

Will Dempsey | CV

Department of Philosophy
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Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley	2023-ongoing
Advisors: Shamik Dasgupta, Veronica Gómez Sánchez	
M.A., Philosophy, Brandeis University	2021-2022
Thesis: "Process Monism"	
B.A., Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis	2017-2021

Research Areas

Specialization: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind

Competence: Philosophy of Language, General Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of
Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Fiction, Philosophy of Perception

Talks

Presentations

1. "How (Not) to Disagree About What's Real"
 - University of Toronto Philosophy Graduate Conference † 8/16/26
 - UC Santa Cruz Graduate Metaphysics Workshop * 5/17/26
 - UC Berkeley Wollheim Society 4/24/26
2. "The Weight of Worlds"
 - UC Berkeley Wollheim Society 2/14/25
3. "Fictive Artifactualism Remastered"
 - UC Berkeley Wollheim Society 7/27/24
4. "Modality and Metaphysical Rationalism"
 - UC Berkeley Wollheim Society 3/1/24
5. "Process, Emergence, and Monism"
 - Brandeis Graduate Student Series 9/30/22

* invited

† refereed

Commentary

1. Nora Heinzelmann, "The Metaphysics and Politics of Xenophobia"

- LMU-Berkeley Conference: *Metaphysics and Politics Across the History of Philosophy* 5/30/25
- 2. Irene Romero Suarez, "Is Factual Knowledge Artistically Relevant in Fiction?"
 - Berkeley-London Graduate Student Conference 5/3/25
- 3. Filipp Matveev, "On the Coherence of Naturalized Metaphysics"*
 - Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Student Conference 4/5/25
- 4. Jerome Romagosa, "OSR and Underdetermination in the Structure of Space in Quantum Mechanics"
 - Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Student Conference 4/27/24

Graduate Coursework

University of California, Berkeley

<i>Philosophy of Physics: Quantum Mechanics</i> , with Ezra Rubenstein °	Spring 2026
<i>The Unity of Consciousness</i> (Qualifying Exam), with Geoffrey Lee	2025-2026
<i>Conceptual Role Semantics</i> (Qualifying Exam), with Veronica Gómez Sánchez	2025-2026
<i>Metaphysical Anti-Realism</i> (Qualifying Exam), with Shamik Dasgupta	2025-2026
<i>Kant</i> , with Daniel Warren	Spring 2025
<i>Aristotle's Physics</i> , with Landon Hobbs	Spring 2025
<i>Relationalism vs. Representationalism</i> , with M.G.F. Martin	Fall 2024
<i>Empathy</i> , with Olivia Bailey	Spring 2024
<i>Explanation</i> , with Ezra Rubenstein	Spring 2024
<i>Eternity</i> , with Kristin Primus and John Carriero	Spring 2024
<i>Concepts</i> , with Veronica Gómez Sánchez °	Spring 2024
<i>Proseminar</i> , with Shamik Dasgupta and John MacFarlane	Fall 2023
<i>Objective Experience</i> , with M.G.F. Martin	Fall 2023
<i>Contextualism</i> , with Seth Yalcin	Fall 2023

Brandeis University

<i>Causation and Explanation</i> , with Katrina Elliott	Fall 2022
<i>Infinity</i> , with Palle Yourgrau	Fall 2022
<i>Foundations of Decision Theory and Game Theory</i> , with Peter Epstein	Spring 2022
<i>God, Man, and World: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz</i> , with Jerry Samet	Spring 2022
<i>The Problem of the World</i> , with Avner Baz (at Tufts University)	Spring 2022
<i>Proseminar</i> , with Umrao Sethi	Fall 2021
<i>Consciousness and Empirical Science</i> , with Peter Epstein	Fall 2021
<i>The Metaphysics of Color</i> , with Umrao Sethi	Fall 2021

Washington University in St. Louis

° audited

Service

Teaching

University of California, Berkeley

TA for Professor Geoffrey Lee, PHILOS 100: *Philosophical Methods*

Spring 2026

TA for Professor Ezra Rubenstein, PHILOS 5: *Science and Human Understanding*

Fall 2024

Brandeis University

TA for Professor Peter Epstein, 213PHIL-35A: *Philosophy of Science*

Spring 2022

TA for Professor Jerry Samet, 213PHIL-131A: *Philosophy of Mind*

Fall 2021

Chairing

1. Chair for David Wong, “Savoring and Satisfying Morbid Curiosity: A Revisionist Account of Horror”

- APA Pacific Division

4/9/26

Departmental Service

Wollheim Society Graduate Student Talks Organization (UC Berkeley)

2023-2024

Berkeley Philosophy Colloquium Reception Organization (UC Berkeley)

2023-2024

Academic References

Shamik Dasgupta

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Geoffrey Lee

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