

# Alexander W. Kocurek

## Curriculum Vitæ

Current as of January 9, 2025

Latest version can be found at [www.actual.world/resources/cv/CV.pdf](http://www.actual.world/resources/cv/CV.pdf)

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## Academic Positions

- 2024– **University of California, San Diego**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy
- 2024 **Australian National University**  
Research Fellow; Australian Research Council discovery project *A Unified Theory of Ifs* (DP230100290; led by Alan Hájek)
- 2018–2024 **Cornell University**  
Assistant Professor, Sage School of Philosophy

## Education

- 2018 **University of California, Berkeley**  
Ph.D., Logic and the Methodology of Science  
  
Dissertation: *What Can You Say? Measuring the Expressive Power of Languages*  
Committee: Wesley Holliday (co-chair), Seth Yalcin (co-chair), John MacFarlane, Line Mikkelsen (linguistics)
- 2012 **University of Notre Dame**  
B.Sc., Physics and Philosophy

## Areas of Research

- AOS Language, Logic, Metaphysics  
AOC Epistemology, Decision Theory, Philosophy of Science (general)

## Publications

Preprints available at [www.actual.world/papers/](http://www.actual.world/papers/). Hyperlinks are to published versions, if available.

## Journal Articles

- 2025 **Is Stalnaker's Semantics Complete?**  
Forthcoming in *Erkenntnis*
- 2024 **Metalinguistic Gradability** (with Rachel Rudolph)  
*Semantics & Pragmatics* 17(7): 1–58.
- 2024 **Knowing What to Do** (with Ethan Jerzak)  
*Noûs* (online first): 1–31.

- 2024 **Idle Questions** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)  
*The Journal of Philosophy* (online first): 1–17.
- 2024 **The Logic of Hyperlogic. Part B: Extensions and Restrictions**  
*Review of Symbolic Logic* 17(3): 654–681.
- 2024 **The Logic of Hyperlogic. Part A: Foundations**  
*Review of Symbolic Logic* 17(1): 244–271.
- 2023 **Verbal Disagreement and Semantic Plans**  
*Erkenntnis* (online first): 1–34.
- 2022 **What Topic Continuity Problem?**  
*Inquiry* (online first): 1–21.
- 2022 **Does Chance Undermine Would?**  
*Mind* 131(523): 747–785.
- 2022 **The Dynamics of Argumentative Discourse** (with Carlotta Pavese)  
*Journal of Philosophical Logic* 51: 413–456.
- 2022 **A Two-Dimensional Logic for Two Paradoxes of Deontic Modality** (with Melissa Fusco)  
*Review of Symbolic Logic* 15(4): 991–1022.
- 2021 **Logic Talk**  
*Synthese* 199: 13661–13688.
- 2021 **Counterpossibles**  
*Philosophy Compass* 16(11): 1–22.
- 2021 **Counterlogicals as Counterconventionals** (with Ethan Jerzak)  
*Journal of Philosophical Logic* 50(4): 673–704.
- 2020 **Against Conventional Wisdom** (with Ethan Jerzak and Rachel Etta Rudolph)  
*Philosophers' Imprint* 20(22): 1–27.
- 2020 **On the Substitution of Identicals in Counterfactual Reasoning**  
*Noûs* 54(3): 600–631.
- 2018 **Counteridenticals**  
*The Philosophical Review* 127(3): 323–369.
- 2018 **On the Expressive Power of First-Order Modal Logic with Two-Dimensional Operators**  
*Synthese* 195(10): 4373–4417.
- 2016 **The Problem of Cross-world Predication**  
*Journal of Philosophical Logic* 45(6): 697–742.

## Conference Proceedings

- 2024 **Counterpossibles, Functional Decision Theory, and Artificial Agents**  
*Proceedings for the 24th Amsterdam Colloquium*: 218–225
- 2022 **Modeling Metadisputes**  
*Proceedings for the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*: 173–180.

