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Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan

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Education

University of Toronto BA (Mathematics and Philosophy) 1984
Princeton University PhD (Supervisor: Saul Kripke) 1992

Areas of Specialisation

Philosophy and History of Mathematics, Philosophical Logic, History of Analytic Philosophy, Frege

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Language, Mathematical Logic, Philosophy of Science,, History of Philosophy (especially Kant, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard and the Enlightenment), Ethics, Philosophy of Law, Probability and Decision Theory

Academic Employment

Instructor in Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh 1989 - 1992
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh 1992 – 1997
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley 1992 –1993
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Harvard University, 1994 – 1995
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan 1997 – 2003
Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan 2003 - present
Visiting Lecturer, Oslo University, Spring 2009
Visiting Professor, University of Paris VII (Denis Diderot) Spring 2010

Fellowships and Awards

Leave Fellowship, University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities 2006 - 2007
Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Michigan College of Literature, Arts and Sciences 1999
Fellow, Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science 1989 - 1997
Princeton Graduate Fellowship 1984 –1985, 1988-1989
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Graduate Fellowship 1985-1988

Publications

“The Liar and Sorites Paradoxes: Toward a Unified Treatment” *Journal of Philosophy* Nov. 1993
Reprinted in the collection *Vagueness* T. Williamson and D. Graff (eds.) Ashgate Publishers 2002

“Analytic Truth: It’s Worse (or Perhaps Better) than you Thought” *Philosophical Topics* Fall

1993

“Geometry and Generality in Frege’s Philosophy of Arithmetic” *Synthèse* March 1995

“Remarks on Vagueness and a Dynamic Conception of Language” *Southern Journal of Philosophy – Spindel Conference Supplement* 1995

“Extending Knowledge and ‘Fruitful Concepts’: Fregean Themes in the Foundations of Mathematics” *Noûs*, December 1995

Reprinted in *The Philosophers Annual 10 Best Essays of 1995*

Reprinted in *Critical Assessments of Frege* M. Beaney and E. Reck (eds.) Routledge, 2006

“Metatheory and Mathematical Practice in Frege” *Philosophical Topics* Fall 1997

Condensed and revised version reprinted in *Critical Assessments of Frege* M. Beaney and E. Reck (eds.) Routledge, 2006

“Negation, Denial and Language Change in Philosophical Logic” *What is Negation?* Dov Gabbay ed. Kluwer 1999 (refereed volume)

“Frege on Axioms, Indirect Proof and Independence Arguments in Geometry” *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic* Vol. 41 #3 2000

“Proof Style and Understanding in Mathematics I: Visualization, Unification and Axiom Choice” in *Visualization, Explanation and Reasoning Styles in Mathematics* Paolo Mancosu and Klaus Jørgensen (eds.) Springer 2005

“The Caesar Problem in its Historical Context: Mathematical Background” *Dialectica* vol 59 fasc. 2 (Special issue on the Julius Caesar problem) 2005

“The Riemannian Background to Frege’s Philosophy” in *The Architecture of Modern Mathematics: Essays in History and Philosophy* J. Ferreirós & J. J. Gray eds. Oxford University Press 2006

“Gottlob Frege” *Princeton Companion to Mathematics* Princeton University Press 2007

“An Atheist’s Fundamentalism” in *Philosophers Without Gods* L. Anthony ed. Oxford University Press 2007

“Mathematical Concepts and Definitions” in *The Philosophy of Mathematical Practice* P. Mancosu, (ed.) Oxford University Press 2009

“Concepts mathématiques et définitions”: French translation to appear in a volume on contemporary philosophy of mathematics, published by Vrin, edited by Ivahn Smadja

“Mathematical Concepts: Fruitfulness and Naturalness” in *The Philosophy of Mathematical Practice* P. Mancosu, (ed.) Oxford University Press 2009

“A Primer on Ernst Abbe for Frege Readers” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* Supplementary

Volume 2011

“Définitions mathématiques pour philosophes” *Les Études Philosophiques* 2011

“Fruitfulness as a Theme in the Philosophy of Mathematics” *Journal of Philosophy* CIX number 1,2 January/February 2012

