

JAMES MESSINA

EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego 2003-2011

Ph.D. in Philosophy, June 2011

Humboldt-Universität (Berlin) 2008-2009

Fulbright Scholar

University of Rochester (Rochester, NY) 1999-2003

B.A. Summa Cum Laude, Spring 2003

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2018-present

Associate Professor

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2012-2018

Assistant Professor

Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT) 2011-2012

Assistant Professor

HONORS, GRANTS, AWARDS

Vilas Associate Award (2019-2020)

University Housing Honored Instructor Awards (fall 2018, spring 2019, fall 2019)

Chosen for the 2016 *The Philosopher's Annual* (which selects “the ten best articles published in philosophy each year”; I was selected for my 2015 paper, “Conceptual Analysis and the Essence of Space: Kant’s Metaphysical Exposition Revisited”)

Awarded \$10,000 by the Jay & Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund to organize a conference (“Kant on Knowledge and Cognition”), which was held in October 2015

Awarded a \$1500 course development grant by the Center for European Studies, November 2013 (the course was called “Truth, Beauty, Revolution” and was taught Fall 2015)

Awarded a stipend by the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* to participate in a Master Class on German Idealism at the University of Chicago, July 2012

Recipient of Barbara J. and Paul D. Saltman Excellent Teaching Award, University of California, San Diego, 2010

Fulbright Scholarship (university student category), 2008-9

Markus Herz Award (awarded by the North American Kant Society for the best paper by a graduate student read at any of the regional NAKS study group meetings), 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

“The Content of Kant’s Pure Category of Substance and Its Use on Phenomena and Noumena.” Forthcoming in *Philosophers’ Imprint*.

“Kant’s Stance on the Relationalist-Substantialist Debate and its Justification,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 56:4 (2018): 697–726.

“Looking for Laws in all the Wrong Spaces: Kant on Laws, the Understanding, and Space,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 26 (2018): 589–613.

“The Relationship between Space and Mutual Interaction: Kant Contra Newton and Leibniz,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 47:1 (2017): 43-65.

“Conceptual Analysis and the Essence of Space: Kant’s Metaphysical Exposition Revisited,” *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 97:4 (2015): 416-57.

“Kant on the Unity of Space and the Synthetic Unity of Apperception,” *Kant-Studien* 105:1 (2014): 5-40.

“Kantian Space, Supersubstantialism, and the Spirit of Spinoza,” *Kant Yearbook* 6:1 (2014): 43-63.

“Answering Aenesidemus: Schulze’s Attack on Reinholdian Representationalism and its Importance for Fichte,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 49:3 (2011): 339–369.

“Leibniz on Compossibility” (with Donald Rutherford), *Philosophy Compass* 4:6 (2009): 962–977.

Chapters in edited volumes

“The Marriage of Metaphysics and Geometry in Kant’s *Prolegomena*” (forthcoming in the *Cambridge Critical Guide to Kant’s Prolegomena*, edited by Peter Thielke, Cambridge University Press)

“The Role of Space in the Grounding of Laws in the *Metaphysical Foundations*” (forthcoming in the *Cambridge Critical Guide to Kant’s Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science*, edited by Michael Bennett McNulty, Cambridge University Press)

“Kant’s Necessitation Account of Laws and the Nature of Natures,” in *Kant and the Laws of Nature*, edited by Michela Massimi and Angela Breitenbach, Cambridge University Press, 2017, 131-149.

“The Fate of the World (and Compossibility) after Leibniz: The Development of Cosmology in German Philosophy from Leibniz to Kant,” in *Leibniz: Compossibility*

and Possible Worlds, edited by Yual Chiek and Gregory Brown, Springer, 2016, 227-249.

Conference proceedings

“Where the Laws of Physics (and Geometry) Lie: A Reading of *Prolegomena* §38,” in *Natur und Freiheit, Akten des XII. Internationalen Kant-Kongresses*, edited by Violette L. Waibel, Margit Ruffing und David Wagner, de Gruyter, 2018 .

Dictionary entries

Various short entries in the *Kant-Lexikon* (de Gruyter, 2015). Some examples:
“Leibniz-Wolffsche Schule” (with Lucia Procuranti and Eric Watkins)
“Erklärung” (with Thomas Sturm)
“Wahrheit, Kriterion der” (with Thomas Sturm)
“Prinzip”
“Allgemeinheit”

Book reviews

Eric Watkins, *Kant on Laws*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019. *Mind* (2020).

Mark Sinclair (ed), *The Actual and the Possible: Modality and Metaphysics in Modern Philosophy*. Oxford University Press, 2017. *Journal of the History of Philosophy* (2019).

James R. O’Shea (ed), *Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason: A Critical Guide*. Cambridge University Press, 2017, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. Accessible here: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/kants-critique-of-pure-reason-a-critical-guide/>

Sebastian Rödl, *Self-Consciousness*. Harvard University Press, 2007. *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 16 (2-3) (2009): 199–208.