- 2022 **The Role of Questions, Circumstances, and Algorithms in Belief** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)  
*Proceedings for the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*: 181–187.
- 2020 **Comparing Conventions** (with Rachel Rudolph)  
*Proceedings of SALT 30*: 294–313.
- 2019 **Hyperlogic: A System for Talking about Logics**  
*Proceedings for the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*: 238–247.
- 2017 **On the Concept of a Notational Variant**  
*Logic, Rationality and Interaction: 6th International Workshop*: 284–298.
- 2015 **On the Expressivity of First-Order Modal Logic with “Actually”**  
*Logic, Rationality and Interaction: 5th International Workshop*: 207–219.

## Miscellaneous

- 2024 **Supplement to “Metalinguistic Gradability”**
- 2022 **Beyond the Imitation Game: Quantifying and Extrapolating the Capabilities of Language Models** (with A. Srivastava et al.; description of the project found [here](#))  
Task contributed: Analytic Entailment [[link](#)] (with Rachel Rudolph and Ethan Jerzak)
- 2022 **Supplement to “The Logic of Hyperlogic. Part A”**

## Presentations

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### Refereed

- 2024 **Counterpossibles, Functional Decision Theory, and Artificial Agents**  
24th Amsterdam Colloquium
- 2023 **Knowing What to Do** (with Ethan Jerzak)  
Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistic Philosophy (PhLiP) in Tarrytown, NY
- 2023 **Knowing What to Do** (with Ethan Jerzak)  
Philosophy of Language Association in Berlin, Germany
- 2023 **The Modal Logic of Verbal Disagreement**  
Logica 2023 in Tepla, Czech Republic
- 2022 **Modeling Metadisputes**  
23rd Amsterdam Colloquium
- 2022 **The Role of Questions, Circumstances, and Algorithms in Belief** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)  
23rd Amsterdam Colloquium
- 2022 **Idle Questions** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)  
Creighton Club at Syracuse University
- 2022 **Verbal Disagreement and Semantic Plans**  
Metalinguistic Disagreement and Semantic Externalism at NOVA University of Lisbon
- 2022 **Verbal Disagreement and Semantic Plans**  
Context, Cognition and Communication Conference at University of Warsaw
- 2021 **Does Chance Undermine Would?**  
PhLiPonLine

- 2021 **Modal Realism and Spatiotemporal Relation**  
Colloquium at the Eastern APA in New York, NY
- 2020 **Comparing Conventions** (with Rachel Rudolph)  
Semantics and Linguistic Theory 30 in Ithaca, NY (poster)
- 2020 Chicago Linguistics Society in Chicago, IL (poster; cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2020 **Against Conventional Wisdom** (with Ethan Jerzak and Rachel Rudolph)  
Symposium at the Eastern APA in Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 **Talking about Logics**  
22nd Amsterdam Colloquium
- 2019 Semantics and Philosophy in Europe 11 in Warsaw, Poland
- 2019 **Counterlogicals** (with Ethan Jerzak)  
Colloquium at the Central APA in Denver, CO
- 2019 FEW in Turin, Italy (poster)
- 2018 **C-Monsters Exist** (with Ethan Jerzak and Rachel Rudolph)  
The 4th Taiwan Philosophical Logic Colloquium at National Taiwan University
- 2018 PhLiP in Tarrytown, NY
- 2018 **On the Substitution of Identicals in Counterfactuals**  
Colloquium at the Central APA in Chicago, IL
- 2017 The Society for Exact Philosophy at University of Calgary
- 2017 Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Philosophy Conference at UC Davis
- 2016 The 20th Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference at University of Oxford
- 2017 **On the Concept of a Notational Variant**  
LORI-VI at Hokkaido University, Sapporo
- 2017 Logica 2017 in Hejnice, Czech Republic
- 2017 29th ESSLLI Student Session (declined)
- 2016 **Counteridenticals**  
Conditionals at the Crossroads of Semantics and Pragmatics at University of Konstanz
- 2016 **If I Were You**  
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Philosophy Conference at UC Berkeley
- 2015 **On the Expressivity of First-Order Modal Logic with “Actually”**  
LORI-V at National Taiwan University and National Yang Ming University
- 2014 **Made-Truth & Settled-Truth**  
NASSLLI Student Session at University of Maryland, College Park
- 2014 Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Philosophy Conference at UC Davis

