

# Brian Weatherson

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Born: April 20, 1973—Melbourne, Australia  
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## Current position

*Marshall M. Weinberg Professor of Philosophy*, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan

## Areas of specialization

Epistemology • Philosophy of Language

## Areas of competence

Metaphysics • Philosophy of Mind • Logic

## Employment

1999-2001	Sutton Faculty Fellow, Syracuse University
2001-2004	Assistant Professor, Brown University
2004-2007	Associate Professor, Cornell University
2008-2011	Associate Professor, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
2012-present	Marshall M. Weinberg Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan
2008-present	Professorial Fellow, Arché, University of St Andrews (quarter-time appointment)

## Education

1994	BA(HONS) with Honors in Philosophy, Monash University
1998	PHD in Philosophy, Monash University. Thesis title: <i>On Uncertainty</i> .

## Publications & talks

### EPISTEMOLOGY ARTICLES

2013a	Disagreements, Philosophical and Otherwise. forthcoming in a volume on disagreement edited by Jennifer Lackey and David Christensen, and to be published by OUP.
2013b	Games, Beliefs and Credences. <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> , forthcoming.

- 2013c Probability and Scepticism. forthcoming in a volume on scepticism edited by Elia Zardini and Dylan Dodd, and to be published by OUP.
- 2013d Margins and Errors. *Inquiry*, forthcoming.
- 20133 Ross on Sleeping Beauty. *Philosophical Studies* 163: 503-512.
- 2012a Dogmatism, Probability and Logical Uncertainty. Co-authored with David Jehle. In *New Waves in Philosophical Logic*, edited by Greg Restall and Gillian Russell, Palgrave, pp. 95-111.
- 2012b Games and The Reason-Knowledge Principle. *The Reasoner* 6: 6-7.
- 2012c Knowledge, Bets and Interests. In *Knowledge Ascriptions*, edited by Jessica Brown and Mikkel Gerken, OUP, 2012, pp. 75-103.
- 2012d Induction and Supposition. *The Reasoner* 6: 78-80.
- 2012e The Temporal Generality Problem. *Logos & Episteme* 3: 117-122.
- 2011a Defending Interest-Relative Invariantism. *Logos and Episteme* 2: 591-609.
- 2011b Stalnaker on Sleeping Beauty. *Philosophical Studies* 155: 445-456.
- 2008 Deontology and Descartes' Demon. *Journal of Philosophy* 105: 540-69.
- 2007 The Bayesian and the Dogmatist. *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 107: 169-85.
- 2005a Should we Respond to Evil with Indifference? *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 70: 613-35.
- 2005b Scepticism, Rationalism and Externalism. *Oxford Studies in Epistemology* 1: 311-31.
- 2005c Can we Do Without Pragmatic Encroachment? *Philosophical Perspectives* 19: 417-43.
- 2004 Luminous Margins. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 83: 373-83.
- 2003 Are You a Sim? *Philosophical Quarterly* 53: 425-31.
- 2002 Keynes, Uncertainty and Interest Rates. *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 26: 47-62.
- 1999 Begging the Question and Bayesians. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 30: 687-97.

#### PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE ARTICLES

- 2011a No Royal Road to Relativism. *Analysis* 71: 133-43.
- 2011b Introduction. Co-authored with Andy Egan. In *Epistemic Modality*, edited by Andy Egan and Brian Weatherson, Oxford University Press, 1-18.
- 2010a Assertion, Knowledge and Action. Co-authored with Ishani Maitra. *Philosophical Studies* 149: 99-118.
- 2010b Vagueness as Indeterminacy. In *Cuts and Clouds: Vagueness, Its Nature and Logic*, edited by Richard Dietz and Sebastiano Moruzzi, Oxford University Press, 77-90.
- 2009 Conditionals and Indexical Relativism. *Synthese* 166: 333-57.
- 2008 Attitudes and Relativism. *Philosophical Perspectives* 22: 527-44.
- 2006 Questioning Contextualism. In *Aspects of Knowing: Epistemological Issues*, edited by Stephen Hetherington, Elsevier, 133-47.
- 2005a True, Truer, Truest. *Philosophical Studies* 123: 47-70.
- 2005b Epistemic Modals in Context. Co-authored with Andy Egan and John Hawthorne. In *Contextualism in Philosophy: Knowledge, Meaning, and Truth*, edited by Gerhard Preyer and Georg Peter, Oxford University Press, 131-69.
- 2003a Many Many Problems. *Philosophical Quarterly* 53: 481-501.
- 2003b Epistemicism, Parasites and Vague Names. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 81: 276-9.
- 2002 Misleading Indexicals. *Analysis* 62: 308-10.
- 2001 Indicative and Subjunctive Conditionals. *Philosophical Quarterly* 51: 200-16.

