

Meg J. Wallace

University of Kentucky

Philosophy Department

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Academic Positions

Associate Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Kentucky, 2016-present

Chair, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Kentucky, 2023- present

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Kentucky, 2010-2016

Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, Oberlin College, 2009-2010

Research Interests

AOS - Metaphysics: composition, persistence, ontology, metaontology

AOC - Mind, Language, Epistemology, Aesthetics

Education

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Ph.D. Philosophy - 2009

M.A. Philosophy - 2005

Syracuse University

Department: Philosophy 2000 - 2003 [Ph.D. program - transferred]

University of Arkansas

Department: Philosophy 1998 - 2000 [Ph.D. program - transferred]

University of Oklahoma

B.A. History - 1998

Publications

Monographs - Books

2023 [Parts and Wholes. Elements in Metaphysics](#) (Cambridge University Press)

Articles - Journal & Volume Entries

2022 "Mental fictionalism" in T. Demeter, T. Parent and A. Toon (eds.) [Mental Fictionalism: Philosophical Explorations](#). New York and London: Routledge: 27-51

2022 "Mental Fictionalism: a foothold amid deflationary collapse" in T. Demeter, T. Parent and A. Toon (eds.) [Mental Fictionalism: Philosophical Explorations](#). New York and London: Routledge: 275-300

2021 "The Polysemy of 'part'" *Synthese* 198, 4331–4354 (2021). Online: 2019; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-019-02088-x>

- 2020 “Counterexamples and Common Sense: When (Not) to Tollens a Ponens” *Analysis* 80(3) 544-558 (2020); <https://doi.org/10.1093/analys/anz056>
- 2019 “The Lump Sum: a Theory of Modal Parts” *Philosophical Papers* 48(3): 403-445 (2019); <https://doi.org/10.1080/05568641.2018.1562310>
- 2018 “The Haecceitic Euthyphro Problem” co-authored with Jason Bowers *Analysis* 78(1): 13-22 (2018); <https://doi.org/10.1093/analys/anx117>
- 2016 “Saving Mental Fictionalism from Cognitive Collapse” *Res Philosophica* 93(2): 405-424 (2016); <https://doi.org/10.11612/resphil.2016.93.2.5>
- 2015 “Rearming the Slingshot?” *Acta Analytica* 30 (3): 283-292 (2015); <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12136-014-0246-4>
- 2014 “The Argument from Vagueness for Modal Parts” *dialectica* 68 (3): 355-373 (2014); <https://doi.org/10.1111/1746-8361.12073>
- 2014 “Composition as Identity, Mereological Essentialism, and Modal Parts” in [*Composition as Identity*](#), eds. Donald Baxter and Aaron Cotnoir, OUP (2014)
- 2013 “Counterparts and Compositional Nihilism: A Reply to A.J. Cotnoir” *Thought: a Journal in Philosophy* vol. 2(3): 242-247 (2013); <https://doi.org/10.1002/tht3.92>
- 2011 “Composition as Identity: Part 2” *Philosophy Compass* vol. 6(11): 817-827 (2011); <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2011.00430.x>
- 2011 “Composition as Identity: Part 1” *Philosophy Compass* vol. 6(11): 804-816 (2011); <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2011.00431.x>

Public Philosophy & Pedagogy

- forth. “Philosophy through Spectacle” in *The Art of Teaching Philosophy*. Bloomsbury Academic. (Expected publication date: July 2024.)
- 2023 “[Circo e Filosofia: Ensinando Aristóteles com Malabarismo](https://revistaursula.com.br/educacao/circo-e-filosofia-ensinando-aristoteles-com-malabarismo/)” (translation) in *Úrsula*; <https://revistaursula.com.br/educacao/circo-e-filosofia-ensinando-aristoteles-com-malabarismo/>
- 2022 “[Circus and Philosophy: Teaching Aristotle through Juggling](https://circustalk.com/news/circus-and-philosophy-teaching-aristotle-through-juggling)” (revised reprint) *CircusTalk*; <https://circustalk.com/news/circus-and-philosophy-teaching-aristotle-through-juggling>
- 2021 “[Circus and Philosophy: Teaching Aristotle through Juggling](https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2021/12/02/circus-and-philosophy-teaching-aristotle-through-juggling/)” *Aesthetics for Birds*; <https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2021/12/02/circus-and-philosophy-teaching-aristotle-through-juggling/>

