

## Jessica Anne Heine

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### AREAS

**Areas of Specialization:** Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Metaphysics

**Areas of Competence:** Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of AI

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### EMPLOYMENT

**Auburn University**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, August 2025 —

**Umeå University**, Kempe Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in AI Philosophy, May 2025 — August 2025

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Postdoctoral Associate, June 2024 — May 2025

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### EDUCATION

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** Ph.D. in Philosophy, May 2024

Dissertation: *How Things Seem: Arbitrariness, Transparency, and Representation*

Committee: Alex Byrne (Chair), Jack Spencer, EJ Green, Roger White

**Dartmouth College** B.A., June 2019

*Summa Cum Laude*, with Honors in Philosophy

Recipient of the Francis W. Gramlich Philosophy Prize for best graduating philosophy student

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### PUBLICATIONS

**Success Correlation and Peer Disagreement** (*Analysis*, Forthcoming)

**Against Character Constraints** (*Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 2025)

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### WORK IN PROGRESS

**What Mary Already Knew** (Committed to Wiley-Blackwell Volume on Consciousness and AI)

**An Empiricist Account of Semantic Understanding**

**The Noumenality Myth**

## PRESENTATIONS

*\* indicates peer review*

“An Empiricist’s Account of Semantic Understanding”: Symposium \*  
Central APA, *February 2026*

Comments on “The Epistemic Limitation Criterion of Machine Intelligence”  
Eastern APA, *January 2026*

“An Empiricist’s Account of Semantic Understanding”  
Auburn University Philosophy Seminar, *September 2025*

“Transparency & Arbitrariness”  
Midsummer Mind & Language Workshop, Umeå University, *June 2025*

“An Empiricist Account of Semantic Understanding”  
Higher Seminar, Umeå University, *June 2025*

“Imaginative Illusion and the Souls of Properties”  
Workshop on Imagination and Creativity, Umeå University, *May 2025*

Comments on *Rethinking Metaphysics*  
Workshop on Amie Thomasson’s *Rethinking Metaphysics*, Dartmouth College, *May 2025*

“An Empiricist Account of Semantic Understanding” \*  
Conference on AI, Consciousness and Culture, Calvin University, *April 2025*

“Imitating Minds and Meaning?”: Panel  
Public Conversation on AI, Consciousness and Culture, Calvin University, *April 2025*

“An Empiricist Account of Semantic Understanding”  
MIT Philosophy Department Work In Progress, *April 2025*

“What Mary Didn’t Know: Empiricism and AI Understanding” \*  
MindFest 2025: Sentience, Autonomy and the Future of Human-AI Interaction, Center for Future  
Mind, Florida Atlantic University, *March 2025*

“What Mary Didn’t Know” \*  
Association Association Meeting, University of Florida, *January 2025*

“Why Self-Trust is Truth Conducive”: Colloquium \*  
Central APA, *February 2024*

“Representational Regress & Fodorian Mentalese”  
MIT Philosophy Department Work In Progress, *February 2024*

“The Noumenal and the Phenomenal” \*  
Metaphysical Mayhem Workshop, Rutgers Philosophy, *August 2023*

Comments on “Disjunctivism, Skepticism, and the Capacity for Perceptual Knowledge”  
Pacific APA, *April 2023*

“The Noumenality Myth”  
MIT Philosophy Department Work In Progress, *April 2023*

*(Presentations Continued)*

“In Defense of Extreme Kantianism about Perception”: Colloquium \*  
Central APA, *February 2023*

“Character and Contact”  
MITing of the Minds Conference, MIT Philosophy, *January 2023*

“Character and Contact”: Poster \*  
Eastern APA, *January 2023*

Comments on “Perceiving Invisible Objects”  
Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, *April 2022*

“Phenomenal Character and Perceptual Contact”  
MIT Philosophy Department Work In Progress, *December 2021*

Comments on “Relativity in a Fundamentally Absolute World”  
MITing of the Minds Conference, MIT Philosophy, *January 2021*

“Deflating Dimension” \*  
Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference, *November 2019*

“Reinterpreting Two-Dimensional Semantics” \*  
Northern New England Philosophical Association, *October 2019*

“Returning Computationalism’s Mind Dependence to the Foreground” \*  
Joint Meeting of North and South Carolina Philosophical Societies, *March 2019*

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**TEACHING**

As Primary Instructor:

Honors Introduction to Ethics, X2, *Spring 2026*, Auburn

Epistemology, *Spring 2026*, Auburn

Introduction to Ethics, X2 (PHIL-1020-015, PHIL-1020-007), *Fall 2025*, Auburn

Philosophy of Perception (24.212), *Fall 2024*, MIT

As Teaching Assistant:

Philosophy of Religion, *Spring 2023*, MIT

Instructor: Prof. Jack Spencer

Guest Lecture on Religion in the Public Sphere

The Problems of Philosophy, *Fall 2022*, MIT

Instructor: Prof. Kevin Dorst

Guest Lecture on the Principle of Alternative Possibilities

Paradox and Infinity, *Spring 2022*, MIT

Instructor: Prof. Andreas Ditter

*(Teaching Continued)*

Philosophy of Mind, *Spring 2022*, Harvard

Instructor: Prof. Cheryl Chen

Guest Lecture on the Knowledge Argument against Physicalism

The Problems of Philosophy, *Fall 2021*, MIT

Instructor: Prof. Caspar Hare

Minds and Machines, *Spring 2021*, MIT

Instructor: Prof. E.J. Green

Guest Lecture on Epiphenomenalism

Philosophy of Religion, *Fall 2020*, MIT

Instructor: Prof. Jack Spencer

Guest Lecture on Value-Based Arguments for Theism

Metaphysics (Grader), *Fall 2020*, MIT

Instructor: Prof. Brad Skow

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**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Kempe Foundation Fellowship in Philosophy of AI, Umeå University, 2025-2027

Presidential Fellowship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2019-2020, 2023-2024

Presidential Scholarship, Philosophy Honors Program, Dartmouth College 2019

Francis W. Gramlich Philosophy Prize, Dartmouth College 2019

Phi Beta Kappa, Dartmouth College 2019

James O. Freedman Presidential Scholarship, Dartmouth College 2018

Rufus Choate Scholarship, Dartmouth College 2016-2018

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**SERVICE**

Referee for *Mind* and *Philosophical Studies*

MIT Metaphysics and Mind Reading Group Organizer, 2021 - 2024

MIT Language, Logic, Metaphysics, and Mind Reading Group Organizer, 2021 - 2022

MITing of the Minds Conference Organizer, 2023

MIT-Harvard Graduate Conference Organizer, 2022

MIT Philosophy Colloquium Committee, 2020 - 2021

Organizer of MIT's visiting period for prospective PhD Students, 2020

**REFERENCES**

Alex Byrne, *Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Philosophy, MIT*  
abyrne@mit.edu

Jack Spencer, *Associate Professor of Philosophy, MIT*  
jackspen@mit.edu

EJ Green, *Miller Associate Professor of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University*  
egreen77@jh.edu

Roger White, *Professor of Philosophy, MIT*  
rog@mit.edu