

Erica Shumener

curriculum vitae

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Philosophy
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Areas of specialization

Metaphysics

Areas of competence

Philosophy of Science (general)

Appointments

- 2015 – Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
- 2015 – Resident Fellow, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
- 2018 – Associate Director, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
- 2018 – Secondary Appointment, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Education

- 2016 Ph.D. (defended in Fall 2015) in Philosophy, New York University. Dissertation Title: *Identity, Intrinsicity, and Laws of Nature*. Dissertation Committee: David Chalmers, Kit Fine (chair), Ted Sider.
- Fall 2011 Visiting Student, Cornell University
- Win 2011 & Visiting Student, Australian National University.
- Sum 2009
- 2008 B.A. *Summa Cum Laude* in Philosophy (with highest honors) and History, New York University

Publications

- (in prep) “Ground and Identity” for the *Routledge Handbook on Ground*
- (fthc) “Building and Surveying: Relative Fundamentality in Bennett’s *Making Things Up*,” *Analysis*
- 2017 “Laws of Nature, Explanation, and Semantic Circularity,” *The British Journal for Philosophy of Science*
- 2017 “The Metaphysics of Identity,” *Philosophy Compass*

Work in Progress

- (in prep) “Physicalism without Ground” (this is for an invited volume called *Grounding and Consciousness*).

Grants, honors & awards

- 2014-15 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship
- 2012-13 Graduate Student Fellow, New York Institute of Philosophy: Foundations of Epistemology
- 2010 New York University Travel Grant
- 2008-13 MacCracken Dissertation Fellowship, New York University
- 2008 elected *Phi Beta Kappa*

- 2007 Salomonowitz Memorial Prize, awarded by the New York University Philosophy Department (one recipient per year)
- 2007 John W. Wilkes Memorial Prize, awarded by the New York University History Department

Presentations

- 2019 TBA, University of Maryland, College Park (colloquium)
- 2019 “Governance without Necessitation”, Pacific APA Metaphysics of Science Group
- 2019 TBA, Conference on Philosophical Methodology
- 2018 Commentary on Trenton Merricks’ “Identity and What Matters”, 2018 New England Workshop on Metaphysics
- 2018 Commentary on Agustín Rayo’s “The Open-Endedness of Logical Space”, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Colloquium
- 2018 “Properties, Facts, and Object-Identity”, Objects and Properties: Generating Dialogue, University of Cambridge
- 2018 “Grounding and Identity”, Hamburg Workshop on Ground, PHLOX
- 2018 “Explaining Identity and Distinctness”.
April 2018 Conference on the Principle of Sufficient Reason, Simon Fraser University
March 2018 Philosophy Mountain Workshop, Telluride, Colorado
- 2017 “Against Fundamental Identity and Distinctness”, Conference on Personal Identity, Paros, Greece
- 2017 Commentary on Chris Dorst’s “Why are the Laws so Useful?” CU Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2017 Commentary on Marianna Antonutti Marfori’s “Indirect Mathematical Naturalism” Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
- 2017 Commentary on Rebecca Chan’s “Ethics-First Metaphysics” Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
- 2017 “A Minimal Account of Governance”
Dec. 2017 Iris Einheuser Memorial Lecture, Duke University
June 2017 SPAWN workshop, Syracuse University
April 2017 Junior Metaphysics Workshop, Virginia Tech
- 2016-7 “Physicalism without Ground”
June 2017 Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
Jan. 2017 Ranch Metaphysics Workshop
June 2016 “Physicalism without Grounding”, Grounding and Consciousness Conference University of Birmingham
- 2017 “Commentary on Jonathan Schaffer’s ‘The World for Explanation’ ” Sociedad Filosófica Ibero Americana (SOFIA) XXI Conference
- 2016 “Intrinsicity, Grounding, and Parthood” Workshop on the Metaphysics of Ground University of Texas at Austin
- 2016 “Commentary on Ted Sider’s ‘Object-Free Ontology’”, American Philosophical Association Meeting, Central Division
- 2015 “Hempel, Explanation and Circularity”
University of Toronto M & E Group
Hempel and Beyond Workshop, University of Cologne
- 2015

