

Meg Wallace

Curriculum Vitae
May 2026

University of Kentucky
Department of Philosophy
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Academic Appointments

2024-present *Professor*, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Kentucky
2016-2024 *Associate Professor*, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Kentucky
2010-2016 *Assistant Professor*, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Kentucky
2009-2010 *Visiting Assistant Professor*, Dept. of Philosophy, Oberlin College

Administrative Appointments

2023-present *Chair*, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Kentucky
2017-2021 *Director of Undergraduate Studies*, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Kentucky

Research Interests

Specialization *Metaphysics, Composition, Persistence, Metaontology*
Competence *Mind, Language, Epistemology, Aesthetics*

Education

2003-2009 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill - PhD (Philosophy) 2009; M.A. 2005
Dissertation: *Composition is Identity*
2000-2003 Syracuse University - Philosophy PhD program [transferred]
1998-2000 University of Arkansas - Philosophy PhD program [transferred]
1996-1998 University of Oklahoma - B.A. (History)
1994-1996 Syracuse University [transferred]

Publications

Monographs

2023 [*Parts and Wholes*](#). Cambridge Elements in Metaphysics (Cambridge University Press)

Articles - Journal & Volume Entries

- forth. "Choose Your Own Essentia" *Philosophy and Literature* (accepted December 2025)
- 2022 "Mental fictionalism" in T. Demeter, T. Parent and A. Toon (eds.) [*Mental Fictionalism: Philosophical Explorations*](#). New York and London: Routledge: 27-51
- 2022 "Mental Fictionalism: a foothold amid deflationary collapse" in T. Demeter, T. Parent and A. Toon (eds.) [*Mental Fictionalism: Philosophical Explorations*](#). New York and London: Routledge: 275-300
- 2021 "The Polysemy of 'part'" *Synthese* 198, 4331–4354 (2021). Online: 2019; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-019-02088-x>
- 2020 "Counterexamples and Common Sense: When (Not) to Tollens a Ponens" *Analysis* 80(3) 544-558 (2020); <https://doi.org/10.1093/analys/anz056>
- 2019 "The Lump Sum: a Theory of Modal Parts" *Philosophical Papers* 48(3): 403-445 (2019); <https://doi.org/10.1080/05568641.2018.1562310>
- 2018 "The Haecceitic Euthyphro Problem" co-authored with Jason Bowers *Analysis* 78(1): 13-22 (2018); <https://doi.org/10.1093/analys/anx117>
- 2016 "Saving Mental Fictionalism from Cognitive Collapse" *Res Philosophica* 93(2): 405-424 (2016); <https://doi.org/10.11612/resphil.2016.93.2.5>
- 2015 "Rearming the Slingshot?" *Acta Analytica* 30 (3): 283-292 (2015); <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12136-014-0246-4>
- 2014 "The Argument from Vagueness for Modal Parts" *dialectica* 68 (3): 355-373 (2014); <https://doi.org/10.1111/1746-8361.12073>
- 2014 "Composition as Identity, Mereological Essentialism, and Modal Parts" in [*Composition as Identity*](#), eds. Donald Baxter and Aaron Cotnoir, OUP (2014)
- 2013 "Counterparts and Compositional Nihilism: A Reply to A.J. Cotnoir" *Thought: a Journal in Philosophy* vol. 2(3): 242-247 (2013); <https://doi.org/10.1002/tht3.92>
- 2011 "Composition as Identity: Part 2" *Philosophy Compass* vol. 6(11): 817-827 (2011); <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2011.00430.x>
- 2011 "Composition as Identity: Part 1" *Philosophy Compass* vol. 6(11): 804-816 (2011); <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2011.00431.x>

Public Philosophy & Pedagogy

- 2024 "Philosophy through Spectacle" in [*The Art of Teaching Philosophy: Reflective Values and Concrete Practices*](#). Bloomsbury Academic (August 2024).

