
MALLORY WEBBER

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

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AREAS

Areas of Specialization: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language

Areas of Competence: Philosophy of Mind, Ethics of Technology, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion

EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Associate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2022-Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy 2022

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Dissertation: Moderate Modal Metaphysics

Committee: Steve Yablo (chair), Brad Skow, Michaela McSweeney (Boston University)

B.A. in Philosophy, with high distinction 2016

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)

Thesis: Predicates, Properties, Sortals, and the Monism-Pluralism Debate

Advisor: Mahrad Almotahari

B.S. in Neuroscience, with distinction 2016

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)

WORK IN PROGRESS

(Drafts available upon request.)

Actualism, Modal Reductionism, and Contingentism

Higher-Order Contingentism and the Problem of Impossible Indiscernibles

Tolerating Arbitrariness

PRESENTATIONS

* = refereed

Serious Actualism and Higher-Order Contingentism

Work in Progress, MIT

April 2021

Actualism, Modal Reductionism, and Contingentism

Pacific APA (Symposium)*

April 2021

Work in Progress, MIT

November 2020

Graduate Student Work in Progress, MIT

November 2018

Modal Tolerance and Contingently Realized Essences

Week STATA Metaphysics Group, MIT

March 2020

Plenitude and Strong Arbitrariness

Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University* [canceled due to Covid-19]
Graduate Student Work in Progress, MIT

June 2020
November 2019

Guise Counterpart Semantics: A Defense of One-Thingism

MCMP Summer School in Mathematical Philosophy, LMU Munich*
Massachusetts and Rhode Island Graduate Conference, MIT*
Metaphysics and Mind Reading Group, MIT

June 2018
April 2018
October 2017

COMMENTS

Mahrad Almotahari, “Realism Needs Realism”, MITing of the Minds

January 2020

Boston University Logic Workshop, organized by Michaela McSweeney,
Commentor at Large

May 2019

Nina Emery, “Mooreanism in Metaphysics from Mooreanism in Physics”,
MITing of the Minds

January 2019

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Presidential Fellowship, MIT

2017-18

Dorothy Grover Award, UIC

2016

(presented to one graduating student per year, awarded by faculty vote)

PEDAGOGY

Primary Instructor

Metaphysics

Fall 2022

Ethics Modules (New Engineering Education Transformation, MIT)
for both undergraduate and graduate engineering classrooms

2020-22

Political Embeddings (Independent Activities Period mini-course, MIT)

January 2021

Teaching Assistant

Experiential Ethics (Phillips-Brown & Boulicault; two sections)

Summer 2020

Problems of Philosophy (Byrne; two sections)

Fall 2020

Minds and Machines (Kernion)

Spring 2020

Philosophy of Religion (Spencer)

Fall 2019

Moral Problems and the Good Life (Setiya; two sections)

Fall 2018

Guest Lectures

Dennett’s “True Believers: The Intentional Strategy and Why it Works” (Kernion)

Spring 2020

Chalmers’ “Consciousness and its Place in Nature” (Kernion)

Spring 2020

Feldman's "Reasonable Religious Disagreements" (Spencer)	Fall 2019
Norms of Philosophical Engagement (PIKSI)	Summer 2019
Thomson's "A Defense of Abortion" (Setiya)	Fall 2018
Philosophy of Death (PIKSI)	Summer 2018

Co-director of PISKI Boston 2018-19

Assistant Director of PIKSI Boston 2017-18

Pedagogical Training

American Association of Philosophy Teachers workshop, Boston University & MIT Spring 2018

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS

Athena in Action, Princeton University June 2018

SERVICE

Co-organizer of MITing of the Minds, MIT 2021

Research Assistant for Milo Phillips-Brown, then Postdoctoral Associate in the Ethics of Technology at MIT 2019-21

Assistant Organizer of Experiential Ethics, MIT 2020

Co-organizer of the 2nd Annual Michigan/MIT Workshop in Social Philosophy Spring 2020

Co-organizer of the MIT science, language, logic, and epistemology reading group 2018-19

Committee on Departmental Life Graduate Student Representative, MIT 2018-19

MAP Coordinator for MIT 2018-19

Co-director of PIKSI Boston 2018-19

Assistant Director of PIKSI Boston 2017-18

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

* = not taken for course credit

Metaphysics and Language

Problems in Metaphysics (Metaphysics of Modality), Robert Stalnaker (Fall 2019; MIT)

Topics in Metaphysics, Brad Skow and Jack Spencer (Fall 2018; MIT)

Two Dimensional Semantics, Steve Yablo (Spring 2018; MIT)

Metaphysics of Color, Alex Byrne, Jack Spencer, and Adam Pautz (Fall 2017; MIT)

Epistemology of Metaphysics*, Michaela McSweeney (Fall 2017; Boston University)

Topics in Philosophy of Language (Conditionals), Vann McGee and Justin Khoo (Fall 2017; MIT)

Metaphysics of Mind (Neo-Fregeanism)*, Mahrad Almotahari (Spring 2017; UIC)

Metaphysics of Objects, Mahrad Almotahari (Spring 2016; UIC)

Other

Rationalism and Sentimentalism, Tamar Schapiro (Spring 2019; MIT)
Critical Social Theory, Sally Haslanger (Fall 2018; MIT)
Topics in Ancient Philosophy (Aristotle), Katherine Meadows, (Spring 2018; MIT)
Proseminar II, Steve Yablo and Brad Skow (Spring 2018; MIT)
Proseminar I, Roger White and Jack Spencer (Fall 2017; MIT)
Early Modern (Kant and Hegel on Substance)*, Sally Sedgwick (Fall 2016; UIC)
Social Epistemology, David Hilbert (Fall 2016; UIC)
Introduction to Formal Logic, Nick Huggett (Spring 2016; UIC)

REFERENCES

Steve Yablo
David W. Skinner Professor of Philosophy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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Brad Skow
Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Philosophy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
bskow@mit.edu

Michaela McSweeney
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Boston University
m3@bu.edu

Alex Byrne (teaching)
Professor of Philosophy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
abyrne@mit.edu