

JOSH ARMSTRONG  
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University of California, Los Angeles  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Associate Professor (with tenure)

Department of Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles, 2023—present

Assistant Professor (tenure track)

Department of Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles, 2014—2023

Core Faculty Member, UCLA Center for Behavior, Culture, and Evolution, 2020—present

Visiting Assistant Professor

Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, 2013-2014

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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Philosophy, Rutgers University, 2013

Graduate Certificate, Cognitive Science, Rutgers University, 2010

B.A., Philosophy and Latin, Calvin College, 2006

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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Philosophy of Language

Philosophy of Biology (esp. Animal Communication and Cultural Evolution Theory)

Cognitive Science (esp. Linguistics and Psychology)

Environmental Philosophy

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## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Social-Political Philosophy

Philosophy of Race and Gender

Philosophy of Social Science

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## RESEARCH ARTICLES

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1. “Language as Skill,” with Carlotta Pavese, Under Review.
2. “The Evolutionary Foundations of Common Ground,” *Evolutionary Pragmatics*, eds. Bart Geurts and Richard Moore, Oxford University Press. Forthcoming.
3. “The Origins of Languages and (I-)Language” *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Linguistics*, eds. Gabriel Dupre, Kate Hazel Stanton, Ryan Nefdt, Oxford University Press. Forthcoming.
4. “Truth and Imprecision,” *Analytic Philosophy*. Forthcoming.

5. “Climate-Change Adaptation and the Back of the Invisible Hand,” with H. Clark Barrett, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 378(1889), 2022-46, 2023.
6. “Communication Before Communicative Intentions,” *Noûs*, 57(1), 26-50, 2023.
7. “Meanings Without Species,” *Inquiry: An International Journal of Philosophy*, 17, 1-16, 2022
8. “Provincialism in Pragmatics,” *Philosophical Perspectives*, 34, 5-40, 2018.
9. “The Problem of Lexical Innovation,” *Linguistics and Philosophy*. 39 (2), 87-118, 2016.
10. “Coordination, Triangulation, and Language Use,” *Inquiry: An International Journal of Philosophy*, 59 (1), 80—112, 2016.
11. “Singular Thoughts and Singular Propositions,” with Jason Stanley. *Philosophical Studies*, 154 (2), 205-222, 2011.

## REVIEWS AND OTHER WRITINGS

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1. Review of Robert Seyfarth and Dorothy Cheney, *The Social Origins of Language* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, Edited and introduced by Michael L. Platt, 2017) *The Quarterly Review of Biology*, 93 (3), 278-279, 2018.
2. “Introduction for Symposium on Imagination and Convention,” with E. Michelson. *Inquiry: An International Journal of Philosophy*, 59:2, 139-144, 2016.
3. Review of John Searle, “Seeing Things as They Are” (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, <https://v2.lareviewofbooks.org/article/vision-science>, 2015.
4. “On Expression Identity: A critical notice of Robert Fiengo and Robert May’s *De Lingua Belief*,” with E. Lepore, *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 18 (4), 569-579. 2010.

## INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

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TBD

University of Tübingen, February 2024

Comments on Ofra Magidor

Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, January 2024

“The Social Origins of Language”

Colloquium, Northwestern University, November 2023

Comments on Paula Rubio-Fernandez

Perspectives in Language Workshop, October 2023

- “The Functions of Mind and Meaning”  
Invited Keynote, Conference on Ruth Millikan, U Conn, October 2023
- “Should Old Innateness be Forgotten?”  
Invited Panel Lecture, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, June 2023
- “The Evolution of Languages and I-Language”  
Colloquium, CUNY Graduate Center, March 2023  
Colloquium, Leeds, December 2022
- “Approaching Common Ground from Below”  
International Evolutionary Pragmatics Forum, June 2021
- “Luck and the Functions of Communicative Intentions”  
APA Pacific, April 2021
- “The Social Origins of Universal Grammar”  
Center for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture, UCLA, February 2020  
Calvin University, February 2020
- “Communication, Coordination and the Function of Speaker Intention”  
Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy (PhLiP) 6, November 2019
- “The Social Origins of the Language Faculty”  
Philosophy of Science Association, Biennial Meeting, November 2018  
NC State, Logic and Cognitive Science Colloquium, August 2018
- “The Scope of Scorekeeping”  
Australian National University, August 2018
- “Models of (Animal) Communication”  
UCI, LPS Colloquium, October 2017
- “The Evolution of Non-Natural Meaning”  
University of Connecticut, May 2018  
University of Queensland, August 2017  
Philosophy of Biology at Dolphin Beach, August 2017  
Institute of Philosophy, London, March 2017
- “Towards a Dynamic Metasemantics”  
Center for Study of Mind in Nature, Oslo, March 2017
- “‘Derangement’ Defanged”  
University of South Florida, November 2016
- “Communication and Convention, Revisited”  
Center for Study of Mind in Nature, Oslo, June 2013

“How to Build a Public Language”

University of Pennsylvania, October 2013

University of California at Los Angeles, March 2013

University of Massachusetts at Amherst, January 2013

“Linguistic Conventions and The Problem of Lexical Innovation”

