

June, 2022

## *Curriculum Vitae*

**Phillip Bricker**

### *Personal*

Department of Philosophy  
E305 South College  
150 Hicks Way  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003  
*Birth:* January 5, 1954, Los Angeles, CA

72 Columbus Ave.  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-244-3151 (cell)  
*e-mail:* bricker@philos.umass.edu  
*website:* <http://blogs.umass.edu/bricker>

### *Education*

A.B. Philosophy, University of California Berkeley, 1975  
A.B. Mathematics, University of California Berkeley, 1975  
M.A. Princeton University, 1978  
Ph.D. Princeton University, 1983

Dissertation: *Worlds and Propositions: The Structure and Ontology of Logical Space.*  
Directed by David Lewis

### *Academic Positions*

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2022-present  
Professor of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 1998-2022  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 1989-98  
Associate Professor, Yale University, 1987-89  
Assistant Professor, Yale University, 1983-87  
Lecturer, Yale University, 1981-83  
Instructor, University of Notre Dame, 1980-81

### *Publications*

#### *Books*

*Possible Worlds*, Cambridge Elements, Cambridge University Press (forthcoming 2023).

*Modal Matters: Essays in Metaphysics*, Oxford University Press (2020).

*Philosophical Perspectives on Newtonian Science*, edited with RIG Hughes, Bradford Books, MIT Press (1990).

### Articles

- “Composition as Identity, Leibniz’s Law, and Slice-Sensitive Emergent Properties,” *Synthese* 198 (2021), 4389-4409. Published on-line January, 2019. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “Is There a Humean Account of Quantities?” *Philosophical Issues* 27 (2017), 26-51. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “Composition as a Kind of Identity,” *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy* 59 (2016), 264-94. Published on-line May, 2015. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “Truthmaking: With and Without Counterpart Theory,” in *The Blackwell Companion to David Lewis*, Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer (eds.), Wiley Blackwell Publishing (2015), 159-187. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “Ontological Commitment,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.) (2014).
- “The Methodology of *Modal Logic as Metaphysics*,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 88 (2014), 717-725.
- “All Worlds in One: Reassessing the Forest-Armstrong Argument” (2011/2018, Chapter 11 of *Modal Matters*.)
- “Concrete Possible Worlds,” in *Contemporary Debates in Metaphysics*, Dean Zimmerman, Ted Sider, John Hawthorne (eds.), Blackwell Publishing (2008), 111-134. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “Absolute Actuality and the Plurality of Worlds,” in *Metaphysics (Philosophical Perspectives, vol. 20)*, John Hawthorne (ed.), Blackwell Publishing (2006), 41-76. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “David Lewis: *On the Plurality of Worlds*,” in *Central Works in Philosophy, vol. 5: The Twentieth Century: Quine and After*, John Shand (ed.), Acumen Publishing (2006), 246-267.
- Reprinted (in part) in *Introducing Philosophy: A Text with Integrated Readings, Ninth Edition*, Robert C Solomon, Oxford University Press (2008), 114-117.
- “The Relation Between General and Particular: Supervenience vs. Entailment,” in *Oxford Papers in Metaphysics, vol. 3*, Dean Zimmerman (ed.), Oxford University Press (2006), 251-287. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “McGinn on Non-Existent Objects and Reducing Modality,” *Philosophical Studies* 118 (2004), 439-451.

- “Island Universes and the Analysis of Modality,” in *Reality and Humean Supervenience: Essays on the Philosophy of David Lewis*, G. Preyer, F. Siebelt (eds.), Rowman and Littlefield Publishers (2001), 27-55. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “Isolation and Unification: The Realist Analysis of Possible Worlds,” *Philosophical Studies* 84 (1996), 225-238. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*
- “Identity,” *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Supplement*, Simon and Schuster MacMillan (1996), 251-256.
- “Properties,” *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Supplement*, Simon and Schuster MacMillan (1996), 469-473.
- "The Fabric of Space: Intrinsic Vs. Extrinsic Distance Relations," *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 18, French, Uehling, and Wettstein (eds.), University of Notre Dame Press (1993), 271-294. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “Realism Without Parochialism” (1992, published with added notes and postscript in *Modal Matters*).
- "Plenitude of Possible Structures," *The Journal of Philosophy* 88 (November, 1991), 607-619. Longer version, with added postscript, printed in *Modal Matters*.
- "Absolute Time vs. Absolute Motion," in *Philosophical Perspectives on Newtonian Science*, Bradford Books, MIT Press (1990), 77-89.
- "Quantified Modal Logic and the Plural *De Re*," *Contemporary Perspectives in the Philosophy of Language, II*, *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 14, French, Uehling, and Wettstein (eds.), University of Notre Dame Press (1989), 372-394. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- "Reducing Possible Worlds to Language," *Philosophical Studies* 52 (1987), 331-355. Reprinted in *Modal Matters*.
- “Principles of Plenitude” (1986, published with added notes and postscript in *Modal Matters*).
- “On Living Forever” (1985, Chapter 12 of *Modal Matters*).
- "Prudence," *The Journal of Philosophy* 77 (July, 1980), 381-401.

