments

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

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## Education

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

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## Publications

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

“Symmetry and Hybrid Contingentism”, to appear in *Higher-Order Metaphysics* (OUP), eds. Peter Fritz and Nicholas K. Jones, forthcoming.

“Plenitude, Coincidence, and Humility”, *Phil Perspectives*, forthcoming.

“Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissivism”, *Nous*, 2022. doi: 10.1111/nous.12376

“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

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*

## Fellowships & Grants

- 2021-2022 – Harrington Faculty Research Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin — *university-wide 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 Postponements & Cancellations*

*◇ indicates Philosophy Department Colloquia*

TBD

- Sep 2022 – UVA Circularity and Regress Workshop
- Sep 2022 – Eastham Philosophy Workshop; Boston, MA
- Mar 2023 – Pacific APA Symposium on Modality; San Francisco, CA
- Apr 2023 – Princeton Metaphysics Conference
- “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
- “Hybrid Contingentism”
- Jan 2022 ◇ Texas A&M
- Mar 2021 – Early Career Women in Metaphysics Working Group III
- Jan 2021 ◇ UNC Chapel Hill
- Oct 2020 – Metaphysics Bootcamp Virtual Workshop; Indiana University Bloomington
- Oct 2020 ◇ University of Texas, Austin
- “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

- “Fuzzy Plenitude”  
 Sept 2021 ◊ University of Pittsburgh  
 June 2021 ◊ University of Hamburg
- “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  
 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*”  
 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”  
 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  
 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
- Apr 2022 – Panel on *Non-Causal Dependence* at the Simons Institute for Computing (Berkeley), with Robin Dembroff, Shamik Dasgupta, Issa Kohler-Hausman, and Fredrick Eberheart
- 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 – 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
- Mar 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
- Apr 2015 – AAPT Panel on Inclusive Pedagogy (*with Liam Kofi Bright*)

## Visiting Activity & Workshops

- Jan 2022 – Arizona Ranch Metaphysics Workshop Invited Participant
  - March 2020 – TEAM Workshop Invited Participant; Princeton University
  - Jan 2020 – Arizona Ranch Metaphysics Workshop Invited Participant
  - 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

*at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

- Fall 2022 – Introduction to Philosophy
  - Advanced Topics in Metaphysics
- Spring 2021 – Introduction to Metaphysics (*selected for UMMA's Curriculum/Collection*)
  - Modal Logic (*graduate & undergraduate*)
- Fall 2020 – Introduction to Philosophy
  - Honors Introduction to Logic
- Spring 2020 – Introduction to Philosophy
- Spring 2019 – Revisionary Ontology (*graduate seminar*)

*at the 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

- 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

### 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 - 2023 – 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

Publications and Grants– Oxford University Press, *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, *Philosophical Review*, *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Disputato*, *Metaphysics*, *Synthese*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, European Research Council

Conferences – Mount Holyoke Summer Philosophy Conference (2020), USC/UCLA Graduate Conference (2013-2016)