

Department of Philosophy, Boston University
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Michaela Markham McSweeney

Employment

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Boston University, 2016-present

Education

PhD in Philosophy, Princeton University, 2016
MA in Philosophy, Princeton University, 2015
Department of Philosophy, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2008-2011 (enrolled in PhD program)
B.A. Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, University of Massachusetts-Boston, 2005

Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Logic

Areas of Competence

Philosophical Logic, Philosophy of Science. Epistemology, Philosophy of Gender, Philosophy of Sport

Publications

'Following Logical Realism Where it Leads', *Philosophical Studies* 2017
Online First: <https://doi-org.ezproxy.bu.edu/10.1007/s11098-017-1008-0>

'An Epistemic Account of Metaphysical Equivalence', *Philosophical Perspectives* 30(1), 2016

'Grounding Logically Complex Facts', forthcoming in Michael Raven, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding*

'Logical Realism and the Metaphysics of Logic', forthcoming in *Philosophy Compass*

Book Reviews

Book Note on Tuomas Tahko's *An Introduction to Metametaphysics*,
Australasian Journal of Philosophy 95(4), (2017)

In Progress

'Abstract Structures' (book manuscript; selected chapters drafted)

‘Logical Realism and Humility’ (book manuscript; selected chapters drafted)

‘Amodal Completion and the Sixth Sense’ (draft)

‘Against Plenitudinous Platonism’ (draft)

-A paper about abstract objects (under review)

-A paper about grounding (under review)

Presentations (* = Refereed)

Job talks omitted.

2018

TBD

- Department Colloquium, University of Arizona

‘Grounding Logically Complex Facts’

- Metaphysical Grounding Workshop, Hamburg

‘Abstract Amodal Perception: Reclaiming the Sixth Sense’

- Kant and Analytic Metaphysics Conference, Toronto

- Keynote Address, University of Texas at Austin Philosophy Graduate Conference

Central APA, ‘Metaphysical Pluralism’,

- Invited Symposium on Pluralism in Logic, Science, and Metaphysics, Chicago
(could not attend due to death in family)

‘What Metaphysics Could Be’

- BU Junior Faculty Colloquium (for CAS faculty)

2017

‘Abstract Amodal Perception: Reclaiming the Sixth Sense’

- MIT Work-in-Progress Seminar

- Department Colloquium, UMass Amherst

‘Mathematical Humility and Moral Epistemology’

- BU philosophy faculty work-in-progress seminar

‘Realism and Closure’

- Workshop on Logic of Totality, The Whole Truth Project, Glasgow

‘Radical Representation and Abstract Objects’

- The Mentoring Project for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy, Salt Lake City, Utah

- Metaphysics and Semantics Conference, Yale University

- Metaphysics on the Mountain II (INPC) Conference, Sun Valley, Idaho

2016:

'Radical Representation and Abstract Objects'

- New England Metaphysics Group, Northampton, Massachusetts

'Metaphysical Equivalence, Definitional Extension, and Quantifier Variance'

- Graduate Women in Metaphysics Workshop, Smith College*

- Society for Exact Philosophy, University of Miami*

- Department Colloquium, California State University-Los Angeles

2015:

'Theoretical Equivalence and Metaphysical Realism'

- New York Logic and Metaphysics Workshop

'Constraints on Fundamentality: Ontological and Ideological'

- Symposium on Platonism, Physicalism, and Fundamentality, Canadian Philosophical Association, Ottawa

'The Mathematics Analogy: Justification and Explanation'

- Pepperdine University, Malibu, California

2014:

'Logic, Mass, and Surrogate Representation'

- Oxford Graduate Conference in Philosophy*

'Women and Bullshitting in Philosophy'

- Perspectives on Gender Conference, UC Irvine*

2012:

'Grounding Logically Complex Facts'

- 2nd Annual Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Conference, Humboldt University, Berlin*

'Numbers and Physicalism'

- Department Colloquium, Siena Heights University, Adrian, Michigan

2011:

'Against Generalism'

- Society for Exact Philosophy, Winnipeg, Manitoba*

'Logical Grounding, Metaphysical Grounding, and Facts'

- Department Colloquium, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

2010:

'Are There Fundamental Individuals?'

- Australian Metaphysics Conference, Australian National University (Kooloala)

'Against Tolerance'

•Center for Values and Social Policy, University of Colorado at Boulder

Teaching in Seminars, Summer Schools, Etc.

Course Faculty, Ontology and Meta-Ontology Summer Seminar, Central European University, Budapest, July 2017

Faculty at PIKSI (Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute)-Boston, MIT, 2017

Guest Lecturer, Epistemology of Logic Graduate Seminar, Brown University, 2017

Selected Commentary (*Refereed)

2018

Marcello Fiocco (TBD), New England Metaphysics Conference,
Rhode Island College, Providence

Jo Wolff's 'Intrinsicism or Structuralism?'
Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, Tucson, Arizona

Nick Stang's 'Varieties of Idealism'
Eastern APA, Savannah, Georgia

2017

Marianna Antonutti Marfori's 'Indirect Mathematical Naturalism'
The Mentoring Project for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy, Salt Lake City, Utah

Rebecca Mason's 'Social Kinds, Essence, and Dependence'
The Mentoring Project for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy, Salt Lake City, Utah

Alessandro Torza's 'Ideology in a Desert Landscape'
SOFIA XXI: Grounding, Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico

2016

David Hills' 'Hindsight'
Mind and Language Workshop, Dartmouth

Bruno Whittle's 'Size and Function'
*Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference

