

Jim Hutchinson

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Humanities

Nazarbayev University

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Astana, Kazakhstan

Employment	Assistant Professor	
	Nazarbayev University	2022-Present
	Postdoctoral Fellow	
	University of Toronto, Mississauga	2020-2022
	Term Lecturer	
	Simon Fraser University	2019-2020
Education	Oscar R. Ewing Visiting Assistant Professor	
	Indiana University, Bloomington	2018-2019
	Ph.D. in Philosophy	
	University of California, Berkeley	2009-2018
	Dissertation: <i>A Haunting Conviction: Frege On Truth and Logic</i>	
	Advisors: John MacFarlane & John Campbell	
Specialization	B.A. in Philosophy	
	University of Toronto	2006-2009
	Wilfrid Laurier University	2004-2006
	19/20th-Century Philosophy, Philosophy of Logic, Epistemology	
	Value Theory, Philosophy of Mind/Language, Early Modern Philosophy	
Competence		
Publications (* =Invited)	"Motivated Reasoning and the Philosophy of Truth"	2026
	<i>Australasian Philosophical Review</i> [G. Sher Author-Meets-Critics]	
	"Frege and the Fundamental Abstraction"	2024
	* <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> [C. Travis Author-Meets-Critics]	
	"Conceptual Eng., Cognitive Deficiency, and the Founds. of Concep. Inquiry"	2024
	<i>Inquiry</i> [Co-Authored with G. Rattan]	
	"The Centrality of Simplicity in Frege's Philosophy"	2023
	<i>History and Philosophy of Logic</i>	
	"Metaphys. Separatism and Epistemol. Autonomy in Frege and Beyond"	2022
	<i>British Journal for the History of Philosophy</i>	
	"Frege's Critical Arguments for Axioms"	2021
	<i>Pacific Philosophical Quarterly</i>	
	"Frege on the Generality of Logical Laws"	2020
	<i>European Journal of Philosophy</i>	
	"Why Can't What is True Be Valuable?"	2019
	<i>Synthese</i> [Special Issue on the Value of Truth]	

Talks
(* =Invited)

“The Absent Irrationality Problem for Non-Evidentialism”	
Eastern APA: Colloquium	Upcoming: January 2027
* NU Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	April 2025
“Why Philosophy?”	
* NU Philosophy Club VOX	September 2026
* NU Philosophy Club VOX	February 2023
“A Fregean View of Logic for the 20th Century”	
Frege Panel Contribution at SSHAP	July 2026
* NU Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	April 2026
“How to Prevent Things With Language: Sense”	
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy	July 2026
“How to Prevent Things With Language: The Context Principle”	
* International Frege Society Inaugural Meeting	February 2026
“The Unknown”	
* Nazarbayev University TEDx Conference	November 2025
“Why Does Frege Talk About Language?”	
* NU Language, Literature, and Linguistic Speaker Series	November 2025
* Boğaziçi University Colloquium	October 2025
* NU Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	September 2025
* Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy	July 2025
“Post-Truth and Motivated Reasoning”	
* Clemson University Colloquium	January 2025
* G. Sher Author-Meets Critics Session at AAP Conference	October 2024
* NU Philosophy Club VOX	October 2024
Pacific APA: Colloquium	March 2024
* Toronto Metropolitan University Colloquium	October 2023
* NU Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	September 2023
“Critical Normativism and the Independence of Philosophy”	
* NU Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	October 2024
“Critical Normativism About Philosophy”	
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy	June 2024
* Logik Cafe, University of Vienna	June 2024
* NU Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	February 2024
“An Introduction To German Philosophy” (With Chandler Hatch)	
* NU Philosophy Club VOX	April 2024
“Do AIs have minds? Do YOU?” (With Ted Parent)	
* NU Philosophy Club VOX	January 2024

