

Matthew Kern

Curriculum Vitae

Contact Information

Email: kern.m@wustl.edu

Phone: 330-608-3492

Website: www.matthewjosephkern.com

Work Address: Department of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis, Campus Box 1073, Wilson Hall, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Psychiatry, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Medicine

Areas of Competence

Bioethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Early Modern Philosophy

Education

2021-present Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, Washington University
A.M. in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, Washington University

Dissertation: "Functions in Psychiatry: Nosology, Practice, and Theory"

Committee: Anya Plutynski (advisor), Carl Craver, Ron Mallon, Dan Kelly (Purdue)

2017-2021 B.A. in Philosophy, Kent State University (Summa Cum Laude; With Honors)

Publications

Kern, M. (forthcoming). Reid on Belief in Perception: A Developmental Account. *History of Philosophy Quarterly*.

Kern, M. (forthcoming). The Psychological Immune System: Pitfalls, Prospects, and (Research) Program. *Philosophy of Science*.

Kern, M. (2025). Functional Indeterminacy, Addiction, and the Harmful Dysfunction Analysis. *Philosophy of Science*, 92(5), 1194-1204. doi:10.1017/psa.2025.10150

Manuscripts in Preparation

"Depression as Function or Dysfunction"

"Emotion, Psychopathology, and Psychiatric Practice"

"Psychiatry as Pre-Paradigmatic Science"

"Massive Modularity and Levels of Analysis"

"Problems with the Current Model of Belief Fragmentation"

Teaching

At Washington University in St. Louis

Primary Instructor:

Logic and Critical Analysis (Fall 2026) (Arts & Sciences) (Teaching Award)

Problems in Philosophy (Spring 2026) (Arts & Sciences) (Teaching Award)

Biomedical Ethics (Spring 2025) (School of Continuing & Professional Studies)

Logic and Critical Analysis (Summer 2024) (Arts & Sciences)

Mentored Teaching Experience:

Present Moral Problems (Spring 2024)

Philosophy of Mind (Fall 2023)

Biomedical Ethics (Spring 2023)

Mind, Brain, and Behavior (Fall 2022)

Talks

January 2027	“Depression as Function or Dysfunction,” Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Boston, MA
November 2026	“The Psychological Immune System: Pitfalls, Prospects, and (Research) Program,” Philosophy of Science Association, San Diego, CA
July 2025	“Psychiatry as Pre-Paradigmatic Science,” Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, virtual
April 2025	“Psychiatry as Pre-Paradigmatic Science,” Work-in-Progress Series, Washington University in St. Louis
April 2025	“Emotion, Psychopathology, and Psychiatric Practice,” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile, AL
March 2025	“Emotion, Psychopathology, and Psychiatric Practice,” Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry, University of Utah
January 2025	“Functional Indeterminacy, Addiction, and the Harmful Dysfunction Analysis,” Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, New York, NY
November 2024	“Functional Indeterminacy, Addiction, and the Harmful Dysfunction Analysis,” Philosophy of Science Association, New Orleans, LA
June 2024	“Functional Indeterminacy, Addiction, and the Harmful Dysfunction Analysis,” Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Purdue University (Poster)
March 2024	“Functional Indeterminacy, Addiction, and the Harmful Dysfunction Analysis,” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, OH
March 2024	“Functional Indeterminacy, Addiction, and the Harmful Dysfunction Analysis,” Work-in-Progress Series, Washington University in St. Louis
April 2023	“Problems with the Current Model of Belief Fragmentation,” Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, University of Colorado Boulder (accepted, but declined due to a loss in the family)
March/April 2023	“Normative Conflicts and Inquiry Between Incommensurable Traditions,”

Gateway Graduate Conference, University of Missouri-St. Louis (accepted, but declined due to a loss in the family)

- April 2022 “Casting Doubt on Cognitive Penetration: A Critique of Dustin Stokes’ *Thinking and Perceiving*,” Gateway Graduate Conference, University of Missouri-St. Louis
- April 2022 “Smart, Davidson, and Spinoza: The Metaphysics and Language of the Mind,” Philosophy Student Symposium at Texas State University
- December 2020 “The Müller-Lyer Illusion and the Moon Illusion”- Kent State Salem Undergraduate Research Conference (Received Outstanding Presenter Award)
- October 2020 “Wilfrid Sellars and Paul Churchland”- Kent State Brain Health Research Institute, Summer Undergraduate Research Experience
- July 2020 “Wilfrid Sellars’ Psychological Realism and Paul Churchland’s Eliminative Materialism”- Kent State Brain Health Research Institute, Summer Undergraduate Research Experience
- March 2020 “On Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel: A Naturalism to Defeat Nihilism”- Eastern Michigan University, Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy
- Comments**
- February 2026 Comments on “Does Everyone Know What Addiction Is?” by Mara McGuire and Joshua Kramer, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Atlanta, GA
- April 2025 Comments on “Discerning Shades of Gray: Depression from a Deontological Perspective,” by Jackson Hoerth, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile, AL
- March 2024 Comments on “Drug Addiction and Value Fulfillment,” by Bennett Knox, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, OH

Organizational Work/Professional Service

- Co-organizer, Mind Group, Washington University in St. Louis, 2024-present
- Co-organizer, Professional Development Committee, Washington University in St. Louis, 2026-2027
- Peer Mentor (for incoming first-year graduate students), Department of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis, 2024-2025
- Member of the Graduate Student Senate, Washington University in St. Louis, 2023-2024
- Graduate Student Mentor, Minorities and Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis, 2023-2024
- Member of the Diversity Committee for the Department of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis, 2022-2023
- Curriculum Committee Undergraduate Representative, Kent State Department of Philosophy, 2020
- External Reviewer for *Stance, An Undergraduate Journal in Philosophy*, 2020

Awards and Fellowships

Fall 2026	Teaching Award (WashU)
Spring 2026	Teaching Award (WashU)
January 2025	Travel Award (APA Eastern Division)
June 2024	Travel Award (Society for Philosophy and Psychology)
2021-2027	Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship (WashU)
2021	Pendleton Book Award (Kent State)
2020-2021	Palmer Honors Research Scholarship (Kent State)
2020	Brockett Scholarship- Philosophy (Kent State)
2019	Dickoff and James Philosophy Scholarship (Kent State)
2017-2021	Kent Alum Reach for Excellence Scholarship
2017-2021	Kent State Honors Scholarship
2017-2021	Trustee Scholarship (Kent State)

Academic Memberships

Philosophy of Science Association
American Philosophical Association
Society of Philosophy and Psychology
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology
Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry
Kent State Brain Health Research Institute
Phi Beta Kappa

References

Anya Plutynski
Professor of Philosophy
Washington University in St. Louis
aplutyns@wustl.edu

Carl Craver
Professor of Philosophy and
Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology
Washington University in St. Louis
ccraver@wustl.edu

Ron Mallon
Professor of Philosophy and
Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology
Washington University in St. Louis
rmallon@wustl.edu

Matthew McGrath
Professor of Philosophy
Washington University in St. Louis
matthew.m@wustl.edu
(Teaching Reference)