

Maegan Fairchild

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Research

Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic

Areas of Competence

Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics

Employment

University of Michigan

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, *August 2020 - Present*

LSA Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellow, *2018-2020*

Education

University of Southern California

Ph.D. Philosophy, August 2018

Dissertation: *Unlimited Ontology and Its Limits*

Chairs: Gabriel Uzquiano, John Hawthorne

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B.A. in Philosophy with Honors, *Summa Cum Laude*, May 2012

Publications

“Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissivism”, *Nous*, forthcoming.

“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

Honors & Awards

2019 – Philosophers Annual Selection for “Barest Flutter”

Chosen as one of the ten best philosophy papers published in 2019.

2018 – PhD Achievement Award, USC.

Awarded annually to six doctoral students university-wide.

- 2016 – Award for Excellence in Teaching, USC.
Awarded to one teaching assistant per department.
- 2015 – Award for Excellence in Teaching, USC.
Awarded to one teaching assistant per department.
- 2014 – Dornsife General Education Graduate Assistant Award, USC.
University award given annually to four teaching assistants in Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences on the basis of departmental nomination.

Fellowships & Grants

- 2021-2022 – Harrington Faculty Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin.
University-wide research fellowship awarded to five scholars within eight years of their first tenure-track appointment, on the basis of departmental nomination.
- 2020 – Rackham Curricular Development Supplemental Grant, UM. (*with Angela Sun*)
- 2017 - 2018 – Dissertation Completion Fellowship, USC.
Competitive university fellowship for advanced graduate students.
- 2017 – USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant, USC.
- 2017 – Provost’s Fellowship Travel and Research Award, USC.
- 2017 – Flewelling Summer Fellowship, USC.
Competitive departmental funding for summer research.
- 2015 - 2016 – Graduate Fellow of the Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics, USC.
- 2015 – Flewelling Summer Fellowship, USC.
- 2015 – New Insights & Directions For Religious Epistemology Visiting Fellowship, University of Oxford.
- 2012 - 2017 – University Provost Doctoral Fellowship, USC.
Competitive five-year University Fellowship

Presentations

** indicates COVID-19 Postponements & Cancellations*
◇ indicates Philosophy Department Colloquia

Titles TBD

- Mar 2021 – UMMA Panel on *Art and Algorithmic Intelligence*
June 2021 ◇ University of Hamburg
Sept 2021 ◇ University of Pittsburgh

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

*March 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*

April 2018 – Conference in Honor of Dr. James Lesher, UNC Chapel Hill

Against Conservatism in Metaphysics (*with John Hawthorne*)

March 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

March 2015 – SoCal PhilMath, PhilLogic, and Foundations of Mathematics Workshop; Irvine, CA

Minorities and Philosophy: Inclusive Pedagogy (*with Liam Kofi Bright*)

April 2015 – Pacific APA, American Association of Philosophy Teachers; Vancouver, British Columbia

COMMENTS

January 2020 – Kathrin Koslicki's *Form, Matter, Substance*

Eastern APA Book Symposium, Philadelphia, PA

March 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
- March 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
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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.
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Teaching Experience

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

- Spring 2021 – Introduction to Metaphysics (*partnered with the University of Michigan Museum of Arts Curriculum/Collection Project*)
Modal Logic (*Graduate & Undergraduate*)
- Fall 2020 – Introduction to Philosophy
Honors Introduction to Logic
- Spring 2020 – Introduction to Philosophy
- Spring 2019 – Revisionary Ontology (*Graduate Seminar*)

- Independent Studies* – Readings Course (*Graduate*): Social Ontology, for Gillian Gray
Readings Course (*Graduate*): Metaphysics of Free Will, for Emma Hardy
Honors Conversion (*Undergraduate*), for Allison Kolpak

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.

Leadership & Service

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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

University of Michigan

2020 - 2021 – Job Placement Committee

2020 - 2021 – Training & Evaluation Committee for Graduate Student Instructors

2019 - Present – Philosophy Faculty Working Group Founder & Organizer

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 – *Journal of Symbolic Logic, Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophical Quarterly, Disputatio, Metaphysics Synthese, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy*

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