

Philosophy Department
Miner Hall, 14 Upper Campus Rd.
Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155

BRIAN A. EPSTEIN

email: brian.epstein@tufts.edu
website: www.epstein.org

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

February 2026-present

Professor, Department of Philosophy, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

May 2015-January 2026

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

August 2023-July 2024

Visiting Researcher, Department of Philosophy, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

October 2015-June 2016

Honorary Research Associate, Department of Economics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

September 2009-May 2015

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

September 2004-August 2009

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA

EDUCATION

Ph.D, Philosophy

Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 2004

Dissertation title: Simple Words and Subtle Things: Social Kinds and the Making of Reference

Dissertation committee: John Etchemendy, John Perry, Kenneth Taylor, Mark Crimmins

M.St, Philosophy

University of Oxford, New College, Oxford, England, 1992

A.B. *summa cum laude*, Philosophy

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 1990

Thesis in epistemology (advisor: David Lewis)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Social Ontology, Cambridge University Press, 2025.

The Ant Trap: Rebuilding the Foundations of the Social Sciences, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Winner of 2016 Joseph B. Gittler Award, American Philosophical Association

Winner of 2016 Lakatos Award, London School of Economics

Translations:

Chinese, 蚂蚁陷阱：重建社会科学的基础, China Science Publishing and Media Ltd. of Beijing, 2026

Turkish, under contract, VakıfBank Kültür Yayınları

Japanese, under contract, Keiso Shobo, Ltd.

Symposia:

Lakatos Workshop on The Ant Trap, LSE, London, UK, November 2017.

Pacific APA book symposium, Seattle, WA, April 2017.

Journal of Social Ontology 2, No. 1 (2016), 125-172.

European Network on Social Ontology, Palermo, Sicily, September 2015

Reviews:

- by Robert Sugden, *Journal of Economic Literature* 54, No. 4 (2016), 1377-89.
- By Mantas Radzvilas, *Economics and Philosophy* 32, No. 3 (2016), 553-560.
- by James Swindler, *Philosophy in Review* 36, No. 3 (2016), 103-108.
- by Arif Assaf, *Times Literary Supplement*, April 29, 2016
- by Mark Risjord, *Metascience* 25, No. 1 (2016), 135-137.
- by R. Hudelson, *Choice*, September 2015
- by Alban Bouvier, *Revue philosophique de la France et de l'étranger*, 2015/4, Tome 140.

Edited Volumes

- Cambridge Companion to the Metaphysics of Law* (co-edited with George Pavlakos and Corrado Roversi), Cambridge University Press, under contract, expected publication 2027.
- The Oxford Handbook of Social Ontology* (co-edited with Sally Haslanger, Stephanie Collins, and Hans-Bernhard Schmid), Oxford University Press, in press 2026.
- "Social Ontology and Collective Responsibility" issue of *The Monist* (with Mario DeCaro and Erin Kelly), 2019.

Articles

- "The Iterated Social Construction of Words," *Grazer Philosophische Studien*, 103(1-2), 181-211.
<https://doi.org/10.1163/18756735-00000270>
- "Supervenience and Boolean Reduction," with David Smyth, in press 2026, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 113, no. 1: 88-105. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phpr.70118>
- "Individualism in Social Ontology," with David Schweikard, *The Oxford Handbook of Social Ontology*, edited by Stephanie Collins, Brian Epstein, Sally Haslanger, and Hans Bernhard Schmid, Oxford University Press, in press 2026.
- "Introduction to *The Oxford Handbook of Social Ontology*," with Stephanie Collins, Sally Haslanger, and Hans-Bernhard Schmid, in press 2026.
- "Introduction to The Ant Trap," introduction to Turkish edition of *The Ant Trap*, in press 2025.
- "Social Ontology," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <http://plato.stanford.edu/social-ontology>
Major revision March 2024; first edition published March 2018
- "Why Group Mental States are not Exhaustively Determined by Member States," *Philosophical Issues*, 32, No. 1 (2022), 417-433.
- "Anchoring versus Grounding: Reply to Schaffer," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 99, No. 3 (2019) 768-781.
- "Replies to Hawley, Mikkola, and Hindriks," *Inquiry*, 62, No. 2 (2019) 230-246.
- "Biko on non-white and black: Improving social reality," in *Debating African Philosophy: Perspectives on Identity, Decolonial Ethics and Comparative Philosophy*, ed. by George Hull, pp. 97-117. New York: Routledge, 2018.
- "What are Social Groups? Their Metaphysics and How To Classify Them," *Synthese*, 196, 12 (2019), 4899-4932.
- "Social Ontology," in *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Lee McIntyre and Alex Rosenberg, pp. 240-253. New York: Routledge, 2017.
- "Social Construction and Social Facts," in *The Routledge Handbook on Collective Intentionality*, edited by Marija Jankovic and Kirk Ludwig, pp 265-76. New York: Routledge, 2017.
- "Précis of The Ant Trap," *Journal of Social Ontology* 2, No. 1 (2016), 125-134.
- "Replies to Guala and Gallotti," *Journal of Social Ontology* 2, No. 1 (2016), 159-172.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 46, No. 2 (2016), 147-167.
Translated into Russian, "Концептуальные рамки социальной онтологии," by A.M. Orekhov, S.V. Moiseev, with the help of A.Z. Chernyak and A.V. Antonov, *RUDN Journal of*

