

# Adam C. Podlaskowski

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**Areas of Specialization:** Philosophy of Language, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Truth

**Areas of Competence:** Philosophy of Mind, Logic, Ethics

## Positions

### Fairmont State University

Full Professor, August 2021 - Present

Associate Professor, August 2015 - July 2021

Assistant Professor, August 2009 - July 2015

Director of General Education, July 2024 - Present

Interim Director of Honors Program, January 2023 - May 2023

### University of Connecticut

Visiting Assistant Professor, August 2007 - June 2009

### The Ohio State University

Lecturer, August 2006 - July 2007

Graduate Student Instructor, August 2001 - July 2006

## Education

### The Ohio State University

Ph.D., Philosophy, August, 2006, Dissertation on Wittgenstein's Rule-Following Paradox (Advisor: Neil Tennant)

M.A., Philosophy, June, 2003

### University of Michigan

B.A. with High Distinction, Philosophy and History, April, 1999

## Publications

### Articles

"The Gruesome Truth About Semantic Dispositionalism." *Acta Analytica* 38 (2023), 299–309.

"Methodological Deflationism and Semantic Theories." *Erkenntnis* 87:3 (June 2022), 1415–1422.

"Compositionality And The Prospect Of A Pluralistic Semantic Theory." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 97:2 (2019), 325–339.

"Giving Up On 'The Rest Of The Language'." *Acta Analytica*, 30:3 (September 2015), 293–304.

"Probabilistic Regresses And The Availability Problem For Informatism" (co-authored with Joshua Smith). *Metaphilosophy*, 45:2 (April 2014), 211–220.

"Informatism And Agents Like Us: Reply To Turri" (co-authored with Joshua Smith). *Logos & Episteme*, IV:1 (2013), 125–128.

"Simple Tasks, Abstractions, And Semantic Dispositionalism." *Dialectica*, 66:4 (December 2012), 453–470.

"Phenomenal Concepts And Incomplete Understanding." *Southwest Philosophy Review*, 28:2 (July 2012), 15–17.

"Idealizing, Abstracting, And Semantic Dispositionalism" (co-authored with Nicholaos Jones). *European Journal of Philosophy*, 20:1 (March 2012), 166–178.

"Infinitism And Epistemic Normativity" (co-authored with Joshua Smith). *Synthese*, 178:3 (2011), 515–527.

"Comments On 'Ersatzer Presentism And Modal Sentences About Times'." *Chronos: Proceedings Of The Philosophy Of Time Society*, Volume XI (2010), 59–63.

"Unbelievable Thoughts And Doxastic Oughts." *Theoria: A Swedish Journal of Philosophy*, 76:2 (2010), 112–118.

"Reconciling Semantic Dispositionalism With Semantic Holism." *Philosophia: Philosophical Quarterly of Israel*, 38:1 (2010), 169–178.

#### Edited Collections

*Truth 20/20: How a Global Pandemic Shaped Truth Research* (co-edited with Drew Johnson), Synthese Library Book Series (2024).

"Truth and the Functions of Political Discourse: Concluding Reflections", (co-authored with Drew Johnson) in *Truth 20/20: How a Global Pandemic Shaped Truth Research*, Chapter 11, Synthese Library Book Series (2024), 233–247.

#### Book Reviews

Review of John Turri and Peter Klein's (eds.) *Ad Infinitum: New Essays on Epistemological Infinitism*. *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism*, Vol. 7 (2017), 137–145.

Review of John MacFarlane's *Assessment Sensitivity: Relative Truth And Its Applications*. *Polish Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Spring 2014), 95–98.

#### Presentations

"Semantic Pluralism and Compositional Semantics". Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 6, 2024.

"Semantic Pluralism and Compositional Semantics". Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, April 13, 2024.

"Rethinking the Debate Between Realists and Anti-realists". Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 29, 2023.

"Truth as a Thick Concept" (with Robert Barnard). Truth Without Borders, Zoom workshop hosted by University of Waikato, New Zealand, November 30, 2021.

"Meaning, Monism, and Metaphysics." Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 28, 2019.

"Meaning, Monism, and Metaphysics." Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop (MAPL), Morgantown, WV, July 24, 2019.

"Semantic Monism and Metaphysical Stances." West Virginia Philosophical Society, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Johnstown, PA, April 20, 2019.

"Semantic Monism and Metaphysical Stances." Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, March 23, 2019.

