

## BRIAN A. EPSTEIN

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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

May 2015-present

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

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**

September 2004-August 2009

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

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### 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)

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### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book

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

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

Symposia:

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

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

Reviews:

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.

#### Articles

"Social Ontology," forthcoming in *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Social Science*, edited by Lee McIntyre and Alex Rosenberg.

"Social Construction and Social Facts," forthcoming in *The Routledge Handbook on Collective Intentionality*, edited by Marija Jankovic and Kirk Ludwig.

"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.
- "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).

### Op-eds

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

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### PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- "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.
- "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

Interview with Howard Burton for Ideas Roadshow, to be released 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

**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

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

Board member, *International Social Ontology Society*, 2014-present

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*, *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*.

Grant reviewer, *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council*

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

**Departmental***At Tufts*

Work with graduate director on tracking and outcomes, 2013-present  
 Graduate student advisor, 2009-present  
 Undergraduate major advisor, 2012-present  
 Faculty Search, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014  
 Graduate Admissions, 2009-2010, 2012-2015  
 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  
 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

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**COURSES TAUGHT**

**Language and Mind (Phil 003)**, Tufts, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2016  
**Graduate Research Seminar: Functions and Functionalism**, Tufts, Spring 2015  
**Graduate Research Seminar: Group Intention and Action (Phil 292)**, Tufts, Spring 2014  
**Metaphysics (Phil 120)**, (core for majors and graduate students), Tufts, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2013, Spring 2015  
**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

**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

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## 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.