## Invited

- 2025 **TBD**  
C-ALPHA at UC Irvine
- 2025 **Comments on Dan Hoek’s book (title TBD)** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)  
NYU
- 2025 **Comments on Amie Thomasson’s book (title TBD)**  
Dartmouth

2024	<b>Counterpossibles, Functional Decision Theory, and Artificial Agents</b> Dartmouth Summer Workshop on Artificial Intelligence, Language, and Cognition
2024	<b>Knowing What to Do</b> (with Ethan Jerzak) Seminar at Australian National University
2023	<b>Whither metalinguistic negotiations? A debate</b> (with Max Deutsch) Conceptual Engineering Network
2024	<b>Verbal Disputes and Metadisputes</b> Seminar at University of Sydney
2024	UC San Diego
2024	Colloquium at UC Davis
2024	Texas A&M University
2023	Colloquium at the University of Rochester
2023	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2023	Metaphysics at the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik
2023	<b>Metalinguistic Negotiation and Semantic Descent</b> CEIC Workshop at Uppsala University
2023	Symposium at the Eastern APA in Montreal, QC
2022	<b>Axiomatizing Hyperlogic</b> Association of Symbolic Logic
2022	<b>Metalinguistic Gradability</b> (with Rachel Rudolph) National University of Singapore
2021	<b>The Dynamics of Argumentative Discourse</b> (with Carlotta Pavese) Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
2020	<b>Does Chanciness Undermine Wouldiness? (And If So, How?)</b> Colloquium at Syracuse University
2020	Virtual Language Work-in-Progress
2020	<b>Comparing Conventions</b> (with Rachel Rudolph) Virtual Language Work-in-Progress
2020	<b>Counterlogicals, Counterconventionals, and Expressing Impossibility</b> University of Rochester (seminar)
2020	Australian National University
2020	<b>A Two-Dimensional Logic for Two Paradoxes of Deontic Modality</b> (with Melissa Fusco) Philosophical Applications of Modal Logic
2019	<b>Counterlogicals as Counterconventionals</b> Cornell Workshop in Linguistics & Philosophy
2019	<b>Against Conventional Wisdom</b> (with Ethan Jerzak and Rachel Rudolph) Stanford/CSLI Philosophy of Language & Linguistics Workshop
2018	<b>Counterlogicals</b> (with Ethan Jerzak) Melbourne Logic Seminar
2017	<b>Counterfactuals and Identity</b> New York Philosophy of Language Workshop at NYU
2017	<b>Counteridenticals</b> LLEMMa group at UC Davis
2015	<b>The Expressive Limitations of Quantified Modal Logic</b> Logic seminar at Stanford University
2015	C-ALPHA at UC Irvine

## Comments

- 2022      **Changing the Social Past**, by Thomas Brouwer  
Social Metaphysics Workshop at Duke University
- 2019      **As Ifs**, by Justin Bledin  
Pacific APA in Vancouver, BC
- 2018      **Ideological Innocence**, by Daniel Rubio  
Pacific APA in San Diego, CA
- 2017      **The Counterfactuals of Causation**, by Carsten Held  
Pacific APA in Seattle, WA
- 2015      **Epistemic Modality and the Dynamics of Discourse**, by Peter Hawke & Shane Steinert-Threlkeld  
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Philosophy Conference at Stanford University
- 2014      **Multiversism and Concepts of Set**, by Neil Barton  
Berkeley-London Conference at University College London