#### OTHER RESEARCH ARTICLES

- 2013a Centrality and Marginalisation. *Inquiry*, forthcoming.
- 2013b Humean Supervenience. forthcoming in a volume of papers on David Lewis, edited by Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer and to be published (I believe) by Blackwell.

- 2013c In Defence of the ACA's Medicaid Expansion. Co-authored with Ishani Maitra. *Public Affairs Quarterly*, forthcoming.
- 2013d Running Risks Morally. *Philosophical Studies*, forthcoming.
- 2013e The Role of Naturalness in Lewis's Theory of Meaning. *Journal for the History of Analytic Philosophy*, forthcoming.
- 2012a Explanation, Idealisation and the Goldilocks Problem. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 86: 461-473.
- 2012b In Defence of a Kripkean Dogma. Co-authored with Jonathan Ichikawa and Ishani Maitra. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 85: 56-68.
- 2007a Humeans Aren't Out of Their Minds. *Noûs* 41: 529-35.
- 2007b Doing Philosophy with Words. *Philosophical Studies* 135: 429-37.
- 2006 The Asymmetric Magnets Problem. *Philosophical Perspectives* 20: 479-92.
- 2004a Morality, Fiction and Possibility. *Philosophers Imprint*, vol 4, number 3.
- 2004b Chopping up Gunk. Co-authored with John Hawthorne. *Monist* 87: 339-50.
- 2004c Prankster's Ethics. Co-authored with Andy Egan. *Philosophical Perspectives* 18: 45-52.
- 2003a What Good are Counterexamples? *Philosophical Studies* 115: 1-31.
- 2003b From Classical to Intuitionistic Probability. *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic* 44: 111-23.
- 2003c Nine Objections to Steiner and Wolff on Land Disputes. *Analysis* 63: 321-8.
- 2001 Intrinsic Properties and Combinatorial Principles. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 63: 365-80.

#### ENCYCLOPAEDIA ARTICLES

- 2010 Metaphysics. In Graham Oppy and N. N. Trakakis (eds.), *A Companion to Philosophy in Australia and New Zealand*, Monash University Publishing.
- 2009 David Lewis. In *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.
- 2003 Problem of the Many. In *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.
- 2002 Intrinsic vs Extrinsic Properties. In *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.

#### EDITED BOOK

- 2011 *Epistemic Modality*, co-edited with Andy Egan, Oxford University Press.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- 2007 Daniel Nolan, David Lewis, *Mind* 116: 191-3.
- 2005 Frank Jackson and Graham Priest (eds.) *Lewisian Themes: The Philosophy of David K. Lewis*. [Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews](#).
- 2004 Christopher Peacocke, *The Realm of Reason*. *Times Literary Supplement*, Oct 15, 2004, 8-9.
- 2003a Rosanna Keefe, *Theories of Vagueness*. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 67: 491-4.
- 2003b Roy Sorensen, *Vagueness and Contradiction*. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 81: 290-2.
- 2003c Christopher Gauker, *Words without Meanings*. [Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews](#).
- 2002a Michael DePaul (ed.), *Rethinking Intuition*. *Ethics* 112: 361-4.
- 2002b Ted Lockhart, *Moral Uncertainty and Its Consequences*. *Mind* 111: 693-6.
- 2002c David Wiggins, *Sameness and Substance Renewed*. [Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews](#).
- 2002d William Lycan, *Real Conditionals*. *Philosophical Review* 111: 609-11.