“Logical and Mathematical Background to the History of Analytic Philosophy” *Handbook of the History of Analytic Philosophy* Michael Beaney, ed. Oxford University Press 2013

“Infinitesimals, Magnitudes and Definition in Frege” *Essays on Frege’s Basic Laws of Arithmetic* Marcus Rossberg and Philip Ebert eds. forthcoming from Oxford University Press (refereed volume)

“Frege, Karl Snell and Romanticism; Fruitful Concepts and the ‘Organic/Mechanical’ Distinction” in preparation

“‘My Revered Teacher Karl Snell’: Fruitfulness, Discovery and System in Frege and his Environment” in preparation

“Deduction, Independence and Duality in Frege” in preparation

“Reflections on Mathematical Explanation (Why do Elliptic Functions have Two Periods?)” in preparation

Critical Survey (invited):

“Recent Work in the Philosophy of Mathematics” *Journal of Philosophy* XCVIII 9 September 2001

Published Reviews and Symposium Contributions:

Review of Van McGee *Truth, Vagueness, and Paradox* in *Philosophical Review* 1994

Review of Shaughn Lavine *Understanding the Infinite* in *Journal of Symbolic Logic* 1999

Invited contribution to a symposium on Scott Soames *Understanding Truth*, with replies by the Author, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* September 2002

Invited contribution to a symposium on Kit Fine *The Limits of Abstraction*, with replies by the Author, *Philosophical Studies* 2005

Manuscript:

Philosophy and the Origins of Contemporary Mathematics: Frege and his Mathematical Context in progress, to appear with Oxford University Press

Edited Collection:

Canadian Journal of Philosophy Special Issue: Truth And Values. Essays for Hans Herzberger co-edited with Achille Varzi and William Seager 2011

Other:

"History of the Department of Philosophy at Michigan" for University of Michigan Bicentennial website written 2013

"Frege and Karl Snell: Idealism, Romanticism, and the History of Analytic Philosophy"
U. of Michigan Philosophy Department Newsletter Nov. 2016

Invited Talks and Presentations of Work in Progress:

"Frege, Carl Snell and Romanticism; Fruitful Concepts and the 'Organic/Mechanical' Distinction"

Department of Philosophy, McMaster University, February 2017

Department of Philosophy, University of Bergen (Norway) June 2016

Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics Plenary Address Calgary, May 2016

Midwest Philosophy of Mathematics Workshop Notre Dame November 2015

"Reflections on Mathematical Explanation (Why do Elliptic Functions have Two Periods?)"
PoSe session, University of Michigan November 2016

Plenary Address, Canadian Mathematical Association Meetings Montréal December 2015

Association for the Philosophy of Mathematical Practice Conference, Paris, November 2015

Department of Philosophy, Ohio State University April 2015

(previous versions:)

University of Paris VII June 2010

Graduate Center, City University of New York November 2004

Philosophy Department, McGill University March 2004

Conference on the Philosophy of Pure and Applied Mathematics UC Irvine March 2004

Philosophy Department, Columbia University Nov. 2002;

Logic and Philosophy of Science group, University of Toronto Nov. 2002;

"What Depth and Fruitfulness might Teach us about Methodology"

Conference on Mathematical Depth UC Irvine April 2014

Talk and discussion online at conference site:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ityjqwFlXb0>

"Richness and Cognitive Value in the Aesthetics of Mathematics"

14th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, Nancy, France July 2011,
University of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil October 2011,

Case Western University March 2013

"Dedekind as Philosopher"

Working Group on History and Philosophy of Mathematics REHSEIS, University of Paris VII
(Denis Diderot) December 2011

"Dedekind as Interpreter of Riemann" What Makes Modern Mathematics different from Classical

Mathematics

IPHST University of Paris I (ENS) December 2011

“Mathematical Definition for Philosophers”

Philosophy Department, University of Waterloo, November 2010

“Branching at Branch Points: Interpretations of “Riemann Surface” as a Fork in the Road to Contemporary Mathematics”

Mathematical Practice colloquium, Sandbjerg, Denmark June 2009 and `Ideals of Proof' colloquium Pont-a-Mousson France June 2009\\

