PHILIP J. ATKINS

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Philadelphia, PA 19103
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Academic Positions

Temple University, Associate Professor of Instruction (2021-present)

Temple University, Assistant Professor of Instruction (2013-2021)

University of California at Santa Barbara, Teaching Assistant and Teaching Associate (2007-2013)

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, 2013, University of California at Santa Barbara

B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, Philosophy, 2006, University of Minnesota at Duluth

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language and Epistemology

Areas of Competence

Metaphysics, Ethics, Logic, Philosophy of Mind

Edited Volumes

Meaning and Essence: Essays in Honor of Nathan Salmón (under contract at Routledge)

Philosophy of Language: A Collaborative Introduction (under contract at Routledge)

Published Papers and Works in Progress

"Names and Descriptions" (commissioned for *Philosophy of Language: A Collaborative Introduction*, under contract at Routledge)

"In Defense of Textbook Millianism" (commissioned for *Meaning and Essence: Essays in Honor of Nathan Salmón*, under contract at Routledge)

"Epistemological Horror" *The Journal of Aesthetics & Art Criticism* 84 (2026), 355-365

"Schiffer's Puzzle and Salmón's Constraint" *Erkenntnis* 91 (2026), 2613-2620

"Does Recognition Require Knowledge?" *Logos & Episteme* 16 (2025), 401-406

"The Varieties of Russellianism" *Erkenntnis* 90 (2025), 2703-2720

"Impossible Objects and Other Anomalies" *Special Objects: Social, Fictional, Modal, and Nonexistent* (2025) edited by M. J. Garcías-Encinas and F. Martínez-Manrique (Springer), 199-223

"Targeting Human Shields" (with Amir Saemi) *The Philosophical Quarterly* 68 (2018), 328-348

"A Russellian Account of Suspended Judgment" *Synthese* 194 (2017), 3021-3046

"Getting Gettier Right: Reply to Mizrahi" *Logos & Episteme* 8 (2017), 347-357

"In Defense of Piecemeal Skepticism" *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 7 (2017), 53-56

"Are Gettier Cases Misleading?" *Logos & Episteme* 7 (2016), 379-384

"Defending the Suberogatory" (with Ian Nance) *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy* 9 (2015), 1-8

"How to Become an Enlightened Millian Heir" *Philosophia* 42 (2014), 927-934

"A Problem for the Closure Argument" (with Ian Nance) *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 4 (2014), 36-49

"A Pragmatic Solution to Ostertag's Puzzle" *Philosophical Studies* 163 (2013), 359-365

"Unanswerable Questions for Everyone: Reply to Inan" (with Tim Lewis) *Philosophical Studies* 161 (2012), 263-271

Encyclopedia Articles

"Essential Versus Accidental Properties" (with Fabrice Correia and Teresa Robertson Ishii) *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2026), <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/essential-accidental>

Book Reviews

The Inessential Indexical: On the Philosophical Insignificance of Perspective and the First Person by Herman Cappelen and Josh Dever, *Analysis* 76 (2016), 99-102

Reference and Beyond: Essays in Philosophy of Language by Michael Devitt, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2026), <https://ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/reference-and-beyond-essays-in-philosophy-of-language-oxford-university-press/>

Honors and Awards

Doctoral Scholars Fellowship, UCSB (Fall 2009—Spring 2010)

Graduate Student Research Fellowship, UCSB (Winter 2013)

Merit Awards, Temple University (2013-2018, 2019-2026)

Travel Awards, Temple University Department of Philosophy (Fall '16, Winter '16, Winter '17, Winter '19, Spring '19, Spring '24, Spring '26)

Memberships and Presentations

Member of the American Philosophical Association (People of Color in Philosophy)

Regular participant in Works in Progress in Epistemology, Language, and Metaphysics (Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium)

Comments on "Kripke on Discourse About Perception and Hallucination" *The Philosophical Legacy of Saul Kripke*, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas (UNAM) 2026

"Reflections on Origins and Puzzles" (with Teresa Robertson Ishii) *Meaning, Reference and Modality: Celebrating Nathan Salmón's Work*, UCSB 2024

Comments on "A Puzzle About Weak Belief" APA Eastern Meeting, New York City 2024

"Epistemological Horror" Department of Philosophy Paper Jam, Temple University 2023

Symposium Chair for "Indicative/Subjunctive Collapse" APA Eastern Meeting, Philadelphia 2020

"The Varieties of Russellianism" Fifth Workshop on Issues in Contemporary Semantics and Ontology (V ICSO), Buenos Aires 2019

"The Varieties of Russellianism" Colloquium at Auburn University 2018

"Frege's Puzzle, Kripke's Puzzle and the Authority Principle of Belief" Works in Progress in Epistemology, Swarthmore College 2017

"The Varieties of Russellianism" Colloquium at the Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences, Tehran 2017

Symposium Chair for "About Propositions and Their Component Facts" APA Eastern Meeting, Baltimore 2017