## Departmental Talks

### UC San Diego

- 2024      **Counterfactual Limits**  
S-Babble

### Cornell

- 2021      **Verbal Disagreement**  
Department Workshop
- 2021      **Verbal Disagreement**  
Semantics Reading Group
- 2020      **Comparing Conventions** (with Rachel Rudolph)  
Semantics Reading Group
- 2020      **Does Chanciness Undermine Wouldiness? (And If So, How?)**  
Semantics Reading Group
- 2019      **Hyperlogic: A System for Talking about Logics**  
Semantics Reading Group

### UC Berkeley

- 2017      **Counterfactuals and Contingent Identity**  
Graduate Research Colloquium
- 2016      **Are Counterfactuals Transparent?**  
Richard Wollheim Society
- 2016      **Indispensability Arguments in Mathematics**  
Philosophy Forum
- 2016      **If I Were You**  
Richard Wollheim Society
- 2015      **Sahlqvist's Theorem**  
Student Logic Colloquium

2015	<b>The Expressive Limitations of First-Order Modal Logic</b> Richard Wollheim Society
2014	<b>The Center of the World</b> Richard Wollheim Society
2014	<b>Relevance Logic</b> Richard Wollheim Society
2013	<b>Emergence in Quantum Mechanics</b> Philosophy Forum

## Teaching

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### UC San Diego

2025	Puzzles and Paradoxes
2024	Metaphysics Core Seminar in Philosophy of Language: Conceptual Engineering

### Cornell

2023	Puzzles and Paradoxes Modal Logic Seminar: Conceptual Engineering
2022	Modal Logic Epistemology Puzzles and Paradoxes
2021	Deductive Logic Introduction to Metaphysics Introduction to Deductive Logic Seminar: Taking Metaphysics to the Next Level
2020	Puzzles and Paradoxes Modal Logic Puzzles and Paradoxes Seminar: Counterfactuals (co-taught with Will Starr)
2019	Introduction to Metaphysics Modal Logic Puzzles and Paradoxes
2018	Introduction to Deductive Logic Seminar: Modal Metaphysics

### UC Berkeley (as primary instructor)

2015	Introduction to Logic
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### UC Berkeley (as graduate student instructor)

2018	Philosophy of Language
2017	Ancient Philosophy Theory of Knowledge
2016	Philosophical Methods Intermediate Logic

2015	Ancient Philosophy
	Modal Logic
2014	Philosophical Methods
	Philosophical Methods
2013	Introduction to Logic
	Introduction to Logic
2012	Calculus II

## Service

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### Service to Cornell

2022–23	Discussion Club (colloquia) and Department Workshop Organizer
2022–23	Faculty advisor for PLATO (Cornell philosophy graduate student organization)
2021	Book Review Editor at <i>The Philosophical Review</i>
2021	Graduate Admissions Committee
2021	Freshman advising seminar
2019–21	Discussion Club Organizer (department colloquia)
2019	Graduate Admissions Committee
2018–19	Book Review Editor at <i>The Philosophical Review</i>

### Service to UC Berkeley

2016–17	Co-organizer for the Logic at UC Berkeley conference
2016–17	Co-organizer for the biweekly Berkeley Philosophy Work-in-Progress lunches
2016	Meaning Sciences Workshop Co-organizer
2014–17	Logic Colloquium assistant

### Service to Discipline

2024–	Associate editor for <i>Journal of Philosophical Logic</i>
2023	Co-organizer of Central New York Philosophy of Language Workshop
2023	Referee for 9th International Conference on Logic, Rationality and Interaction (LORI-IX)
2022–	Editorial board of <i>Semantics &amp; Pragmatics</i>
2022	Referee for the Amsterdam Colloquium
2021	Referee for 8th International Conference on Logic, Rationality and Interaction (LORI-VIII)
2020	Co-organizer of the Cornell-Rochester virtual workshop on formal / philosophical / computational approaches to natural language meaning

Referee at: *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Logic*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Episteme*, *Erkenntnis*, *Inquiry*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Logic and Logical Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Res Philosophica*, *Review of Symbolic Logic*, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, *Topoi*