University of Pennsylvania, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, September 2013

Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science, September 2012

“Truth and Imprecision”

Northwestern University, January 2014

University of Notre Dame, February 2013

Texas Tech University, February 2013

University of Kansas, January 2013

“Meanings on the Fly: Vagueness and the Dynamic Lexicon”

Arché Research Center, University of St. Andrews, May 2008

## HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

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UCLA Faculty Research Grant, 2015—2016

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, 2012—2013

Mellon Dissertation Writing Grant, Summer 2011

Rutgers University, Center for Cultural Analysis: Graduate Fellow, 2009—2010

## STUDENT ADVISING

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### UCLA

#### *Dissertation Chair/Co-Chair*

Eric Tracy (“Normative Bounds of Thought”)

Kim Johnson (“Rational Inconsistency”)

Esther Nikbin (“Conditions In and Out of Inequitable Equilibria”)

Tristen Cardwell (“The Foundations of Language Revitalization”)

#### *Dissertation Committee Member*

Sevcan Gugumcu (“Aristotle on Predication”)

Saraliza Anzaldúa (“Monsters and the Mestizo”)

Sarah Beach (“Emotional Labor”)

Jacob Reid (“Comparative Coordination Action”)

Ally Peabody Smith (“Characterizing Profound Intellectual Disability”)

Tim Buchanan (“Aristotle on Practical Knowledge”)

Torsten Odland (“Truth in the World”)

Christian De Leon (“Situated Conversation”)

Ian Boon (“Quantification, Content, Composition”)

William Kowalsky (“Confidence and Objective Probability in Perceptual Systems”)

Alejandro Suleman Erut (“The Concept of Lying Across Cultures”)

Gabriel Dupre (“Ways in the Studies of Words”)

Gabrielle Johnson (“Cognition and the Structure of Bias”)  
Andrew Lavin (“Normality Judgments”)  
Olúfẹmi O. Táíwò (“Autobiography”)  
Ashley Feinsinger (“Making Words”)

*Mellon Mays Undergraduate Mentor*

Michael Holmes  
Benjamin Genta

*Undergraduate Student Research Program*

Joshua Nguyen (Evolution of Complex Syntax)  
Sara Azmoudeh (Democracy and Information Flow)  
Alexis Cabrera (Evolution of Language)  
David Dixon (Language of Thought)  
Alison Fitch (The Embodied Mind)  
Michael Holmes (Oppression and Social Convention)

TEACHING

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**UCLA**

“Etiology and Explanation” (graduate), Fall 2023  
“Dynamic Pragmatics” (upper division), Fall 2021  
“Holism and History” (graduate), Fall 2020  
“Philosophical Significance of Animal Communication” (graduate), Fall 2019  
“Language and Identity” (lower division), Spring 2019, Fall 2021  
“Cognitive Variation” (graduate), Winter 2019  
“Philosophy of Biology” (upper division), Winter 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023  
“Evolution of Language” (upper division), Spring 2018, Spring 2019,  
“Evolutionary Game Theory” (graduate), Fall 2017  
“Philosophy of the Social Sciences” (upper division), Fall 2017  
“The Evolution of Cognition” (graduate), Spring 2017  
“Introduction to Philosophy of Mind” (lower division), Spring 2017, Spring 2015  
“Meaning and Communication” (lower division), Spring 2016, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2023  
“Language and the Social” (graduate), Fall 2015  
“The Modularity of Mind” (upper division), Fall 2015  
“Animal Communication” (upper division), Spring 2015  
“Truth and Imprecision” (graduate), Fall 2014  
“Logic, Semantics, and Vagueness” (upper division), Fall 2014

**University of Pennsylvania**

“Frege, Wittgenstein, and Analytic Philosophy” (upper division), Spring 2014  
“Philosophy of Mind” (upper division), Spring 2014  
“Meaning Change and Scientific Theory” (major’s seminar), Fall 2013  
“Philosophy of Language” (upper division), Fall 2013

**Rutgers University**

“Minds, Machines, and Persons” (upper division), Spring 2011  
“Philosophy of Language” (lower division), Fall 2010

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

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“Studies in Language, Information, Meaning, and Expression”  
UCLA, 2022, 2023, 2024

“California Philosophy Workshop,” La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science, Malibu CA, June 2017 and October 2018.

“Intentional Signs among Humans and Other Animals,” at University of California, Los Angeles, CA., June 2016.

“Moving Parts: Literature and Philosophy,” University of California, Los Angeles, CA. May 1-2, 2015 (with Anahid Nersessian)

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

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Director of Graduate Studies, UCLA, 2023-present  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, UCLA, 2022-2023  
Colloquia Committee, UCLA, 2016—2019  
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2016-2017  
Hiring Committee, UCLA, 2015-2016, 2016-2017  
Placement Committee, University of Pennsylvania, 2013—2014  
Colloquia Committee, University of Pennsylvania, 2013—2014

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Executive Committee, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2014—2018  
Program Chair, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2013—2014  
Referee: Oxford University Press, *Mind*, *The Philosophical Review*, *Nous*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Mind and Language*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Logic and Language*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *Erkenntnis*