

Megan J. Wallace

University of Kentucky

Philosophy Department

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Academic Positions

Associate Professor, University of Kentucky, 2016-Present

Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky, 2010-2016

Visiting Assistant Professor, Oberlin College, 2009-2010

Research Interests

Metaphysics (composition, ontology, persistence, modal parts);

Mind and Language (mental fictionalism)

Education

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Ph.D. Philosophy - 2009

Dissertation: "Composition is Identity"

Keith Simmons (chair); William G. Lycan; David Reeve; Dorit Bar-On; John Roberts

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

M.A. Philosophy - 2005

Thesis: "Rearming the Slingshot"

Keith Simmons (chair); William G. Lycan; David Reeve; Dorit Bar-On; John Roberts

Syracuse University

Department: Philosophy 2000 - 2003 [Ph.D. program - transferred]

University of Arkansas

Department: Philosophy 1998 - 2000 [Ph.D. program - transferred]

University of Oklahoma

B.A. History - 1998

Publications

- “Counterexamples and Common-sense: When (Not) to Tollens a Ponens” *Analysis* 80(3) 544-558 (2020)
- “The Polysemy of ‘part’” *Synthese - S.I.: Mereology and Identity* (2019)
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-019-02088-x>
- “The Lump Sum: a Theory of Modal Parts” *Philosophical Papers* 1-33 (2019)
<https://doi.org/10.1080/05568641.2018.1562310>
- “The Haecceitic Euthyphro Problem” co-authored with Jason Bowers *Analysis* 78(1): 13-22 (2018)
- “Saving Mental Fictionalism from Cognitive Collapse” *Res Philosophica* 93(2): 405-424 (2016)
- “Rearming the Slingshot?” *Acta Analytica* 30 (3): 283-292 (2015)
- “The Argument from Vagueness for Modal Parts” *dialectica* 68 (3): 355-373 (2014)
- “Composition as Identity, Mereological Essentialism, and Modal Parts” in *Composition as Identity*, eds. Donald Baxter and Aaron Cotnoir, OUP (2014)
- “Response to A. J. Cotnoir’s Parts as Counterparts” *Thought: a Journal in Philosophy* vol. 2(3): 242-247 (2013)
- “Composition as Identity: Part 1” *Philosophy Compass* vol. 6(11): 804-816 (2011)
- “Composition as Identity: Part 2” *Philosophy Compass* vol. 6(11): 817-827 (2011)

Forthcoming/Under Contract

- “Mental fictionalism” in *Mental Fictionalism: Philosophical Explorations* (Routledge) Tamas Demeter, Ted Parent and Adam Toon (eds.)
- “Mental Fictionalism: a foothold amid deflationary collapse” in *Mental Fictionalism: Philosophical Explorations* (Routledge) Tamas Demeter, Ted Parent and Adam Toon (eds.)
- *Parts and Wholes: Spatial to Modal* (Cambridge University Press) - under contract

Presentations

“Modal Parts and Plentitude”

- Material Plentitude Conference (UT Austin, TX) March 2020 - canceled/postponed - COVID-19

“Deflating Mental Fictionalism”

- Mental Fictionalism Conference (Budapest, Hungary) October 2019

“Physicalism and Compositional Pluralism”

- Conference on Physicalism at University of Louisville (Louisville KY) May 2019

“Mereology for Abstracta: the Polysemy of ‘part’”

- Conference on Mereology and Identity (Pisa, Italy) July 2017

“Modal Parts and Ontological Disagreement”

- Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (Milwaukee, WI) October 2015
- Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop (Morgan Town, WV) August 2015 – Central APA (St. Louis, MO) February 2015

“Saving Mental Fictionalism from Cognitive Collapse”

- Conference on Mental Fictionalism, University of Edinburgh (Edinburgh, Scotland) July 2014
- University of Louisville (Louisville, KY) February 2015

“The Lump Sum: A Defense of Modal Parts”

- University of Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany) October 2014
- Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) April 2014
- University of Vermont (VT) March 2014