- Philosophy*, 26, No. 3 (2022), 582-598. As part of symposium, "Social Ontology of B. Epstein and its Contemporary Interpretations"
- "Why Macroeconomics does not Supervene on Microeconomics," *Journal of Economic Methodology* 21, No. 1 (2014), 3-18.
- "How Many Kinds of Glue Hold the Social World Together?" in *Social Ontology and Social Cognition*, ed. by Mattia Gallotti and John Michael, pp. 41-55. Dordrecht: Springer, 2014.
- "What is Individualism in Social Ontology? Ontological Individualism vs. Anchor Individualism," in *Rethinking the Individualism/Holism Debate: Essays in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Finn Collin and Julie Zahle, pp. 17-38. Dordrecht: Springer, 2014.
- "Social Objects without Intentions," in *Institutions, Emotions, and Group Agents: Contributions to Social Ontology*, ed. by Anita Konzelmann Ziv and Hans Bernhard Schmid, pp. 53-68. Dordrecht: Springer, 2013.
- "Sortals and Criteria of Identity," *Analysis* 72, No. 3 (2012), 474-478.
- "The Perils of Tweaking: How to Use Macrodata to Set Parameters in Complex Simulation Models" with Patrick Forber, *Synthese* 190, No. 2 (2012), 203-218.
- Review of *Creations of the Mind*, edited by Margolis and Laurence, *Mind* 121, No. 481 (2012), 200-204.
- Review of *The SAGE Handbook of the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, ed. by Jarvie and Zamorra-Bonilla, *Economics and Philosophy* 28, No. 3 (2012), 428-435.
- "Agent-Based Models and the Fallacies of Individualism," in *Models, Simulations, and Representations*, ed. by Paul Humphreys and Cyrille Imbert, pp. 115-144. New York: Routledge, 2011.
- "The Diviner and the Scientist: Revisiting the Question of Alternative Standards of Rationality," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 78, No. 4 (2010), 1048-1086.
- "History and the Critique of Social Concepts," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 40, No. 1 (2010), 3-29.
- "Ontological Individualism Reconsidered," *Synthese* 166, No. 1 (2009), 187-213.
- "Grounds, Convention, and the Metaphysics of Linguistic Tokens," *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* 9 No. 25 (2009), 45-67.
- "The Realpolitik of Reference," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 89 (2008), 1-20.
- "When Local Models Fail," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 38 (2008), 3-24.
- "The Internal and the External in Linguistic Explanation," *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* 8 No. 22 (2008), 77-111.
- Review of *Language: A Biological Model* by Ruth Millikan, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (April 2006).

Video

- "What is Social Ontology?" Social Ontology Video Series, episode 1, *Social Ontology Research Group*, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwEhye191OI>

Op-eds

- "What Alabama's Roy Moore Got Right," New York Times – The Stone philosophy column, February 16, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- "What Do We Do When We Create A Game?" Games and the Social World Conference, Neuchatel, Switzerland, April 16, 2026