TALKS

“Look Ma, No Hands! The Evolution of Kant’s Metaphysics of Space Before Incongruent Counterparts” Leuven Kant Conference, May 2021

“Kant on Laws of Nature and Pure Intuition,” Biennial North American Kant Society Meeting, Organized through Zoom by Binghamton University, June 2020

“Kant’s Argument from Spinozism,” UW-Madison History of Philosophy Workshop, Madison, WI, November 2019

“Liberty in Early Modernity: ” Roundtable discussion, Early Modern Studies Workshop at the IRH at UW-Madison, October 2019

“Will the Real Substances Please Stand Up?” 13th International Kant Congress, Oslo, Norway, August 2019.

“Kant’s Spinozism Charge,” Pacific APA (Session hosted by Society for German Idealism and Romanticism), Vancouver, Canada, April 2019.

“Space as an A Priori Ground of the Fundamental Forces and Laws of Matter.”
Conference on Metaphysical Foundations, Austin, Texas March 2019.

“Kant’s Spinozism Charge,” University of Chicago, January 2019.

“Kant’s Pure Category of Substance: Will the Real Substances Please Stand Up?”
Leuven Kant Conference, Leuven, Belgium, June 2018

“Kant on Substance Monism,” Biennial North American Kant Society Conference,
Simon Fraser, Vancouver, Canada, May 2018

“Kant’s Pure Category of Substance: Will the Real Substances Please Stand Up?”
Early Modern-St. Louis Conference, St. Louis, MI, April 2018

“Kant’s Pure Category of Substance: Will the Real Substances Please Stand Up?”
Midwest Study Group of the North American Kant Society, University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, MN, October 2017

“Will the Real Substances Please Stand Up?” Workshop on Kant and Leibniz on
Substance, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, November 2016

Where the Laws of Physics (and Geometry) Lie: A Reading of *Prolegomena* §38,”
Fourth Leuven Kant Conference, KU Leuven, Belgium, June 2016

“Where the Laws of Physics (and Geometry) Lie: A Reading of *Prolegomena* §38,”
Biennial North American Kant Society Conference, Emory University, Atlanta,
Georgia, May 2016

“The Metaphysics of Kantian Intuitions: Against the Cartesian Reading,” American
Philosophical Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 2016

“Kant’s Stance on the Relationist-Substantialist Debate and its Justification,”
Colloquium at UW-Milwaukee, WI, February 2016

“Kant’s Stance on the Relationist-Substantialist Debate and its Justification,” Pacific
Study Group of the North American Kant Society, Simon Fraser, Vancouver, Canada,
November 2015

“The Mutual Interaction of Space and Mutual Interaction: Kant Contra Newton and
Leibniz,” Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, September 2015

“Where the Laws of Physics (and Geometry) Lie: A Reading of *Prolegomena* Section
38,” International Kant Congress, Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria, September 2015

“A Spinozistic Spin on Kantian Appearances,” British Society for the History of Philosophy Annual Conference, University of York, York, UK, April 2015

“The Mutual Interaction of Space and Mutual Interaction,” UK Kant Conference, Oxford, UK, August 2014

“Kantian Space, Supersubstantialism, and the Spirit of Spinoza,” American Philosophical Association Conference, San Diego, CA, April 2014

“Kantian Space, Supersubstantialism, and the Spirit of Spinoza,” NYC Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, Fordham University, NYC, NY, March 2014

“Kant’s Relationism,” Conference Honoring Ralf Meerbote, University of Rochester, NY, February 2013

“Coexistence, Community, and Communio Spatii: Kant Contra Newton and Leibniz,” Kant Symposium, Simon Fraser, Vancouver, Canada, October 2012

“Coexistence, Community, and Communio Spatii: Kant Contra Newton and Leibniz,” Colloquium at Boston College, MA, February 2012

“Coexistence, Community, and Communio Spatii: Kant Contra Newton and Leibniz,” Colloquium at UW-Madison, WI, February 2012

“Kant on the Unity of Space and the Synthetic Unity of Apperception,” JHP-sponsored master class on German Idealism, University of Chicago, July 2012

“Coexistence, Community, and Communio Spatii: Kant Contra Newton and Leibniz,” Upstate New York Workshop on Early Modern Philosophy, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 2011

“Kant on Autonomy and Objective Experience,” Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, 2010

“Kant’s Definition of Space,” Horstmann Colloquium, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany, 2009

“Answering Aenesidemus,” Internationaler Workshop: Klassische deutsche Philosophie, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, Germany, 2008

“Leibniz and the New World of German Cosmology,” History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) Conference, UBC, Vancouver, Canada, 2008

“Spatial Relations, Different Places, and the Possibility of Co-Existence,” Pacific Study Group of the North American Kant Society, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, 2007

“Having a Point of View and Stoff,” Conference at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt, Germany, 2006

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Midwest Study Group of the North American Kant Society, held at UW-Madison in Fall 2018

Kant on Knowledge and Cognition, held at UW-Madison, October 2015

COMMENTS, CHAIRING

Commentator at large for “Kant on the Self,” hosted by Princeton, held over Zoom, February 2021.

