

Department of Philosophy, Boston University
michaelamcs@gmail.com
1 (609) 533-4604

Michaela Markham McSweeney

Employment

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Boston University, 2016-present
Faculty, CEU Summer University, 2017

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

Feminist Philosophy, Philosophical Logic, Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Philosophy of Sport

Publications

(Forthcoming) 'Theories as Recipes: Third-Order Virtue and Vice', in *Philosophical Studies*

(Forthcoming) 'Debunking Logical Grounding: Distinguishing Metaphysics from Semantics', in the *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*

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

(2019) 'Following Logical Realism Where it Leads', *Philosophical Studies* 176(1): 117-139
(accepted: October 2017)

(2019) 'Logical Realism and the Metaphysics of Logic', *Philosophy Compass* 14(1), 2019
(accepted: October 2018)

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

Book Reviews

Book Note (Short Review): Tuomas Tahko's *An Introduction to Metametaphysics*. In *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 95(4): 832-833, 2017

Presentations (* = Refereed, Otherwise Invited)

(Upcoming) Bloomington Metaphysics Meetup, University of Indiana, April 2020

(Upcoming) Department Colloquium, Texas A&M University, February 2020

(Upcoming) SoCal Metaphysics Network Conference, UC Irvine, December 2019

(Upcoming) Department Colloquium, University of Rochester, November 2019

(Upcoming) Department Colloquium, University of Manitoba, October 2019

(Upcoming) Keynote Speaker, FILOMENA (Workshop on Philosophy, Logic and Analytical Metaphysics), Bergen, Norway, Oct 2019

‘Flatlining: Desirable vs. Warranted Mental States and Oppression’

(Upcoming) Pacific APA Meeting, part of an invited symposium on ‘Revising Rationality and Morality: Including Neuroatypicality’, San Francisco, April 2020

*Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, August 2019

‘Anti-Exceptionalism and Metaphysics’

BU Metaphysics and Epistemology of Logic Workshop, Boston University, May 2019

‘Against a Plenitude of Abstract Objects’

*Pacific APA Meeting, Vancouver, April 2019

‘Perceiving Abstract Objects’

Pepperdine University, March 2019

Department Colloquium, University of Arizona, October 2018

‘Grounding Logically Complex Facts’

Metaphysical Grounding Workshop, Hamburg, May 2018

‘Abstract Amodal Perception: Reclaiming the Sixth Sense’

Kant and Analytic Metaphysics Conference, Toronto, April 2018

Keynote Address, University of Texas at Austin Philosophy Graduate Conference, March 2018

MIT Work-in-Progress Seminar, November 2017

Philosophy Department Colloquium, UMass Amherst, November 2017

‘What Metaphysics Could Be’

Tertulia (Boston University Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Colloquium), January 2018

‘Realism and Closure’

Workshop on Logic of Totality, The Whole Truth Project, Glasgow, June 2017

‘Logic as an Abstract Object’

Epistemology of Logic Seminar, Brown University, April 2017

- 'What is Logic?'
- PIKSI (Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute)-Boston, MIT, June 2017
- 'Radical Representation and Abstract Objects'
- The Mentoring Project for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2017
 - Metaphysics and Semantics Conference (organized by Zoltan Szabo and Jason Stanley), Yale University, April 2017
 - Metaphysics on the Mountain II (INPC) Conference (organized by Andrew Cortens), Sun Valley, Idaho, March 2017
 - New England Metaphysics Group, Northampton, Massachusetts, December 2016
- 'Metaphysical Equivalence, Definitional Extension, and Quantifier Variance'
- Graduate Women in Metaphysics Workshop, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, May 2016
 - *Society for Exact Philosophy, University of Miami, May 2016
 - Department Colloquium, California State University-Los Angeles, January 2016
- 'Theoretical Equivalence and Metaphysical Realism'
- New York Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, December 2015
- 'Constraints on Fundamentality: Ontological and Ideological'
- Symposium on Platonism, Physicalism, and Fundamentality, Canadian Philosophical Association, Ottawa, June 2015
- 'The Mathematics Analogy: Justification and Explanation'
- Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, April 2015
- 'Logic, Mass, and Surrogate Representation'
- *Oxford Graduate Conference in Philosophy, November 2014
- 'Women and Bullshitting in Philosophy'
- *Perspectives on Gender Conference, UC Irvine, October 2014
- 'Grounding Logically Complex Facts'
- *2nd Annual Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Conference, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, August 2012
- 'Numbers and Physicalism'
- Department Colloquium, Siena Heights University, Adrian, Michigan, April 2012
- 'Against Generalism'
- *Society for Exact Philosophy, Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 2011
- 'Logical Grounding, Metaphysical Grounding, and Facts'
- Department Colloquium, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, January 2011
- 'Are There Fundamental Individuals?'
- Australian Metaphysics Conference, Australian National University (Kioola), November 2010