- "The Architecture of Legal Determination," Metaphysics of Law Workshop, Bologna, Italy, April 14, 2026
- "Models and their Ontologies," Keynote, Social Ontology and Empirical Inquiry, University of Pittsburgh, April 11, 2026
- "An Ecumenical Approach to Exportation," Social Ontology 2025, Dublin, July 2025
- "Daniel Dennett's Philosophical Legacy," Tufts University Symposium on AI and Consciousness, Medford, MA, October 14, 2025.
- "What is Social Construction?," Tufts STS seminar, Medford, MA, March 28, 2025.
- "On the Social World," Vienna Live podcast, online, September 25, 2024.
- "The Iterated Social Construction of Words," Sophia workshop on social nature of language, Salzburg, Austria (remote), September 12, 2024
- "Social Construction and Why Things "Are What They Are"," Keynote, Social Ontology 2024, Duke University, July 22, 2024
- "How to Theorize about Social Construction":
- ANU Philosophy Colloquium*, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia, May 9, 2024
 - University of Wollongong Philosophy Colloquium*, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW, Australia, May 2, 2024
 - University of Sydney Philosophy Colloquium*, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia, March 20, 2024
 - Monash University Philosophy Colloquium*, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, March 8, 2024
 - Melbourne University Philosophy Colloquium*, Melbourne University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, March 7, 2024
- "The Architecture of Legal Determination," *University of Sydney workshop on time*, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia, July 18, 2023
- "The Architecture of Law," *UCLA Workshop on Philosophy of Law*, UCLA, March 10, 2023
- "Categorization in Metaphysics," *The Meta-metaphysics of Social Ontology*, Toulouse, France, January 12, 2023
- "The Metaphysics of Marriage: Understanding Families of Social Kinds," *Social Ontology 2022*, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, August 26, 2022
- "Determining Group Attitudes," Keynote talk at *Social Metaphysics*, Duke University, June 27, 2022
- "Anchoring and Grounding," *Central European University Seminar*, Videoconference to CEU, Vienna, Austria, March 10, 2022
- "The Metaphysics of Marriage: Understanding Families of Social Kinds," *University of Virginia Philosophy Colloquium*, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, November 19, 2021
- "Broadening Formal Models of Individual and Collective Intentionality," joint work with Michael Ryall, *International Network for Economic Method Conference*, Videoconference to Tucson, AZ, November 12, 2021
- "The Metaphysics of Marriage: Understanding Families of Social Kinds," *Simco Endowed Lecture*, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, November 4, 2021
- "Broadening Formal Models of Individual and Collective Intentionality," joint work with Michael Ryall, *Social Ontology 2021*, Videoconference to San Diego, CA, August 20, 2021
- "Real Definition and the Generation of Essence," Keynote talk at *Conference on Re-evaluating Social Essences*, 4th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Metaphysics Collaborative, Videoconference to University of Victoria, May 1, 2021
- "The Metaphysics of Words," *Group for Analytic Metaphysics and Epistemology*, Videoconference to Texas A&M, March 26, 2021

- "Law as a Metaphysical Innovation," *Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy*, Videoconference to Surrey, UK, October 21, 2020
- "Ontological Explanation without Reduction," *Social Ontology 2020*, Videoconference to Neuchâtel, Switzerland, July 17, 2020
- "Anchoring versus Grounding," *Metaphysics on the Mountain*, Videoconference to Idaho, July 6, 2020
- "What are institutions, and how do we change them?" *Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science*, Boston University, Boston, MA October 25, 2019.
- "What are institutions, and how do we change them?" *Tufts Faculty Research Workshop*, Medford, MA, October 3, 2019.
- "On the Metaphysics of Words," *Social Ontology 2019*, Tampere, Finland, August 23, 2019.
- "Real-world Heterogeneous Institutions in Economic Theory," *International Network for Economic Method Conference*, Helsinki, Finland, August 20, 2019.
- "Analyzing Social Institutions," *Academy of Management PDW*, Boston, MA, August 9, 2019.
- "The Metaphysics of Words," Keynote talk at *Conference on the Metaphysics of Words*, Genoa, Italy, June 3, 2019.
- "The Nature of the Social World: Foundations and Applications," *University of Zurich Master Class*, Zurich, Switzerland, May 31-June 1, 2019.
- "Anchoring Legal Norms: The Construction of Obligation," *Glasgow Workshop on Social Ontology, Normativity, and Philosophy of Law*, Glasgow, Scotland, May 30, 2019.
- "How to Design Robust Institutions: Moving Beyond Individualism," *University of Zurich Institute of Sociology Colloquium*, Zurich, Switzerland, May 28, 2019.
- "Convention and the Nature of Institutions," *Philosophy of Social Sciences Roundtable*, Burlington, VT, April 12, 2019.
- "The Nature and Design of Robust Institutions," *University of Pennsylvania PPE Colloquium*, Philadelphia, PA, March 15, 2019.
- "What Social Groups Are, How They Think, and the Relation Between the Two," *Rutgers Philosophy Colloquium*, New Brunswick, NJ, January 31, 2019.
- "Convention and the Nature of Institutions," *Philosophy of Science Association Meeting*, Seattle, WA, November 3, 2018.
- "Social Ontology and the Design of Institutions," *Social Ontology Meets Social Science*, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary, October 2, 2018.
- "Anchoring as a Philosophical Tool," *Social Ontology 2018*, Tufts University, August 23, 2018.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *Academy of Management PDW*, Chicago, IL, August 10, 2018.
- "Anchoring as a Philosophical Tool," *Social Metaphysics*, Nottingham, UK, July 10, 2018.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *Davidson College Colloquium and Seminar*, Charlotte, NC, April 26, 2018.
- "Beyond Parts and Relations: Implications of the Metaphysics of Social Groups," *Social Metaphysics Conference*, University of Southern California, January 20, 2018.
- "Biko on Non-White and Black," *Minorities and Philosophy Colloquium*, Boston, MA, November 30, 2017.
- "Building Robust Institutions," *Waseda University Colloquium*, Tokyo, Japan, November 24, 2017.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *Tokyo Forum for Analytic Philosophy Colloquium*, Tokyo University, Tokyo, Japan, November 20, 2017.
- "Précis of The Ant Trap," *Lakatos Workshop on The Ant Trap*, LSE, London, UK, November 10, 2018
- "Rebuilding the Foundations of the Social Sciences," *Lakatos Award Lecture*, LSE, London, UK, November 9, 2017.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *Université de Québec à Montréal Colloquium*, Montreal, Canada, October 27, 2017.