In Progress

- *Transworld Objects: A Theory of Modal Parts* - manuscript in progress
- “Transworld Persons” - in progress
- “Choose Your Own Essentia” - with Jason Bowers, in progress

Presentations

“Transworld Persons”

Space, Time, and Location: Part II at University of California - Davis (Davis, CA) May 2024
Metaphysics on the Mountain IV (Sun Valley, ID) March 2023

“Choose Your Own Essentia”

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee - Spring Colloquia (April 2024)

“Thinking Through Doing: Games as a Gateway to Philosophy”

Press Start: An Intro to Games Studies Speaker Series - University of Kentucky
(Lexington, KY) October 2023

“The Possibilities Aren’t Endless if You Have a Life” (co-presented with Jason Bowers)

Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA) April 2023

“Philosophy through Spectacle” *New Resources for Teaching Philosophy Session*

by Association for Philosophy of Education, Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA) April 2023

“In Defense of the Spectacle”

Mind the Body: Creativity, Improvisation, and Play in Philosophy and Dance Conference
(Salt Lake City, UT) February 2023

“The Odd Universe”

East Tennessee State University - Guest Speaker (Johnson City, TN) March 2023

[WKU Undergraduate Philosophy Conference](#) - Keynote Speaker (Bowling Green, KY) February 2023

Meet a Philosopher Series by the Philosophy Department at UK (Lexington, KY) September 2022

“Modal Parts and Material Plenitude”

Material Plenitude Conference (UT Austin, TX) March 2020 (canceled - COVID)

“Deflating Mental Fictionalism”

Mental Fictionalism Conference (Budapest, Hungary) October 2019

“Physicalism and Compositional Pluralism”

Conference on Physicalism at University of Louisville (Louisville KY) May 2019

“Mereology for Abstracta: the Polysemy of ‘part’”

Conference on Mereology and Identity (Pisa, Italy) July 2017

“Modal Parts and Ontological Disagreement”

Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (Milwaukee, WI) October 2015

Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop (Morgan Town, WV) August 2015
Central APA (St. Louis, MO) February 2015

“Saving Mental Fictionalism from Cognitive Collapse”
Conference on Mental Fictionalism, University of Edinburgh (Edinburgh, Scotland) July 2014
University of Louisville (Louisville, KY) February 2015

“The Lump Sum: A Defense of Modal Parts”
University of Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany) October 2014
Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) April 2014
University of Vermont (VT) March 2014

“Rearming the Slingshot”
Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA) March 2013

“Mereological Essentialism and Modal Parts”
University of California, Davis (Davis, CA) March 2013

“Composition as Identity, Mereological Essentialism, and Modal Parts”
Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (St. Louis, MO) October 2012
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Blacksburg, VA) April 2012
University of Louisville (Louisville, KY) March 2012

“Composition and Counting”
Joint Meeting of the Illinois and Indiana Philosophical Association (Charleston, IL)
November 2010

“Argument from Vagueness for Modal Parts”
Mountains-Plains Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) October 2010
Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) September 2010

“Composition is Identity”
University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY) March 2010
Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH) April 14 2009
University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA) January 23 2009

Comments

John Keller’s “A Theory of Ontological Commitment” Central APA (Chicago, IL) Feb 2022

Dan Korman’s *Objects: Nothing Out of the Ordinary*; author-meets-critics Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) March 2018 [Comments not given in-person due to having a baby April 2018 - written comments submitted.]

Elanor Taylor’s “Three Problems for Grounding”; Central States Philosophical Association (Chicago, IL) October 2014

Tim Button’s “There is No Theory of Truth”; Metaphysics Back at the Ranch (Tucson, AZ) February 2014

Andrew Graham's "A Defense of Five-Dimensionalism"; Central APA (Chicago, IL) March 2014

Kristin Seemuth's "An Eliminativist Response to the Argument from Charity"; Illinois Philosophical Association (Urbana-Champaign, IL) October 2012

L.A. Paul's "Categorical Parsimony"; INCP 14 (Boise, ID) April 2011

James Shaw's "Semantic Defect in Context"; Pacific APA (San Diego, CA) April 2011