- 2023 [“Circo e Filosofia: Ensinando Aristóteles com Malabarismo”](https://revistaursula.com.br/educacao/circo-e-filosofia-ensinando-aristoteles-com-malabarismo/) (translation) in *Úrsula*
<https://revistaursula.com.br/educacao/circo-e-filosofia-ensinando-aristoteles-com-malabarismo/>
- 2022 [“Circus and Philosophy: Teaching Aristotle through Juggling”](https://circustalk.com/news/circus-and-philosophy-teaching-aristotle-through-juggling) (revised) *CircusTalk*;
<https://circustalk.com/news/circus-and-philosophy-teaching-aristotle-through-juggling>
- 2021 [“Circus and Philosophy: Teaching Aristotle through Juggling”](https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2021/12/02/circus-and-philosophy-teaching-aristotle-through-juggling) *Aesthetics for Birds*;
<https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2021/12/02/circus-and-philosophy-teaching-aristotle-through-juggling>
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Presentations

“Transworld Persons”

Back to Personal Identity: Revisiting the Significance of Persons in Contemporary Metaphysics - Università degli Studi dell’Aquila (Italy) January 2025
 Space, Time, and Location: Part II - UC Davis (Davis, CA) May 2024
 Metaphysics on the Mountain IV - Sun Valley Resort (Sun Valley, ID) March 2023

“Choose Your Own Essentia”

DEX - UC Davis (Davis, CA) April 2025
 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee - Spring Colloquia, April 2024

“Thinking Through Doing: Games as a Gateway to Philosophy”

Press Start: An Intro to Games Studies Speaker Series - Univ. of Ky, October 2023

“The Possibilities Aren’t Endless if You Have a Life” (co-presented with Jason Bowers)

Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA) April 2023

“Philosophy through Spectacle”

New Resources for Teaching Philosophy Session by Association for Philosophy of Education, Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA) April 2023

“In Defense of the Spectacle”

Mind the Body: Creativity, Improvisation, and Play in Philosophy and Dance Conference (Salt Lake City, UT) February 2023

“The Odd Universe”

East Tennessee State University - Guest Speaker (Johnson City, TN) March 2023
[WKU Undergraduate Philosophy Conference](#) - Keynote Speaker, February 2023
Meet a Philosopher Series - University of Kentucky, September 2022

“Modal Parts and Material Plenitude”

Material Plenitude Conference (UT Austin, TX) March 2020 (canceled - COVID)

- “Deflating Mental Fictionalism”
Mental Fictionalism Conference (Budapest, Hungary) October 2019
- “Physicalism and Compositional Pluralism”
Conference on Physicalism at University of Louisville (Louisville KY) May 2019
- “Mereology for Abstracta: the Polysemy of ‘part’”
Conference on Mereology and Identity (Pisa, Italy) July 2017
- “Modal Parts and Ontological Disagreement”
Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (Milwaukee, WI) October 2015
Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop (Morgan Town, WV) August 2015
Central APA (St. Louis, MO) February 2015
- “Saving Mental Fictionalism from Cognitive Collapse”
Conference on Mental Fictionalism, University of Edinburgh (Edinburgh, Scotland)
July 2014 University of Louisville (Louisville, KY) February 2015
- “The Lump Sum: A Defense of Modal Parts”
University of Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany) October 2014
Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) April 2014
University of Vermont (VT) March 2014
- “Rearming the Slingshot”
Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA) March 2013
- “Mereological Essentialism and Modal Parts”
University of California, Davis (Davis, CA) March 2013
- “Composition as Identity, Mereological Essentialism, and Modal Parts”
Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (St. Louis, MO) October 2012
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Blacksburg, VA) April 2012
University of Louisville (Louisville, KY) March 2012
- “Composition and Counting”
Joint Meeting of the Illinois and Indiana Philosophical Association (Charleston, IL) November 2010
- “Argument from Vagueness for Modal Parts”
Mountains-Plains Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) October 2010
Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) September 2010
- “Composition is Identity”
University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY) March 2010

Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH) April 14 2009
University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA) January 23 2009

Comments

Jonathan Schaffer's "Settling the Question" Deep Dive Metaphysics (Kralendijk, Bonaire) June 2026

L. A Paul's "The Persisting I" Deep Dive Metaphysics (Kralendijk, Bonaire) June 2026

Ryan Light's "Benign Collapse Theory" Central APA (online) Feb 2025

John Keller's "A Theory of Ontological Commitment" Central APA (Chicago, IL) Feb 2022

Dan Korman's *Objects: Nothing Out of the Ordinary*; author-meets-critics Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) March 2018 [Comments not given in-person due to having a baby.]

