Karen Bennett

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Regular Academic Positions:

Department chair, Rutgers, 2020-present (on sabbatical 2024-25)

Professor, Rutgers University, 2018-present

Professor, Cornell University, 2014-2018

Associate Professor, Cornell University, 2007-2014

Assistant Professor, Princeton University, 2000-2007

Postdoctoral Fellow, RSSS, 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

Finding dry ground.

The determination first approach to metaphysical structure.

Laws as partial grounds (with Audrey Powers and Itamar Weinshtock Saadon).

In defense of metaground.

Going underground.

Kinds and groups.

The puzzle of precommitment.

Newsflash: Lewis *did* believe in grounding!

Humean, all too Humean.

Edited Volumes

Co-editor (with Dean Zimmerman), *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, volumes 6-14 thus far

Books

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

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 (Jason Turner and Maureen Donnelly)

Reviewed by Kris McDaniel in *The Journal of Philosophy*

Reviewed by Thomas Hofweber in *The Philosophical Review*

Reviewed by Louis deRosset in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*

Reviewed by Alastair Wilson in *Mind*

Published and Forthcoming Papers

Forthcoming. The Determination First Account of metaphysical structure. *Australasian Philosophical Review*.

2024. Supervenience. *Open Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science.*

2024. Emergence, exclusion, and the proper subset of powers strategy. *Argumenta* 10: 237-246.

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. Precís 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. Precís 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/).

Recent Talks (*talks prior to 2017 available upon request)*

Conference on reduction in metaethics, metaphysics, and mind, University of Fribourg, (Switzerland), June 2025

Clark Lecture, University of Indiana Bloomington, Fall 2025

Union College, Spring 2025

56th annual Chapel Hill Colloquium, Fall 2024

MIT, Fall 2024

CUNY Graduate Center, Spring 2024

Pacific APA session on the value of philosophy (with Phillip Kitcher, Scott Soames, and John Heil), Portland OR, March 2024

Invited speaker, Wittgenstein Symposium on Facets of Reality, Austria, August 2024

Conference on the epistemology of grounding, Vienna, August 2024

Commentator-at-large, Avicenna and Contemporary Metaphysics, University of Edinburgh, January 2023

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

*List of talks delivered prior to 2017 available upon request.*

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

Graduate: seminars on grounding, causation, social ontology, physicalism, fundamentality, mereology, metametaphysics, objects, modality, metaphysics of mind

Ph.D. students (either chair or minor member)

At Rutgers:

Itamar Weinshtock Saadon

Audrey Powers

Toby Bollig

Zach Kofi

Chris Fruge, defended spring 2023

Ezra Rubenstein, defended fall 2022

Dee Payton, defended April 2021

Isaac Wilhelm, defended June 2021

At Cornell:

Dean Davee, 2021

Augie Faller, 2020

Chad McIntosh, 2020

Vivek Mathew, 2019

Zeyu Chi, 2019

Fran Fairbairn, 2019

Nate Meyvis, 2017

David Kovacs, 2016

Andrea Viggiano, 2016

Daniel Murphy, 2015

Eric Rowe, 2015

Ian McKay, 2014

Stephen Mahaffey, 2013

Zachary Abrahams, 2012

At Princeton:

Paul Audi, 2007.

Colin Klein, 2006.

Stephan Leuenberger, 2006.

Departmental Service

At Rutgers:

Department Chair, 2020-present

Recruitment committee, 2020-21

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 Service:

At Rutgers:

SAS Executive Committee (appointed annually by the executive dean) 2021-2024

Co-chair, SAS Strategic Plan Visioning Committee, 2023

Center for Population-Level Bioethics Advisory Board, 2020-2024

At Cornell:

University Appeals Panel (appointed), 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 the Department of Philosophy at UMass (2024)

External review committee for School of Philosophy at Australian National University (2023)

External review committee for Philosophy Dept. at the University of Maryland (2022)

Nominating Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA (elected), 2022-2024

Program Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA, 2017-2019

Nominating Committee for the Eastern Division of the APA (elected), 2013-2015

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*, *Synthèse*, *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*