"Methodological Deflationism and Semantic Theorizing." Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 29, 2018.

"Methodological Deflationism and Semantic Theorizing." Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop (MAPL), Morgantown, WV, July 26, 2018.

"Parsimony, Explanatory Sufficiency, and Semantic Monism." Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 29, 2017.

"Parsimony and Semantic Monism." Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, September 9, 2017.

"Pre-theoretically, Is Meaning Fraught With Ought?" Seventh Annual Regional Wittgenstein Workshop, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, October 30, 2016.

"Pre-theoretically, Is Meaning Fraught With Ought?" Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 30, 2016.

"Empty Names, Direct Reference, and Inferential Roles." Analytic Working Group, Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, September 10, 2016.

"Compositionality and the Downtown of Language." Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop (MAPL), Morgantown, WV, August 3, 2016.

"Compositionality and the Downtown of Language." University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, Storrs, CT, March 30, 2016.

"Empty Names, Direct Reference, and Inferential Roles." Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville, KY, March 10, 2016.

"An Inferentialist Defense Of Millianism." Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, October 3, 2015.

"Empty Names And Semantic Understanding." Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop (MAPL), Morgantown, WV, August 6, 2015.

"It Isn't A Platitude That Meaning Is Fraught With Ought." Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, LA, April 4, 2015.

"Naturalism, Meaning, And The Normativity Platitude." Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, March 13, 2015.

"Infinetism, Inferentialism, And Available Reasons." Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, October 11, 2014.

"On The Limited Value Of Mathematical Models for Infinitists," with J. Smith. Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, October 11, 2013.

"Pretense And Reference." Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, September 21, 2013.

"Pretense And Reference." The Work of Saul Kripke: An International Conference, University of Nebraska at Omaha, May 21, 2013.

"Wide Content, Narrow Content, And The Divergence Of Thought." External Determinations of Meaning: New Work On An Old Topic, University of Pittsburgh, April 15, 2013.

"Phenomenal Intentionality And Mental Holism." Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Austin, TX, March 2, 2013.

"Games, Inferences, And Conceptual Schemes." Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, October 5, 2012.

"Semantic Diversity And A Pluralist Approach To Meaning." West Virginia Philosophical Society, Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, WV, October 21, 2011.

Student-Orientated  
Presentations

"Dividing Up Semantic Territory: A Problem For Semantic Pluralism." Presidential Address, Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 24, 2011.

"Not All Intentionality Is Phenomenal Intentionality." Analytic Working Group, Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, September 10, 2011.

"Rational Disagreement And Semantic Diversity." Omaha Epistemology Workshop on Epistemic Disagreement, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE, May 13, 2011.

"All Paths Lead To Original Intentionality." Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, October 16, 2010.

"Phenomenal Intentionality And Thoughts About Logic." Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 24, 2010.

"Semantic Pluralism And Original Intentionality." Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, September 11, 2010.

"Semantic Pluralism And Semantic Functionalism." Alabama Philosophical Society, Orange Beach, AL, October 2, 2009.

"Defending The Normativity Of Meaning." Alabama Philosophical Society, Orange Beach, AL, September 26, 2008.

"Rule-Following And Feasible Dispositions." Northwest Philosophy Conference, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR, October 5, 2007.

"Rule-Following And Feasible Dispositions." Alabama Philosophical Society, Orange Beach, AL, September 21, 2007.

"Rule-Following Without Idealization." Given as the winning essay for the *William H. Fink Award*, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, June 2, 2006.

"On Kripkenstein's Skeptical Paradox." Guest Lecture for Capstone Course, West Virginia University, April 9, 2024.

"Ethics and Our Stuff." Honors Seminar Guest Lecture, Fairmont State University, September 16, 2024 / September 6, 2023 / August 24, 2022 / August 23, 2021 / January 25, 2021.

"Personhood and the Ethics of Abortion." Women's Studies Colloquium, Fairmont State University, August 31, 2022.

"Sex, Gender, Semantics, and the Choice of Personal Pronouns." Women's Studies Colloquium, Fairmont State University, October 16, 2019.

"Art and Censorship." Panel Participation, Fairmont State University, April 17, 2018.

"Is a Conflict Inevitable Between Science and Religion?" Panel Participation, Fairmont State University, November 2, 2017.

"The Role of the Humanities in Education." Panel Participation, Fairmont State University, November 17, 2014.

