

Philosophy Department  
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# Kevan Edwards

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2016- Associate Professor, Syracuse University  
2008-2016 Assistant Professor, Syracuse University  
2006-2008 Assistant Professor, University of Kansas

## EDUCATION

2000-2006 Ph.D. in Philosophy, Rutgers University, October 2006.  
Dissertation: *Referentialism without Compromise: Semantics at the Intersection of Mind and Language*. Committee: Jerry Fodor, Barry Loewer, Stephen Neale, Georges Rey. Defended: October, 2006.  
2000 B.A., Specialist in Philosophy, with high distinction, University of Toronto

## PUBLICATIONS

1. "Frege's Problem Psychologized, Concept Atomism, and the Division of Labor". *Synthese*. 205(193), 2025.
2. "Concepts and Cognitive Structures". *Philosophical Psychology*. First published online: 26 Sep 2022.
3. "Keeping (Direct) Reference in Mind". *Noûs* 48(2), 2014, 342-367.
4. "Concepts". *Oxford Bibliographies*. <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396577/obo-9780195396577-0220.xml>. Published online Sept. 30, 2013.
5. "Review of 'The Extended Mind', Edited by Richard Menary." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 90(2), 2012, 405-407.
6. "Higher-level Concepts and Their Heterogeneous Implementations: A Polemical Response to Edouard Machery's Doing Without Concepts". *Philosophical Psychology*, 24(1), 2011, 119-133.
7. "Review of David Thompson, Daniel Dennett". *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=20167>, Published online, 2010.
8. "Unity Amidst Heterogeneity in Theories of Concepts". *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33(2-3), 2010, 210-211.

9. "Concept Referentialism and the Role of Empty Concepts". *Mind & Language*, 25(1), 2010, 89-118.
10. "Referring When Push Comes to Shove". In *New Waves in the Philosophy of Language*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, 60-86.
11. "What Concepts Do". *Synthese*, 170(2), 2009, 289-310.

## PRESENTATIONS / COMMENTS / CHAIRED SESSIONS

1. "Conceptual engineering without \*topic\*". Invited presentation at the *X Workshop on Language, Context, and Cognition*, in Lima, Peru; April 14, 2024.
2. Comments on Bar Luzon, "The Euthyphro Challenge in Metasemantics". *Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*, January 5, 2023.
3. "Fodor\* on concepts", presented at the *Conference in Honor of Jerry Fodor*, at Rutgers University, May 17, 2019. Program: <https://ruccs.rutgers.edu/talks/list-of-upcoming-events/icalrepeat.detail/2019/05/16/608/-/conference-in-honor-of-jerry-fodor>. Youtube video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL99GXYwmYD5VswAnUp681hDi8UzgZ8dbw>.
4. Chaired session (Jonathon Cohen, "Coherence and Conversation") at *Rutgers Philosophy & Cognitive Science Alumni Workshop*, April 25-28, 2019.
5. Commentary on Jan Swiderski, "Essential indexicality and rationality". *Central States Philosophical Association Meeting*, October 27 2018.
6. Commentary on Matt Duncan, "Propositions are not simple". *Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*, February 22, 2017.
7. Commentary on John Mackay, "Do Propositions Represent". *Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*, March 3 2016.
8. Commentary on Jonathan Phillips, "Factive Theory of Mind". *Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy*, November 8 2015.
9. "Doing Without Propositions", *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting*, April 2015.
10. Commentary on Kevin Connolly, "Perceptual Learning and Recognition". *American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting*, February 2015.
11. "The Concept of a Concept, in Philosophy, Psychology, and (Hopefully) Beyond. Faculty Brown-bag Series at the SU Humanities Center, January 2014.
12. "Doing Without Propositions", invited presentation at the *Language, Cognition, and Context Conference* in Villa de Leyva, Colombia, May 32 2014.
13. Chaired symposium session at Central APA (Caplan & Tillman, "Not the optimistic type"), February 22 2014.

14. Invited participant and session chair for the *North Carolina State University Logic and Cognitive Science Initiative conference on Concepts*, Sept. 20-21 2013.
15. Comments on TIAN Ping, "Teleology of action and creation of virtuous character". *Rutgers/Beijing Normal Mind and Language Workshop*, September 2012.
16. "Frege's Problem Psychologized". Invited colloquium at Southern Methodist University, April 2012.
17. "A Big Contentious Picture: Language, Mind, Concepts, Reference". Invited talk for the SU Undergraduate Philosophy Club, October 2012.
18. "Keeping (Direct) Reference in Mind". Invited colloquium at University of Ottawa, March 2011.
19. Commentary on Marco Santambrogio, "Direct Reference, Empty Names, and Church's Translation Argument". *Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference: Reference and Referring*, May 2010.
20. "Representation and Mental Processes: Unity Amidst Heterogeneity in the Study of Concepts". University at Buffalo Cognitive Science Colloquium, January 2010.
21. "Metaphysical Implications of Zeno Paradoxes". Invited talk for the Syracuse University Philosophy Club, February 2010.
22. "Reference and the Kitchen Sink". (1) Invited colloquium at CUNY Graduate Center, November 2009; (2) Graduate Student Internal Speaker, SU Philosophy Department, November 2009.
23. "Keeping Reference in Mind". *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division meeting*, April 2009.
24. "Theories of Concepts: New Approaches, Old Mistakes". Presented at (1) Syracuse University, (2) University of Western Ontario, (3) University of Washington, (4) Ohio University, (5) Lafayette College; S2008.
25. Commentary on Charles Hermes, "Finks, Masks, Mimics, and Freedom". *American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting*, February 2008.
26. "Concept Referentialism". *Kansas Philosophical Society Meeting*, February 2008.
27. "The Primacy of Reference". Univ. of Kansas Linguistics Department Colloquium, April 2007.
28. "Theories of Concepts". Univ. of Kansas Cognitive Psychology Proseminar, April 2007.
29. "The Role of Empty Concepts". *The Canadian Philosophical Association Conference*, May 2006.
30. Commentary on Imogen Dickie, "Informative Identities in Frege". *The Canadian Philosophical Association Conference*, May 2006.
31. "The Fragility of Frege's Problem". *Western Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting*, October 2005.