#### TALKS

- 2013 Games, Beliefs and Credences  
 • Formal Epistemology Workshop/Rutgers Epistemology Conference, May 2012
- 2013 Centrality and Marginalisation  
 • Institute of Philosophy, University of London, February 2012

- 2012 Running Risks Morally
- Marshall M. Weinberg Lecture, University of Michigan, November 2012
  - Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University, August 2013
- 2012 Disagreements, Philosophical and Otherwise
- Summer School on Disagreement, University of Zurich, August 2012
- 2012 Margins and Errors
- University of St Andrews, June 2012
  - University of Edinburgh, June 2012
  - Midwest Epistemology Workshop, University of Indiana, September 2012
- 2011 Reflections on Lewis, Meaning and Naturalness
- CSMN, Oslo, August 2011
  - Arché workshop on naturalness in semantics and metaphysics, October 2011
  - Rutgers University, October 2011
  - University of Illinois, May 2012
- 2010a Vague Events and the Problem of the Many
- LOGOS Indeterminacy Workshop, Barcelona, January 2010
- 2010b Do Judgments Screen Evidence?
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, March 2010
  - University of St Andrews, May 2010
  - Universität Konstanz, June 2010
  - University of Oxford, June 2010
  - University of Michigan, February 2011.
- 2010c Rational Belief and Rational Action
- University of St Andrews, May 2010
- 2010d In Defence of a Kripkean Dogma
- University of Leeds, May 2010
- 2010e Stalnaker on Sleeping Beauty
- University of St Andrews, June 2010
- 2009a Rule Following and Basicness
- University of St Andrews, May 2009
- 2009b Evidence Neutrality
- University of St Andrews, June 2009
- 2009c Probability and Scepticism
- Arché Scepticism Conference, University of St Andrews, June 2009
- 2009d Assertion, Knowledge and Action (with Ishani Maitra)
- Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University, August 2009
- 2008a Moderate Rationalism and Bayesian Scepticism
- University of Edinburgh, May 2008
- 2008b Content Relativism
- Language and Law workshop, University of Oslo, June 2008
- 2008c Attitudes and Relativism
- First Arché Contextualism and Relativism workshop, University of St Andrews, June 2008.
- 2007a Causation and Causatives
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst, April 2007.
  - Arizona Ontology Conference, Tuscon, January 2008.
  - Keynote address at Rutgers/Princeton graduate conference, Rutgers University, March 2008.
- 2007b Moral Psychology and Epistemic Deontology
- Ryle at Ryerson conference, Ryerson University, Toronto, October 2007
- 2006a Replacing Logic
- Contribution to author meets critics session on David Christensen's *Putting Logic in Its Place*, APA Pacific Division Conference, Portland OR, March 2006.
- 2006b Natural Quantities
- University of Manitoba, March 2006

