

KAREN BENNETT

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Regular Academic Positions:

Department chair, Rutgers, 2020-2023
Professor, Rutgers University, 2018-present
Professor, Cornell University, 2014-2018
Associate Professor, Cornell University, 2007-2014
Assistant Professor, Princeton University, 2000-2007
Postdoctoral Fellow, RSSH, Australian National University, August 2001—August 2005.
(taken up in 3 semesters and the summers)

Visiting Positions:

Visiting Associate Professor (by invitation), New York University, Fall 2010

Education:

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Michigan, 2000
M.A., Philosophy, University of Michigan, 1996
B.A., Philosophy, *magna cum laude*, Oberlin College, 1993

Areas of Specialization:

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind

Work in Progress

Humean, all too Humean.
Going underground.
In defense of grounding grounding.
Groups, kinds, and the like.

Edited Volumes

Co-editor (with Dean Zimmerman), *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, volumes 6-13 thus far

Books

2017. *Making Things Up*. Oxford University Press.

Coverage and (known) upcoming coverage:

Book symposium in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (commentators
Ross Cameron, Shamik Dasgupta, Jessica Wilson)
An issue of *Inquiry* devoted to the book (Paul Audi, Ricki Bliss, Gideon Rosen,

Jonathan Schaffer, Jennifer Wang)
 Book symposium in *Analysis* (Stephan Leuenberger, Erica Shumener, Naomi Thompson)
 Author-meets-critics at the 2018 Eastern APA (critics Jason Turner and Maureen Donnelly)
 Reviewed by Thomas Hofweber in *The Philosophical Review*
 Reviewed by Louis deRosset in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*
 Reviewed by Alastair Wilson in *Mind*
 Reviewed by Kris McDaniel in *The Journal of Philosophy*

Published and Forthcoming Papers

2021. Actualism. In Otavio Bueno and Scott Shalkowski, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Modality*, 21-29.
2021. Why I am not a dualist. In Uriah Kriegel, ed., *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind*, Volume 1, 208-231.
2020. Reply to Audi, Bliss, Rosen, Schaffer, and Wang. *Inquiry* 63: 758-794.
2019. Précis of *Making Things Up*. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 98: 478-481.
2019. Replies to Cameron, Dasgupta, and Wilson. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 98: 507-521.
2019. Précis of *Making Things Up*. *Analysis* 79: 287-289.
2019. Response to Leuenberger, Shumener, and Thompson. *Analysis* 79: 327-340.
2017. Part and whole again. *Philosophical Issues* 21: 7-25.
2017. Conceptual analysis and its limits. *Philosophic Exchange* 46: 1-12.
2017. Language, ontology, and metaphysics. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 94: 466-473.
2015. “Perfectly understood, unproblematic, and certain”: Lewis on mereology. In Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer, eds., *Blackwell Companion to David Lewis*, 250-261.
2015. There is no special problem with metaphysics. *Philosophical Studies* 173: 21-37.
2013. Having a part twice over. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 91: 83-103.
2011. By our bootstraps. *Philosophical Perspectives* 25: 27-41.
2011. Truthmaking and casemaking. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 83: 187-195.
2011. Construction area: no hard hat required. *Philosophical Studies* 154: 79-104.
2011. Koslicki on formal proper parts. *Analysis* 71: 286-290.
2009. What you don’t know *can* hurt you. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 79: 766-774.
2009. Composition, coincidence, and metaontology. In *Metametaphysics*, eds. David Chalmers, David Manley, and Ryan Wasserman, Oxford University Press.
2008. Exclusion again. In *Being Reduced: New Essays on Reduction, Explanation, Causation*, eds. J. Kallestrup and J. Hohwy, Oxford University Press, 280-305.
 Reprinted (2011) in *Consciousness and the Mind-Body Problem: A Reader*, edited by Torin Alter and Robert J. Howell, Oxford University Press.
2007. Mental causation. *Philosophy Compass* 2: 316-337.
2006. Proxy ‘actualism’. *Philosophical Studies* 129:2, 263-294.
2005. Two axes of actualism. *The Philosophical Review* 114:3, 297-326.

2005. Supervenience. (With Brian McLaughlin). In the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
2004. Global supervenience and dependence. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 68:3, 501-529.
2004. Spatio-temporal coincidence and the grounding problem. *Philosophical Studies* 118:3, 339-371.
2003. Why the exclusion problem seems intractable, and how, just maybe, to tract it. *Noûs* 37:3, 471-497.

Book Reviews

2005. Review of *Possible Worlds*, by John Divers. *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 83:2, 282-285.
2004. Review of *How Things Persist*, by Katherine Hawley. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 69:1, 230-233.
2003. Review of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Philosophy*, ed. James B. South. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (<http://ndpr.nd.edu/>).