"Guises and Descriptions" Third Workshop on Issues in Contemporary Semantics and Ontology (III ICSO), Buenos Aires 2016

"Targeting Human Shields" Colloquium at the University of Arizona 2015 (presented by coauthor)

"On the Closure Argument for Skepticism" Thirteenth Annual Central Valley Philosophical Association Meeting, Fresno City College 2012 (presented by coauthor)

"The Closure Argument Isn't Cogent" Sixty-Third Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, Lewis & Clark College 2011

"Comments on Bayer" Sixty-Third Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, Lewis & Clark College 2011

"Two Varieties of Conservatism" First Annual Northwestern-Notre Dame Epistemology Conference, Northwestern University 2010

Colloquium on Identity Chair, APA Pacific Meeting, San Francisco 2011

Service to the Department, College, and Profession

Reviewer for *Mind*, *Analysis*, *Theoria*, *Synthese* (×2), *Dialectica*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Erkenntnis* (×2), *Manuscrito*, *Episteme*, the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (×3), the *Journal of Philosophical Research*, the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, and the *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*

Faculty Organizer, 2025 Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium (GPPC) Undergraduate Conference (April 26th 2025 Temple University)

Member of Doctoral Committee for Bertram Liyanage (Department of Religion)

External Examiner (Swarthmore College Honors Program, *Language & Meaning*, 2021-2023)

Faculty Advisor, Temple University Philosophical Society (Temple University, 2021-present)

Faculty Advisor, Temple University Logic Club (Temple University, 2025-present)

Faculty Co-Advisor, Temple University Ethics Bowl (Temple University, 2024-present)

Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate Moot Court Team (Temple University, 2020-2024)

Logic Exam Coordinator for the Graduate Program (Department of Philosophy, 2023-present)

Course Coordinator for Philosophy of the Human (College of Liberal Arts, Temple University, 2021-2026)

Member of the NTT Merit Award Committee (College of Liberal Arts, Temple University, 2021-2022)

Chair of the NTT Merit Award Committee (Department of Philosophy, Temple University 2017-2022)

Member of the Undergraduate Committee (Department of Philosophy, Temple University 2014-present)

Member of the Philosophy Department Climate Committee (Department of Philosophy, Temple University 2023-2025).

Member of the Search Committee for the Next Department Chair (Department of Philosophy, Temple University, 2021)

Member of the Search Committee for the Next Department Chair (Department of Philosophy, Temple University 2018)

Member of the NTT Merit Award Committee (Department of Philosophy, Temple University 2014-2016, 2022-present)

Philosophy Department Librarian (UCSB, 2011-13)

Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty (UCSB 2011-13)

Advisor to the Undergraduate Philosophy Club (UCSB 2010-13)

Teaching Experience (Temple University)

Instructorships: Designed syllabi, exams and assignments for courses consisting of 10-90 students, depending on the class; conducted 2-3 weekly lectures per class; held office hours; maintained course website; graded assignments for some courses; supervised teaching assistants in other courses.

Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1196): Fall ’13, Spring ’14, Summer ’14, Fall ’14, Spring ’15, Summer ’15, Fall ’15, Spring ’16, Summer ‘16, Fall ’16, Spring ’17, Fall ’17, Spring ’18, Fall ’18, Spring ’19, Fall ’19, Spring ’20, Fall ’20, Spring ’21, Fall ’21, Spring ’22, Fall ’22, Spring ’23, Fall ’23, Spring ’24, Fall ’24, Spring ’25, Fall ’25, Spring ’26

Theory of Knowledge (PHIL 4241): Spring ’15, Fall ’17

Introduction to Theory of Knowledge (PHIL 2143): Spring ’20, Spring ’22, Fall ’24, Spring ’25, Spring ’26

Philosophy of the Human (PHIL 0839): Fall ’13, Fall ’14

Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind (PHIL 2144): Fall ’13, Spring ’14, Fall ’14, Fall ’15, Spring ’16, Summer ’18, Fall ’18, Spring ’19, Summer ’19, Fall ’20, Spring ’21, Fall ’24

Philosophy of Language (PHIL 4251): Spring ’14, Fall ’16

Introduction to Logic (PHIL 1196): Fall ’16, Spring ’17, Fall ’19, Spring ’20, Fall ’21, Spring ’22, Fall ’22, Spring ’23, Fall ’23, Spring ’24, Fall ’24, Spring ’25, Fall ’25, Spring ’26

Intermediate Logic (PHIL 3211/5211): Spring ’18, Spring ’24

Honors: The Philosophy of Horror (PHIL 3910): Fall ’20, Fall ’21, Fall ’22, Fall ’23

The Philosophy of Horror (PHIL 3910): Fall ’25

Contemporary British and American Philosophy (PHIL 4269/5269): Spring ’23

Introduction to Academic Discourse (ENG 0701): Fall ’26

Mentorships: Writing letters of recommendation, working with undergraduates on academic projects, helping them to win competitive awards and become accepted into competitive programs

Katie Alexandrenko, accepted into the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Andrew Demnicki, accepted into Temple University’s Master of Science in Mathematics program.

