

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

“Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissivism”, *Nous*, forthcoming.
“Varieties of Plenitude”, *Philosophy Compass*, 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*, 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*, 2018. doi: [10.1017/S1358246118000103](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1358246118000103)
“A Paradox of Matter and Form”, *Thought*, 2017. doi: [10.1002/tht3.230](https://doi.org/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.*

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
- 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 Postponements & Cancellations*

◇ *indicates Philosophy Department Colloquia*

“Fuzzy Plenitude”

Sept 2021 ◇ University of Pittsburgh

June 2021 ◇ University of Hamburg

“Incredible Ontology and the Maxim of Honesty”

Mar 2021 ◇ Duke University

Feb 2021 ◇ Boise State University

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

“Algorithms and Authenticity”

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

Mar 2021 - Guest at Rima Basu’s seminar on *Structural Injustice*; Claremont McKenna College

“Hybrid Contingentism”

Jan 2021 ◇ UNC Chapel Hill

Oct 2020 – Metaphysics Bootcamp Virtual Workshop; Indiana University Bloomington

Oct 2020 ◇ University of Texas, Austin

“Plenitude, Combinatorialism, and Humility”

Feb 2020 – Metaphysics & Epistemology Speaker Series, Princeton University

*Mar 2020 – Workshop on Material Plenitude; University of Texas, Austin

“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

Comments and Special Panels

- 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 Infinitists”
 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*)
 Pacific APA; Vancouver, British Columbia

Visiting Activity & Workshops

- 2020-2021 – Early Career Metaphysics Virtual Working Group; *co-organized with 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 2015 – *Academic Visitor*, New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology; University of Oxford.

Teaching Experience

- at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*
- Spring 2021 – Introduction to Metaphysics (*selected for UMMA’s Curriculum/Collection*)
 – Modal Logic

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

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

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
2020 - 2021 – Job Placement Committee

2020 - 2021 – Training & Evaluation Committee for Graduate Student Instructors
2019 - Present – Philosophy Faculty Working Group Founder & 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

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

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