- 2006c     • Stanford University, May 2006  
In Defence of a Dogmatist
- University of Texas, May 2006
- 2006d     • Stanford University, May 2006  
Norms of Assertion and Expressivism
- Workshop on ethics and epistemology, University of Missouri at Columbia, September 2006
- 2006e     The Bayesian and the Dogmatist
- Rutgers University, October 2006.
- University of Oklahoma, November 2006.
- University of California at Berkeley, November 2006.
- The Aristotelian Society, London, February 2007.
- 2006f     Tracking, Closure and Conjunctions
- Contribution to author meets critics session on Sherri Rousch's *Tracking Truth*, Philosophy of Science Association conference, Vancouver, November 2006.
- 2005a     Vagueness as Indeterminacy
- Australian National University, January 2005
- Princeton University, February 2005
- Arché Workshop on Vagueness, University of St Andrews, February 2005
- 2005b     Dutch Books and Infinity
- Prague International Colloquium on Dutch Book Arguments, Prague, August 2005
- 2005c     Knowledge, Justification and Practical Interests
- Monash University, September 2005
- Australian National University, October 2005
- 2005d     Conditionals and Relativism
- LOGOS Workshop on Relativising Utterance Truth, Barcelona, September 2005
- Workshop on Conditionals, University of Connecticut, April 2006
- 2004a     Morality in Fiction and Consciousness in Imagination
- APA Pacific Division Conference, Pasadena, March 2004
- 2004b     Uncertainty, Probability and Non-Classical Logic
- Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of California at Berkeley, May 2004
- 2004c     Morality, Fiction and Possibility
- American Society for Aesthetics Conference, Houston , October 2004
- 2004d     Intuitions and Meanings
- Fribourg Workshop on Intuitions, Fribourg Switzerland, November 2004.
- Australian National University, January 2005.
- University of Glasgow, February 2005.
- 2003a     Prankster's Ethics (with Andy Egan)
- International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Ethics, Louisiana State University, February 2003
- APA Central Division Conference, Cleveland OH, April 2003
- 2003b     Scepticism, Rationalism and Externalism
- Cornell University, October 2003
- Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Washington State University and University of Idaho, April 2004
- 2002a     Justification and Innateness
- Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, July 2002
- 2002b     My Favourite Puzzle
- University of Melbourne, October 2002
- University of California at Davis, January 2004
- 2001a     Indicatives and Subjunctives
- Brown University, February 2001

- Rutgers University, February 2001
  - University of Colorado at Boulder, February 2001
- 2001b Growing Individuals and Intrinsic Properties
- APA Pacific Division Conference, San Francisco, March 2001
- 2001c True, Truer, Truest
- University of Michigan, October 2001
  - APA Central Division Conference, Chicago, April 2002
  - Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University, August 2003
- 2000a Stages, Worms, Slices and Lumps
- Syracuse University, May 2000
- 2000b A Puzzle About Duplication
- Monash University, June 2000
- 2000c Is This Title Ambiguous?
- Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, University of Queensland, July 2000
- 1999 What Good Are Counterexamples?
- Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, University of Melbourne, July 1999
- 1998 Supertruth
- Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, Macquarie University, July 1998
- 1997 The Dutch Bookie Goes to Market
- International Economics and Philosophy Society Conference, University of New South Wales, July 1996, and published in conference proceedings: Julian Lamont and Christi Dawn Favor (eds.) *Edited Proceedings of the 1997 International Economics and Philosophy Society Conference*, 97-100
- 1996a The Possibility of Revealed Preference
- International Economics and Philosophy Society Conference, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, July 1996, and published in conference proceedings: Julian Lamont (ed.) *Edited Proceedings of the 1996 International Economics and Philosophy Society Conference*, 121-125
- 1996b Inductive Arguments and Probability
- Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, University of Queensland, July 1996

#### PANEL PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED COMMENTARIES

- 2009 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado at Boulder, August 2009
- 2008 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University, August 2008
- 2007 Rutgers Semantics Workshop, New Brunswick, October 2007
- 2006a Arizona Ontology Conference, January 2006
- 2006b Panel on Blogging in Philosophy, APA Pacific Division, March 2006
- 2006c NYU Causation Workshop, Florence, June 2006
- 2005 APA Central Division, Chicago, April 2005
- 2004 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University, August 2004
- 2003a APA Pacific Division, San Francisco, March 2003
- 2003b Syracuse Workshop on Metaphysics, Syracuse University, August 2003
- 2003c BloggerCon, Harvard University, October 2003
- 2001 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University, August 2001
- 2000 Metaphysical Mayhem V, Syracuse University, August 2000

# Teaching

## Introduction to Philosophy

- Taught five times: Spring 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007 and Spring 2008.
- Topics included philosophy of religion, philosophy of mind, scepticism and ethics
- In early years, mainly used readings. In later years, the focus was more on great books, such as Descartes' *Meditations* and Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*.
- All the courses were large introductory lecture courses, to between 80 and 150 students, except the Spring 2008 course, which was a freshman Honors seminar.

## Introduction to Logic

- Taught four times: Spring 2003, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2011.
- Topics included validity and soundness, the predicate calculus, models, and proofs in propositional and predicate logic.
- The courses had no pre-requisites, and focussed on continuous assessment.
- All the courses were large lecture courses, with 80 to 100 students.

## Intermediate Logic

- Taught four times: Fall 2001, Fall 2002, Spring 2004, Fall 2004.
- The course was on predicate logic, from introduction to the proof of completeness.
- The courses had between 20 and 40 students.

## Advanced Logic

- Taught four times: Fall 2000, Spring 2002, Fall 2003, Fall 2009.
- Topics varied, but included non-classical logic, modal logic and the incompleteness of arithmetic.
- All courses were small graduate focussed courses, with 5 to 10 students.

## Philosophy of Language

- Taught twice: Fall 2001, Spring 2003.
- Topics included reference and description, implicature and vagueness.
- Course was a small undergraduate seminar, with some graduates sitting in, with 5 to 10 students.

## Decision Theory

- Taught four times: Spring 2000, Fall 2004, Fall 2008, Fall 2011.
- Topics included probability and utility functions, paradoxes of decision theory, game theory and collective decision making.
- Courses were targetted at juniors and seniors, with between 5 and 20 students.

## Undergraduate courses taught just once (all student numbers approximate)

- History of Political Philosophy, Spring 2001, 50 students
- Time Travel, Fall 2003, 20 students
- Mid 20th Century philosophy, Spring 2005, 5 students
- Applied Ethics, Summer 2005, 40 students
- Semantics, Fall 2007, 5 students
- Philosophical Babies, Fall 2012, 20 students
- Philosophical Problems, Winter 2013, 90 students
- 400-level Epistemology, Winter 2013, 10 students

## Graduate Seminars

- Intuitions, Fall 1999
- Vagueness, Spring 2002
- Conceivability, Spring 2002
- Philosophy of Economics, Spring 2004
- David Lewis, Spring 2006
- Dissertation Workshop, Spring 2008
- Probability, Spring 2009
- Scepticism, Fall 2010
- Game Theory, Summer 2011
- Scepticism, Winter 2012

## Professional service

2006-2012 Editor-in-Chief, *Philosophy Compass*.

2006-07 Co-editor, *Philosophical Review*.

2012- Associate Editor, *Thought*.

External examiner for graduate degrees at Rutgers University, Australian National University, University of Oslo, University of Melbourne and Monash University.

External reviewer for funding proposals for FWO (Belgium), AHRC (UK) and PETAF (Spain).

Reviewed book manuscripts or proposals for Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, MIT Press, Harvard University Press and Routledge.

Referee for, among others, American Philosophical Quarterly, Analytic Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Logic, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, Ethics, Journal of Philosophical Logic, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Linguistics and Philosophy, Mind, Mind and Language, Noûs, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophical Quarterly, The Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Ratio and Synthese.

## Departmental and university service

2012-3 Chair, Search Committee, Philosophy Department, University of Michigan.

2012 Graduate Admissions Committee, Philosophy Department, University of Michigan

2009-10 External Speakers Co-Ordinator, Philosophy Department, Rutgers University

2008-10 Appointments and Promotions Committee, Dean's Office, Humanites, Rutgers University

2008-10 Web co-ordinator, Philosophy Department, Rutgers University

2009 Graduate Admissions committee, Philosophy Department, Rutgers University

2008-09 Search committee, Philosophy Department, Rutgers University

2008 Graduate Admissions committee, Philosophy Department, Rutgers University

2006-07 Search committee, Philosophy Department, Cornell University

2004-05 External Speakers Co-Ordinator, Philosophy Department, Cornell University

2004-05 Search committee, Philosophy Department, Cornell University

2004-07 Webmaster, Philosophy Department, Cornell University

2004 Graduate Admissions committee, Philosophy Department, Brown University

2003-04 Logic & Philosophy of Science concentration advisor, Brown University

2003-04 Search committee, Philosophy Department, Brown University

2002 Graduate Admissions committee, Philosophy Department, Brown University

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