

# BRETT SHERMAN

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## Employment

University of South Carolina, Assistant Professor, January 2018–present  
University of Rochester, Assistant Professor, August 2012–December 2017  
Brandeis University, Visiting Assistant Professor, August 2011–May 2012  
University of Rochester, Visiting Assistant Professor, August 2010–July 2011

## Education

Princeton University, Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2008  
Dissertation: “Indexicality,” supervised by Gilbert Harman and James Pryor  
Harvard University, A.B. (magna cum laude with highest honors in philosophy), 2000

## Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Epistemology

## Areas of Competence

Logic, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Metaethics

## Publications

- Sherman, B. (forthcoming). Open Questions and Epistemic Necessity. *Philosophical Quarterly*.
- Sherman, B. (forthcoming). ‘According to’ Phrases and Epistemic Modals. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*.
- Sherman, B. (2015). Constructing Contexts. *Ergo*, 2(23): 581-605.

Burgess, A. and B. Sherman (eds.) (2014). *Metasemantics: New Essays on the Foundations of Meaning*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Burgess, A. and B. Sherman (2014). A Plea for the Metaphysics of Meaning. In A. Burgess and B. Sherman (eds.) (2014), *Metasemantics*, New York, Oxford University Press: 1–16.

Sherman, B. (2014). Review of Stefano Predelli, *Meaning without Truth*. In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/48305-meaning-without-truth/>

Sherman, B. and G. Harman (2011). Knowledge and Assumptions. *Philosophical Studies*, 156: 131-140.

Sherman, B. (2005). Semantics of Interrogatives. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics, 2nd Edition*. Elsevier: 167-170.

Harman, G. and B. Sherman (2004). Knowledge, Assumptions, Lotteries. *Philosophical Issues*, 14: 492-500.

## Invited Chapter in Preparation

Ambivalence, Evidence, and Open Questions. Co-authored with Barry Lam (Vassar) for Oxford University Press volume on ambivalence, edited by Berit Brogaard and Demitria Gatzia.

## Works In Progress

On Deliberative and Executive Modals – Under revision for resubmission

*Openness: an Essay on Modality* – Monograph in preparation

“Modal Grounds and Gradability”

“Meaning and Modality: A Request for Annulment”

“Hopefully: Evaluatives and At-Issueness”

“Knowledge as Possession”

“On the Aim of *Two Dogmas*”

## Presentations

- "Three Dimensions of Modal Interpretation," 2018 Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy and the North Carolina Philosophical Society, Winthrop University, March 2018
- "Three Dimensions of Modal Interpretation," The Vendler Group Workshop, University of Calgary, March 2018
- "Hopefully," 15<sup>th</sup> International Pragmatics Association Conference, Belfast, Ireland, July 2017
- "Modal Grounds and Gradability," Central APA, Kansas City, MO, March 2017
- "Modality and Openness," Jowett Society, University of Oxford, October 2016
- "Open Questions and Epistemic Necessity," Linguistics Brown Bag, University of South Carolina, February 2016
- "A Defense of Modal Dualism," Vassar College, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jamie Greenberg Memorial Lecture, February 2016
- "Questions and Modality," Philosophy Department Colloquium, SUNY Geneseo, March 2015
- "Questions and Modality," Philosophy Department Graduate Recruitment Colloquium, University of Rochester, March 2015
- "Questions and Modality," New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York University, November 2014
- "Guarantees and Epistemic Necessity," 3<sup>rd</sup> Cornell Workshop on Linguistics and Philosophy: Modal Talk and Reasoning, Cornell University, November 2013
- "Normative Expectations and Deontic Modals," (Poster), USC Deontic Modality Workshop, University of Southern California, May 2013
- "Illuminating Contents," Philosophy Department Discussion Club, Cornell University, February 2013
- "Musical and Moral Wrongness," Undergraduate Philosophy Council, University of Rochester, October 2012
- "Indexical Guarantees," Pacific APA, Seattle, WA, April 2012
- "Illuminating Contents," Philosophy of Language Workshop, Harvard University, December 2011
- "Context and Explanation," Philosophy Department Colloquium, Brandeis University, September 2011
- "A Plea For Tracking," Pacific APA, San Diego, April 2011

“The Explanatory Role of Context,” Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Rochester, January 2011

“Knowledge and Assumptions,” Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy, Oberlin College, May 2010, co-presented with Gilbert Harman

“A Cognitive Theory of Indexicality,” Conference on Context-Dependence, Perspective and Relativity in Language and Thought, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, 2007

“Salience,” Harvard/MIT Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, Harvard University, 2003

## Commentaries

On Pengbo Liu’s “Essential Indexicality without Indexicals,” Eastern APA, Washington D.C., January 2016

