JOSHUA T. SPENCER

Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin-Milwuakee
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Milwaukee, WI 53211
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Area of Specialization

Metaphysics

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Language, Epistemology, Philosophical Logic

Academic Positions

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Associate Professor   Fall 2016-Present

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Assistant Professor   Spring 2012-Summer 2016

Syracuse University, Sutton Fellowship   Fall 2009-Fall 2011

Auburn University, Visiting Instructor   Fall 2008-Summer 2009

Education

Ph.D. University of Rochester   October 2008

M.A. University of Rochester   October 2007

B.A. Western Washington University   December 2002
       Major: Philosophy
       Major: English

Publications

- "A Special Composition Puzzle" *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* (2023)
- "Plenitudinous Russellianism" in *The Routledge Handbook of Propositions* edited by Chris Tillman (2023)
- "On the Explanatory Demands of the Special Composition Question" *Synthese* (2021)
- "The Limits of Neo-Aristotelian Plenitude (and its Conceptual Neighbors)" *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (2020)
- "Advanced D&D (Dan Korman and Debunking)" (with Chris Tillman) *Analysis* (2020)
- "Necessity of Origins and Multi-Origin Art" (with Chris Tillman) *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy* (2019)
- "Conceivability and Possibility" in *Ontological Arguments* edited by Graham Oppy (2018)
- "Counting on Composition as Identity to Settle the Special Composition Question" *Erkenntnis* (2017)
- "The Problem of Empty Names and Russellian Plenitude" *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2016)
- "Unnecessary Existents" *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2014)
- "Two Thoughts on 'A Tale of Two Parts'" *Res Philosophica* (2014)
- "What Time Travelers Cannot *Not* Do (But are Responsible for Anyway)" *Philosophical Studies* (2013)
- "Strong Composition as Identity and Simplicity" *Erkenntnis* (2013)
- "All Things Must Pass Away" *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* (2012)
- "Semantic Stipulation and Knowledge *De Re*" (with Chris Tillman) *Reference and Referring: Topics in Contemporary Philosophy Vol. 10.* (2012)
- "Ways of Being" *Philosophy Compass* (2012)
- "Musical Materialism and the Inheritance Problem" (with Chris Tillman) *Analysis* 72:2 (2012)
- "A Tale of Two Simples" *Philosophical Studies* 148:2 (2010)
- "Holes as Regions of Space-Time" (with Andrew Wake and Greg Fowler) *The Monist* 90:3 (July 2007).
- "Two Mereological Arguments against the Possibility of an Omniscient Being" *Philo* Vol. 9:1 (Spring/Summer 2006).

Book Reviews

- Review of Kris McDaniel's *The Fragmentation of Being* for *Mind* (2020)
- Review of Geraldine Coggins' *Could There Have Been Nothing?* For *Mind* (2016)
- Review of Jonathan Berg's (edited) *Naming, Necessity, and More: Explorations in the Philosophical Work of Saul Kripke.* For *Analysis* (2016)
- Review of Nikk Effingham's *Introduction to Ontology.* For *Teaching Philosophy* 37:2 (2014)
- Review of Jody Azzouni's *Talking about Nothing: Numbers, Hallucinations, and Fictions.* For *Notre Dame Philosophical Review* (March 2011)

Works in Progress

- "Composition as Identity and Many Ways of Being" (Under Review, 3rd round, *Mind*)
- "Divorce 'n the Self" (Full Draft)
- "Towards a Philosophy of Poverty" (Full Draft)
- "Determinism is False (and it has nothing to do with Quantum Mechanics)" (Full Draft)
- "Time Travel in an Indeterministic World" (Full Draft)
- "Puzzle Box" (full draft)
- "A Speech Act Paradox" (partial draft)
- *The Metaphysics of Poverty* (book project in planning stages)