“Rearming the Slingshot”

- Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA) March 2013

“Mereological Essentialism and Modal Parts”

- University of California, Davis (Davis, CA) March 2013

“Composition as Identity, Mereological Essentialism, and Modal Parts”

- Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (St. Louis, MO) October 2012
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Blacksburg, VA) April 2012
- University of Louisville (Louisville, KY) March 2012

“Composition and Counting”

- Joint Meeting of the Illinois and Indiana Philosophical Association (Charleston, IL) November 2010

“Argument from Vagueness for Modal Parts”

- Mountains-Plains Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) October 2010

- Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) September 2010

“Composition is Identity”

- University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY) March 2010
- Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH) April 14 2009
- University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA) January 23 2009

Comments

Dan Korman’s *Objects: Nothing Out of the Ordinary*; author-meets-critics Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) March 2018

Elanor Taylor’s “Three Problems for Grounding”; Central States Philosophical Association (Chicago, IL) October 2014

Tim Button’s “There is No Theory of Truth”; *Metaphysics Back at the Ranch* (Tucson, AZ) February 2014

Andrew Graham’s “A Defense of Five-Dimensionalism”; Central APA (Chicago, IL) March 2014

Kristin Seemuth’s “An Eliminativist Response to the Argument from Charity”; Illinois Philosophical Association (Urbana-Champaign, IL) October 2012

L.A. Paul’s “Categorical Parsimony”; INCP 14 (Boise, ID) April 2011

James Shaw’s “Semantic Defect in Context”; Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) April 2011

“The Distributivity of Masses”; Central APA (Minneapolis, MN) March/April 2011

David Kovak’s “Semanticism versus the Schmenglish Argument”; Joint Meeting of the Illinois and Indiana Philosophical Association (Charleston, IL) November, 2010

Joseph Baltimore’s “Lewis’s Special Problem of Profligate Causation”; Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) September 2010

Dan Korman’s “Universalism, Vagueness, and the Argument from Borderline Hammers”; Pacific APA (San Francisco) April 2010

David Ian Spencer’s “Why Do We Need Tense?”; Pacific APA (Vancouver) April 2009.

Joe Salerno’s “Must and Can”; Eastern APA (Philadelphia, PA) December 2008.

Brad Skow’s “Are Shapes Intrinsic?”; Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, (Bellingham, WA) August, 2005.

University and Professional Service

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2017-2021
Graduate Student Admissions Committee, 2015-2016, 2018
Executive Committee, 2014-2015
Speakers Committee, 2014-2016
Search Committee, 2014-2015

Referee - Acta Analytica, Analysis, American Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, European Journal of Analytic Philosophy, Mind, Mind and Language, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Synthese, TOPOI

Referee, Central States Philosophical Association, Fall 2014
Referee, Kentucky Philosophical Association, Fall 2011
Referee, Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference, September 2011
Research Assistant to William G. Lycan, Fall 2005-2009

Awards, Funding, and Fellowships

OVPR Research and Creative Activities Program Support (Circus Lab) - 2020-2021
A&S Award for Innovative Teaching, 2019
Oberlin College Teaching Award, 2010
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2009
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2007
Head Teaching Associate UNC, 2006-2007
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2003-2004
Syracuse University Teaching Award, 2003

Teaching Experience

Circus and Philosophy - created, designed, and taught
Philosophy and Science Fiction
Metaphysics
Metaphysics and Epistemology (mid- and upper-level)
History of Analytic Philosophy
Symbolic Logic I
Symbolic Logic II
Introduction to Philosophy - Experience and Reality
Philosophy of Religion
Graduate Seminar: Unity (spring 2021)
Graduate Seminar: Fictionalism
Graduate Seminar: Space, Time and Possible Worlds
Graduate Seminar: Paradoxes
Independent Study: Properties and Universals, 2011
Independent Study: Modal Logic, 2013
Independent Study: Time, spring 2017
Independent Study: Causation, spring 2018
Independent Study: Counterfactuals, fall 2019