

Susanna Melkonian-Altshuler

<https://sites.google.com/view/susannamelkonian-altshuler>

Tutor in Philosophy, Jesus College, Oxford
Associate Member, Oriel College, Oxford
PhD Candidate in Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs
Email: susanna.melkonian-altshuler@uconn.edu
Phone: +44 7957104927

Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic, Philosophy of Language

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mind, Ethics, Philosophy of Art, Social and Political Philosophy

Employment

2023- **Tutor in Philosophy** (equivalent of Primary Instructor in Philosophy),
Jesus College, Oxford

2022 –2023 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Department of Philosophy, Kansas State
University

Education

2020 – **PhD**, Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs – expected March
2024

Dissertation: “Truth’s Dependence on Reality: A Defense of
Deflationism”

Short Abstract: My dissertation provides a deflationist account of truth’s
dependence on reality. Given this, it argues that orthodoxy is wrong to
assume that deflationism cannot account for truth dependence.
Deflationism and truth dependence are perfectly compatible.

Committee: Keith Simmons (chair), Michael Lynch, Lionel Shapiro,
Stewart Shapiro (Ohio State University/University of Connecticut),
Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereyra (University of Oxford), Crispin Wright
(University of Stirling)

2019-2020	PhD Student , Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs (transferred)
2018	Visiting Scholar , Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs
2015-2018	PhD Student , Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
April – May 2015	Visiting Scholar , Jean Nicod Institute, Paris. Supervision by Uriah Kriegel
2011-2013	MA , Romance Studies, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf.
February – July 2012	Erasmus Exchange Program in Philosophy and Linguistics, University of Turin
2010-2012	MA , Philosophy, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf.
2007-2010	BA , Romance Studies, Minor in Philosophy, Heinrich-Heine University, Duesseldorf

Papers

Publications

Forthcoming	“Truth Dependence against Transparent Truth” (Topical Collection: Themes from Beall), <i>Asian Journal of Philosophy</i> .
	“Political Bald-Faced Lies are Performative Utterances,” in Drew Johnson & Adam Podlaskowski (eds.), <i>Truth 20 20: Recent Work on Minimalism, Pluralism, Pragmatism, Truth and Politics</i> , Synthese Library, Springer.
2018	“Embodying Artifact Production Knowledge,” <i>Proceedings of A Body of Knowledge, Embodied Cognition and the Arts Conference</i> , University of California Irvine, Access at https://escholarship.org/uc/item/92j9b1j0 .
2014	“In Defense of the Reference Time” (with Daniel Altshuler), <i>Semantics-Syntax Interface</i> 1(2): 133-149.

Under Review

A paper on Minimalism and truth dependence
A paper on the Correspondence theory and truth dependence
A paper on Political bald-faced lies and commands

In Preparation

A paper on Reductionism about the Content of Emotion
A paper on the Concept of Genocide
A paper on knowledge and semantic equivalence

Teaching Experience

Some Recent Teaching Evaluations

Question or Statement	Course	My Mean	My Median	University Mean	University Median
What is your overall rating of Susanna Melkonian-Altshuler's teaching?	Phil 1106 (Non-Western and Comparative)	4.7	5.0	3.9	4.0
	Phil 1106 (Non-Western and Comparative)	4.4	5.0	3.9	4.0
	Phil 1104 (Philosophy and Social Ethics)	4.8	5.0	3.7	3.8

- 2023
Instructor: Philosophy of Logic and Language, Jesus College, Oxford
Instructor: Philosophical Writing, Jesus College, Oxford
Instructor: Philosophy and Race, Kansas State University
Instructor: Medical Ethics, Kansas State University
- 2022
Instructor: Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy, Kansas State University
Instructor: Medical Ethics, Kansas State University
Instructor: Problems of Philosophy, UConn Stamford
- 2021
Teaching Assistant: Non-Western and Comparative Philosophy, Lewis Gordon, UConn Storrs
- 2020
Teaching Assistant: Philosophy and Social Ethics, Junyeol Kim, UConn Storrs
Teaching Assistant: Philosophy and Logic, Marcus Rossberg, UConn Storrs
- 2019
Instructor: Philosophy of Mind, Yerevan Academy of Linguistics and Philosophy
Co-Instructor: Philosophy of Art, co-taught, Yerevan Academy of Linguistics and Philosophy
- 2017
Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Philosophy, Ned Markosian, UMass Amherst
Teaching Assistant: Medical Ethics, Peter Graham, UMass Amherst
- 2016
Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Ethics, Peter Graham, UMass Amherst

Research Experience

- 2021
Research Assistant, Journal of [Philosophy and Global Affairs](#), in cooperation with the Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs
- 2020
Research Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

- 2019 **Research Assistant**, Department of Philosophy – partnered with the Global Affairs Program, University of Connecticut, Storrs.
- 2012-2015 **Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow** (*wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin*), DFG-Collaborative Research Centre 991: The Structure of Representations in Language, Cognition and Science, Heinrich-Heine University, Duesseldorf
- 2010-2012 **Student Assistant** (*studentische Hilfskraft*), Department of Philosophy, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf

Affiliations

- 2021 – **Associate Member**, Oriel College, Oxford, UK
- 2020 – **Steering Committee**, Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research (VICTR)

Presentations

Invited

(Selected Presentations)

- February 2023 Comments on Jonathan Kendrick’s “Two Puzzles about Epistemic Necessity”, Symposium at the 2023 Central APA, Denver, CO
- October 2022 “A Deflationist View of Truthmaking”, Women Philosophy of Mathematics/Logic Workshop, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University, NJ
- June 2022 “A Deflationist View of Truthmaking”, Oriel Philosophy Group, University of Oxford, UK
- November 2021 “Political Bald-Faced Lies are Performative Utterances,” Truth without Borders, Online Conference
- July 2020 “Directionality for Minimalism: A Piecemeal Approach,” Truth 20/20, Online Conference
- January 2014 “Linguistic Data for Positing Productively Gained Concepts,” Colloquium, Department of Philosophy, Chair of Theoretical Philosophy, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf, Germany
- July 2013 “The Trouble with Emotion Phenomenology” Colloquium, Department of Philosophy of Language and Cognition, Bochum University, Germany

Refereed

- January 2024* "Truth Dependence against Transparent Truth", 2024 Eastern APA, New York (poster)
- September 2022* "Saving Perfect Being Semantics from Belief Contexts," 3rd Context, Cognition, and Communication Conference: Varieties of Meaning and Content, Warsaw, Poland
- January 2021* "Directionality for Minimalism: A Piecemeal Approach," 2021 Eastern APA, New York
- May 2019* "Piecemeal Directionality – The Minimalist's Path to Reality," 47th Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, York (Toronto), Canada
- September 2018* "Revising the Modest Defeater Critique of Armchair Philosophy," Buffalo Annual Experimental Philosophy Conference, Buffalo, NY
- March 2018* "Is Belief Closed under Known Entailment? Against Sui Generism about Emotional States," 2018-USC-UCLA Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Los Angeles, CA
- March 2017* "Is Impartiality Necessary for Morality?" Spring School 2017: Social Cognition, Emotion and Joint Action, Bochum (poster), Germany
- December 2016* "Knowing-How and Artifact Concepts," A Body of Knowledge: Embodied Cognition and the Arts, Irvine, CA
- November 2014* "Taxis, Contingency and Imperfectivity" (with Daniel Altshuler), International Linguistic Conference The Linguistic Heritage and Development of Yu.S. Maslov's Ideas, St. Petersburg, Russia
- August 2014* "Sensory-Motor Result-Representations of (French) Artefact Terms", Concept Types and Frames, Duesseldorf, Germany
- February 2014* "The Evolution of Productive Action Concepts," 15th Szklarska Poreba Workshop on Aspect and Meaning in the Brain, Szklarska Poreba, Poland
- December 2013* "Framing the World. Epistemology Challenges Emotion Theory," IX Midterm Conference on Emotions and Knowledge, Italian Society of Analytical Philosophy, Modena, Italy
- November 2013* "Are Cultural Concepts Shaped by the Making of Objects? A Philosophical Hypothesis Based on Linguistic Evidence", 1st UCL Graduate Conference in Linguistics, London, UK
- October 2013* "Gaining Concepts by Productive Action?" (poster), Conference Investigating Semantics. Empirical and Philosophical Approaches, Bochum, Germany

February 2013 “As is the Intentional Object of Emotion, so Must be its Phenomenology? Brentano’s Most Striking Thesis as Explanans,” International Conference Consciousness and Intentionality. Brentano’s Heritage in Philosophy of Mind, Salzburg, Austria

September 2012 “Understanding the Emotions of Others. An Objective View of Cognitive Emotion”, Interdisciplinary Conference: Social Understanding – Evolution, Development, Culture, Bochum, Germany

Department Talks

October 2022 “A Minimalist Account of Truthmaking”, Kansas State University

September 2022 “Saving Perfect Being Semantics from Belief Contexts”, UConn

February 2022 “Defining Genocide”, UConn

November 2020 “Political Bald-Faced Lies as Performatives”, UConn

September 2018 “Revising the Modest Defeater Critique of Armchair Philosophy”,
UConn

Invited Lectures

April 2022 “A Deflationist View of Truthmaking”, Seminar in Philosophical Logic, Keith Simmons, UConn, Storrs

April 2020 “Dependence for Minimalism: A Piecemeal-Definitional Approach”, Seminar in Philosophical Logic, Keith Simmons, UConn, Storrs

Grants & Awards (Selected)

2023 **APA Graduate Student Travel Stipend** for an accepted presentation at the 2024 APA Eastern Division Meeting

2021 **Recognition for Teaching Excellence for Fall 2020**, awarded by the Provost of Academic Affairs of the University of Connecticut

2021 **APA Graduate Student Travel Stipend** for an accepted talk at the 2021 APA Eastern Division Meeting