“Defining a Function by its ‘Inner Characteristic Properties’: Riemann and Dedekind”
CNRS Symposium Contribution: University of Paris VII - Diderot, April 2008

“Conjecture and ‘Natural’ Properties in Mathematical Practice” History of Mathematics Seminar:
University of Paris VII - Diderot, April 2008
Haverford/Swarthmore Philosophy of Mathematics colloquium April 2008

“Riemann-Dedekind Methodology and Nineteenth Century Logic” Invited Address: Association
for Symbolic Logic Annual Meeting, Irvine March 2008
Grand Valley State University November 2008

“Function, Thought and Fruitfulness in Nineteenth Century Logic and Mathematics” Invited
Symposium Contribution: American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting,
Pasadena March 2008

“The History of Modern Mathematics and the Emergence of Modern Logic” University of
Miami, Jan. 2008

“‘Thought’ and ‘Tiresome Calculations’ in Nineteenth Century Complex Analysis”
University of Notre Dame October 2007

“What Foundational Crisis?” conference, Montréal Oct. 2011

“Mathematical Properties” Conference in Honor of Paul Benacerraf, Princeton May 2007

“The Prehistory of Semantics in Nineteenth-century Mathematics” Invited contribution,
Eastern Division APA, December 2006, Conference on Methods in Model Theory, École
Normale Superior, Paris June 2010

“Mathematical Concepts” Presentation to the Logic and Methodology Seminar, UC Berkeley,
November 2006 and Philosophy Colloquium, Kansas State University October 2006

“Transfer Principles: A Contribution to the Prehistory of Semantics” HOPOS conference Paris
June 2006, 200 Years of Analytical Philosophy: 4th International Symposium for Cognition,
Logic and Communication, Riga August 2008

“Reflections on Mathematical Explanation” Wayne State University, March 2006, Philosophy of

Science Association, Vancouver November 2006

“Visualization and Fruitful Conceptual Representation”

Conference on mathematical proof in Lille, May 2005

“Analysis and Notation in Frege and his Mathematical Surroundings”

Oxford conference on the history of analysis March-April 2005

Faculty colloquium, University of Alberta, April 2005

“Geometry and Duality in Frege’s Conception of Logic”

Seminar to the Philosophy Department, McGill University March 2004

Invited talk, Conference on History and Philosophy of Mathematics, Seville Sept. 2003

Presentation to the Working Group in Logic and Foundations of Mathematics, Notre Dame

University December 2001

“Proof Styles in Geometry”

Philosophy Department Colloquium, Cambridge (UK) June 2002

Philosophy Department Colloquium, Ohio State University, May 2002

Mathematics as Rational Activity conference in Roskilde, Denmark November 2001

Invited Talk, Joint Session: Central APA and Association for Symbolic Logic Minneapolis May 2001

“Frege as Mathematician”

Frege conference, Leyden, Netherlands, August 2001

“A Reassessment of the Mathematical Roots of Frege’s Logicism: Some History, Some Philosophy”

Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California Irvine December 2000,

Notre Dame Conference on Logicism and Paradox May 2001,

“Frege in Context” conference in Leyden, Netherlands, August 2001,

Open University Centre for the History of Mathematical Sciences/University of London

conference on History and Philosophy of Mathematics May 2002

University of California, Berkeley Department of Philosophy April 2003

York University (Toronto) Department of Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium April 2003

“Permutation Invariance in Frege’s Foundations of Logic”

Invited contribution, Association for Symbolic Logic Summer meetings, Urbana July 2000

Presented to University of Michigan Logic Group Colloquium Winter 2000

“Proof Style and Understanding in Mathematics”

Invited Talk, Joint Session: Pacific APA and Association for Symbolic Logic San Francisco April 1997,

Philosophy Colloquium at Amherst College April 1997,

University of Chicago Committee on Conceptual Foundations of Science Colloquium Spring 1997

“Uniformity and Generality in Mathematics (A new Riddle of Deduction)”

Carnegie Mellon Philosophy Colloquium May 1996,

Pittsburgh Philosophy Department Faculty Colloquium November 1995,

Harvard University Philosophy of Mathematics Seminar October 1996,

Princeton University Philosophy Department Colloquium November 1996,
Invited Talk, APA Central Division Meetings Spring 2001