Comments on Rosalind Chaplin’s “Kant on the Possibility of Actually Infinite Aggregates,” Symposium Session (with Andrew Chignell) at the Eastern American Philosophical Association Conference, held over Zoom, January 2021.

Comments on Jessica Williams’ “Kant, Metaphysical Space, and the Unity of the Subject,” American Philosophical Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 2015

Chair of session at Kantian Freedom Conference, Simon Fraser, Vancouver, Canada, October 2014

Chair of session at American Philosophical Association Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2014

Comments on Toby Svoboda’s “What Makes Non-Human Organisms Flourish: A Kantian Account of Natural Goods,” Biennial NAKS Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, June 2013

COURSES TAUGHT AT UW-MADISON

Fall 2012

Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy

Phil 838: Kant

Spring 2013

Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Phil 464: German Idealism and its Development

Fall 2013

Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy

Phil 533: When Physics and Philosophy Collide: Space, Time, and Motion in Early Modern Philosophy

Spring 2014

Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy

Phil 503: Theory of Knowledge

Fall 2014

Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy

Phil 504: Special Topics in Theory of Knowledge: Kantian Epistemology

Spring 2015

On leave
 Fall 2015
 Phil 464/German 560: Truth, Beauty, Revolution: German Philosophy and Literature 1790-1815
 Phil 830: Kant's Metaphysics and Epistemology
 Summer 2015
 Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy
 Spring 2016
 Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy
 Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy
 Fall 2016
 Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy
 Phil 464: Kant
 Spring 2017
 Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy
 Phil 830: Kant's Metaphysics and Epistemology
 Fall 2017
 On leave
 Spring 2018
 Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy
 Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy
 Fall 2018
 Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy
 Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy
 Spring 2019
 Phil 101: Intro to Philosophy
 Phil 464: Kant
 Fall 2019
 Phil 101: Intro to Philosophy
 Phil 835: Kant or Hume
 Spring 2020:
 Phil 432: History of Modern Philosophy
 Phil 464: Schopenhauer and Nietzsche
 Fall 2021
 Sabbatical
 Spring 2021
 Phil 101: Intro to Philosophy
 Phil 502: Theory of Knowledge

INDEPENDENT STUDIES DIRECTED

Kevin Latham (Spring 2013)
 Ben Pauley (Spring 2013)
 Sam Pauley (Spring 2013)
 David Schulz (Spring 2013)
 Peter Ohmann (Fall 2014)
 Megan Kennedy (Summer 2015)

SENIOR THESES DIRECTED

Peter Nennig (Fall 2013-Spring 2014)
Nan Yi (Spring 2016-Fall 2017)
Hannah Widmaier (Fall 2018-)

DISSERTATIONS DIRECTED

Tim Aylsworth

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES AND DEFENSES

Xinzhi Zhao
Hadley Cooney
Jonathan Lang

PRELIMINARY COMMITTEES

Hubert Marciniac
Jared Steinke
Tim Aylsworth
Hadley Cooney
Andrea Guardo
Nick Vallone

OTHER TEACHING

Undergraduate Philosophy Club (Spring 2013)
Guest Lecturer in Elliot Sober's Phil 920 (Spring 2014)
Guest Lecturer in Claudia Card's Phil 104 (Spring 2014)
Guest Lecturer in Claudia Card's Phil 832 (Fall 2014)
Guest Lecturer in Sarah Paul's Phil 101 (Spring 2015)
Guest Lecturer in Dan Hausman's Phil 549 (Spring 2015)

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

VCRGE, Library Collections Enhancement Initiative Review Committee (Spring 2020)
VCRGE, Fall Competition Committee (Fall 2019)
Graduate Fellowships/TA-ships committee (Fall 2018-Spring 2020)
Anat Schechtman oversight committee (Fall 2018-Fall 2019)
Five year post tenure review committee for Peter Vranas (Fall 2019)
Colloquium Committee (Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Spring 2017)
Library Committee (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017)
Philosophy Department Newsletter Committee (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Fall 2019)
Undergraduate Philosophy Scholarship Award Committee (Spring 2014, Spring 2016)_
Undergraduate Planning Committee (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2017)
Medieval/Early Modern Search Committee (Fall 2013)
Oliver Prize Committee (Spring 2013, Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
Faculty Senate (Alternate) (Fall 2012-present)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Journal of Early Modern Philosophy*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Monist*, *Ergo*, *British Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *HOPOS*, *Kantian Review*, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, the North American Kant Society, Utah Academy of Sciences, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Press