"Rule-Following And Skepticism About Meaning." Coffee Hour With Students, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, February 20, 2014.

"The Notion of Connectedness in World Religions." Panel Participation, Fairmont State University, April 23, 2012.

"Rationality, Representation, And Conceptual Schemes." Keynote Address, Washington and Jefferson College Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, April 14, 2012.

"Medical Ethics And The Case Of Henrietta Lacks." Common Reader Lecture Series, Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV, January 31, 2011.

"Ethical Issues in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*." Panel Participation, Fairmont State University, August 16, 2010.

"The Notion Of Universal Human Rights." Social Justice Workshop, Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV, March 4, 2010.

Commentary

"Comments on Rithik Shetty's 'Clarifying the Constitution Theory of Uptake'." Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, April 13, 2024.

"Comments on Geoff Georgi's 'The Nature of Transparent Truth'." Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, March 22, 2019.

"Comments on Robert Barnard's 'Can Truth Pluralists Really be Naturalists?'." Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, March 14, 2015.

"Comments on D. Gene Witmer's 'A Priori Externalism And Privileged Access'." Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Charleston, SC, February 8, 2014.

"Truth-Making As One And Many: Comments On Aaron Griffith's 'A Pluralist Theory of Truth-Making'." Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, September 8, 2012.

"Phenomenal Concepts And Incomplete Understanding: Comments On Andreas Elpidorou's 'Extending Phenomenal Concepts'." Southwest Philosophical Society, Austin, TX, November 18, 2011.

"Comments On David Beisecker's 'Incompatibility And The Logic Of Proscribed Contents'." Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA, September 10, 2011.

"Comments On Anne Jacobson's 'The Faux, Fake, Forged, False, Fabricated, Phony, Etc: Problems for Similarity-Based Kind Concepts'." APA Eastern Division Meeting, Boston, MA, December 30, 2010.

"Comments On Ryan Byerly's 'Ersatzer Presentism And Modal Sentences About Times'." APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL, February 19, 2010.

Teaching

**Fairmont State University (4/4 Teaching Load)**

Classes Taught

Introduction to Philosophy

Great Philosophers

Introduction to Logic

Ethics

Comparative Religion

Theories of Human Nature

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Language

Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* and *Philosophical Investigations*

	Epistemology
	The Nature and Value of Truth
	Truth in a Post-Truth Era
	Video Games and Philosophy
	Misinformation (Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar)
	Honors Thesis Design
Independent Studies	Philosophy of Mind (S. Baker), Great Philosophers (A. Price), Great Philosophers (S. Hall), The Nature and Value of Truth (A. Price), "An Axiomatic Approach to Names" (A. Keefover, Honors Project), Philosophy of Language (A. Vance), Philosophy of Language (S. Reneau), "How Public Relations Works" (K. Casto, Honors Project)
	<b>University of Connecticut (2/3 Teaching Load)</b>
Classes Taught	Problems of Philosophy
	Philosophical Classics
	Philosophy and Social Ethics
	Philosophy of Language
	Philosophy of Mind
Independent Studies	Brandom's <i>Making It Explicit</i> (J. Page), Sellars' <i>Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind</i> (M. Parade)
<b>Honors &amp; Grants</b>	
Honors and Awards	William H. Fink Award, Best Philosophy Graduate Student Paper, Ohio State University, 2006
	University Fellowship, The Ohio State University, 2000-2001
	High Honors in Philosophy, University of Michigan, 1999
	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> , University of Michigan, 1999
	Class Honors, University of Michigan, 1998
	James B. Angell Scholar, University of Michigan, 1998
Grants	Conference Grant for the Second Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop, with G. Georgi (principal investigator), West Virginia University, \$2000, Spring 2016
	Online Course Development Grant (for "Introduction to Logic and Critical Reasoning"), Learning Technology Center, Fairmont State University, \$3000, Spring 2010
	Social Justice Grant, with D. Shields (principal investigator), B. Fallon, and G. Noone, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, \$10,000, Spring 2010
<b>Professional Service</b>	
Article Referee	<i>Asian Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Croatian Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Dialogue: The Canadian Philosophical Review</i> , <i>Erkenntnis</i> , <i>Inquiry</i> , <i>Journal of Philosophical Research</i> , <i>Kriterion</i> , <i>Manuscripta</i> , <i>Philosophical Papers</i> , <i>Synthese</i>
Monograph Reviewer	Bloomsbury Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Pearson Prentice Hall
Grant Reviewer	National Science Centre, Poland (PRELUDIUM funding)