Charlie Tanksley's "The Distributivity of Masses"; Central APA (Minneapolis, MN) March/April 2011

David Kovak's "Semanticism versus the Schmenglish Argument"; Joint Meeting of the Illinois and Indiana Philosophical Association (Charleston, IL) November, 2010

Joseph Baltimore's "Lewis's Special Problem of Profligate Causation"; Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference (Washington, PA) September 2010

Dan Korman's "Universalism, Vagueness, and the Argument from Borderline Hammers"; Pacific APA (San Francisco) April 2010

David Ian Spencer's "Why Do We Need Tense?"; Pacific APA (Vancouver) April 2009.

Joe Salerno's "Must and Can"; Eastern APA (Philadelphia, PA) December 2008.

Brad Skow's "Are Shapes Intrinsic?"; Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, (Bellingham, WA) August, 2005.

Departmental, University, and Professional Service

Chair, Department of Philosophy - July 2023-present

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Philosophy - 2017-2021

Graduate Student Admissions Committee - 2015-2016, 2018

Executive Committee - 2014-2015

Speakers Committee - 2014-2016, 2021-2022

Search Committee - 2014-2015

Chair's Academy I - 2023-2024

[Trunzo Committee](#) - 2019-present

Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics ([MAWM](#)) Committee - 2017-present

Referee:

Acta Analytica, Analysis, American Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Ergo, Erkenntnis, European Journal of Analytic Philosophy, Inquiry, Journal of Philosophy, MIND, Mind and Language, Nous, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy, Synthese, TOPOI; Oxford University Press

Referee: Central States Philosophical Association - 2014

Referee: Kentucky Philosophical Association - 2011

Referee: Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference - 2011

Research Assistant to William G. Lycan - 2005-2009

Funding, Awards, and Fellowships

Gaines Center for Humanities - Support for HMN 303 Spring 2024 (2K)
TEK Faculty Fellow: Track 2 - 2023-2024 (3.5K)
Research and Scholarship in Arts & Sciences - Sabbatical Research Funds - Spring 2023 (5K)
OVPR Research and Creative Activities Program Support (Circus Lab) - 2022-2023 (4.2K)
Let's Make a Difference Initiative (Philosophy Department Renovations) - 2021-2022 (15K)
OVPR Research and Creative Activities Program Support (Circus Lab) - 2020-2021 (4K)
UK Facilities Management Funds (Circus Lab) - 2019-2020 (10K)
A&S Award for Innovative Teaching, 2019
Oberlin College Teaching Award, 2010
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2009
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2007
Head Teaching Associate UNC, 2006-2007
Horace Williams Fellowship UNC, 2003-2004
Syracuse University Teaching Award, 2003

Teaching

Circus and Philosophy
Philosophy and Science Fiction (honors and non-honors)
Metaphysics
Metaphysics and Epistemology (mid- and upper-level)
History of Analytic Philosophy
Symbolic Logic I
Symbolic Logic II
Introduction to Philosophy - Experience and Reality
Philosophy of Religion
Graduate Seminar: Unity (2021)
Graduate Seminar: Fictionalism
Graduate Seminar: Space, Time, and Possible Worlds
Graduate Seminar: Paradoxes
Graduate Pro-seminar: M&E - Contemporary
Graduate Pro-seminar: Teaching Practicum
Independent Study: Properties and Universals, 2011
Independent Study: Modal Logic, 2013
Independent Study: Time, spring 2017
Independent Study: Causation, spring 2018
Independent Study: Counterfactuals, fall 2019

Advising and Outreach (non-PHI Students)

Gaines Center for Humanities Senior Thesis - K. Cox - Committee Member: 2019-2020
Gaines Center for Humanities Senior Thesis - L. Nolletti - Committee Chair: 2022-2023
Faculty Mentor for Philosophy Teaching Post-Doc - Kayla Bohannon - 2022-2023
Circus Cats (circus club) - faculty advisor: 2021-present
Nominated for 3 [Lead Blue Awards](#) in 2023:

- New Student Organization of the Year
- Civic Engagement Award (non-service based organization)
- Advisor of the Year Award

Big Blue Big Top: Circus Workshop (Gaines Center for Humanities): February 2023