- "The Nature and Design of Robust Institutions," *Tufts Political Philosophy Symposium*, September 29, 2017.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *IRIT Colloquium*, Toulouse, France, June 26, 2017.
- "Groups and Institutions as Cognizers: Diversifying the parts of a thinking system," *Distributed Agents*, London, UK, June 22, 2017.
- "Why the Anchoring and Grounding Projects in Social Ontology are Distinct," *Critical Social Ontology Workshop*, St. Louis, MO, June 17, 2017.
- "Replies to Tollefsen, Ritchie, and Schaffer," *Book Symposium on The Ant Trap*, Pacific APA, Seattle, WA, April 14, 2017.
- "Grounding and Anchoring," *University of Leeds Philosophy Colloquium*, Leeds, UK, March 24, 2017.
- "What are Social Groups?" *Workshop on Representation*, Leeds, UK, March 23, 2017.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *University of Sheffield Philosophy Colloquium*, Sheffield, UK, March 22, 2017.
- "Social Ontology," *Conference on Social Metaphysics*, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, England, March 20, 2017.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *Berkeley Social Ontology Group Colloquium*, Berkeley, CA, March 1, 2017.
- "Introduction to Social Ontology," *University of California Merced Philosophy Colloquium*, Merced, CA, February 28, 2017.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *Wharton Legal Studies and Business Ethics Colloquium*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, February 16, 2017.
- "Functions, Institutions, and Social Ontology," *Workshop on Social Functions*, Essen, Germany, February 2, 2017.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *University of Rochester Philosophy Colloquium*, Rochester, NY, November 11, 2016.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *University of Buffalo Philosophy Colloquium*, Buffalo, NY, November 10, 2016.
- "Economic Models and the Nature of Institutions," *Philosophy of Science Association Meeting*, Atlanta, GA, November 3, 2016.
- "What are Social Groups?" *MANCEPT*, University of Manchester, Manchester, England, September 9, 2016.
- "Biko on Black vs. Non-White," *University of Oslo Philosophy Department*, Oslo, Norway, September 5, 2016.
- "A Framework for Social Ontology," *University of Oslo Philosophy Department*, Oslo, Norway, September 5, 2016.
- "What are Social Groups?" *Collective Intentionality X*, The Hague, Netherlands, August 31, 2016.
- "What are Social Groups?" Keynote talk at *European Network for the Philosophy of Social Science Conference*, Helsinki, Finland, August 25, 2016.
- "The Nature of Religious Institutions," *Embodied Religion Workshop*, University of Colorado, Boulder CO, August 8, 2016.
- "Biko on Black versus Non-White: Some Uses and Risks of Conceptual Ethics," *Philosophy in Africa*, *Africa in Philosophy Research Seminar*, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, June 14, 2016.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *Hoernlé Philosophy Seminar*, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, April 14, 2016.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *Philosophy Department Seminar*, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, April 13, 2016.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *Philosophy Department Seminar*, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, April 7, 2016.

