

JOSHUA T. SPENCER

Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Curtin Hall, Rm 612
3243 N Downer Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211
joshuat Spencer@gmail.com

Area of Specialization

Metaphysics

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Language, Epistemology, Philosophical Logic

Academic Positions

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| 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

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|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 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

- “Conceivability and Possibility” in *Ontological Arguments* edited by Graham Oppy (forthcoming)
- “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 Geraldine Coggins’ *Could There Have Been Nothing? For Mind* (forthcoming)
- 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

- “Puzzle Box” (Full Draft)
 - “A Speech Act Paradox” (Full Draft)
 - “Multi-Origin Art” with Chris Tillman (Under Review)
 - “The Limits of Neo-Aristotelian Plenitude” (Full Draft)
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Paper Presentations

- “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)
- “Multi-Origin Art” (with Chris Tillman), Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary, Alberta (May 2016)
- “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 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

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

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

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- 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)*
- 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

- First-Year Seminar (Fall 2015, Fall 2016)
- Advanced Metaphysics (Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Fall 2017)
- Introductory Metaphysics (Fall 2014, Spring 2017)
- Introductory Logic (Fall 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)

Currently in Philosophy Program at:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| • Benjamin Faltesek (2018)* | |
| • 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 |
| • Ana Pedroso (2017) | University of California, Santa Cruz |
| • 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) | Not Applicable |
| • Jack Kingston (2014) | University of Illinois-Chicago |
| • Dennis Mulqueen (2014) | Florida State |
| • Andrew Flynn (2013) | UCLA |
| • Paul Blaschko (2013) | University of Notre Dame |
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Department Services

- Speaker Series (Fall 2017)
- Graduate Advisor (Fall 2014-Spring 2017)
- Speakers Series (Fall 2012-Fall 2014)
- Undergraduate Philosophy Club Advisor (Fall 2012-Present)
- Faculty Reading Group (Fall 2012-Present)
- Department Facebook Page (Fall 2013-Present)
- Awards Committee (Spring 2012)

University Service

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

Other Services

- 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)
- Graduate Student Admissions Committee for the University of Rochester Philosophy Department (2007)
- Organizer of the 4th biennial Rochester Graduate Student Epistemology Conference (2006)
- Assistant Organizer of the 7th Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference (2006)
- Content Review Committee, 3rd Biennial University of Rochester Graduate Student Epistemology Conference (2004)

Professional Affiliations

- American Philosophical Association