Upcoming Talks and Conference Presentations

Avicenna and Contemporary Metaphysics, University of Edinburgh, late 2023

Talks and Conference Presentations:

Author-meets-critics session at 2023 Eastern APA on Jessica Wilson's *Metaphysical Emergence*

Rutgers/Tel Aviv workshop on personal identity, November 2022

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, November 2022

Sole Instructor, Hamburg/Vienna Summer School "Social Ontology and Traditional Metaphysics," July 2022

Author-meets-critics session at 2022 Pacific APA on Mark Balaguer's *Metaphysics, Sophistry, and Illusion*

Stanford University, May 2021 (zoom; postponed from April 2020)

Hägerström Lectures, Uppsala University (Sweden), March 2021 (zoom; postponed from March 2020)

Keynote speaker at Arché Graduate Conference, February 2021 (zoom; postponed from May 2020)

Jowett Society, University of Oxford, February 2021 (zoom; postponed from November 2020)

University of Pittsburgh, February 2020

Distinguished Philosopher-in-Residence, NYU Abu Dhabi, November 2019

Conference on Grounding (NC State), September 2019

Workshop on Philosophical Methodology, Dartmouth College, May 2019

Myro Lecture, University of California at Berkeley, April 2019

Keynote Address at Rocky Mountain Graduate Conference, March 2019

SUNY Buffalo, April 2018

Kant and Analytic Metaphysics, Toronto, April 2018

Rutgers University, March 2018

University of Vermont, March 2018

SWIP Analytic, September 2017

Keynote speaker at Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, Australia, July 2017
 University of Michigan alumni conference, May 2017
 Purdue University Distinguished Woman Visitor, March 2017
 SOFIA conference (Mexico), January 2017
 Comments on Shumener, Metaphysics at the Ranch conference, January 2017
 The University of Nebraska, November 2016
 Public lecture at “Center for Philosophic Exchange” at SUNY Brockport, October 2016
 The Burman Lectures at the University of Umea (Sweden), October 2016
 University of Massachusetts, September 2016
 Keynote speaker at 2016 Geneva Graduate Conference (Switzerland), May 2016
 University of Illinois at Chicago, April 2016
 Kline Workshop at the University of Missouri: Ontological Commitment, March 2016
 The Morris Colloquium: Metaphysics and its History (University of Colorado), March 2016
 Central APA (invited symposium on fundamentality), March 2016
 University of Miami, February 2016
 Southern Methodist University, November 2015
 Brown University, September 2015
 Comments on Amijee’s “Contingentism and the PSR,” 16th Annual Bellingham Summer
 Philosophy Conference, August 2015.
 University of Georgia, February 2015
 University of Texas at Austin, November 2014
 University of Houston, November 2014
 Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics, October 2014
 Keynote Speaker for Creighton Club annual conference, September 2014
 Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy,
 Princeton University, August 2014
 Daylong presentation about relative fundamentality at Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers
 University, May 2014
 Comments on Rayo’s *The Construction of Logical Space*, at Logical and Modal Space
 Workshop, NYU, April 2014
 “There is no special problem with metaphysics”
 “World Philosophy Day” event at the University of Toronto
 Invited symposium, Pacific APA, April 2014
 41st annual Oberlin Colloquium, May 2014
 “Relative Fundamentality,” Tufts University, November 2013
 Chapters 1-5 of *Making Things Up*, Varieties of Metaphysical Priority workshop, University
 of Mainz, November 2013
 “The Nonfundamental,” Bridging Metaphysics and Philosophy of Physics conference,
 University of Rochester, September 2013
 “Fundamentality and What is Fundamental,” Big vs. Small Conference, University of
 Hamburg, Germany, June 2013
 Q&A session to conclude a reading group on my book ms, Oxford University, March 2013
 “There is No Special Problem about the Methodology of Metaphysics,”
 Notre Dame, March 2013
 University of Michigan, Spring Colloquium on the Methodology of Metaphysics, March
 2013