On Daniel Altschuler’s “Pragmatic Constraints on Double Access,” 5<sup>th</sup> Cornell Workshop on Linguistics and Philosophy: Attitudes, Cornell University, November 2015

On Robert Henderson’s “Swarms: Spatiotemporal grouping across domains,” 4<sup>th</sup> Cornell Workshop on Linguistics and Philosophy: Plurals, Cornell University, November 2014

On Una Stojnic, Matthew Stone, and Ernie Lepore’s “Discourse and Logical Form,” Pacific APA, San Diego, CA, April 2014

On Heidi Savage’s “Kypris, Aphrodite, and Venus: Another Puzzle About Belief,” The Creighton Club, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, November 2013

On Chris Jenson’s “The Fragility of Belief,” Pacific APA, San Francisco, CA, March 2013

## Invited Workshops

Meaning Sciences Workshop – UC Berkeley, Seth Yalcin (organizer) – 2015, 2016

Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy – Cornell University, Will Starr and Sarah Murray (organizers) – 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

## Honors and Awards

Princeton University Centennial Fellow (2001–2006)

Honorific five-year fellowship awarded to top prospective graduate students in all academic divisions at Princeton University

Highest Honors in Philosophy, Harvard College (2000)

## Teaching

### *Undergraduate Courses:*

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2017)  
Introductory Logic (Fall 2010, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2016)  
Paradoxes - Undergraduate Seminar for Majors (Spring 2015)  
Topics in Philosophy of Mind: Intentionality - Undergraduate Seminar (Fall 2010)

### *Mixed Undergraduate and Graduate Courses:*

Philosophy of Language (Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Spring 2014, Fall 2015)  
Topics in Philosophy of Language: Context (Spring 2012)  
Metaethics (Spring 2012)  
Intermediate Logic (Spring 2014, Spring 2017)  
Mathematical Logic (Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2013, Spring 2015)

### *Graduate Seminars:*

Deontic and Epistemic Modality (Fall 2016)  
Relativism (Fall 2014)  
Possible Worlds (Spring 2013)  
Testimony and Disagreement (Spring 2012)

### *Guest Lectures:*

Pragmatics - Graduate Seminar (Scott AnderBois, Instructor), University of Rochester (Spring 2013)  
Methods in Linguistic Research - Graduate Seminar (Greg Carlson and Scott Grimm, Instructors), University of Rochester (Fall 2016)

### *Supervision:*

Dissertation Advisor, Matthew Baddorf, *Collective Responsibility and Virtue*, University of Rochester (defended May 2017)  
Dissertation Committee Member (outside), Alyssa Ibarra, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester (2017-present)  
Dissertation Committee Chair (outside), Adam Pazda, Department of Clinical and Social Sciences, University of Rochester (2015)  
Co-Chair, Special Undergraduate Major on Logic and Symbolic Systems, Jesse Stern, University of Rochester (2013-present)  
Senior Thesis Advisor, Benjamin Brast-McKie, *Against Structural Realism*, Brandeis University (2011–2012)

Senior Thesis Advisor, Adi Assouline, *The Failure of the Horseshoe Analysis*, Brandeis University (2011–2012)

## Service

*to the University of Rochester Philosophy Department:*

Chair, Colloquium Committee (2013–present)

Member, Colloquium Committee (2012–2013)

Member, Hiring Committee (2013, 2014)

Director, *Analysis* Reading Group (2013–present)

Instructor, Professional Development Seminars (2013-2014)

Representative, Philosophy Department, Major Declaration Ceremony (2017)

Representative, Philosophy Department, Early Connection Opportunity Program (2016)

*to the University of Rochester:*

Member, Advisory Committee to the River Campus Libraries (2014–present)

Host, Q&A session with Distinguished Visitor in the Humanities, Noam Chomsky, (2016)

Organizer, Humanities Center Interdisciplinary Reading Group (2016-2017)

Interviewer, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (2014, 2017)

*to the Brandeis Philosophy Department:*

Member, Graduate Advisory Committee (2011-2012)

*to the Discipline:*

Panel co-organizer (with Anne Bezuidenhout), "Foreground and Background: The Conversational Tailoring of Content and Context," 15<sup>th</sup> International Pragmatics Association Conference, Belfast, Ireland, July 2017

I have served as a referee for each of the following:

*Nous*

*Mind*

*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*

*Linguistics and Philosophy*

*Analysis*

*Thought*

*Erkenntnis*

*Synthese*

*Theoria*

*The European Journal of Philosophy*

*The Journal of Philosophical Research*

The Israel Science Foundation

The Society for Philosophy and Psychology