Elanor Taylor's "Three Problems for Grounding"; Central States Philosophical Association (Chicago, IL) October 2014

Tim Button's "There is No Theory of Truth"; Metaphysics the Ranch (Tucson, AZ) Feb 2014

Andrew Graham's "A Defense of Five-Dimensionalism"; Central APA (Chicago, IL) Mar 2014

Kristin Seemuth's "An Eliminativist Response to the Argument from Charity"; Illinois Philosophical Association (Urbana-Champaign, IL) October 2012

L.A. Paul's "Categorical Parsimony"; INCP 14 (Boise, ID) April 2011

James Shaw's "Semantic Defect in Context"; Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) April 2011

Charlie Tanksley's "The Distributivity of Masses"; Central APA (Minneapolis, MN) March 2011

David Kovak's "Semanticism versus the Schmenglish Argument"; Joint Meeting of the

Illinois and Indiana Philosophical Association (Charleston, IL) November, 2010

Joseph Baltimore's "Lewis's Special Problem of Profligate Causation"; Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) September 2010

Dan Korman's "Universalism, Vagueness, and the Argument from Borderline Hammers" Pacific APA (San Francisco) April 2010

David Ian Spencer's "Why Do We Need Tense?"; Pacific APA (Vancouver) April 2009.

Joe Salerno's "Must and Can"; Eastern APA (Philadelphia, PA) December 2008.

Brad Skow's "Are Shapes Intrinsic?"; Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, (Bellingham, WA) August, 2005.

Service

Department

Chair, Department of Philosophy - July 2023-present
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Philosophy - 2017-2021
Graduate Student Admissions Committee - 2015-2016, 2018
Executive Committee - 2014-2015
Speakers Committee - 2014-2016, 2021-2022
Search Committee - 2014-2015

College & University

Endowed Chairs and Professorship Review Committee - 2026
DOE Task Force - 2024-2025
Chair's Academy I - 2023-2024
TEK Faculty Fellow: Track 2 - 2023-2024
[Trunzo Committee](#) - 2019-present

Profession

Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics ([MAWM](#)) Committee - 2017-present
Referee: Acta Analytica, Analysis, American Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Ergo, Erkenntnis, European Journal of Analytic Philosophy, Inquiry, Journal of Philosophy, MIND, Mind and Language, Nous, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy, Synthese, TOPOI; Oxford University Press
Referee: Central States Philosophical Association - 2014
Referee: Kentucky Philosophical Association - 2011
Referee: Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference - 2011
Research Assistant to William G. Lycan - 2005-2009

Student Organizations and Outreach

Dual Credit - PHI 100 - organizer and instructor, Fall 2024
High School Mentoring - M. Abodo - Summer/Fall 2024
Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA) - faculty advisor, 2023-present
Circus Cats - UK Circus Club - faculty advisor, 2021-present
Philosophy Club - faculty advisor, 2018-2021
Big Blue Big Top: Circus Workshop (with the Gaines Center for Humanities): Feb 2023

Funding, Awards, and Fellowships

CURATE Award - Support for hosting MAWM at University of Kentucky Fall 2025 (6.3K)
Gaines Center for Humanities - Support for HMN 303 Spring 2024 (2K)
TEK Faculty Fellow: Track 2 - 2023-2024 (3.5K)
Research and Scholarship in Arts & Sciences - Sabbatical Research Funds Spring 2023 (5K)
OVPR Research and Creative Activities Program Support (Circus Lab) - 2022-2023 (4.2K)
Let's Make a Difference Initiative (Philosophy Department Renovations) - 2022-2023 (15K)
OVPR Research and Creative Activities Program Support (Circus Lab) - 2020-2021 (4K)
UK Facilities Management Funds (Circus Lab) - 2019-2020 (10K)
UK Arts and Sciences Award for Innovative Teaching, 2019
Oberlin College Teaching Award, 2010
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2009
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2007
Head Teaching Associate UNC, 2006-2007
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2003-2004
Syracuse University Teaching Award, 2003

Teaching

Circus and Philosophy - PHI 193
Philosophy and Science Fiction (honors and non-honors) - PHI 315
Metaphysics - PHI 350, PHI 550
Metaphysics and Epistemology - PHI 350, PHI 550
History of Analytic Philosophy - PHI 515
Symbolic Logic I - PHI 329
Symbolic Logic II - PHI 520
Introduction to Philosophy - Experience and Reality - PHI 100
Philosophy of Religion - PHI 245, PHI 545
Contemporary Issues in Humanities - HMN 303 (Spring 2024)
Advanced Writing in the Humanities - A&S 430 (Fall 2024)
Circus Masters Class: Silks - for TAD 440: Dance Master Class Series - Spring 2026
Growing Graduates from the Ground Up (G3U) - guest contributor - Spring 2026

Graduate Seminar: Personal Identity - Spring 2025
Graduate Seminar: Unity - Spring 2021
Graduate Seminar: Fictionalism - Fall 2014
Graduate Seminar: Space, Time, and Possible Worlds - Fall 2012
Graduate Seminar: Paradoxes - Fall 2010
Graduate Proseminar: M&E - Contemporary - 2019-2024
Graduate Proseminar: Teaching Practicum - 2020-2023
Independent Study: Feminist Metaphysics, Fall 2024
Independent Study: Fictionalism, Fall 2023
Independent Study: Metaontology, Fall 2022
Independent Study: Counterfactuals, Fall 2019

