

Boise State University
 Department of Philosophy
 Education Bldg 636A
 Boise, ID 83725-1550

[https://www.boisestate.edu/philosophy/faculty/
 edwardferrier@boisestate.edu](https://www.boisestate.edu/philosophy/faculty/edwardferrier@boisestate.edu)
 Office: (208) 426-2127
 Cell: (413) 695-7925

Employment

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Boise State University | Visiting Assistant Professor | Fall 2019–present |
| Tufts University | Lecturer | Spring 2018–Spring 2019 |

Education

| | |
|-------|---|
| Ph.D. | Philosophy, University of Massachusetts Amherst, February 2018. Dissertation: <i>Quantification and Paradox</i> Committee: Kevin Klement (chair), Phillip Bricker, Chris Meacham, Rob Kusner (Mathematics) |
| M.A. | Philosophy, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2015. |
| B.A. | Philosophy (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>), UNC Greensboro, 2003. |
| B.A. | Liberal Arts, Thomas Aquinas College, 1999. |

Areas of Research

AOS Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics, Logic, Metaphysics
 AOC Early Analytic Philosophy, Ethics, Existentialism.

Publications

“Against the Iterative Conception of *Set*”, *Philosophical Studies* 176 (2019): 2681–2703.

Selected Works in Progress

- “Explanation and Paradox” (under review)
 I discuss the explanatory virtues of proofs that contradiction-inducing sets, such as the universal set, do not exist in standard ZFC set theory. Do such proofs explain why these sets don’t exist? Do they help explain the consistency of ZFC? Finally, do the explanations we seek rely on the so-called “iterative conception of set”? And what sorts of pressures do our explanatory demands place on this conception?
- “Expressing Restrictivism” (in preparation)
 Straightforward attempts to express restrictivism presuppose unrestricted quantification and are therefore self-defeating. I argue that the restrictivist avoids self-defeat if she expresses her view as the schematic claim that *any* domain of quantification has an expansion.
- “The Logical Conception of *Set* and Limitation of Size” (revised and resubmitted)
 The limitation of size doctrine purports to save logical set theory from paradox by restricting the axiom of full comprehension to those properties that do not apply to too many things. I argue (a) that an alternative limitation of size principle, which imposes restrictions directly on quantification (and indirectly on full comprehension), fares better than the original doctrine but (b) that both principles are subject to similar explanatory concerns.
- “Axiomatic Set Theory and the Iterative Conception of *Set*” (in preparation)
 It is generally held (a) that axiomatic set theory *expresses* the iterative conception of *set* and (b) that the iterative conception *explains* the consistency of axiomatic set theory. I argue that a consistent logical set theory, based on a variant of the axiom of full comprehension, also expresses the iterative conception of *set*, which in turn explains the consistency of the theory. Consequently, the epistemic allure of the iterative conception does not privilege axiomatic set theory over logical set theory.

Presentations

- *Explanation and Paradox*, Logic and Set Theory Seminar, Boise State University, October 22, 2019.
- *Against the Iterative Conception of ‘Set’*, University of Houston, April 6, 2018.
- *Russell’s Paradox: Still a Problem for Set Theory*, Annual Meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society, University of Windsor, 2014.
- *Comments on Myron Penner’s “Is it Rational to Prefer Atheism?”*, Canadian Philosophical Association, Brock University, 2014.
- *Comments on Allan Plant’s “Chisholm on Individuals and Essences”*, Canadian Philosophical Association, Fredericton, 2011.

Awards

- Tufts Faculty Appreciation Luncheon (2018): This annual luncheon recognizes faculty members whose teaching and mentoring has positively impacted the academic careers and lives of their students.
- John Robison Prize (2010): This prize is awarded annually by the UMASS philosophy department to one or two graduate students for excellence in teaching.

Academic/University Service

- Referee: *Inquiry*; *Synthese*; *Philosophical Studies*
- Faculty Sponsor (2019-2020): Boise State University Undergraduate Philosophy Club
- Grant Writing (2020): NEH Connections Planning Grant, written and submitted on behalf of the Logic Alliance, a collaboration between the Departments of Philosophy and Mathematics at Boise State University
- Co-organizer (2020): Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference (July 2020, online)
- Mellon Grant Teaching Team Member (Summer 2020): Assisted in the adaptation of “God and the Good Life”—an introductory course presenting philosophy as a way of life, originally developed at Notre Dame—for students at Boise State. Activities included participation in course design workshops with Boise State and Notre Dame faculty; curricular development; and collaboration with the Boise State tech team and Notre Dame faculty and student teaching fellows on digitization of texts and assignments

Teaching Experience

Visiting Assistant Professor at Boise State University

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Intermediate Logic | Spring 2020 |
| Metaphysics | Fall 2019 |
| Puzzles and Paradoxes | Fall 2019, Spring 2020 |

Lecturer at Tufts University

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Introduction to Philosophy | Spring 2018–Spring 2019 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|

Lecturer at the University of Massachusetts

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Practical Reasoning (online) | Spring 2018 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|

Instructor at Springfield College

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Introduction to Philosophy | Fall 2017 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|

Instructor at Western New England University

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Symbolic Logic | Spring 2017 |
|----------------------|-------------|

Instructor at the University of Connecticut

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Metaphysics | Fall 2016 |
|-------------------|-----------|

Instructor at the University of Massachusetts

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Honors Introduction to Philosophy | Fall 2017 |
| Metaphysics | Fall 2011, Fall 2014 |
| Introduction to Political Philosophy | Spring 2012 |
| Honors Introduction to Ethics | Spring 2011 |
| Medical Ethics | Fall 2010 |
| Existentialism | Spring 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2010 |
| Introduction to Ethics | Fall 2008 |

Instructor at Anna Maria College

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Introduction to Philosophy | Fall 2015, Spring 2016 |
| Ethical Theory (online) | Summer 2016 |

Instructor at Mt. Holyoke College

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Introduction to Philosophy | Spring 2013 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|

Teaching Assistant at the University of Massachusetts

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Introduction to Philosophy | Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007 |
| Introduction to Ethics | Fall 2005 |

References

Phillip Bricker
Professor
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Department of Philosophy
South College E327
bricker@philos.umass.edu
(413) 545-2330

Erin Kelly
Professor
Tufts University
Department of Philosophy
Miner Hall 02
erin.kelly@tufts.edu
(617) 627-2849

Andrew Cortens
Professor
Boise State University
Department of Philosophy
Education Bldg 614
acorten@boisestate.edu
(208) 869-8952

Kevin Klement
Professor
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Department of Philosophy
South College E319
klement@philos.umass.edu
(413) 545-2330

Fred Feldman
Professor Emeritus
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Department of Philosophy
South College 305
ffeldman@philos.umass.edu
(413) 774-4092

Chris Meacham
Professor
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Department of Philosophy
South College E417
cmeacham@philos.umass.edu
(413) 545-2330