- “Building Fundamentality”, Back at the Ranch Ontology Conference, January 2013
- “Making Things Up”
 University of Barcelona, October 2011
 University of Mississippi, November 2011
- “By Our Bootstraps”
 CUNY Graduate Center, September 2011
 University of Memphis, November 2011
 University of Kentucky, March 2012
 University of Wisconsin at Madison, March 2012
- Comments on Amie Thomasson’s “Modal Normativism: We Can Work it Out”
 45th Annual Chapel Hill Colloquium, November 2011
- “Naturalism and Fundamentality”
 Arché Conference on naturalism in metaphysics, October 2011
- “Kripke’s Paradox”
 Conference at CUNY Graduate Center celebrating the publication of Kripke’s
Philosophical Troubles, September 2011
- “Building and Causing”
 Stanford University, April 2011
 University of Rochester, April 2011
 University of Missouri, March 2011
 USC, February 2011
 MIT, February 2011
 NYU, October 2010
 Rutgers, October 2010
 NC State, October 2010
 University of Massachusetts, November 2010
- “How Philosophers Think about the Meaning of Life”
 Public lecture at the 92nd Street Y, March 2011
- Reply to Robert Brandom’s “Modal Expressivism and Modal Realism”
 NYU Issues in Modern Philosophy Conference, November 2010
- “Construction Area: No Hard Hat Required”
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2010
- “Flavors of Fundamentality”
 Invited paper at RSSS Fundamentality Conference, ANU, July 2010
- “Fundamentality”
 Full day seminar-style presentation at the Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University,
 May 2010
- “How Philosophers Think about the Meaning of Life”
 Invited public lecture at the One Day University, April 2010
- “Of Motorcycles and Mereology”
 Author-meets-critics session on Kathrin Koslicki’s *The Structure of Objects*, Pacific
 APA, March 2010
- “The Ordinary and the Fundamental”
 Invited paper at Ordinary Objects Conference, Auburn University, February 2010
- “Putting Things Together”
 Perspectives on Ontology Conference, University of Leeds, UK, September 2008

Keynote Address to Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference, March 2009
 Indiana University, March 2009
 Notre Dame University, March 2009
 Brown University, September 2009
 University of Konstanz, November 2009
 “Construction Area: No Hard Hat Required”
 Invited symposium on ontological emergence, Central APA, February 2009
 Mellon Metaphysics Workshop, May 2009
 “Thomasson’s *Ordinary Objects*”
 Author meets critics session, Eastern APA, December 2008
 Comments on Jonathan Schaffer’s “The Internal Relatedness of All Things”
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2008
 “Metametametaphysics”
 Invited symposium, Eidos group, University of Geneva, Switzerland, July 2008
 Invited symposium, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, March 2008
 “Maybe Sometime”
 University of Toronto, February 2008
 Jowett Society, Oxford University, October 2007
 Syracuse University, November 2007
 “New Thoughts on Mental Causation”
 Syracuse Mental Causation Workshop, December 2007
 “Eternalist Actualism”
 Keynote address at the University of Texas Graduate Conference, April 2007
 Comments on Michael Nelson’s “The Contingency of Existence”
 Invited symposium, Pacific APA, April 2007
 Comments on Thomas Hofweber’s “Ontology as a Philosopher’s Project”
 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, March 2007
 “Two Causal –isms”
 NYU Causation Conference, La Pietra, Italy, June 2006
 Comments on Eric Hiddleston’s “The Reductivist’s Troubles with Mental Causation”
 Invited symposium, Pacific APA, March 2006
 “Why I am Not a Dualist”
 Mt. Holyoke College, April 2007
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 2007
 Cornell University, December 2006
 University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, December 2006
 University of Utah, November 2006
 Metaphysics of Science Workshop, Birmingham, UK, June 2006
 UC Vermont, April 2006
 UC Davis, April 2006
 Columbia University, March 2006
 Harvard University, October 2005
 University of Pennsylvania, November 2005
 Brown University, December 2005
 Australasian Association of Philosophy Meetings, July 2005
 “Exclusion Again”

Reed College, February 2006
 Comments on Cian Dorr's "Numbers and Electrons"
 Eastern APA, December 2005
 "Composition, Coincidence, and Metaontology"
 University of Colorado at Boulder, December 2006
 Ohio State University, October 2006
 Washington University in St. Louis, October 2006
 Arizona Ontology Conference, Tucson, January 2006
 Metametaphysics Conference, ANU, July 2005
 CUNY Graduate Center, February 2005
 Oberlin College, February 2005
 NYU Mind and Language Seminar, April 2005
 Invited symposium on metaontology, with Stephen Yablo and Eli Hirsch
 Eastern APA, Dec. 2004
 "Metametaphysics"
 University of Melbourne, October 2004
 "Exclusion Again"
 Conference on 'Descrying the World in Physics', Rutgers, April 2005
 Australasian Association of Philosophy Meeting, July 2004
 Macquarie University Mental Causation Workshop, September 2004
 Comments on Carolina Sartorio's "On Causing Something to Happen in a Certain Way
 without Causing it to Happen"
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2004
 "Exclusion Again: Poison Pills and Placebos"
 NAMICONA conference on Mental Causation, Aarhus University (Denmark), May 2004
 "Metametaphysics" (early version)
 Brown University, March 2004
 Invited symposium on Michael Jubien's "Analyzing Modality"
 Pacific APA, March 2004
 Comments on Dean Zimmerman's "Presentism and a Timelessly Eternal Deity"
 Keynote session, New Jersey Regional Philosophy Conference, November 2003
 "Two Axes of Actualism"
 MIT, October 2003
 Keynote Address at Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Student Conference, April 2003
 Monash University, April 2002
 Response to Jessica Wilson's "The Many in One Problem"
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2002:
 "How Not to Be an Actualist"
 RSSS, Australian National University, February 2002
 "Why the Exclusion Problem Seems Intractable, and How, Just Maybe, to Tract It"
 New York University, April 2001
 "Token Dualism and Causal Competition (or, Mental Causation Yet Again)"
 Metaphysical Mayhem V, August 2000
 "On Differing Modally"
 Cornell University, Stanford University, The University of Texas at Austin, The University
 of Florida at Gainesville, Pomona College, The University of Southern California,

