

Matthew W. Babb

Department of Philosophy
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Education

- 2017 University of Southern California (expected)
Ph.D. in Philosophy
Dissertation: *Telling Each Other What to Do: On Imperative Language*
Committee: Robin Jeshion (chair), Gabriel Uzquiano, Scott Soames, Stephen Finlay, Barry Schein (linguistics)
- 2010 Northern Illinois University
M.A. in Philosophy
- 2006 Northern Illinois University
B.A. in Philosophy, Minor in Political Science, *Summa Cum Laude*

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Action Theory

Areas of Competence

Metaphysics, History of Philosophy (esp. Modern and 20th Century Analytic)

Areas of Teaching Interest

Ethics, Epistemology, Existentialism, Wittgenstein

Honors and Awards

- 2016 *Philosophical Quarterly* 2015 Essay Prize (International Essay Competition) for my paper
“The Essential Indexicality of Intentional Action”, *Philosophical Quarterly*
- 2016 Graduate Student Travel Stipend Recipient, APA, Central Division Meeting
- 2010-16 USC College Merit Award, University of Southern California, Graduate Division
- 2010 C. Mason and Madeline Myers Award, Northern Illinois University, Philosophy Department

Articles

- Publications* The Essential Indexicality of Intentional Action (*Philosophical Quarterly*)
- Under Review* Do Imperatives Have Truth-Values?
The Importance of the 2nd-Person
Pain and Imperative Content
Practical Deliberation and the Semantics of ‘Ought’

Presentations

Refereed

- 2017 “Why Pain Motivates: A Critique of the Imperativist View of Pain.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Kansas City, MO
- 2016 “The Essential Indexicality of Intentional Action: A Reply to Cappelen and Dever.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2012 “A Difference Between ‘a’ and ‘the’.” Iowa Philosophical Society Conference, Drake University, Des Moines, IA

Invited

- 2014 “The Syntax and Semantics of Ought-to-Do Sentences.” Dissertation Proseminar, Fall, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 “Towards a Theory of Imperative Meaning.” Dissertation Proseminar, Spring, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 “A Problem for Satisfaction Conditional Semantics of Imperatives.” Dissertation Proseminar, Fall, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 “Assertions, Propositions, and the Foundations of Language.” Dissertation Proseminar, Spring, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Comments

- 2015 Comments on “Consequences of Conditional Excluded Middle” by Jeremy Goodman. USC/UCLA Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 Comments on “A Critique of the Physicalist Theory of Color” by Pendaran Roberts. Midwest Graduate Student Conference, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Courses Taught

Lone Star College–CyFair

Spring 2017 Introduction to Philosophy, Phil 1301 (x3 sections)

Houston Community College

Spring 2017 Introduction to Philosophy, Phil 1301 (x2 sections)

Spring 2017 Cooperative in Philosophy, Phil 2389

California State University–Long Beach

Fall 2016 Philosophy of Mind/Philosophical Psychology, Phil 483

University of Southern California

Fall 2013 Elementary Formal Logic I, Phil 250A

Fall 2013 Elementary Formal Logic II, Phil 250B

Teaching Assistantships

University of Southern California

- Fall 2016 Modern Philosophy and the Meaning of Life
Stephen Finlay, Phil 168g
- Spring 2016 Modern Philosophy and the Meaning of Life
Edwin McCann, Phil 168g
- Spring 2015 Change and the Future (Special Topic: Political Philosophy)
Edwin McCann, CORE 104
- Spring 2013 Contemporary Moral Issues
Robin Jeshion, Phil 140g
- Fall 2012 Modern Philosophy and the Meaning of Life
Edwin McCann, Phil 155g
- Spring 2012 The Process of Change in Science (Special Topic: Philosophy and the “New Science”)
Edwin McCann, CORE 103
- Fall 2011 Science, Religion, and the Making of the Modern Mind
John Dreher, Phil 220g

Northern Illinois University

- Spring 2010 Classical Ethical Theories
Sharon Sytsma, Phil 331
- Fall 2009 Contemporary Moral Issues
Mylan Engel, Phil 231

Non-College Teaching

National Society for the Gifted and Talented/ Summer Institute for the Gifted, UCLA Program

- This is a summer program introducing K-12 students to college-level material.

- Summer 2016 Courses taught: *Theories of Time Travel: Spacetime Physics and Wormholes*
Cosmic Proportions: The Origin and Structure of the Universe
Astrophysics: The Stars of Celestial Motion
Biopsychology
- Summer 2015 Courses taught: *Philosophy: Diving into Deep Thoughts*
Cosmic Proportions: The Origin and Structure of the Universe
Biopsychology
- Summer 2014 Courses taught: *Philosophy: Diving into Deep Thoughts*
Theories of Time Travel: Spacetime Physics and Wormholes
Biopsychology
- Summer 2013 Courses taught: *Immortality: Myths and Legends*
Cosmic Proportions: The Origin and Structure of the Universe
Contemplating the Complexity of Communication

Summer 2012 Courses taught: *Immortality: Myths and Legends*
Cosmic Proportions: The Origin and Structure of the Universe
What's Your Point? The Art of Debate

