

Maegan Fairchild

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Research

Areas of Specialization — Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic
Areas of Competence — Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics

Appointments

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

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’. Forthcoming in *Higher-Order Metaphysics*, edited by Peter Fritz and Nicholas K. Jones. Oxford University Press.

‘Plenitude, Coincidence, and Humility’. *Philosophical Perspectives*, forthcoming.

‘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

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 Postponements & Cancellations

◇ indicates Philosophy Department Colloquia

TBD

Mar 2023 · Pacific APA Symposium on Modality; San Francisco, CA

Apr 2023 · Princeton Metaphysics Conference

Fluxy Things, Inscribed Things *with Thi Nguyen*

Oct 2022 ◇ University of Washington, Seattle

(How) Does Fullness Explain?

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

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

Fuzzy Plenitude

June 2022 · SIFA Lecture at the Sixth Italian Conference in Analytic Metaphysics

Sept 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

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

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

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 Leshner; 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

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 (TBD). 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.

Visiting Activity & Workshops

- 2020-present – Early Career Women in Metaphysics Virtual Working Group; *co-organized with Li Kang*
- 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.

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*)
- at the 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*)
Collaborated on 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. Together, the tutorials cover the core of a standard introductory logic course.

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 – Organizer, Minorities and Philosophy
Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) is an international organization created to examine and address issues of minority participation in academic philosophy. Since its creation in 2013, MAP has grown to support chapters in more than 180 philosophy departments worldwide.

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

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