Brigit Andersson, accepted into the Education, Culture, and Society program at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

Lila Wood Burger, accepted into Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Jada Lenore Wilson, leader of the Temple University Philosophy Society and recipient of the 2026 Tom Meyer Award for community building in the Philosophy Department

Lucas Jackson, recipient of the Diamond Peer Teaching Award

Vince Werner, accepted into the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

Gabija Stewart, president of the Ethics Bowl team and recipient of the Tom Meyer Award for community building in the Philosophy Department in 2025 and 2026

Lena Kelsall, leader of the Temple University Philosophy Society and recipient of the 2023 Tom Meyer Award for community building in the Philosophy Department

Jewel Thomas, accepted into Teach for America and the Alpha Epsilon Phi Foundation

Eliza Marris, accepted as a graduate student in the highly competitive Rhode Island Institute of Design

Benedicta Woayorm Kumazah, recipient of the Diamond Peer Teaching Award and graduate of Beardsley Law School

Bryan Marengo, accepted into the College of Education 4+1 Accelerated Degree Program

Chris Spano, accepted into Carnegie Mellon’s Summer School in Logic and Formal Epistemology

Samantha Schulte, accepted into Gwynedd Mercy College’s Master’s Program in Occupational Therapy

Hector Belarmino, accepted in the Ignatian Law Scholars Program at Loyola University New Orleans

John Meyer, accepted into Temple University’s 4+1 Masters’s Program in Public Policy

Remy Andrea, accepted into University of Pennsylvania’s Master’s Program in Learning Sciences and Technology

Abby Zimmerman, accepted into Temple University’s 4+1 Master’s Program in Public Policy

Grant Kassan, research assistant for Dr. Inkyu Han's microplastics research laboratory in Temple University's College of Public Health

Ty Fowler, accepted into Temple University's 4+1 Master's Program in Philosophy

Jo Liberman, accepted into Temple University's 4+1 Master's Program in Philosophy

Teaching Experience (UCSB)

Instructorships: Designed syllabi, exams and assignments for both lower and upper division courses, consisting of approximately 40-250 students; conducted 2-3 weekly lectures per class; held office hours; maintained course website; graded assignments in upper division courses; supervised teaching assistants in lower division courses.

Punishment and Responsibility (Fall '12)

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '11)

Critical Thinking (Fall '10, Summer '10)

Teaching Assistantships: Conducted two discussion sections per week for approximately 50-100 lower and upper division students; held office hours; led review sessions; graded assignments and exams.

Philosophy of Mind (Summer '09, Summer '11, Spring '13)

Introduction to Ethics (Winter '12, Summer '12)

Ethics (Spring '11, Spring '12)

Theory of Knowledge (Spring '09, Winter '11)

Philosophy of Language (Winter '09)

Critical Thinking (Fall '08)

Introduction to Philosophy (Winter '08, Spring '08)

Metaphysics (Fall '07)

Readerships: Graded upper division student papers.

Philosophy of Law (Spring '13)

Philosophy of Religion (Summer '08, Summer '12)

Locke (Summer '11)

Graduate Courses Taken

Metaphysics and Epistemology:

Seminar in the Philosophy of Language: The Contingent *A Priori* (Spring '13)
Seminar in the Philosophy of Language: Kripke's Recent Work (Spring '12)*
Advanced Metaphysics: Material Constitution (Spring '12)*
Seminar in Epistemology: Reasonable Disagreement (Winter '12)*
Action Theory (Winter '12)*
Advanced Topics in the Philosophy of Language: Natural Kind Terms (Fall '11)*
Seminar in the Philosophy of Language: Recent Work on Kripke (Spring '11)*

Seminar in Epistemology: Bootstrapping (Winter ’09)*
Seminar in the Philosophy of Logic: Intension and Extension (Fall ’08)
Seminar in the Philosophy of Mind: Conceptual Role Semantics (Spring ’08)
Seminar in Epistemology: Responses to Skepticism (Winter ’08)
Advanced Symbolic Logic (Spring ’07)*
Contemporary Philosophy: Kripke (Fall ’07)
Intermediate Symbolic Logic (Winter ’07)
Advanced Topics in the Theory of Knowledge: Skepticism (Winter ’07)
Seminar in the Philosophy of Logic: The Logic of Sense and Denotation (Fall ’06)
Symbolic Logic (Fall ’06)
Meaning and Reference (Fall ’06)

Value Theory:

Seminar in Ethics: Rights (Spring ’12)*
Advanced Topics in Applied Ethics: Killing in War (Fall ’11)*
Seminar in Ethics: Moral Realism (Winter ’08)
Advanced Topics in Ethical Theory: Deontic Logic (Fall ’07)

History of Philosophy:

Seminar in the History of Philosophy: Hume’s Moral Philosophy (Spring ’09)*
Leibniz (Fall ’08)
Wittgenstein (Spring ’08)*
Hume (Spring ’07)
Descartes (Spring ’07)
Frege (Winter ’07)

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References

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