“Frege and the Fundamental Abstraction”	
* C. Travis Author-Meets-Critics Workshop at TMU	October 2023
* C. Travis Author-Meets Critics Session at SSHAP	July 2023
“The Psychological in Frege”	
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy	July 2023
* NU Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	April 2023
“Moral Principles and Normative Generality”	
Pacific APA: Colloquium	April 2023
* NU Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	November 2022
“Frege’s Metaphysical Separatism”	
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy	July 2022
“General Norms and Logic”	
Pacific APA: Colloquium	April 2022
* UC Berkeley Work-In-Progress Talk	October 2021
“Logical Pluralism and Normativity: Conflict and Collapse”	
Eastern APA: Colloquium	January 2022
“Frege’s Radical Anti-Psychologism”	
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy	July 2021
Eastern APA: Colloquium	January 2021
“Psychologism and Normative Generality”	
* University of Toronto LEMM Group	October 2020
“Post-Truth and the Value of Truth”	
Pacific APA: Colloquium	April 2021
IU Inter-Campus Philosophy Conference	March 2019
“The Centrality of Simplicity in Frege’s Philosophy”	
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy	June 2019
“Did the Later Wittgenstein Accept Frege’s Anti-Psychologism?”	
Kraków Conf.: Wittgenstein and Frege on Psychologism	November 2018
“Why Can’t What Is True Be Valuable?”	
Eastern APA: Colloquium	January 2020
* Simon Fraser University Philosophy Colloquium	September 2019
North Carolina Philosophical Society Conference	March 2019
Indiana Philosophical Association Conference	November 2018
* IU Bloomington Philosophy Faculty Work-In-Progress Talks	September 2018
“Frege on the Generality of Logical Laws”	
TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Workshop	July 2019
* IU Bloomington Logic Seminar	September 2018

“Frege and Lotze on Criteria of Identity”	
Pacific APA: North American Neo-Kantian Society	March 2018
“Frege’s Critical Arguments for Axioms”	
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy	June 2018
Brown University Mark Shapiro Graduate Conference	November 2017
Eastern APA: Colloquium	January 2017
Berkeley-London Graduate Conference	May 2016
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference	April 2016
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	December 2015
“Truth Among the Neo-Kantians”	
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	February 2018
“Kant’s Quadrilemma and the Needs of Reason”	
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	April 2017
“Frege’s Philosophy of Language”	
* UC Berkeley Graduate Research Colloquium	December 2016
“Frege, Leibniz, and Kant on Primitive Truths”	
Pacific APA: Colloquium	April 2016
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference	May 2015
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	March 2015
“You Oughta Be Truthin’!”	
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	February 2014
“A Criterion for Sameness of Sense in Frege”	
Berkeley-London Graduate Conference	May 2013
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	December 2012
* UC Berkeley Undergraduate Philosophy Forum	November 2012
“Are Perceptual States Object-Dependent?”	
Berkeley-London Graduate Conference	May 2012
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	December 2011
“Inquiry, Indication, and Rigid Beliefs”	
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference	April 2011
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	September 2010
“Do We Share Most of our Concepts?”	
* UC Berkeley Richard Wollheim Society	September 2009

