

Alexander W. Kocurek

Curriculum Vitæ

Current as of May 10, 2024

Latest version can be found at www.actual.world/resources/cv/CV.pdf

237 Goldwin Smith Hall

awk78@cornell.edu

www.actual.world

Academic Positions

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

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/. Hyperlinks are to published versions, if available.

Journal Articles

- forth. **Knowing What to Do** (with Ethan Jerzak)
Noûs
- forth. **Metalinguistic Gradability** (with Rachel Rudolph)
Semantics & Pragmatics (accepted pending revisions)
- forth. **Idle Questions** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)
Journal of Philosophy

- 2024 **The Logic of Hyperlogic. Part A: Foundations**
Review of Symbolic Logic 17(1): 244–271
- 2024 **The Logic of Hyperlogic. Part B: Extensions and Restrictions**
Review of Symbolic Logic, 1–28. doi: 10.1017/S1755020322000338
- 2023 **Verbal Disagreement and Semantic Plans**
Erkenntnis, 1–34. doi: 10.1007/s10670-023-00733-z
- 2022 **What Topic Continuity Problem?**
Inquiry, 1–21. doi: 10.1080/0020174X.2022.2126884
- 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: 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

- 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

Refereed

- Knowing What to Do** (with Ethan Jerzak)
2023 Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy (PhLiP) in Tarrytown, NY
2023 Philosophy of Language Association in Berlin, Germany
- The Modal Logic of Verbal Disagreement**
2023 Logica 2023 in Tepla, Czech Republic
- Modeling Metadisputes**
2022 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium
- The Role of Questions, Circumstances, and Algorithms in Belief** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)
2022 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium
- Idle Questions** (with Jens Kipper and Zeynep Soysal)
2022 Creighton Club at Syracuse University
- Verbal Disagreement and Semantic Plans**
2022 Metalinguistic Disagreement and Semantic Externalism at NOVA University of Lisbon
2022 Context, Cognition and Communication Conference at University of Warsaw
- Does Chance Undermine Would?**
2021 PhLiPonLine
- Modal Realism and Spatiotemporal Relation**
2021 Colloquium at the Eastern APA in New York, NY
- Comparing Conventions** (with Rachel Rudolph)
2020 Semantics and Linguistic Theory 30 in Ithaca, NY (poster)
2020 Chicago Linguistics Society in Chicago, IL (poster; cancelled due to COVID-19)
- Against Conventional Wisdom** (with Ethan Jerzak and Rachel Rudolph)
2020 Symposium at the Eastern APA in Philadelphia, PA
- Talking about Logics**
2019 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium
2019 Semantics and Philosophy in Europe 11 in Warsaw, Poland

- Counterlogicals** (with Ethan Jerzak)
 2019 Colloquium at the Central APA in Denver, CO
 2019 FEW in Turin, Italy (poster)
- C-Monsters Exist** (with Ethan Jerzak and Rachel Rudolph)
 2018 The 4th Taiwan Philosophical Logic Colloquium at National Taiwan University
 2018 PhLiP in Tarrytown, NY
- On the Substitution of Identicals in Counterfactuals**
 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
- On the Concept of a Notational Variant**
 2017 LORI-VI at Hokkaido University, Sapporo
 2017 Logica 2017 in Hejnice, Czech Republic
 2017 29th ESSLLI Student Session (declined)
- Counteridenticals**
 2016 Conditionals at the Crossroads of Semantics and Pragmatics at University of Konstanz
- If I Were You**
 2016 Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Philosophy Conference at UC Berkeley
- On the Expressivity of First-Order Modal Logic with “Actually”**
 2015 LORI-V at National Taiwan University and National Yang Ming University
- Made-Truth & Settled-Truth**
 2014 NASSLLI Student Session at University of Maryland, College Park
 2014 Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Philosophy Conference at UC Davis

Invited

- Knowing What to Do** (with Ethan Jerzak)
 2024 Seminar at Australian National University
- Whither metalinguistic negotiations? A debate** (with Max Deutsch)
 2023 Conceptual Engineering Network
- Verbal Disputes and Metadisputes**
 2024 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
- Metalinguistic Negotiation and Semantic Descent**
 2023 CEIC Workshop at Uppsala University
 2023 Symposium at the Eastern APA in Montreal, QC
- Axiomatizing Hyperlogic**
 2022 Association of Symbolic Logic
- Metalinguistic Gradability** (with Rachel Rudolph)
 2022 National University of Singapore

- 2021 **The Dynamics of Argumentative Discourse** (with Carlotta Pavese)
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
- 2020 **Does Chanciness Undermine Wouldiness? (And If So, How?)**
Colloquium at Syracuse University
- 2020 Virtual Language Work-in-Progress
- 2020 **Comparing Conventions** (with Rachel Rudolph)
Virtual Language Work-in-Progress
- 2020 **Counterlogicals, Counterconventionals, and Expressing Impossibility**
University of Rochester (seminar)
- 2020 Australian National University
- 2020 **A Two-Dimensional Logic for Two Paradoxes of Deontic Modality** (with Melissa Fusco)
Philosophical Applications of Modal Logic
- 2019 **Counterlogicals as Counterconventionals**
Cornell Workshop in Linguistics & Philosophy
- 2019 **Against Conventional Wisdom** (with Ethan Jerzak and Rachel Rudolph)
Stanford/CSLI Philosophy of Language & Linguistics Workshop
- 2018 **Counterlogicals** (with Ethan Jerzak)
Melbourne Logic Seminar
- 2017 **Counterfactuals and Identity**
New York Philosophy of Language Workshop at NYU
- 2017 **Counteridenticals**
LLEMMa group at UC Davis
- 2015 **The Expressive Limitations of Quantified Modal Logic**
Logic seminar at Stanford University
- 2015 C-ALPHA sponsored talk 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

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

Teaching

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
------	-----------------------

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

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 *Journal of Philosophical Logic*
- 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 *Semantics & Pragmatics*
- 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: *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*