- "How to Keep Groups Alive: Collective Intentionality Made Easy," *UCT Philosophy Seminar*, Cape Town, South Africa, March 7, 2016.
- "Economics and Social Ontology," *Institute for New Economic Thinking Young Scholars Initiative Webinar*, March 2, 2016.
- "Social Ontology and the Practice of Economics," *International Network for Economic Methodology Conference*, Cape Town, South Africa, November 19-22, 2015.
- "Response to commentators in symposium on *The Ant Trap*," *European Network for Social Ontology*, Palermo, Sicily, September 24-26, 2015.
- "Three-day course on social ontology: 1. Grounding and anchoring; 2. Group intentions and actions; 3. History and social kinds." *A Summer Course on Philosophy of Social Science*, Tampere, Finland, August 18-20, 2015.
- "The Uses of Genealogy," *The Philosophical Significance of Conceptual History*, St. Andrews, Scotland, June 2015.
- "How Many Kinds of Glue Hold the Social World Together?" *Philosophy of the Social Sciences Roundtable*, Seattle, WA, May 8-10, 2015.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *MIT Work-in-Progress Colloquium*, Cambridge, MA, March 12, 2015.
- "Groups and Shared Intentions," *Utah Social Ontology Research Group*, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 17, 2015.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *University of Utah Philosophy Colloquium*, Salt Lake City, UT, February 13, 2015.
- "Ambient Intelligence: How We Developed the Idea," *Monterey Institute of International Studies*, November 23, 2014.
- "Assessing Two Approaches to Groups: Social Integrate vs. Status Models," *Thinking About Groups*, Copenhagen, October 8-10, 2014.
- "How Many Kinds of Glue Hold the Social World Together?" *Collective Intentionality IX*, Bloomington, IN, September 10-13, 2014.
- "Two Ways of Making the Social World," *New Perspectives on Realism and Anti-Realism*, Rome, Italy, May 27-28, 2013.
- "When the Intentions of the Members are Irrelevant to the Intentions of the Group," *Collective Intentionality VIII*, Manchester, England, August 27-30, 2012.
- "The Roles of Cognition in Social Ontology," *Objects in Mind*, Aarhus, Denmark, June 25-26, 2012.
- "The Puppet-Master: When Individual Intentions are Irrelevant to Group Intentions," *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting*, Washington, DC, December 27-30, 2011.
- "Economics and Nonsupervenience," *International Network for Economic Methodology Conference*, Helsinki, Finland, September 1-3, 2011.
- "Two Kinds of Ontological Individualism," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 28-29, 2011.
- "Metaphysics in Social Science," *Metaphysics and Philosophy of Science*, Toronto, ON, May 13-15, 2011.
- "The Perils of Tweaking," *Epistemology of Modeling and Simulation National Conference*, Pittsburgh, PA, April 1-3, 2011.
- "Comments on D. Kwon, How 'Dthat' Can Model 'That'," *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division*, Boston, MA, December 27-30, 2010.
- Roundtable Participant, *Atlas Economics Conference*, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, September 9-12, 2010.
- "Social Objects Without Intentions," *Collective Intentionality VII*, Basel, Switzerland, August 22-26, 2010.
- "The Perils of Tweaking: When Can Macrodata be Used to Set Parameters in a Microfoundational Simulation?" *Models and Simulations 4*, Toronto ON, May 7-9, 2010.