University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Arizona State University, Jan-Feb 2000.
Comments on Robert Allen's "The Necessity of Identity"

APA Central Division Meeting, May 1999

Response to Jaegwon Kim's "What is Naturalism?"

16th Annual University of Michigan Spring Colloquium, March 1997

Courses Taught

Undergraduate: Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Metaphysics, Intermediate Metaphysics, Freshman Writing Seminar: Philosophy Through Science Fiction, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy and Everyday Life, undergraduate

Graduate: seminars on social ontology, determination, fundamentality, mereology and priority, metametaphysics, objects, modality, metaphysics of mind, contemporary dualisms

Ph.D. students (post-coursework students only; either chair or minor member)

At Rutgers:

Chris Fruge

Zach Kofi

Ezra Rubenstein

Dee Payton, defended April 2021

Isaac Wilhelm, defended June 2021

At Cornell:

Dean Davee, defended July 2021

Augie Faller, defended April 2020

Chad McIntosh, defended April 2020

Vivek Mathew, defended September 2019

Zeyu Chi, defended July 2019

Fran Fairbairn, defended July 2019

Nate Meyvis, defended April 2017

David Kovacs, defended May 2016

Andrea Viggiano, defended July 2016

Daniel Murphy, defended July 2015

Eric Rowe, defended July 2015

Ian McKay, defended August 2014

Stephen Mahaffey, defended December 2013

Zachary Abrahams, defended October 2012

At Princeton:

Paul Audi, 2007.

Colin Klein, 2006.

Stephan Leuenberger, 2006.

Service to the Philosophy Department

At Rutgers:

Department Chair, 2020-2023

Recruitment committee, 2020-?
Mellon Post-Doc committee, 2019
Graduate admissions, 2019

At Cornell:

2017-2018: Placement Director and Junior Search Committee Chair
Graduate admissions, spring 2017
Placement director, 2008-2010, 2017-2018
The usual slate of departmental committee work, including hiring and graduate admissions, etc.
Editor-in-chief of *The Philosophical Review*, 2015-16
One of three editors of *The Philosophical Review*, January 2013-2016.
Organized Boyd-Sturgeon retirement conference, September 2012
Organized Mellon Metaphysics Workshop at Cornell, 2009 and 2012

College or University level service:

At Rutgers:

SAS Executive Committee (appointed by Dean Peter March) 2021-?

At Cornell:

University Appeals Panel (appointed by President David Skorton), 2013-2018
Academic Records Committee (appointed), 2013-2018
Dean's Advisory Committee on Appointments (elected), 2011-2014; 2017-2020
House fellow, Hans Bethe House, 2011-2018

Service to the Profession:

External review committee for Philosophy Dept. at the University of Maryland (2022)
Nominating Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA (elected), 2013-2015
Program Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA, 2017-2019
Subject editor (metaphysics) for *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
Co-editor of *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*
Mentor for Athena in Action, a workshop to assist female graduate students profession-wide (2015, 2020)
Editorial Board, *Philosophical Studies*, 2005-present
Editor-in-chief of *The Philosophical Review*, 2015-16
One of three editors of *The Philosophical Review*, January 2013-2016.
External review committee for the Philosophy Dept. at the University of Miami (2015)
Nominating Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA (elected), 2013-2015
Referee for *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Mind and Language*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Monist*, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Princeton University Press, Continuum Press, Acumen Press.
Advisory Committee to APA Eastern Division Program Committee (Metaphysics), 2007-2010

Program Committee, 7th Annual Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, 2006; guest co-editor of resulting issue of *Philosophical Studies*

Honors and Awards:

Robert and Helen Appel Fellowship for Humanists and Social Scientists (Cornell), 2008
For excellence in both teaching and research.

John Dewey Prize, 2000

For excellence in undergraduate teaching in the Michigan Philosophy Department
Graduate Student Mentor, 1999-2000

In charge of training first-time teaching assistants in the Michigan Philosophy Dept.
Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 1997-1998

University-wide competition

Charles Stevenson Award, 1997

Awarded annually for the best candidacy dossier submitted to the Michigan Phil. Dept.

Mellon Fellowship, 1997

Marshall Weinberg Summer Fellowship, 1996