“Philosophical Themes in the Development of Algebraic Geometry”
Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science Conference on Philosophy of Mathematics
November 1995

“Self-Reflectiveness in Mathematics”
Philosophy Colloquium, Harvard University April 1995

“Negation, Denial and Language Change in Philosophical Logic”
Faculty Colloquium, University of Pittsburgh Fall 1994,
Columbia University Department of Philosophy Spring 1994

“Extending Knowledge and ‘Fruitful Concepts’: Fregean Themes in the Philosophy of
Mathematics”
Philosophy of Mathematics Seminar, Princeton Spring 1994,
University of Pittsburgh Philosophy Faculty Colloquium Spring 1994,
Philosophy of Mathematics Seminar Boston University Fall 1995

“A Confutation of Degrees of Truth and a Moral for Semantics”
Conference on Semantics and Discourse U.C. Berkeley April 1993
Cognitive Sciences Colloquium U.C. Berkeley March 1993

“Analytic Truth: It’s Worse (or Perhaps Better) than you Thought”
Philosophy of Language Seminar, University of Michigan Spring 1991,
Philosophy Colloquium, University of Manitoba Spring 1989,
Philosophy Colloquium, York University (Toronto) Spring 1989,
Philosophy Colloquium, University of California, Berkeley, Spring 1993

Bréal Revisited: an Old Message in a New Context”
Joint University of Pittsburgh/Duquesne University conference on Approaches to Interpretation
Spring 1990

“The Strengthened Liar, Iterated Induction and Higher –Type Recursion”
University of Pittsburgh Department of Philosophy February 1989, CUNY Graduate Center
Department of Computer Science April 1989

“Remarks on Vagueness and a Dynamic Conception of Language” Spindel Conference Memphis
1995

“The Liar and Sorites Paradoxes: Toward a Unified Treatment”
Princeton University Philosophy Colloquium Winter 1989,
Sydney University Philosophy Colloquium, Summer 1986,
University of Texas, Austin, Philosophy Colloquium, Winter 1989,
University of Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science Colloquium Fall 1990

Invited Commentary:

Comments on Kit Fine *The Limits of Abstraction* “Author Meets Critics” Session Eastern APA December 2004

Comments on Joan Weiner “Semantic Descent” Pacific APA March 2004

Comments on Crispin Wright and Bob Hale *The Reason’s Proper Study* “Author Meets Critics” session Pacific APA April 2003

Comments on Steven Yablo “The Myth of the Seven” Pacific APA Spring 2000

Comments on Shaughn Lavine *Understanding the Infinite* “Author Meets Critics” session, Eastern Division APA Winter 1996

Comments on Penelope Maddy “Naturalism in Mathematics” Central APA Spring 1996

Comments on Gary Ebbs “Externalism and Content” Central APA Spring 1995

Comments on George Lakoff “Metaphor” conference on “Semantics and Discourse” UC Berkeley Spring 1993

Comments on Roy Sorensen “Paradoxes of Vagueness” Pacific APA Spring 1993

Comments on Jon Barwise and John Etchemendy *The Liar* “Author Meets Critics” Session Pacific APA Spring 1990

Other Professional Activity:

Editor: *Review of Symbolic Logic* 2016 - present

Reviewer/Referee for *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Philosophia Mathematica*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthèse*, *Notre Dame Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Noûs*, *Mind*, *The Philosopher’s Imprint*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Inquiry*, *Dialectica*, Harvard University Press, Routledge, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Connaught Fellowship Committee (Toronto), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

Promotion/Tenure referee (anonymous) for several tenure and promotion cases

Editorial Boards: *Philosophical Studies*, *The Philosopher’s Imprint*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Review of Symbolic Logic*

Advisory Boards: Arché *Grundgesetze* translation project

Contributor to *Mathematical Reviews*

Co-Organizer, Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science Conference on History and Philosophy of Mathematics, November 1995

Program Committee, Central Division APA 2006, Association for Symbolic Logic 2006

Co-Organizer, *Logic, Linguistics & Artificial Intelligence*, a *Workshop in Honor of Rich Thomason*, University of Michigan, November 2010

Governing Board, Association for the Philosophy of Mathematical Practice