2015

Jennifer Wang's 'Fundamentality and Modal Freedom'
*Midsummer Philosophy Workshop, Edinburgh

Dan Korman's 'Arbitrariness Arguments' and
Meg Wallace's 'Modal Parts and Ontological Disagreement about Ordinary Objects'
Invited Symposium on Ordinary Objects, Central APA, St. Louis

2014

Gene Witmer's 'Unblocking Physicalism'
Eastern APA, Philadelphia

Melissa Schumacher's 'Numbers are Weightless'
*Women's Mentoring Workshop, Princeton University

Kris McDaniel's 'Normative Analyses of the Fundamental'
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder

2013

Stan Husi's 'Subjectivism, the Problem of Appraisal, and the Concern for Recognition'
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder

Mark Colyvan's 'The Ins and Outs of Mathematical Explanation' (in absentia)
*Ethics and Explanation Conference, Nottingham

2012

Catherine Diehl's 'Metaphysical Structure, Reduction, and Identity'
2nd Annual Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Conference, Berlin

Elizabeth Barnes' 'Fundamental Indeterminacy'
*Reality Making Conference, Nottingham

Thesis and Dissertation Committees and Student Supervision

James Kinkaid (PhD)—dissertation committee (current)
Rachael Molenaar (BA)—undergraduate honors thesis advisor (current); Humanities Scholar
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program advisor (2017-18)
Anandita Mukherji (PhD)—dissertation examining committee (2018)
Katherine Valde (PhD)—dissertation committee (current)
Qiong Wu (PhD student)—prospectus committee (current)

Awards and Grants

Boston University Humanities Center Humanities Enhancement Award, 2019 (for the BU logic workshop)

Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant, Princeton University, 2015

Princeton Fund for Interdisciplinary Symposia, Workshops, and Seminars Grant (for the Princeton Workshop on Equivalent Theories in Physics and Metaphysics), 2015

Cooperative Research Network in Analytic Philosophy Grant, 2014

Princeton University Center for Human Values Political Philosophy Travel Grant, 2014

The Graduate School International Travel Award, University of Colorado, 2010

Martin Andic Award for Excellence in Philosophy, University of Massachusetts-Boston, 2005

Teaching

At Boston University:

Graduate Placement Seminar, Fall 2018

Philosophy of Sport, Spring 2018

Directed Study (PhD) in Modal Metaphysics and Epistemology, Fall 2017

Metaphysics (Graduate Seminar), Fall 2017

Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018

Metaphysics and Epistemology, Spring 2017, Fall 2017

Puzzles and Paradoxes, Fall 2016

At Princeton University:

Lead Assistant in Instruction, Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Michael Smith), Fall 2013

Assistant in Instruction, Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology (Boris Kment), Spring 2013

Assistant in Instruction, Introductory Logic (Shamik Dasgupta), Fall 2012

At the University of Colorado-Boulder:

Teaching and Program Assistant, Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy, 2010

Teaching Assistant, Symbolic Logic (Robert Rupert), Spring 2010, Spring 2011

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Philosophy (Bradley Monton), Fall 2009, Fall 2010

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Philosophy (Dan Kaufman), Spring 2009

Teaching Assistant, Philosophy and the Sciences (John Maier), Fall 2008

Departmental and Professional Service

Organizer, Philosophy of Logic Workshop, Boston University, May 2019

Program Committee, Eastern APA, 2020 and 2021

Placement Officer, Boston University, 2018-2019

Karbank Fellowship Committee, Boston University, 2018

Climate, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Boston University, 2017-2018

Graduate Admissions Committee, Boston University, 2016-2018

Search Committee, Mind and Language Position, Boston University, 2016-2017

Colloquium Committee, Boston University, 2016-present

Organizer, (i) Princeton Workshop on Equivalent Theories in Physics and Metaphysics,
(ii) Princeton-Pittsburgh-Irvine Conference on the Mathematical and Conceptual Foundations of
Physics, March 2015 (both with Hans Halvorson, Jim Weatherall, and Giovanni Valente)

Organizer, Women in Metaphysics Retreat and Workshop, Rochester, Vermont, 2013 (with
financial support from Princeton, Rutgers, and NYU) website:

<http://womeninmetaphysics2013.wordpress.com/>

Co-organizer (with Sukaina Hirji), Paper Tigers (faculty speaker series), Princeton, 2013-2014

Co-organizer (with Errol Lord), Philosophical Society, Princeton, 2011-2012

Assistant Organizer (to Shieva Kleinschmidt), California Metaphysics Conference, 2012, 2014

Organizer, Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2010

Referee, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal of the Philosophy of Science*, *Dialectica*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Mind*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Thought*.

Recent Chairing and Invited Conference Attendance: Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, 2017;
Society for Analytical Feminism, 2016; Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, three years;
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, three years; SPAWN conference (Syracuse), 2017; Workshop
on Justin Clarke-Doane's book manuscript (Columbia), 2018.

Summer Seminars (as student)

NEH Seminar on Metaphysics and Mind, Washington University (director: John Heil), 2013
(One of two graduate students competitively selected)

Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University, 2010 (competitively selected), 2012, 2014

St. Thomas Seminar in the Philosophy of Religion (directors: Mike Rota and Dean Zimmerman),
2012 (competitively selected)

University of Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Science (director: Robert Pasnau),
2007 (competitively selected)

Summer School in Logic and Formal Epistemology, Carnegie Mellon University, 2007
(competitively selected)