- Comments on Ori Simchen, "The Necessity of Reference," *Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference*, Moscow, ID and Pullman, WA, April 30-May 2, 2010.
- "The Foundations and Metafoundations of Objects," *Auburn Philosophy Conference on Ordinary Objects*, Auburn, AL, March 25-28, 2010.
- Liberty Fund Roundtable, *Conference on the Works of James Buchanan*, Blacksburg, VA, September 20-23, 2009.
- "History and the Critique of Social Concepts," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences Roundtable*, Atlanta, GA, March 20-22, 2009.
- "Agent-Based Modeling and the Fallacies of Individualism," *Modeling and Simulations 3*, Charlottesville, VA, March 6-8, 2009.
- "A Theory of External Linguistic Objects," *International Conference on the Philosophy of Linguistics*, Dubrovnik, Croatia, September 8-12, 2008
- "Nonlocal Properties and Modeling Social Change," *Collective Intentionality VI: Social Change*, Berkeley, CA, July 8-11, 2008
- "Economics and Nonsupervenience," *Sydney-Tilburg Conference on Reduction and the Special Sciences*, Tilburg, Netherlands, April 10-12, 2008
- "The Internal and the External in Linguistic Explanation," *Virginia Tech*, November 2007
- "Ontological Individualism Reconsidered," *University of Virginia*, September 2007
- "The Internal and the External in Linguistic Explanation," *International Conference on the Philosophy of Linguistics*, Dubrovnik, Croatia, July 2007
- "When Local Models Fail," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences Roundtable*, Tampa, FL, March 2007
- "Ontological Individualism," *Colloquium for the Alliance of Social, Political, and Cultural Thought*, November 2006
- "Intervening in the Aggregate," *The Social Sciences and Democracy*, Ghent, Belgium, September 2006
- Comments on George Ainslie's "Picoeconomics and the Breakdown of the Will," *James M. Buchanan Colloquium*, May 2006
- "Experiences in the Academy," *Keasbey Foundation 50th Anniversary Conference*, September 2005
- "The Realpolitik of Reference," *4th Barcelona Workshop on Reference*, Barcelona, Spain, June 2005
- Comments on Elaine Scarry's "Visual Cognition," *Cognitive Science and the Humanities Conference*, Stanford University, November 2004
- "Reference Fixing and Social Kinds," *Stanford Humanities Center*, Stanford University, February 2004
- "Conceptual Schemes and The Two Wittgensteins," *Stanford Humanities Center*, Stanford University, November 2003
- "Playing it Loud at Half-Three: On Musical and Temporal Concepts," *Philosophy Colloquium*, Stanford University, April 2003
- "How to Succeed in Reference Without Really Trying," *Graduate Student Philosophy Colloquium*, Stanford University, March 2003

MEDIA AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- "What is Social Ontology?" Video for Social Ontology Research Group, February 2022
- Interview with Howard Burton for Ideas Roadshow, 2016
- Interview with Carrie Figdor on *New Books in Philosophy* podcast, discussing *The Ant Trap*, released March 15, 2016
- "How the Social World is Built and Why It Matters," *UCT Philosophy Society*, Cape Town, South Africa, February 23, 2016

"The End of Social Science As We Know It," *TEDxStanford*, Stanford, CA, May 17, 2015

WGBH Radio, Interview on the Public Sphere, February 2012

WGBH Radio, Interview on Recognition, for radio series "Recognizing Bruce," January 2011

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Lakatos Award, London School of Economics, 2016

Joseph B. Gittler Award, American Philosophical Association, 2016

Institute for Society, Culture and the Environment, Virginia Tech, Research Fellowship, Spring 2008

Virginia Tech International Travel Grants, Fall 2007, Fall 2006, and Summer 2005

Humanities Summer Stipend Award, Virginia Tech, for work on History and the Constitution of Social Objects, Summer 2006

Geballe Dissertation Fellowship, year in residence at Stanford Humanities Center, 2003-2004

Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2002-2003

Stanford University Fellowship, for graduate study, 1996-1998, 2001-2002

Keasbey Foundation Scholarship, full tuition and stipend for study at University of Oxford in Philosophy, 1991-1992

Dickinson Thesis Prize, Princeton University, 1990

RECENT SERVICE

Profession

Organizer, *Graduate Summer School in Social Ontology*, Duke University, July 2024; Trinity University Dublin, August 2025

President, *International Social Ontology Society*, 2018-2022

Steering committee member, *International Social Ontology Society*, 2014-present

Principal Organizer, *Social Ontology 2018* conference at Tufts, August 2018

Organizer, *International Reading Group in Essence and Social Metaphysics*, 2019-2022

Treasurer, *International Network for Economic Methodology*, 2016-2024

Reviewer for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Croatian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *International Studies in Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of Economic Methodology*, *Journal of Social Ontology*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Legal Theory*, *Mind*, *The Monist*, *Oxford University Press*, *Perspectives on Science*, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, *Routledge*, *Rowman and Littlefield*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*.