Teaching	(4x) NU: Epist.: Truth, Knowledge, and Belief (Advanced)	F26 / Sp25 / Sp23 / Sp22
	(5x) NU: Ethics: Meaning and Value (Intermediate)	F26 - F24
	(2x) NU: History: Late 19th-Century Philosophy (Advanced)	Sp26 / F24
	NU: Metaphysics: Reality (Advanced)	Fall 2025
	(5x) NU: Ethics: Ethical Theories (Intermediate)	Sp24 - Sp22
	NU: Mind: Philosophy of Mind (Advanced)	Spring 2024
	(2x) NU: Metaph./Epist.: Truth and Reality (Intermediate)	F23 / F22
	UTM: Mentoring: The Socrates Project (Advanced)	Sp22 / F21
	UTM: History: Early Analytic Philosophy (Advanced)	Fall 2021
	SFU: Epistemology/Logic: Justifying Axioms (Graduate)	Summer 2020
	SFU: History: Early Analytic Philosophy (Advanced)	Summer 2020
	(2x) SFU: Logic: Truth and Generality (Introductory)	Su20 / F19
	(2x) SFU: Epistemology: The Value of Truth (Intermediate)	Sp20 / F19
	SFU: Metaphysics: Reality (Intermediate)	Spring 2020
	SFU: Metaph./Epist.: Authenticity and Objectivity (Introductory)	Fall 2019
	IUB: Logic: Generality and Modality (Advanced)	Spring 2019
	(2x) IUB: Ethics: Pleasure, Love, Truth, and the Meaning of Life (Intro.)	Sp19 / F18
	IUB: Epistemology: The Value of Truth (Advanced)	Fall 2018
	UCB: History: Modern Philosophy (Intermediate)	Summer 2017
	UCB: Mind: Nature of Mind (Introductory)	Summer 2014
UC Berkeley Assistant Teaching	(2x) Mentoring: Berkeley Connect (All levels, Lara Buchak)	Sp18 / F17
	Mentoring: Philosophical Methods (Advanced, Lara Buchak)	Spring 2017
	History: Kant (Advanced, Daniel Warren)	Fall 2016
	History: Spinoza (Advanced, Tim Crockett)	Spring 2016
	History: Aristotle (Advanced, Klaus Corcilius)	Fall 2015
	History: Later Wittgenstein (Advanced, Barry Stroud)	Spring 2015
	History: Modern Philosophy (Intermediate, Hannah Ginsborg)	Spring 2014
	Language: Theory of Meaning (Advanced, John MacFarlane)	Spring 2013
	History: Frege (Advanced, Hans Sluga)	Fall 2012
	Logic: Introductory Logic (Introductory, Daniel Warren)	Spring 2012
	Mind: Philosophy of Mind (Advanced, John Searle)	Spring 2011
	(2x) Mind: Nature of Mind (Intro., John Campbell / Geoff Lee)	F11 / F10
Service	Profession International Frege Society, Co-Founder and Executive Councillor	2026-
	NU: Faculty Mentor: Undergraduate Philosophy Club "Vox"	2023-
	(3x) NU: Course Co-Ordinator: Core Curriculum Ethics	F23 / Sp24 / F26
	NU: Vice-Chair for Philosophy	F25 / Sp26
	(3x) NU: Committee Member: Philosophy Professor Job Search (once chair)	23 / 24 / 25
	NU: Committee Member: Philosophy Major Investigative Committee	2024
	(6x) NU: Department Website Custodian	F22-Sp25
	SFU: Judge, British Columbia Ethics Bowl	2020
	UCB: Chair, UC Berkeley Graduate Student Instructor Evaluation Committee	2017
	UCB: Graduate Student Library Liaison, UC Berkeley	2015-2016
	UCB: Judge, UCB Undergraduate Essay Prize	2014,2016
	UCB: Graduate Student Faculty Meeting Representative, UC Berkeley	2015
	UCB: Organizer: Berkeley-London Philosophy Conference	2015
	UCB: Research Assistant, Hans Sluga on <i>The Cambr. Comp. to Wittgenstein</i>	2014
	UCB: Organizer: UC Berkeley Philosophy Colloquium Receptions	2009-2012