Event Organizer	<p>Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research Speaker Series, Hosted Online, September 2020-Present</p> <p>Truth 2022: An Online Zoom Conference, June 13-16, 2022</p> <p>Truth 2021: An Online Zoom Conference, July 21-29, 2021</p> <p>Truth 20/20: An Online Zoom Conference, July 27-August 6, 2020</p> <p>Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language (MAPL) Workshop on Anti-Representationalism, Morgantown, WV, July 24-25, 2019</p> <p>MAPL Workshop on Deflationism, Morgantown, WV, July 25-26, 2018</p> <p>MAPL Workshop on Compositionality, Morgantown, WV, August 3-4, 2016</p> <p>MAPL Workshop on Possibility, Morgantown, WV, August 5-6, 2015</p> <p>49th Meeting of the Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 23-24, 2011</p> <p>48th Meeting of the Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 24-25, 2010</p> <p>47th Meeting of the Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, October 2-3, 2009</p>
Organization Duties	<p>Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research: Co-Founder (with Robert Barnard, Joe Ulatowski, and Chase Wrenn), Steering Committee member (June 2020 - Present)</p> <p>Alabama Philosophical Society: President (2010 - 2011), Vice President (2009 - 2010), Secretary and Treasurer (2008 - 2009)</p>
<b>University Service</b>	<b>Fairmont State University</b>
Committee Membership	<p>Celebration of Student Scholarship Organizing Committee, Spring 2022-Present (Chair 2022)</p> <p>Honors Council, Honors Program, Summer 2020-Present</p> <p>Curriculum Committee, Faculty Senate, Fall 2018-Summer 2020</p> <p>Academic Unit Restructuring Taskforce, Office of the Provost, Fall 2018-Fall 2019</p> <p>Faculty Welfare Committee, Faculty Senate, Fall 2012-Present (Chair 2020-2021)</p> <p>Academic Appeals Board, Faculty Senate, Fall 2017-2023</p> <p>Library Committee, Faculty Senate, Fall 2017-Present (Chair: 2018-Present)</p> <p>Faculty Development Committee, Faculty Senate, Fall 2010-2018 (Chair: 2017-2018)</p> <p>Instruction Evaluation Committee, Faculty Senate, Spring 2011</p> <p>Search Committee (Two History Positions), Department of Social Sciences, Fall 2022</p> <p>Search Committee (Literature Position), Department of Language and Literature, Spring 2017</p> <p>Search Committee (History Position), Department of Social Sciences, Spring 2015</p> <p>Search Committee (History Position), Department of Social Sciences, Spring 2012</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee on Instructor Exchange, Faculty Senate, Fall 2014-Fall 2016</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee on Promotion and Tenure, Faculty Senate, Fall 2013</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee on General Studies, College of Liberal Arts, Summer 2012</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee on Instruction Evaluation, Office of the Provost, Fall 2010</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee on the Center for Teaching Excellence, Faculty Senate, Fall 2009</p>
Symposia Organized	<p>Celebration of Student Scholarship, May 1, 2024</p> <p>Celebration of Student Scholarship, April 19, 2023</p> <p>Celebration of Student Scholarship (Virtual Event), April 20, 2022</p>

Celebration of Student Scholarship (Virtual Event), April 12, 2021  
Celebration of Student Scholarship (Virtual Event), April 29, 2020

## Private Sector

**ComSpec International, Inc.**, Detroit, MI, Summer 1999 - Summer 2015  
Duties Consulting for higher education administration (regarding Student Information Systems, database set-up, and business logic), web site design and development, software instruction and documentation

## Affiliations

American Philosophical Association, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, South-west Philosophical Society, Alabama Philosophical Society, West Virginia Philosophical Society, Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research

## References

*In alphabetical order, by last name:*

**J.C. Beall**, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, 408 Malloy Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556 USA, [jbeall@nd.edu](mailto:jbeall@nd.edu).

**Michael Lynch**, Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, 101 Manchester Hall, 344 Mansfield Road, Storrs, CT 06269 USA, [mplynch@uconn.edu](mailto:mplynch@uconn.edu).

**Chase Wrenn**, Department of Philosophy, The University of Alabama, 331 ten Hoor Hall, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 USA, [cwrenn@ua.edu](mailto:cwrenn@ua.edu).