- “Commentary on Jon Litland’s “Bicollective Ground” American Philosophical Association Meeting, Pacific Division
- 2015 “Silliness, Loneliness, and Intrinsicity”
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh
Northern Illinois University
Yale University
- 2014 “Explaining Identity and Distinctness” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University
- 2014 “Grounding Questions” Recent Work on the Logic of Ground Workshop, University of Oslo
- 2013 “How the Laws of Nature Govern” Women in Metaphysics Retreat and Workshop (supported by the Princeton, Rutgers, and NYU philosophy departments)
- 2012 Commentary on Ryan Perkins’ “Of Grounding and Explanation” 12th Annual Columbia-NYU Philosophy Conference, New York University
- 2011 “Truthmaking: Problems with the Monistic Approach” Australian National University, Kioloa Postgraduate Conference.
- 2011 “Exploring Hyperintensional Approaches to Intrinsicity” Australian National University Philosophy Society Seminar.
- 2010 Commentary on Karen Bennett’s “Construction Area (No Hard Hat Required)” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University

Teaching

UNDERGRADUATE

- Sp17,18 F 18 Freedom and Determinism (Pitt)
Spr 2018 Introduction to Philosophical Problems (Pitt)
Fall 2016,17 Metaphysics (Pitt)
Fall 2015,16 Concepts of Human Nature (Pitt)
Spr 2014 Introductory Logic (NYU)
Sum 2013 Epistemology (NYU)
Sum 2012 Central Problems in Philosophy (NYU)

GRADUATE (ALL AT PITT)

- Fall 2017 Laws of Nature
Spring 2017 The Metaphysics of Relations
Spring 2016 Metaphysics Seminar: Explanation and Fundamentality

MISCELLANEOUS

- Sum 2018 “Laws of Nature”, Pittsburgh Summer Program 2: A Summer Program in Philosophy of Science for Underrepresented Groups

Supervising

GRADUATE

- Fall 2016-8 Comprehensive examination committee member for Leona Mollica, Annika Froese, and Alnica Visser.

2016-?? Teaching Mentor for Jasmin Özel, Maximillion Tegtmeier, Alnica Visser, Shivam Patel, Elena Garadjja

UNDERGRADUATE

Sum 2017 (Undergraduate) Jennifer Liu, “Scaling from Micro to Macro: Philosophical Investigations of the Living Through Art”, Brackenridge Summer Fellowship

Department and Professional Service

18-19, 16-17 Faculty Liaison, Pitt Graduate Student-Faculty Liaison Committee
 2018-19 Member, Pitt Faculty Search Committee
 2018 Member, Pitt Department Chair Nomination Committee
 2017-18 Co-Director, Pitt Graduate Admissions Committee
 17-19, 15-16 Member, Pitt Colloquium Committee
 Fall 2017 Leader, *Shut Up and Write*, Pitt Philosophy
 2016-18 Faculty Ambassador, Pitt Undergraduate Philosophy Club
 2016-17 Scribe, Pitt Graduate Admissions Committee
 2016-?? Planning Committee, *Midwest Annual Metaphysics Workshop*
 2015 Co-organizer (with Zee R. Perry), Workshop on the Metaphysics of Quantity at NYU
 2012 Assistant Organizer, *California Metaphysics Conference at USC*
 2012-13 Member, NYU Colloquium Committee
 2010-12 Co-organizer, *NYU Metaphysics Bootcamp Workshop*
 2009-10 Member, NYU Committee on Women and Minority Hiring
 2009 Co-organizer, *9th Annual NYU-Columbia University Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy*

ongoing Referee for: *Dialectica* (2013, 2018), *Erkenntnis* (2014), *Inquiry* (2018), *Philosophers’ Imprint* (2017), *Philosophical Quarterly* (2018), *Philosophical Studies* (2014, 2016, 2017), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2017), *Philosophy of Science* (2018), *Res Philosophica* (2015), *Synthese* (2017), *Thought* (editorial panel member: 2015-18)

References

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 University of Massachusetts, Amherst
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