Summer 2011 Courses taught: *Philosophy: Diving into Deep Thoughts*
Sneaker Economics: Introduction to Microeconomics
Spying: Secrets, Surveillance, and Science

Professional Services

2016– Referee for *Mind: A Quarterly Review of Philosophy*
2015– Referee for *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*
2012– Referee for *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*
2013-14 Treasurer, Pegasus: USC Philosophy Graduate Student Association
2012-13 Co-Organizer, 7th Annual USC/UCLA Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy
2011-12 Co-Organizer, 6th Annual USC/UCLA Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy

Professional Associations

2009– Member of *American Philosophical Association*

Graduate Coursework (* indicates course not taken for credit)

Philosophy of Language and Linguistics

Phil 565* Philosophy of Language: Vagueness
Andrew Bacon and John Hawthorne, Fall 2015, USC
Ling 585* Syntax and Grammatical Theory
Roumyana Pancheva, Spring 2015, USC
Ling 636 Seminar in Semantics: Mass and Count Nouns
Barry Schein, Fall 2011, USC
Ling 536 Semantics: Intensional Semantics
Barry Schein, Spring 2011, USC
Phil 565* Philosophy of Language: Singular Reference and Thought
Robin Jeshion, Spring 2013, USC
Phil 565 Philosophy of Language: Slurs
Robin Jeshion, Fall 2012, USC
Phil 565 Philosophy of Language: The Definite/Indefinite Distinction, Propositions
Karen Lewis and Scott Soames, Spring 2012, USC
Phil 695 Special Studies and Research: Minimalism vs. Contextualism
Tomis Kapitan, Fall 2009, NIU
Phil 691 Topics in Recent Philosophy: Theories of Truth
David Buller, Spring 2009, NIU

Phil 504 Philosophy of Language: Fregeanism and Russellianism
 Tomis Kapitan, Spring 2009, NIU

Philosophy of Mind

Phil 501 Seminar in Recent Philosophy: *De Se* Thought
 Jim Higginbotham, Fall 2011, USC
Phil 695 Special Studies and Research: Reductionism, Non-Reductionism, and Emergentism
 Carl Gillett, Spring 2010, NIU
Phil 640 Philosophy of Mind: What are Minds?
 Carl Gillett, Fall 2009, NIU

Logic

Phil 551 Seminar in the Philosophy of Logic: Logic and Modality
 Gabriel Uzquiano, Spring 2012, USC
Phil 510 Philosophical Logic: Logic and Computability
 Jim Higginbotham, Spring 2011, USC

Metaphysics and Epistemology (including Philosophy of Science)

Phil 501* Seminar in Recent Philosophy: Central Topics in Epistemology
 John Hawthorne, Spring 2016, USC
Phil 585 Seminar in the Philosophy of Science: Bayesianism
 Kenny Easwaran, Fall 2010, USC
Phil 691 Special Topics in Recent Philosophy: Paradoxes
 Valia Alori, Spring 2010, NIU
Phil 612 Metaphysics: Overview
 Tomis Kapitan, Fall 2009, NIU
Phil 510 Topics in Metaphysics and Epistemology: Modality
 Mylan Engel, Spring 2009, NIU
Phil 611 Epistemology: Theories of Knowledge
 Mylan Engel, Fall 2008, NIU

Ethics and Value Theory

Phil 501* Seminar in Recent Philosophy: Rationality
 Ralph Wedgwood, Fall 2014, USC
Phil 540 Seminar in Ethics: Reasons and Rationality
 Alejandro Carballo, Fall 2013, USC
Phil 503 Pro-Seminar in Value Theory
 Mark Schroeder and Gary Watson, Spring 2011, USC
Phil 531 Advanced Ethical Theory
 Sharon Sytsma, Spring 2008, NIU

History of Philosophy

- Phil 520 Studies in Modern Philosophy: John Locke
 Edwin McCann, Spring 2011, USC
- Phil 520* Studies in Modern Philosophy: Thomas Reid
 Jim Van Cleve and Gideon Yaffe, Fall 2010, USC
- Phil 500 Pro-Seminar in 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
 Jim Higginbotham, Fall 2010, USC
- Phil 529 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
 David Buller, Spring 2010, NIU

Other

- Phil 501* Seminar in Recent Philosophy: Self/Other Asymmetries
 Mark Schroeder, Fall 2015, USC
- Phil 530 Seminar in the Philosophy of Law
 Andrei Marmor, Fall 2010, USC
- Phil 670 Philosophy of Religion Tomis Kapitan, Fall 2008, NIU

References

Robin Jeshion (Dissertation Advisor)
Professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
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Gabriel Uzquiano
Professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
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Scott Soames
Professor and Chair of Philosophy
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soames@usc.edu

Steve Finlay
Professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
finlay@usc.edu

John Hawthorne
Professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
jhawthor@usc.edu

Edwin McCann (Teaching Reference)
Professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
mccann@usc.edu

Barry Schein (Linguistics)
Professor of Linguistics
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schein@usc.edu