Selected Commentary

- Maegan Fairchild's 'Arbitrariness and the Long Road to Permissiveness'
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2019
- Thiago Xavier de Melo's 'Within the Predicate'
Central APA, Denver, February 2019
- Marcello Fiocco's 'There is Nothing to Identity'
New England Metaphysics Conference,
Rhode Island College, Providence, October 2018
- Jo Wolff's 'Intrinsicalism or Structuralism?'
Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, Tucson, Arizona, January 2018
- Nick Stang's 'Varieties of Idealism' (Session Canceled Due to Weather Emergency, Comments Still
Written and Supplied to the Author)
Eastern APA, Savannah, Georgia, January 2018
- Marianna Antonutti Marfori's 'Indirect Mathematical Naturalism'
The Mentoring Project for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2017
- Rebecca Mason's 'Social Kinds, Essence, and Dependence'
The Mentoring Project for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2017
- Alessandro Torza's 'Ideology in a Desert Landscape'
SOFIA XXI: Grounding, Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico, January 2017
- David Hills' 'Hindsight'
Mind and Language Workshop, Dartmouth, August 2016
- Bruno Whittle's 'Size and Function'
*Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2016
- Jennifer Wang's 'Fundamentality and Modal Freedom'
*Midsummer Philosophy Workshop, Edinburgh, June 2015
- 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, February 2015
- Gene Witmer's 'Unblocking Physicalism'
Eastern APA, Philadelphia, December 2014.
- Melissa Schumacher's 'Numbers are Weightless'
*Women's Mentoring Workshop, Princeton University, August 2014
- Kris McDaniel's 'Normative Analyses of the Fundamental'
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, August 2014
- Stan Husi's 'Subjectivism, the Problem of Appraisal, and the Concern for Recognition'
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, August 2013

Mark Colyvan's 'The Ins and Outs of Mathematical Explanation' (in absentia)
*Ethics and Explanation Conference, Nottingham, January 2013

Elizabeth Barnes' 'Fundamental Indeterminacy'
*Reality Making Conference, Nottingham, July 2012

Awards and Grants

Junior Faculty Fellowship, Boston University Center for Humanities, 2019-20 (one semester)

Humanities Enhancement Award, Boston University Center for Humanities, 2019 (for the BU Metaphysics and Epistemology of Logic Workshop, May 2019)

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Faculty Mentor Grant, Boston University, 2018

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

Princeton Dean's 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 (for travel to the UK and a three week research visit to the University of Oslo), 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 (Philosophy)

(All at Boston University unless otherwise noted)

Epistemology of the Third Realm (Graduate Seminar), Spring 2019

Directed Study (undergraduate), Theoretical Virtues and Mathematics, Fall 2018

Graduate Placement Seminar, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Philosophy of Sport, Spring 2018

Modality and Methods in Metaphysics and Philosophy of Science (Graduate/Undergraduate Seminar), Fall 2017

Directed Study (Graduate), Epistemology of Modality, Fall 2017

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

Metaphysics and Epistemology, Spring 2017, Fall 2017

Puzzles and Paradoxes, Fall 2016

Ontology and Metaontology (Junior Faculty and Graduate Seminar, with Mark Balaguer, Ferenc Huoranszki, Ned Markosian, Katherine Ritchie, and Raul Saucedo), Summer 2017 (at the Central European University)

Dissertation Committees and Student Research Supervision (at BU)

James Kinkaid, dissertation committee (fourth reader) and examining committee chair, November 2018

Anandita Mukherji, dissertation examining committee, PhD, June 2018

Tanner Hammond, dissertation committee (fourth reader), PhD, May 2019

Katherine Valde, dissertation committee (second reader), PhD, July 2019

Elliot Risch, prospectus committee (second reader)

Rachael Molenaar, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Mentor, Spring 2018

Service

Internal (to BU and Princeton):

Placement Director, 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

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

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

General Professional:

Program Committee, Eastern APA, 2020 and 2021

Organizer, Boston University Metaphysics and Epistemology of Logic Workshop, May 2019

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/>

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*, *Oxford University Press*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Thought*.

