

Susanna Melkonian-Altshuler

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Associate Lecturer in Philosophy, Birkbeck, University of London

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Logic

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of AI, Ethics, Philosophy of Art, Social and Political Philosophy (including Race and Feminism)

EMPLOYMENT

(Post PhD)

2026 –

Associate Lecturer, Birkbeck, University of London

2024 – 2025

Postdoctoral Researcher in Philosophy (Project: *Truth is Grounded in Facts*),
University of Vienna

(Prior to PhD)

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

2019 – 2024

PhD, Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs

Dissertation: “Truth Depends 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)

2018

Visiting Scholar, Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Storrs

2015-2018

Enrolled Graduate 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

BOOKS

Expected 2027 *Truth, Logic and Paradox: Festschrift for Keith Simmons* (with Jamin Asay), Routledge.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Expected 2027 On Gupta's *The Concept of Truth*, (part of a book symposium on Anil Gupta's *The Concept of Truth*, OUP 2026), *Philosophia*.

Expected 2026 "In Defense of Deflationism", (part of a book symposium on David Liggins' *Truth without Truths*, OUP 2024), *Teorema*.

2026 "Two Adequacy Conditions on a Minimalist Account of Truth Dependence", *Southern Journal of Philosophy*.

2025 "Is Wrenn's Strong Virtue Theory of the Value of Truth Too Strong?" (part of a book symposium on Chase Wrenn's *The True and The Good*, OUP 2023), *Asian Journal of Philosophy*.

2024 "Truth Dependence against Transparent Truth" (Topical Collection: Themes from Beall), *Asian Journal of Philosophy* 3 (1), Article 2.

2014 "In Defense of the Reference Time" (with Daniel Altshuler), *Semantics-Syntax Interface* 1(2): 133-149.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Expected 2027 "On Simmons' Truth-Conditions vs. Worldly Conditions", in Jamin Asay & Susanna Melkonian-Altshuler (eds.), *Truth, Logic and Paradox: A Festschrift for Keith Simmons*, Routledge.

Expected 2026 "On the Normative Role of Truth in Politics", in Joe Ulatowski & Cory Wright (eds.), *Lynch and His Critics* (part of a festschrift for Michael Lynch), Wiley-Blackwell.

2024 "Political Bald-Faced Lies are Performative Utterances," in Adam Podlaskowski & Drew Johnson (eds.), *Truth 20|20: How a Global Pandemic Shaped Truth Research*, *Synthese Library*, Springer, 211-231.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

2018 "Embodying Artifact Production Knowledge," *Proceedings of A Body of Knowledge, Embodied Cognition and the Arts Conference*, University of California Irvine, Access at <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/92j9b1j0>.

CURRENT WORK

<i>Under Revision</i>	“A Fieldian Transparency Account of Truth Dependence”, <i>Philosophical Studies</i> .
<i>Under Review</i>	A paper on Minimalism and truth dependence A paper on the correspondence theory of truth and truthmaking A paper on political bald-faced lies and commands (with Daniel Altshuler)
<i>In Preparation</i>	A paper on the concept of genocide A paper on truth-grounding as a guide to fundamentality

PRESENTATIONS

Invited (Selected)

