

Yasha Sapir

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Research Areas

Epistemology · Philosophy of Language · Ethics

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Southern California	2021–
M.A. in Philosophy, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee	2019–2021
B.A. in Philosophy, Reed College	2015–2018

Publication

Hedging and the ignorance norm on inquiry (with Peter van Elswyk)
Synthese 199 (2021): 5837–5859.

Teaching Experience

As primary instructor

Reasoning and Argument I: Propositional Logic	Fall 2024
Reasoning and Argument II: Probability and Decision Theory	Fall 2024
Philosophy of Money, Markets, and Property	Summer 2024
Philosophy of Money, Markets, and Property	Summer 2023

As recitation instructor

Ethics, Technology, and Value	Spring 2025
Philosophy of Law	Spring 2023
Early Modern Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	Fall 2022
Introduction to Logic	Spring 2021
Introduction to Logic	Fall 2020
Introduction to Logic	Spring 2020
Introduction to Logic	Fall 2019

Refereed Presentations

Vague assertion

Society for Exact Philosophy	June 2025
Central APA (Symposium)	February 2024

Slurring and complicity

Dortmund Conference on Philosophy and Society	October 2024
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Words, background understandings, and slurs

The Semantics of Hidden Meanings	September 2023
Berkeley Stanford Davis Graduate Conference	April 2023

How to understand a question

Inquiry work in progress workshop	November 2022
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Deliberative inquiry

Eastern APA (Poster)	January 2023
Uppsala Epistemology Workshop	June 2022
Utrecht Graduate Philosophy Conference	May 2022
Notre Dame Northwestern Graduate Epistemology Conference	April 2022

On precisifiers (with Adam Woodnutt)

NASSLLI Student Session	June 2022
California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Conference	May 2022

Hedging and settled inquiry (with Peter van Elswyk)

Nature of Inquiry Conference	March 2020
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Comments

Haley Schilling, "Knowledge and Options" Pacific APA	April 2025
Donald Soles, "Don't Believe and Inquire" Eastern APA	January 2025
Tomasz Zyglicz, "What Belief Reports are For?" Pacific APA	March 2024

Scott Dixon, "Metaphysical Foundherentism" Central APA	February 2023
Jaakko Hirvelä, "The Structure of Moral Encroachment" Uppsala Epistemology Workshop	June 2022
Madeleine Levac, "Gaslighting and Fragile Knowledge" Pacific APA	April 2022
Elise Woodard, "The Ignorance Norm and Paradoxical Assertions" Eastern APA	January 2022

Fellowships and Awards

Graduate Fellow, Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project	2022-
Richard Peltz Award for Excellence in Philosophy Awarded by UW-Milwaukee for best philosophy paper submission.	2021
Graduate Student Excellence Fellowship	2020
Ruby-Lankford Grant for Faculty Student Research	2017

Service

Conference organizer, USC-UCLA graduate conference	2025
Eastern APA chair for Melissa Fusco's "Conditionals of Deliberation and Update"	2025
Graduate student mentor, Nurit Matuk Blaustein	2024-2025
Editor, CFCP blog	2024-2025
Philosophy area leader, USC graduate student union	2023-2024
President, USC speculative society	2022-2023
Committee member, USC Open house committee	2022
Graduate student mentor, Yuanye Hu	2023-2024
Referee, Canadian Philosophical Association meeting	2023
Referee, USC-UCLA graduate conference	2022, 2023, 2024
Journal referee, <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Erkenntnis</i> , <i>Ergo</i> , <i>Inquiry</i> , <i>Synthese</i>	

Graduate Coursework

Courses marked with an asterisk () were audited.*

Area Exam

Conditionals (Andrew Bacon)
Formal Epistemology (Jeffrey Russell)
Pragmatics (John Hawthorne)
Vagueness (Andrew Bacon)

Epistemology

The Social Epistemology of Inquiry (Peter van Elswyk)
Epistemic Normativity* (Ralph Wedgwood, John Hawthorne, Maria Lasonen-Aarnio)
Formal Epistemology* (Dmitri Gallow)
Topics in Epistemology* (John Hawthorne)

History of Philosophy

Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit (William Bristow)
Kant's Critique of Pure Reason: Self and World (Nataliya Palatnik)
Kant's and Kantian Practical Thought (Nataliya Palatnik)
Schopenhauer and Nietzsche (William Bristow)

Language

Compositional Degree Semantics (Alexis Wellwood and Roumyana Pancheva)
Language and Meaning (Peter van Elswyk)
Language Proseminar (Scott Soames)
Semantics, Vagueness, and Paradox (Andrew Bacon)
Speech Act Theory (Peter van Elswyk)
Conditionals* (Andrew Bacon and John Hawthorne)
Epistemic Modals* (Deniz Rudin)
Semantics and Pragmatics of Epistemic Vocabulary* (Peter van Elswyk)
Slurs* (Robin Jeshion)
Speech Acts* (Robin Jeshion)

Linguistics

Semantics (Deniz Rudin)
Syntax (Travis Major)

Metaphysics

Composition and Metaphysical Explanation (Joshua Spencer)

The Passage of Time (Joshua Spencer)

Bounds of Possibility* (John Hawthorne)

The Metaphysical Toolkit* (Joshua Spencer)

Mind

Intentionality (James Van Cleve)

Logic

Modal Logic (Gabriel Uzquaino)

Fundamentals of Formal Logic (Joshua Spencer)

Pedagogy

Teaching Seminar (Mark Schroeder)

Future Faculty Teaching Institute (USC Center for Excellence in Teaching)

Social and Political Philosophy

Feminist Perspectives on Sex and Love (Robin Jeshion)

Critical Theory* (Karen Ng)

Feminist Epistemology and Identity Politics* (Emily Tilton)

Public Reason and the Pursuit of Justice* (Blain Neufeld)

Value Theory

Blame: A Beginner's Guide (Zoë Johnson King)

Contemporary Philosophical Literature on Value (Ralph Wedgwood)

Mental Ethics (Mark Schroeder)

Value in a Vast and Uncertain World* (Jeffrey Russell)