Independent Study: Causation - Spring 2018
Independent Study: Time - Spring 2017
Independent Study: Modal Logic - Spring 2013
Independent Study: Properties and Universals - Spring 2011

Advising, Mentoring, and Outreach

Graduate Students and Postdocs

Robert Keim - committee, outside examiner - 2026
Hyomeen Keem - committee, chair - 2025-present
Luke Elmore - committee - 2025-present
Jamin Kochman (mathematics) - committee - 2023-present
Zachary Griffith - committee, outside examiner - 2022
Jarrad Felgenhauer - committee - 2022
Chris Grimsley - committee - 2022
Amber Bosse - committee, outside examiner - 2020
Brian Carlson - dissertation committee, co-chair - 2017
James Sares - postdoc mentor, reference - 2023-2024
Kayla Bohannon - postdoc mentor - 2022-2023
Steven Winterfeldt - teaching mentor, reference
Nash Meade - mentor, reference
Victoria Riggs - mentor, reference
Pedro Della Rosa - teaching mentor, reference
Adam Patterson - reference
Adam Labecki - reference
Michael Oliver Wiitala - reference
Joshua Horn - reference

Undergraduate Students

L. Noletti - Gaines Center for the Humanities - thesis committee, chair - 2023
K. Cox - Gaines Center for the Humanities - thesis committee - 2020
D. Beecham - mentor, reference
C. Smith - mentor, reference
L. Noletti - mentor, reference
M. Chaney - mentor, reference
O. Paulson - mentor, reference
A. McAtee - mentor, reference
M. Hinkebein - mentor, reference
M. Brown - mentor, reference
D. Smith - mentor, reference
M. McIntyre - mentor, reference
C. Bastian - mentor, reference
S. Perry - mentor, reference
C. Eckert - mentor, reference
G. Boyd - mentor, reference

M. Dowell - mentor, reference
H. Carrane - mentor, reference
S. Drake - mentor, reference
A. Rodriguez - mentor, reference
N. Bonomo - reference
A. Ruda - reference
L. Vincent - reference
D. Story - reference
L. Prosperino - reference
J. Cason - reference
S. Copic - mentor, reference
M. Dow - reference
J. Gilpin - reference
T. Rogers - reference
C. Phillips - reference

Press and Media

Circus Cats, Circus Lab, and PHI 193: Circus and Philosophy

[Kentucky Kernel](#) (2018) - Circus and Philosophy
[UK Arts and Sciences](#) (2021) - Circus Cats
[UKNOW](#) (2021) - Circus Cats
[Aesthetics for Birds](#) (2021) - Circus and Philosophy
[Kentucky Kernel](#) (2022) - Circus Cats
[KET Kentucky Edition](#) (July 20, 2022 - 22:50) - Circus Cats
[CircusTalk](#) (2022) - Circus and Philosophy
[Lexington Herald-Leader](#) (2022) - Circus and Philosophy
[Big Blue Big Top](#) (2023) - Circus Lab Outreach
[KET Kentucky Life - October 14 - 21:42](#) (2023) - Circus and Philosophy, Circus Cats
[Lex18 - Positively Lex](#) (November 9, 2023) - Circus Cats
[WDRB News](#) (November 9, 2023) - Circus Cats
[FOX 56 News](#) (November 23, 2023) - Circus Cats
[Wildcat News](#) College of CI (February 7, 2024) - Circus Cats
[KRNL Lifestyle and Fashion](#) - Spring 2024 - 6(2): 28-30 - Circus Cats
[Gaines Center for the Humanities](#) (Oct 2, 2024) - HMN 303 - Circus and Philosophy
[Kentucky Kernel](#) (Nov 19, 2024) - Circus Cats - [Photo Gallery](#)
[Wild Cat News](#) - UK's Circus Club Community (November 19, 2024)
[Kentucky Kernel](#) - UK Circus Cats Host Biannual Showcase (November 21, 2024)
[The Watchdog News](#) - UK Circus Cats hosts Spring Showcase (April 18, 2026)

PHI 315: Science Fiction and Philosophy

[“Hey Aliens, Look at Lexington!”](#) - Ad Campaign for Visit Lex (January, 2, 2024)
[KET Kentucky Life](#) - “Is Anybody Out There?” (November 30, 2024)