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

'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

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.*

Fellowships & Grants

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

Presentations

* indicates COVID-19 Related Cancellations

◇ indicates Philosophy Department Colloquia

SCHEDULED AND UPCOMING

Feb 2025 · **"Sentimental Kinds"**, Central APA Invited Symposium

March 2025 · **"Fuzzy Plenitude"**, 4th Annual SoCal Metaphysics Network; UC Irvine

May 2025 · **"Doxastic Rights and Wrongs"** *with Renee Jorgensen*, Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop; University of Alabama

Maximalist Design

Oct 2024 ◇ University of Colorado, Boulder

May 2024 · "Alien Structure: Language and Reality" Workshop; Uppsala University, Sweden

Mar 2024 ◇ University of Massachusetts, Amherst

July 2023 · Higher-Order Metaphysics Workshop; University of Oxford

Sep 2023 · Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics; Indianapolis, IN

(How) Does Fullness Explain?

Sept 2024 · Workshop on "Idealism, Rationalism, and Explanation"; University of British Columbia

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

Sentimental Kinds
Aug 2024 · International Wittgenstein Symposium: Facets of Reality, Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria
Apr 2024 · Princeton Metaphysics Conference

Fluxxiness and Inscription: Two Kinds of Unity *with Thi Nguyen*
Apr 2023 · Early Career Women in Metaphysics Working Group IV
Oct 2022 ◇ University of Washington, Seattle

Fuzzy Plenitude
June 2022 · 6th Italian Conference in Analytic Metaphysics and Ontology *(Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA) Keynote Lecture)*
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; University of Oxford (*)

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 · *Structural Injustice* Seminar; 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

Media and Other Public-Facing

Jan 2024 - Interviewed in "The Ferrari of Theseus: Philosophy and a $ 1.87M Pile of Parts" by Eric Weiner (Haggerty Media) *Folio Eddie Award Finalist*

Dec 2021 - Interviewed in "Metaphysics in the Museum" by Gina Balibera (LSA News Online)

Mar 2021 · University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) Panel on *Art and Algorithmic Intelligence*.

Feb 2021 - "Algorithms and Authenticity," Boise State University Public Philosophy Talk

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.

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.

Workshop and Visiting Activity

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

Jan 2023 – *Invited Participant*, Arizona Ranch Metaphysics Workshop

Jan 2022 – *Invited Participant*, Arizona Ranch Metaphysics Workshop

March 2020 –	*Invited Participant*, TEAM Workshop on Epistemology and Metaphysics; Princeton University
Jan 2020 –	*Invited Participant*, Arizona Ranch Metaphysics Workshop
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

Teaching and Advising

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). Gabrielle Kerbel (Member). Alison Weinberger (Transition Committee Member). Valerie Trudel (Transition Commitee Member). Alice Kelly (Member, *defended 2024*).

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 Modality and Explanation, for Lila Graham
Independent Study *(Graduate)*: Topics in Metaphysics and Ontology, 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

Curricular 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.*
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 – Lead Tutorial Designer for USC Logic Web. *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 American Philosophical Association*
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 established in 2013 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

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
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
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*