Referee	<i>Philosophical Studies</i> <i>British J. for the History of Phil.</i> <i>History and Philosophy of Logic</i> <i>Philosopher's Imprint</i> <i>Mind</i> <i>Thought</i>	<i>Cambridge University Press</i> <i>J. of the History of Analytical Phil.</i> <i>Journal of Philosophical Logic</i> <i>History of Philosophy Quarterly</i> <i>Inquiry</i> <i>Erkenntnis</i>
UC Berkeley Graduate Courses Attended (* = For Credit)	(2x) Daniel Warren on Kant's Metaphysics and Epistemology Sp 2017 / Sp 2018 Kristin Primus on Descartes, Hobbes, and Spinoza Fall 2016 (2x) Barry Stroud on Meaning, Judgement, Understanding Sp 2012 / Sp 2016 Hannah Ginsborg on the Normativity of Meaning Spring 2016 Paolo Mancosu and Hans Sluga on Wittgenstein's Tractatus Fall 2014 John Campbell on Attention, Perception, and Thought Spring 2013 Jay Wallace on Reasons and Normativity Spring 2013 (2x) Michael Martin on Perception, Content, and Consciousness F 2009 / F 2012 John Campbell and Michael Martin on Perception Fall 2011 John MacFarlane on Expressivism and Relativism Spring 2011 Geoff Lee on the Metaphysics of Objects and Properties Spring 2011 * Niko Kolodny on Democratic Authority Spring 2011 * Dorothea Frede on Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics Fall 2010 * Barry Stroud on Concepts, Attitudes, and the Unity of Judgement Fall 2010 * Michael Martin on Hume Fall 2010 * Geoff Lee on Consciousness Spring 2010 * John MacFarlane & Seth Yalcin on Content Without Structure Spring 2010 * Hannah Ginsborg & Tania Lombrozo on Conceptual Representation Fall 2009 * John Campbell on Attention, Consciousness, and Mental Causation Fall 2009 * First Year Graduate Seminar with John MacFarlane & Niko Kolodny Fall 2009	
Awards and Honours (Competitive)	Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence EURO Travel Grant (IU Bloomington) 2019 Berkeley Connect Fellowship (UC Berkeley) 2017-2018 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award (UC Berkeley) 2016 Intensive Language Course Grant (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) 2013 John F.M. Hunter Memorial Scholarship (University of Toronto) 2008 Graham Solomon Logic Prize (Wilfrid Laurier University) 2006	
Languages	English, German, French, working on Russian	
Citizenship	Canadian	
References	John Campbell Willis S. and Marion Slusser Prof. of Phil. University of California, Berkeley jccampbell@berkeley.edu John MacFarlane Professor of Philosophy University of California, Berkeley jgm@berkeley.edu Gurpreet Rattan Professor of Philosophy Univeristy of Toronto, Mississauga gurpreet.rattan@utoronto.ca	Gary Ebbs Professor of Philosophy University of Indiana, Bloomington gebbs@indiana.edu Ted Parent Associate Professor of Philosophy Nazarbayev University ted.parent@nu.edu.kz Hans Sluga William and Trudy Ausfahl Prof. of Phil. University of California, Berkeley sluga@berkeley.edu

Abstract of *A Haunting Conviction: Frege on Truth and Logic*

Many philosophers think that *truth* is prior to *science*, in something like the following sense: though it belongs to the nature of science to pursue truth, the nature of truth does not itself involve science or the cognitive goals that we satisfy through it, such as understanding and explaining things. Frege denies this, giving no priority either to truth or to science. For him, the things that are true satisfy the cognitive goals of science: what we know about each can guide our thinking about the other. No truth is trivial, since every one has a contribution to make to these cognitive goals.

For both Frege and the Neo-Kantian philosophers in his philosophical milieu, it is this connection with these cognitive goals that makes truth a *value*, whose significance is comparable with that of goodness and beauty. This value and these goals enable Frege to offer a normative characterization of logic: the logical laws are those that tell us how all our judging must be if we are to achieve these goals.

These views of truth, science, and logic make possible an approach to the justification of logical axioms that has frustrated readers by its apparent inconsistency: Frege seems both to rule out arguing for logical axioms, and himself to offer arguments for them. The key to resolving the conflict is to see that he only means to rule out arguments that derive the axioms from other truths that we are already justified in accepting. His own arguments, by contrast, derive them directly from the *goals*: the point of the arguments is to show that the axioms *must* be true if our cognitive goals are ever to be reached.

The discussions of truth, science, and logic in which the above points emerge do not involve language in any significant way, which will surprise anyone who is familiar with Frege's reputation as the herald of the "linguistic turn"—his reputation for proclaiming an independent philosophy of language to be the foundation of all philosophy. I argue for a quite different account of the role of language in Frege's philosophy. I point out that key arguments in his *Foundations of Arithmetic* already force us to understand Frege's philosophy of language not as a foundation for philosophy, but as a grand project in *linguistic engineering*. Frege's goal is not to reveal how language is, but to re-design it in order to help us reach our (independently understood) cognitive goals. This technological interpretation of Frege's philosophy of language, I believe, will allow us to break the interpretive deadlock that has prevented us from understanding the key linguistic notion from Frege's later work: that of the *sense* of an expression.