2020 **Spring 2021 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship** awarded by The Graduate School of the University of Connecticut

Doctoral Student Travel Fellowship awarded by The Graduate School of the University of Connecticut

- 2017 **Travel Grant** from Ruhr-University Bochum for a Poster Presentation at the Spring School Social Cognition, Emotion and Joint Action - An interdisciplinary discussion of abilities, pathologies and mechanisms, Ruhr-University Bochum
- 2015 **Puryear Fellowship for Graduate Studies** in Philosophy, University of Massachusetts–Amherst; with an *additional summer funding*
- 2014 **Travel Grant** from Saint Petersburg State University for Best Submitted Abstract, International Linguistic Conference: The Linguistic Heritage and Development of Yu.S. Maslov’s Ideas
- Travel Grant** from the School of the Humanities for women researchers giving a talk abroad, Heinrich-Heine-University, Dusseldorf
- 2013 **Travel Grant** from the School of the Humanities for women researchers giving a talk abroad, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf
- 2012 **Winner of the Writing Competition** *Thanks to Erasmus a Different Person*, 25 Years of Erasmus, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf
- 2012 **Erasmus Student Exchange Grant**

Organized Events (Selected)

- 2022 **Organizer**, Truth 20/22: A Zoom Conference, Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research (VICTR)
- 2021 **Organizer**, Truth 20/21: A Zoom Conference, Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research (VICTR)
- Organizer**, Relativism Session at Truth 20/21; **Book Symposium** on Maria Baghramian and Annalisa Coliva’s *Relativism* **published** at *Analysis Reviews*
- 2017 – **Organizer** (with Daniel Altshuler, Ned Markosian, and Arshak Balayan), Yerevan Academy for Linguistics and Philosophy (YALP), American University of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia
- 2017 **Organizer** (with Emilia Miller, Patrick Grafton-Cardwell, and Louis Gularte), Massachusetts-Rhode Island Graduate Workshop in Philosophy (MARI), Brown University
- 2016 **Reviewer**, Graduate Women Metaphysics Workshop, Smith College, Northampton, MA

- Organizer** (with Melanie Ludwig, Emilia Miller, and Patrick Grafton-Cardwell) Massachusetts-Rhode Island Graduate Workshop in Philosophy (MARI), University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2015 **Director** (with Liane Stroebel), interdisciplinary workshop 'Emotion Concepts in Use', **funded by the German Research Foundation, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf**
- Organizer**, CRC-Colloquium, Heinrich Heine-University, Duesseldorf
- Director** (with Henk Zeevat and Alexandra Redmann), 16th Szklarska Poreba Workshop on the Role of Linguistics in the Cognitive Sciences and Mental Representation of Semantic and Pragmatic Lexical Knowledge, Szklarska Poreba
- 2014 **Organizer**, CRC-Colloquium, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf
- 2013 **Organizer**, CRC-Colloquium, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf

Community Service

- 2023 **Participant**, Long Conversation around Science: Philosophy in America vs. Philosophy in Armenia, organized and broadcasted by *Gituzh* (Science Force) and Infocom, Yerevan, Armenia
- 2020 – **Member**, Oxford University Armenian Society
- 2013 – 2015 **Representative**, Central Counsel of the Armenians in Germany (ZAD), advising of Armenian students concerning enrollment at the Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf
- 2014 **Chair**, 3rd Public Colloquium – Armenian Female Scholars in the Humanities in Germany, *Armenisch-Akademischer Verein 1860.e.V'*
- Translation** of French Documents from the Vatican Secret Archives into German, published in Michael Hesemann (2014), *Der Vatikan, Deutschland und der Völkermord an den Armeniern - unveröffentlichte Dokumente aus dem päpstlichen Geheimarchiv*
- 2012 **Collaboration**, Teaching Project *Embodied Cognition. Fußgedanken und Bauchgefühle – Wie viel Körper braucht der Geist?*, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf
- 2011 **Presentation** – the Greek-Armenian philosopher Georgi Gurdjieff, *Akademischer Sommer-Jugendtreff des ZAD, Detmold*

References

UConn

<p>Keith Simmons keith.simmons@uconn.edu Professor of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs</p>	<p>Michael Lynch mplynch@uconn.edu Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs</p>
<p>Lionel Shapiro lionel.shapiro@uconn.edu Professor of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs</p>	<p>Stewart Shapiro shapiro.4@osu.edu O'Donnell Professor of Philosophy, Ohio State University Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Connecticut, Storrs</p>

External

<p>Paul Horwich ph42@nyu.edu Professor of Philosophy, New York University</p>	<p>Ned Markosian (teaching) ned.markosian@umass.edu Professor of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst</p>
<p>Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereyra gonzalo.rodriiguez-pereyra@oriel.ox.ac.uk Professor of Metaphysics, University of Oxford, UK Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, Oriel College, Oxford</p>	<p>Crispin Wright cjgwright@gmail.com Professor of Philosophical Research, University of Stirling, UK</p>