32. “Austere Semantics”. Rutgers Departmental Colloquium, May 2005.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“Keeping propositions in mind” [in progress]

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Managing editor of *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy* (since 2019)

Member of American Philosophical Association (since 2006)

Refereeing for journals and conferences: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *European Journal of the Philosophy of Science*, *International Studies in Philosophy of Science*, *Mind*, *Mind & Language*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophical Studies*, *PhiMiSci*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Society for Exact Philosophy.

Book refereeing: MIT Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Syracuse University Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, S2013.

CNY Humanities Corridor Mellon Grant (\$18,000, with Alyssa Ney, Univ. of Rochester).

Awarded by the the Humanities Center at Syracuse University to finance a course that we co-taught across the two institutions in Fall 2009.

Tolley Summer Mini-Grant (Syracuse University Humanities Center), 2009.

University of Kansas New Faculty General Research Grant, 2007.

## GRADUATE ADVISING

### *Ph.D. committees*

Yaojun Lu, “The Role of Introspection in the Study of Consciousness”. Defended

Joe Hedger, “Seeing and Believing”. Defended: August 13, 2018.

Li Kang, “Spreading Structures”. Defended: August 2, 2017.

Mihnea Capraru, “The Sundial Tribe and the Labyrinth of Purpose”. Passed with distinction February 17, 2014.

Anthony Fischer, “Ideology, Structure, and Truth-Making”. Defended: August 18, 2012.

Steffen Borge, “Speakers’ Meaning: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language”. Defended Summer 2010.

Keith Coleman, “The Logical Problem of Identity.” University of Kansas, Defended S2008.

### *Clarification committees*

Yaojun Lu (2020), Christina Busse (2018), Scott Looney (2018)

### *“Special paper” committees*

Roger Rosena (2024), Ian York (2024), Felipe Oliveira (2023), Sanggu Lee (2022), Chip Osbourne (2022), Alfredo Fernandez (2020), Sean Nalty (2020), Adam Patterson (2020), Cole Singletary (2020), Yaojun Lu (2019), Scott Looney (2017), Christina Busse (2017), Carolyn Garland (2017), Hamed Shirmohammadi (2017), Justin Pannell (2014), Joe Hedger (2010), Mihnea Capraru (2010).

### *M.A. committees*

Member of Kevin Sadekoski’s MA committee. Defended May 6, 2014.

Member of two Master’s examination committees at University of Kansas, 2007.

### *Teaching mentoring*

Roger Rosena (2024F-2025S), Jan Swiderski (2021S, 2020F), Josh Tignor (2020S), Thiago De Melo (2019S), Chip Osbourne (2019F), Nikki Fortier (2018), Arturo Castellanos (2018), Nikki Fortier (2017), Yaojun Lu (2017), William Osbourne (2017), Thiago de Melo (2017), Arturo Castellanos (2016), Carolyn Garland (2016), Nikki Fortier (2016), Cole Singletary (2016), Gabriel McDonald (2015), Preston Werner (2015), Stephen Steward (2015), Arturo Castellanos (2014), Dante Dauksz (2014), Li Kang (2014), Andy Specht (2013), Mihnea Capraru (2012), Steve Steward (2012), Justin Pannell (2012).

Pre-dissertation advising: Brett Blitch (2022-) Austin Fraser (2021-2024), Chris Bousquet (2018-2020), Scott Looney (2014-2016).