Paper Presentations

- "Essentially Vague", Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA (May 2023)
- "Essentially Vague", Wisconsin Philosophical Association at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI (April 2023)
- "Essentially Vague", Boise State University, Boise, ID (November 2022)
- "Divorce n' One's Self", Boise State University, Boise, ID (November 2022)
- "Essentially Vague", Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Winnipeg, MB (September 2022)
- "Towards a Philosophy of Poverty", University of California-Santa Barbara Minorities and Philosophy, Online (May 2021)
- "Composition as Identity and the Many Ways of Being", University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI (March 2020)
- "Creature Features" (with Chris Tillman), Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver, BC (June 2019)
- "So Much Depends Upon Propositional Constituents", Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver, BC (June 2019)
- "Towards a Philosophy of Poverty", Annual Meeting of the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, New Orleans, LA (March 2019)
- "Towards a Philosophy of Poverty", Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN (September 2018)
- "On the Explanatory Demands of the Special Composition Question", University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA (April 2018)
- "Towards a Philosophy of Poverty", Rhode Island College, Providence, RI (April 2018)
- "On the Explanatory Demands of the Special Composition Question", Notre Dame, South Bend, IN (April 2018)
- "On the Explanatory Demands of the Special Composition Question", University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (March 2018)
- "Meta-Mereology", Albion College, Albion, MI (March 2018)
- "On the Explanatory Demands of the Special Composition Question", New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM (January 2018)

- "On the Explanatory Demands of the Special Composition Question", University of California-Irvine, Irvine, CA (January 2018)
- "A Philosophy of Poverty", 6th annual California Metaphysics Conference, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA (January 2018)
- "On the Explanatory Demands of the Special Composition Question", Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics, Madison, WI (October 2017)
- "Neo-Aristotelian Essentialism", SPAWN 2017, Syracuse, NY (June 2017)
- "Things Dreamt of" (with Chris Tillman), Canadian Philosophical Association, Toronto, Ontario (May 2017)
- "A Philosophy of Poverty", Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA (April 2017)
- "Neo-Aristotelian Essentialism", Pacific APA, Seattle WA (April 2017)
- "Russellian Plenitude and Abstract Objects", Metaphysics of Propositions Conference, Winnipeg, MB (November 2016)
- "Multi-Origin Art" (with Chris Tillman), Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary, Alberta (May 2016)
- "The Limits of Neo-Aristotelian Plenitude", Keynote address for Virginia Tech Graduate Conference, Blacksburg, Virginia (October 2015)
- "Against Neo-Aristotelian Essentialism", Canadian Philosophical Association, Ottawa, Ontario (June 2015)
- "Two Arguments against Two Boxes" (with William Kilborn), Pacific APA, Vancouver, British Columbia (April 2015)
- "Counting on Strong Composition as Identity to Provide an Answer to the Special Composition Question", University of Nevada-Las Vegas (April 2014)
- "Without Fictional Characters", Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference (March 2014)
- "Unnecessary Existents", Central Division American Philosophical Association (February 2014)
- "Counting on Strong Composition as Identity to Provide an Answer to the Special Composition Question", Themes from Baxter (October 2013)
- "Without Fictional Characters", Dobrovnik Conference (June 2013)
- "Unnecessary Existents", Western Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2013)
- "Where is *The Thinker*", Western Washington University Philosophy Department 50th Anniversary Conference (May 2012)
- "Against Natural Being", University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (March 2012)
- "Natural Ways of Being", Wayne State University (February 2012)
- "Persistence and Change", 1st California Workshop in Metaphysics: Persistence, University of Southern California (January 2012)
- "Priority Ensemblism", Society for Exact Philosophy, Winnipeg, Manitoba (May 2011)
- "Alien Properties and Rigidified Roles", David K. Lewis Society Group Meeting, Pacific APA (April 2011)
- "Natural Ways of Being", Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference in Boise, Idaho (April 2011)
- "Priority Ensemblism", Marist College (September 2010)
- "Priority Ensemblism", Western Washington University (May 2010)

- "Semantic Stipulation and Knowledge De Re" (with Chris Tillman), Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference in Moscow, Idaho and Pullman, Washington (April 2010)
- "Priority Ensemblism", Boise State University (April 2010)
- "All Things Must Pass Away", Syracuse University (April 2010)
- "All Things Must Pass Away", University of Manitoba (January 2010)
- "Time Travel and Free Will", SUNY Fredonia Young Philosophers Lecture Series Introductory Talk (November 2009), podcast online at youngphilosophers.org
- "A New Counterexample to Principles of Alternative Possibilities", SUNY Fredonia Young Philosophers Lecture Series Research Talk (November 2009), podcast online at youngphilosophers.org
- "A New Counterexample to Principles of Alternative Possibilities", Auburn University (March 2009)
- "Time Travel and Multi-Location", University of Montevallo (November 2008)
- "Vagueness and Parthood", Alabama Philosophical Society, Orange Beach, Alabama (September 2008)
- "A New Solution to Modal Paradoxes of Undetached Parts", Boise State University (February 2008)
- "A New Solution to Modal Paradoxes of Undetached Parts", National University of Singapore (February 2008)
- "A Tale of Two Simples", Pacific APA, San Francisco, California (April 2007)
- "A Tale of Two Simples", The Creighton Club, Geneva, NY (November 2006)
- "Contextualism about 'Can' and Moral Obligations", Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Winnipeg, Manitoba (October 2005)