PhD external examiner, *Leeds University*, *University of Helsinki*

Grant reviewer, *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council*, *Online Library of the Humanities*

Referee, *Stanford Humanities Center Fellowships*, 2005-2009

Departmental

At Tufts

Steering committee, Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences PhD, 2016-present

Minor coordinator, Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences minor, 2016-present

Faculty Search, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2016-2017, 2021-2022

Graduate Admissions, 2009-2010, 2012-2025

Faculty Instructor Reviewer, 2020-2022

Tenure preparator, 2017-2018, 2024-2025

Graduate student advisor, 2009-present

Undergraduate major advisor, 2012-present

Library Liaison, 2009-2013

IT Liaison, 2009-2010

At Virginia Tech

Teaching and Honorifics Committee, 2008-2009

Graduate committee, 2004-2008

Faculty search, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2007-2008

Faculty advisor, Philosophy Club, 2004-2007

Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2004-2005

Ongoing participation in department bylaws development, 2004-2006

Session chair, Symposium on Visual Images, April 2006

University

At Tufts

Freshman advisor, 2012-2013, 2017-2018, 2021-2022

Work with Associate Provost of Academic Planning on University Strategic Plan, 2013

Participant, Arts and Sciences Graduate Policies and Procedures meetings, 2012-2013

Member, Tisch library renovation faculty group, 2012

Reviewer of courses for the Experimental College, 2010, 2012

At Virginia Tech

Member, Steering committee for college strategic plan, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 2008-2009

Member, Discovery domain committee for college strategic plan, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 2008-2009

Search committee, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 2006-2007

Worked with Provost on University Strategic Plan, 2005-2006

Participation in design of new interdisciplinary PhD in Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought, 2005-2009

COURSES TAUGHT

Seminar on Social Construction, Tufts, Spring 2019

Radical Thought, Tufts, Fall 2017

Foundations of Philosophy of Cognitive Science, (with Daniel Dennett), Tufts, Fall 2017

Language and Mind (Phil 003), Tufts, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2018

Seminar on Law and Institutions, (with Erin Kelly), Tufts, Spring 2017

Metaphysics (Phil 120), (core for majors and graduate students), Tufts, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019

Graduate Research Seminar: Functions and Functionalism, Tufts, Spring 2015

Graduate Research Seminar: Group Intention and Action (Phil 292), Tufts, Spring 2014

Graduate Writing Seminar (Phil 297), Tufts, Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Intermediate Logic (Phil 103), Tufts, Fall 2012

Philosophy of Social Science (Phil 134), (intermediate-level survey of historical and contemporary work), Tufts, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2016, Fall 2018

Language, Thought, and Culture (Phil 092), (introductory undergraduate course), Tufts, Spring 2011

The Metaphysics of Language (Phil 191), (seminar for graduates and undergraduates), Tufts, Fall 2010

Social Construction (Phil 092), (seminar on history and contemporary analysis of social construction, with applications to the theory of race), Tufts, Spring 2010

Metaphysics of Material Objects (Phil 191), (upper-level seminar), Tufts, Fall 2009

Speech Acts and Pragmatics, (seminar for graduates), Virginia Tech, Spring 2009

Metalogic (formal results through Löwenheim-Skolem and Gödel incompleteness), Virginia Tech, Spring 2006, Spring 2009. Crosslisted graduate/undergraduate class.

Symbolic Logic (first-order logic, proofs, translation, and introduction to metatheory), Virginia Tech, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Fall 2008

Groups and Individuals (seminar on realism and methodological individualism, with a focus on the philosophy of economics), Virginia Tech, Spring 2005. Crosslisted with Department of Economics.

The Construction of Social Reality (seminar on the metaphysics of social kinds and the semantics of social kind terms), Virginia Tech, Spring 2004

Musical Indeterminacy (composition and philosophy of music seminar), Stanford University, Spring 2002. Team-taught with Mark Applebaum, composer and associate professor of music.

Language and Logic (critical thinking, argumentation, and introduction to Aristotelian syllogistic and sentential logic), Virginia Tech, Fall 2004

ECONOMICS AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

1999 – 2001 Took three year leave from graduate work at Stanford to found venture-funded internet company. Also in 2001 advised Korean government on curriculum for technology entrepreneurs.

1993 – 1996 Economics and strategy consultant, focusing on economic modeling, finance, and technology, for Monitor Company and Palo Alto Ventures. Based in Cambridge MA and Palo Alto, CA; major projects in New York, Tokyo, Tel Aviv, and Eindhoven.