2008/2009 PHI107 Teaching Assistant Mentorship Program

2006-2008 PHIL140 Teaching Assistant Supervisor (Univ. of Kansas)

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Member of Department Executive Committee (2024F-, 2022/2023, 2021/2022, 2020S, 2015-2017, 2013/2014, 2012/2013)

Junior Faculty Teaching Mentor: Martin Abreu Zavaleta (2022F-)

Graduate Admissions Committee (2023, 2019, 2017)

Faculty Coordinator for Graduate Student ABD Workshop (2023, 2021/2022, 2009-2011)

Professional Activities Committee (PAC) (2022)

Philosophy Department Chair Search Committee (2020, 2010/2011)

Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Philosophy Department (2012 through 2017S)

Member of Department Climate Committee (2014 through 2016S)

Advisor for Logic Minor (2012 through S2016)

Co-organizer of SPAWN 2011 (Topic: Philosophy of Language), the annual conference held at the Philosophy Department at Syracuse University (August 2011)

Member of Peterfreund Prize Committee (2011 through 2017)

Tenure committees: Erica Shumener (2024), Luvell Anderson (2019), Verena Erlenbusch (2019), Michael Rieppel (2020, research sub-committee), Chris Noble (2021)

(Co-)organizer of Philosophy Department Colloquium Series (2009-2011)

Teaching Assistant Faculty Mentor for PHI107 (2008-2009)

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Philosophy Department (Univ. of Kansas) (2007-2008)

Philosophy Department Search Committee (Univ. of Kansas) (2007/2008)

Faculty advisor for Undergraduate Philosophy Club (Univ. of Kansas) (2007/2008)

Redesign of Philosophy Department website (Univ. of Kansas) (2006/2007)

Philosophy Department Academic Program Committee (Univ. of Kansas) (2007/2008)

Philosophy Department Planning Committee (Univ. of Kansas) (2006-2008)

Philosophy Department Graduate Admissions & Awards (Univ. of Kansas) (2006/2007)

Philosophy Department Robinson Essay Award Committee (Univ. of Kansas) (2006/2007)

Philosophy Department Committee on Undergraduate Awards (Univ. of Kansas) (2006/2007)

## COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Coordinator of Philosophy Department Chair Search Committee (appointed by the Dean) (2024)

Humanities Council Advisory Board (2017 through 2019)

Member of Educational Excellence Working Group (CAS Strategic Plan) (2017S)

Member of Grade Review Panel (2016F through present)

Member of Scholarship and Research Committee (2017F)

Member of the Linguistic Studies Program (2012 through present)

Faculty Advisor for MA students in the Linguistic Studies Program Logic & Language Concentration (2012 through 2016)

Member of Humanities Council (representing Logic Minor) (2013/2014, 2012/2013)

First-Year Advisor (F2009)

Renée Crown Honor's Program Capstone Prize Committee (S2011).

CAS101 (First-Year Forum) Instructor (2014F, 2013F, 2012F, 2010F, 2009F)

Organized public lecture series: "Philosophy in Practice." In cooperation with the Hall Center for the Humanities. Speakers: Jerry Fodor, Stephen Neale, Scott Soames. (2008)

Ellsworth Faculty Forum representative (Univ. of Kansas) (2007)

Representative to the Kansas Board of Regents Core Competencies Group (2007)

Ambassador to the Univ. of Kansas Center for Teaching Excellence (2007)

## COURSES TAUGHT

### *Graduate seminars*

PHI 687: Proseminar in Language, Epistemology, Mind, and Metaphysics (2022S, 2020F, 2019S, 2017F)

PHI 750: Concepts & Conceptual Engineering (2023F)

PHI 750: Concepts (2021F, 2017S, 2011F)

PHI 750: Concepts and Mental Content (2014F)

PHI 750: Propositions (2019F, 2012F)

PHI 750: Reference and Representation (2010F)

PHI 750: Reductionism (with Alyssa Ney, 2009F)

PHI 750: Language of Thought (2008F)

PHIL850: 'Super-seminar' in Philosophy of Language and Mind (KU, 2008S)

PHIL877: Topics in Philosophy of Mind: Concepts (KU, 2006F)

### *Undergraduate and cross-listed undergraduate/graduate courses*

PHI 107: Theories of Knowledge & Reality (2023F, 2023S, 2016S, 2016F)

PHI 109: (Honors) Introduction to Philosophy (2021S, 2019S, 2015S, S2009)

PHI171: Critical Thinking (2023F, 2022S, 2019F, 2018F)

PHI 251: Formal Logic (2009F)

PHI 376: Philosophy of Mind (2024F, 2022F, 2021F, 2020F, 2015F, 2016F)

PHI 377: Philosophy of Psychology (S2020, F2018, F2012, F2010)

PHI 401: Seminar for Philosophy Majors (2023S, 2020S, 2016S, 2015S)

PHI 533: Philosophy of Mind (2011S, 2010S)

PHI 565: Philosophy of Language (2021S, 2011S, 2010S, 2009S)

PHIL140: Introduction to Philosophy (KU; 2007S, 2007F, 2006F)

PHIL654: Philosophy of Mind (KU; 2007S)

### *Supervised independent studies*

PHI 990: Language of Thought (Yaojun Lu, 2018F-2019S)

PHI 990: Philosophy of Language (Christina Busse, Spring/Summer 2017)

PHI 990: Speech Acts (Gabriel McDonald, 2015S)

PHI 690: Special Sciences (Joe Hedger, 2011S)

PHIL600: Readings in Philosophy: The OBJECT Concept (KU; 2007F)

PHIL900: Research in Philosophy: Problems with Direct Reference (KU; 2007S)

ACADEMIC REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST