ELEK LANE

November 1, 2026

EMPLOYMENT

Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Vienna 2025–
Member: Knowledge in Crisis (FWF Cluster of Excellence)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley 2025
Dissertation: *Metaphor in Mind and Language*
Committee: John MacFarlane and Seth Yalcin (co-chairs), Amy Rose Deal (external)

B.A. in Philosophy, University of Chicago 2016
General and Special Honors
Thesis: *Excursus on Wittgenstein's Rule-Following Considerations*
Advisors: James Conant (primary), David Finkelstein (secondary)

SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, history of analytic philosophy (esp. Wittgenstein)

COMPETENCE

Social philosophy, feminist philosophy

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Slurs: The Sound and the Fury
Forthcoming in *Noûs*

Metaphor, Truth, and Composition: Against Non-Cognitivism
Inquiry: advance online (2026)

Deadnaming, Taboo, and Linguistic Authority
Mind 134 (536): 1015-1039 (2025)

The Impact of Deadnaming
Philosophical Quarterly: advance online (2025)

Metaphor and Ambiguity
Philosophical Studies 181 (11): 3059-3087 (2024)

Distinguishing Two Kinds of Fictionalism: Metaphor, Autism, and the Imagination
Synthese 204 (128): 1-23 (2024)

Semantic Dispositionalism and the Rule-Following Paradox
Metaphilosophy 53 (5): 685-695 (2022)

Resolution in §201 of the *Philosophical Investigations*
Australasian Journal of Philosophy 98 (2): 393-402 (2020)

Excursus on Wittgenstein's Rule-Following Considerations
Nordic Wittgenstein Review 6 (1): 53-83 (2017)

CRITICAL NOTICE

Slurs, Words, and Articulations: On *Inflammatory Language* by Una Stojnić and Ernie Lepore
Forthcoming in *Analytic Philosophy*

BOOK REVIEW

Wittgenstein and the Possibility of Meaning by Alexander Miller
Review of Metaphysics 78 (3): 554-556 (2025)

TALKS

(† = invited, * = refereed)

The Loss in Language Loss
Language Group, University of Salzburg — upcoming January 2027

Slurs: Words or Articulations?
Philosophica II, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University * — September 2026

Metaphor and Imagination
Knowledge in Crisis Meeting, Graz — June 2026

Names and Norms
Will to Philosophy Research Forum † — April 2026

Slurs: The Sound and the Fury
Language Group, University of Vienna — December 2025

What Is Wrong With Deadnaming?
Pacific APA, San Francisco * — April 2025
Queer and Trans Philosophy DeCal, U.C. Berkeley — April 2025

Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, C.U. Boulder * April 2024

Slurs Are Pronunciation Sensitive (with Edward Schwartz)
USC-UCLA Graduate Conference, University of Southern California * April 2025
Eastern APA, New York * January 2025
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Conference, U.C. Berkeley * April 2024

Deadnaming, Taboo, and Linguistic Authority
Research Colloquium, Auburn University † February 2025
Research Colloquium, Texas A&M † February 2025
Research Colloquium, U.C. Berkeley November 2024
Philosophy Forum, U.C. Berkeley October 2024
Language + Meaning Sciences Workshop, U.C. Berkeley September 2024

Metaphor and Ambiguity
Hand, Brain, and Speech Conference, University of Naples * October 2023

Fictionalism About Metaphor and the Problem of Semantic Entailment
Congreso Internacional de Doctorandos en Filosofía, P.U.C. de Chile * September 2023

Semantic Dispositionalism and the Rule-Following Paradox
Berkeley-London Graduate Conference, University of London * May 2022

Non-Verbal Metaphor
Mark L. Shapiro Graduate Conference, Brown University * March 2021

COMMENTS

On "Conversational Implicature Is Testimony" by Matsumoto Shohei
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Conference, U.C. Berkeley April 2024

On "Mary Midgley's Scholarly Neglect" by Ellie Robson
Berkeley-London Graduate Conference, U.C. Berkeley May 2023

On "Insinuations and Speech Acts" by Antonio Monaco
Pacific APA, San Francisco April 2023

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

General Audience

Why I Withdrew From a Faculty Position at Texas A&M
Chronicle of Higher Education (2025)

GOP Push to Prevent Trans People From Deciding Own Names Threatens All Americans
San Francisco Chronicle (2025)

Let Me Open a Treasure Chest to Explain How Metaphor Works
Psyche (2025)

Philosophical Audience

The Imagination Is Not the Junkyard of the Mind
The Junkyard (slated for 2027)

Metaphor: Simple Semantics, Complex Coordination
New Work in Philosophy (2025)

Deadnames and the Philosophy of Language
Blog of the APA (2025)

Events & Media

Introduction to Philosophy, Vienna Juvenile Detention Center	November 2026
Co-host, Knowledge in Crisis: The Podcast, "Pseudoscience"	May 2026
Pint of Science Talk, Polkadot Bar, "What Is Metaphor Anyway?"	May 2026
Department Representative, Lange Nacht der Forschung	April 2026

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

University of California, Berkeley

Travel Stipend (American Philosophical Association)	2025
Department of Philosophy Travel Grant (x2)	2025
Berkeley Connect Fellowship	2024-25
Graduate Division Summer Dissertation Writing Grant	2024
Universal Design for Learning Fellowship	2024
Graduate Division Travel Grant (x2)	2023-24
Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2023-24
Outstanding GSI Award	2022
Summer Stipend Award	2018-19, 2021
Regents Fellowship	2017-19

University of Chicago

Lee Family Essay Prize	2016
Dean's Fund Award	2016
Dunn Summer Research Fellowship	2015

SERVICE

Co-organizer, 48th International Wittgenstein Symposium	2027
Organizer, Language Group Meeting	2025

Referee, Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Conference	2018-19, 2024
Indexer, *The Entanglement* (Alva Noë)	2023
Panelist, Berkeley Connect	2023
Head GSI	2022-23
Coffee Czar	2018-20

REFEREE

Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy (x3), Cambridge University Press, *Ergo, Erkenntnis, Journal of Philosophy, Nordic Wittgenstein Review (x2), Noûs, Organon F, Philosophia (x2), Philosophical Studies (x2), Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Synthese (x2), Theoria*

MEMBERSHIPS

Knowledge in Crisis	2025–
Slurring Terms Across Languages Network	2024–
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division	2023-25

LANGUAGES

English (L1), German (B2)

TEACHING

University of Vienna

As main instructor

Conversation and Speech Acts	Spring 2026

Thesis advisory committee

A thesis on imagination and psychedelic therapy
A thesis on the pragmatics of jokes

University of California, Berkeley

As main instructor

Berkeley Connect	Spring 2025
Berkeley Connect	Fall 2024
Nature of Mind	Summer 2023

As assistant instructor

Feminism and Philosophy	Spring 2024
Philosophical Methods	Spring 2023
Nature of Mind	Summer 2022
Philosophy of Language	Spring 2022
Merleau-Ponty	Fall 2021
Modern Philosophy	Spring 2021

Introduction to Logic	Fall 2020
Introduction to Logic	Summer 2020
Philosophy of Mind	Spring 2020
Theory of Meaning	Summer 2019
Political Philosophy	Spring 2019

REFERENCES

Olivia Bailey
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, U.C. Berkeley

Tim Crane
Professor of Philosophy, Central European University

Hannah Ginsborg
Willis S. and Marion Slusser Professor of Philosophy, U.C. Berkeley

Max Kölbel
Professor of Analytic Philosophy, University of Vienna

John MacFarlane
Professor of Philosophy, U.C. Berkeley

Alva Noë
Professor of Philosophy, U.C. Berkeley

Seth Yalcin
Professor of Philosophy, U.C. Berkeley