Comments

- Comments on Any Seymour's TBD, Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference (March 2023)
- Comments on Shieva Kleinschmidt's TBD, Western Washington University Alumni Conference, Bellingham, WA (POSTPONED due to Covid-19 pandemic)
- Book Symposium on Sam Cowling's *Abstract Objects*, Pacific APA, Vancouver, BC (March 2019)
- Comments on Matt Leonard's "What is it to be Located?" Central APA, Chicago, IL (February 2018)
- Comments on Sam Cowling's "How to Benacerraf a Goodman-Lewis", Eastern APA, Baltimore, MD (January 2017)
- Comments on Peter Alward's "Cliffhangers and Sequels: A Limited Defense of Authorial Intentions as Narrative Truth-makers", Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary, Alberta (May 2016)
- Comments on Damian Melamedoff's "Rejecting Russellian Radicalism", Canadian Philosophical Association, Ottawa, Ontario (June 2015)
- Comments on Jonathan Barker's "What is a Sorites Series?", Central APA, St. Louis, Missouri (February 2015)

- Comments on Dan Korman's "Saving the Appearances in Material Object Metaphysics", Metaphysical Virtues Conference, Kalamazoo, Michigan (March 2013)
- Comments on Joshua Mugg's "A Defense of the Dispositional Account of Modality from the Modal Problem of Constitution: Ordinary Objects as Properties", Central APA, New Orleans, Louisiana (February 2013)
- Comments on Geoff Georgi's "A Propositional Semantics for Substitutional Quantification", Illinois Philosophical Association, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (November 2012)
- Comments on Charlie Tanksley's "Masses and Extended Simples", Central APA, Chicago, Illinois (February 2010)
- Comments on Samuel Henry's "Causal Chains and Reference to God", Rutgers Philosophy of Religion Conference, Rutgers University (January 2007)
- Comments on Sam Cowling's "Hypergunk and Inaccessible Fictionalism", Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Winnipeg, Manitoba (October 2005)
- Comments on Ben Caplan and David Sanson's "The Way Things Were", Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Washington State University/University of Idaho (April 2005)

Referee Work

- *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- *Bloomsbury*: book manuscript
- *Dialectica*
- *Erkenntnis*
- *Faith and Philosophy*
- *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*
- *Journal of Philosophical Research*
- *Linguistics and Philosophy*
- *Mind*
- *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*
- *Oxford University Press*: book proposal, Book Manuscript
- *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*
- *Philosophers' Imprint*
- *Philosophical Quarterly*
- *Philosophical Studies*
- *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*
- *Res Philosophica*
- *Routledge*: Book proposal, book manuscript
- *Southern Journal of Philosophy*
- *Synthese*

Courses Taught at the Graduate Level (* = mixed Graduate and Undergraduate)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Being (Spring 2023)
- Putting One's Self Together (Fall 2022)*
- Free Will Within Limits (Spring 2022)*
- Simples and Composites (Fall 2021)
- How to Persist Through Time Without Losing Your Identity (Spring 2021)*

- Metaphysical Toolkit (Fall 2020)
- Composition and Explanation (Spring 2020)*
- The Passage of Time (Fall 2019)*
- A Century of Possibilities (Spring 2019)*
- A World of Vagueness (Fall 2018)*
- Material Simplicity and Composition (Fall 2017)
- Metametaphysics (Spring 2017)*
- Conceivability and Possibility (Fall 2015)
- Essence and Existence (Spring 2015)*
- Existence and Non-Existence (Spring 2014)
- Fundamentals of Formal Logic (Spring 2014, Fall 2021)*
- Graduate Writing Workshop (Fall 2013, Fall 2014)
- Beyond Possibility (Spring 2013)*
- Composition (Spring 2012)

Syracuse University
- Philosophy of Physical Science (Fall 2011)*
- Space and Time (Spring 2011)
- Meta-Philosophy (Spring 2010)

Courses Taught at the Undergraduate Level

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
- Action, Will, and Freedom (Spring 2020)
- Philosophical Problems: Temporal Passage and Time Travel (Fall 2018)
- First-Year Seminar (Fall 2015, Fall 2016)
- Metaphysics (Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Fall 2017, Spring 2019)
- Introduction to Metaphysics (Fall 2014, Spring 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
- Elementary Logic (Fall 2012, Summer 2012)