<i>October 2026</i>	Explaining the Truth-Teller, Indeterminacy Workshop, Konstanz, Germany
<i>July 2026</i>	On the Normative Role of Truth in Politics, Special AAP (Australasian Association of Philosophy) Event: <i>Lynch and His Critics</i> , Hamilton, New Zealand
<i>May 2026</i>	TBD, Colloquium Talk, MCMP (Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Munich), Munich, Germany
<i>October 2025</i>	A Fieldian Transparency Account of Truth Dependence, Edinburgh Meaning Sciences Group, University of Edinburgh, UK
<i>September 2025</i>	“In Defense of Deflationism”, Workshop on Alethic Nihilism with David Liggins, Valencia, Spain
<i>June 2025</i>	“On the Normative Role of Truth in Politics”, Workshop on Truth, Disagreement & Normativity with Paul Horwich, Bologna, Italy
<i>April 2025</i>	“A Fieldian Transparency Account of Truth Dependence”, Colloquium Talk, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
<i>February 2023</i>	Comments on Jonathan Kendrick’s “Two Puzzles about Epistemic Necessity”, Symposium at the 2023 Central APA , Denver, CO
<i>October 2022</i>	“A Deflationist View of Truthmaking”, Women Philosophy of Mathematics/Logic Workshop, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University , NJ
<i>June 2022</i>	“A Deflationist View of Truthmaking”, Oriol Philosophy Group, University of Oxford , UK
<i>November 2021</i>	“Political Bald-Faced Lies are Performative Utterances,” Truth without Borders, Online Conference
<i>July 2020</i>	“Directionality for Minimalism: A Piecemeal Approach,” Truth 20/20, Online Conference; access at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cmr0Vh1bAe4&list=UULFkPMDbdEnm14MK4tvcGfItw&index=14
<i>January 2014</i>	“Linguistic Data for Positing Productively Gained Concepts,” Research Seminar, Chair of Theoretical Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf, Germany
<i>July 2013</i>	“The Trouble with Emotion Phenomenology” Colloquium , Department of Philosophy of Language and Cognition, Bochum University, Germany

Refereed

- July 2025* “Deflationism: Feminist Theory of Truth and Feminist Epistemology”, **Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society & the Mind Society**, Glasgow, UK
- February 2025* “Defining Genocide”, **2025 Central APA**, symposium, online conference
- August 2024* “Against the Correspondence Intuition”, 45th International Wittgenstein Symposium 2024, Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria
- 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

Departmental Talks (Selected)

October 2024 “A Fieldian Transparency Account of Truth Dependence”, Phlox Research Seminar, **University of Vienna**

May 2024 “Political Bald-Faced Lies are Commands” (with Daniel Altshuler), Metaphysics & Epistemology Group, **University of Oxford**

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

2026 **Instructor:** History and Foundations of AI, Birkbeck, University of London

2025 **Instructor:** Feminist Theory, Yerevan Academy of Linguistics and Philosophy

2023 to present **Instructor:** Philosophy of Logic and Language (Revisions), Jesus College, Oxford

2024 **Instructor:** Medical Ethics, Yerevan Academy of Linguistics and Philosophy

2023, 2024 **Instructor:** Philosophical Writing, Jesus College, Oxford

2023 **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

- 2017 **Co-Instructor:** Philosophy of Art, co-taught, Yerevan Academy of Linguistics and Philosophy
Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Philosophy, Ned Markosian, UMass Amherst
- 2016 **Teaching Assistant:** Medical Ethics, Peter Graham, UMass Amherst
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 **Predoctoral 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 – **Member** (currently **Chair**), **Steering Committee**, Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research (VICTR)

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

- 2013 **Travel Grant** from the School of the Humanities for women researchers giving a talk abroad, Heinrich-Heine-University, Dusseldorf
- 2012 **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)

- 2024 **Organizer**, Online Session on the Semantic Paradoxes, Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research (VICTR)
- 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)
- 2017 – **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
- 2015 **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
- 2014 **Organizer**, CRC-Colloquium, Heinrich Heine-University, Duesseldorf
- 2013 **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

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION & PUBLIC

- since 2025 **Editorial Board Member**, *Metaphilosophy*
- 2024-2025 **Referee**: *Mind*, *Erkenntnis* (x2), *Asian Journal of Philosophy*(x2), *Res Philosophica*, *Kriterion*

- 2023 **Preparation** of the Final Manuscript & Bibliography of **Crispin Wright's** *Essays on Relativism (2001-2021)*, Oxford University Press.
Participant, Long Conversation around Science: Philosophy in America vs. Philosophy in Armenia, organized and broadcasted by *Ginzh* (Science Force) and Infocom, Yerevan, Armenia; access at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaTlkDBA3jQ>.
- 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 Gebeimarchiv*
- 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 Provost Professor of the Humanities 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.rodriguez-pereyra@oriel.ox.ac.uk Professor of Metaphysics,</p>	<p>Crispin Wright cjgwright@gmail.com Professor of Philosophical Research,</p>

University of Oxford, UK Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, Oriel College, Oxford	University of Stirling, UK
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