

# Alexander W. Kocurek

## Curriculum Vitæ

Current as of August 21, 2023

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

2018– **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 (formal, traditional, social), 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

forth. **Verbal Disagreement and Semantic Plans**  
*Erkenntnis*

forth. **Idle Questions** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)  
*Journal of Philosophy*

forth. **What Topic Continuity Problem?**  
*Inquiry*, 1–21. doi: 10.1080/0020174X.2022.2126884

forth. **The Logic of Hyperlogic. Part B: Extensions and Restrictions**  
*Review of Symbolic Logic*, 1–28. doi: 10.1017/S1755020322000338

forth. **The Logic of Hyperlogic. Part A: Foundations**  
*Review of Symbolic Logic*, 1–28. doi: 10.1017/S1755020322000193

- 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(5-6): 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

- 2022 **Modeling Metadisputes**  
*Proceedings for the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, pp. 173–180
- 2022 **The Role of Questions, Circumstances, and Algorithms in Belief** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)  
*Proceedings for the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, pp. 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*, pp. 238–247.
- 2017 **On the Concept of a Notational Variant**  
*Logic, Rationality and Interaction: 6th International Workshop*, Springer, pp. 284–298.
- 2015 **On the Expressivity of First-Order Modal Logic with “Actually”**  
*Logic, Rationality and Interaction: 5th International Workshop*, Springer, pp. 207–219.

## Miscellaneous

- 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)

## Presentations

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### Refereed

- 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 **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

	<b>On the Substitution of Identicals in Counterfactuals</b>
2018	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
	<b>On the Concept of a Notational Variant</b>
2017	LORI-VI at Hokkaido University, Sapporo
2017	Logica 2017 in Hejnice, Czech Republic
2017	29th ESSLLI Student Session (declined)
	<b>Counteridenticals</b>
2016	Conditionals at the Crossroads of Semantics and Pragmatics at University of Konstanz
	<b>If I Were You</b>
2016	Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Philosophy Conference at UC Berkeley
	<b>On the Expressivity of First-Order Modal Logic with “Actually”</b>
2015	LORI-V at National Taiwan University and National Yang Ming University
	<b>Made-Truth &amp; Settled-Truth</b>
2014	NASSLLI Student Session at University of Maryland, College Park
2014	Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Philosophy Conference at UC Davis
<b>Invited</b>	
	<b>TBD</b>
2024	Colloquium at UC Davis
	<b>Whither metalinguistic negotiations? A debate</b> (with Max Deutsch)
2023	Conceptual Engineering Network
	<b>Verbal Disputes and Metadisputes</b>
2023	Colloquium at the University of Rochester
2023	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2023	Metaphysics at the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik
	<b>Metalinguistic Negotiation and Semantic Descent</b>
2023	CEIC Workshop at Uppsala University
2023	Symposium at the Eastern APA in Montreal, QC
	<b>Axiomatizing Hyperlogic</b>
2022	Association of Symbolic Logic
	<b>Metalinguistic Gradability</b> (with Rachel Rudolph)
2022	National University of Singapore
	<b>The Dynamics of Argumentative Discourse</b> (with Carlotta Pavese)
2021	Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
	<b>Does Chanciness Undermine Wouldiness? (And If So, How?)</b>
2020	Colloquium at Syracuse University
2020	Virtual Language Work-in-Progress
	<b>Comparing Conventions</b> (with Rachel Rudolph)
2020	Virtual Language Work-in-Progress

- Counterlogicals, Counterconventionals, and Expressing Impossibility**  
 2020 University of Rochester (seminar)  
 2020 Australian National University
- A Two-Dimensional Logic for Two Paradoxes of Deontic Modality** (with Melissa Fusco)  
 2020 Philosophical Applications of Modal Logic
- Counterlogicals as Counterconventionals**  
 2019 Cornell Workshop in Linguistics & Philosophy
- Against Conventional Wisdom** (with Ethan Jerzak and Rachel Rudolph)  
 2019 Stanford/CSLI Philosophy of Language & Linguistics Workshop
- Counterlogicals** (with Ethan Jerzak)  
 2018 Melbourne Logic Seminar
- Counterfactuals and Identity**  
 2017 New York Philosophy of Language Workshop at NYU
- Counteridenticals**  
 2017 LLEMMa group at UC Davis
- The Expressive Limitations of Quantified Modal Logic**  
 2015 Logic seminar at Stanford University  
 2015 C-ALPHA sponsored talk at UC Irvine

## Comments

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

## Departmental Talks

### Cornell

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

## UC Berkeley

2017	<b>Counterfactuals and Contingent Identity</b> Graduate Research Colloquium
2016	<b>Are Counterfactuals Transparent?</b> Richard Wollheim Society
2016	<b>Indispensability Arguments in Mathematics</b> Philosophy Forum
2016	<b>If I Were You</b> Richard Wollheim Society
2015	<b>Sahlqvist's Theorem</b> 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

## Awards

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2016	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley
2012	The Oesterle Award for the top graduating philosophy major, Notre Dame
2012	Phi Beta Kappa, Notre Dame
2008–2012	Dean's List, Notre Dame

## Teaching

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### 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–	Discussion Club (colloquia) and Department Workshop Organizer
2022–2023	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
2019–2021	Discussion Club Organizer (department colloquia)
2019	Graduate Admissions Committee
2018–2019	Book Review Editor at <i>The Philosophical Review</i>

### **Service to UC Berkeley**

2016–2017	Co-organizer for the Logic at UC Berkeley conference
2016–2017	Co-organizer for the biweekly Berkeley Philosophy Work-in-Progress lunches
2016	Meaning Sciences Workshop Co-organizer
2014–2017	Logic Colloquium assistant

### **Service to Discipline**

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, 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*