Syracuse University
- Philosophy of Physical Science (Fall 2011)
- Honors Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2010)
- Space, Time and Material Objects (Fall 2009)

Auburn University
- Ethics and Health Sciences (Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Summer 2009)

University of Rochester
- Puzzles about God (Fall 2007, Spring 2008)
- Physics and Philosophy (Fall 2006, Spring 2007)
- Introductory Logic (Spring 2006)

Thesis Committees (* =advisor)	Accepted Offer From
• Marcia Gonzales Llanos (2023)*	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Linguistics
• Yasmin Aydemir (2022)*	McGill University
• Felix Benzant (2022)*	University of North Caroline-Chapel Hill
• Arron Kruk (2022)*	University of California-Davis (Deferred)
• Yashin Voss (2022)*	Arizona State University
• Jie Bao (2021)*	Florida State University
• Josiah Lopez-Wild (2020)*	University of California-Irvine
• Steven Canet (2019)*	University of California-Santa Barbara
• Charles Perkins (2018)*	University of California-Santa Barbara
• Benjamin Faltesek (2018)*	Texas A&M
• Zachary McCarty (2017)*	Rutgers University
• Justin Mooney (2017)*	University of Massachusetts
• Aaron Arinder (2016)*	Syracuse University
• Lu Chen (2014)*	University of Massachusetts
• Sara Copic (2014)*	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
• Mark Puestohl (2013)*	University of Notre Dame
• Clyde LeMoine (2023)	University of California-Los Angeles
• Julia Pelletier (2023)	University of Wisconsin-Madison
• Juan Murillo Vargas (2023)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
• Jazlyn Cartaya (2022)	Princeton University
• Kenny Galbraith (2022)	University of California-Los Angeles
• Brita Ager-Hart (2021)	University of Colorado-Boulder
• Jingyi Chen (2021)	University of Maryland (Linguistics)
• Zach Ferguson (2021)	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
• Yasha Sapir (2021)	University of Southern California
• Katie Wright (2020)	University of Massachusetts
• Farhad Taraz (2020)	Cornell University
• William Gamrat (2020)	University of Illinois-Chicago
• Owen Forbes (2019)	University of Colorado-Boulder
• Jean Pierre Cordero Rojas (2019)	University of Massachusetts
• Christiana Eltiste (2018)	Northwestern University
• Ana Pedroso (2017)	University of California-Santa Cruz
• Nathan Engel-Hawbecker (2017)	University of Texas-Austin
• Sara Pope (2016)	Fordham University
• Anwar Ul Haq (2016)	University of Pittsburgh
• Craig Knepley (2015)	University of Rochester
• Nihar Nilekani (2015)	New York University (Bioethics MA)

- Evan Spencer (2015)   (Left philosophy)
- Jack Kingston (2014)   University of Illinois-Chicago
- Dennis Mulqueen (2014)   Florida State University
- Andrew Flynn (2013)   University of Pittsburgh
- Paul Blaschko (2013)   University of Notre Dame

Department Services

- Chair of Philosophy (Fall 2021-Present)
- Director of Graduate Studies (Fall 2014-Spring 2017, Fall 2018-Spring 2021)
- Speakers Series (Fall 2012-Fall 2014, Fall 2017)
- Undergraduate Philosophy Club Advisor (Fall 2012-Spring 2016)
- Faculty Reading Group (Fall 2012-Spring 2018)
- Faculty and Grad Student Reading Group (Fall 2016-Present)
- Department Facebook Page (Fall 2013-Spring 2021)
- Awards Committee (Spring 2012)

University Service

- College of Letters and Sciences Academic Policies and Curriculum Committee (L&S APCC) (Fall 2015-Spring 2021)

Other Services

- Central Division APA Nominating Committee (2021)
- Metaphysics Area Editor for *Ergo* (2020-Present)
- Co-Organizer of Milwaukee Philosophy Workshop (with Peter van Elswyk) (2019)
- Organizer of Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (2015)
- Guest Editor of *Res Philosophica* special issue on Philosophy of Fiction (2015)
- Co-Organizer of Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop & Network, SPAWN, (2011)
- Co-Organizer of Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop & Network, SPAWN, (2010)
- Assistant Organizer of the 9th Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference (2008)
- Assistant Organizer of the 8th Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference (2007)

Professional Affiliations

- American Philosophical Association