### **Book Reviews**

- Review of *The Bounds of Possibility: Puzzles of Modal Variation*, by Cian Dorr and John Hawthorne, in *The Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming.

- Review of *The Four-Category Ontology: A Metaphysical Foundation for Natural Science*, by E. J. Lowe, in *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 87 (December, 2009).
- Review of *Travels in Four Dimensions*, by Robin le Poidevin, in *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 57 (2006), 453-458.
- Review of *The Concept of Time*, by Roger Teichmann, in *The Philosophical Review* 106 (October, 1997), 629-32.
- Review of *Modality, Morality, and Belief: Essays in Honor of Ruth Barcan Marcus*, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Diana Raffman, and Nicholas Asher (eds.), in *The Journal of Symbolic Logic* (March, 1997), 328-330.
- Review of *Mass Terms and Model-Theoretic Semantics*, by Harry Bunt, in *Journal of Symbolic Logic* (June, 1988), 653-656.
- Review of *The Metaphysics of Modality*, by Graeme Forbes, in *The Philosophical Review* 47 (January, 1988), 127-131.

### ***Invited Papers and Conferences***

- Comments on “Dynamic Music, Non-Dynamic Time” by Shen Pan. Eastern APA, January, 2022.
- Author Meets Critics (Critics: Cian Dorr and Jennifer Wang), *Précis of Modal Matters: Essays in Metaphysics* and Replies to Critics, Central APA, February, 2021.
- Discussion of “Composition as a *Kind* of Identity”, Metaphysics Reading Group, Rutgers University, November, 2020.
- Keynote Speaker, “Why Quidditism,” Possible Worlds Workshop, University of Geneva, May, 2020. (Cancelled due to pandemic.)
- Lecture, “Why Quidditism,” Ohio State University, January, 2020.
- Comments on “Metaphysical Nihilism and Modal Logic” by Ethan Brauer. Eastern APA, January, 2020.
- Lecture, “Qualitative Character,” MIT, November, 2018.
- Keynote Speaker, “Is There a Humean Account of Quantities?” Conference on “Modal Metaphysics: Issues in the (Im)Possible,” Slovak Metaphysical Society, Bratislava, Slovakia, August, 2017.

Lecture, “Composition as Identity and Leibniz’ Law,” Conference on Mereology and Identity, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy, July, 2017.

Comments on “Fundamental Essences” by Jennifer Wang. SPAWN 2017 First-Order Metaphysics, Syracuse University, June, 2017.

Presentation, “Is There a Humean Account of Quantity?” Seven Hills Workshop on Mind, Metaphysics, and Ethics, College of the Holy Cross, November, 2016

Presentation, “Composition as a *Kind* of Identity,” New England Logic and Language Colloquium, Brown University, May, 2016.

Lecture, “Ontological Commitment: Entailment vs. Truthmaker Accounts,” Arizona Metaphysics Workshop, January, 2014.

Lecture, “Composition as a *Kind* of Identity,” University of California Irvine, May, 2013.

Lecture, “Composition as a *Kind* of Identity,” *The David Lewis Lecture*, Princeton University, May 8, 2013.

Lecture, “Defending Plenitudinous Platonism,” Metaphysical Virtues Conference, Western Michigan University, March, 2013.

Lecture, “Kripke’s Paradox and Kaplan’s Paradox: Two of a Kind?” Conference on Saul Kripke’s *Philosophical Puzzles*, CUNY Graduate Center, September, 2011.

Lecture, “All Worlds in One: Reassessing the Forrest-Armstrong Argument,” Conference on David Lewis’s *On the Plurality of Worlds*, UMass Amherst, April, 2011.

Panel Presentation, Lewis’s *Counterpart Theory Mk. II*, Conference on David Lewis’s *On the Plurality of Worlds*, UMass Amherst, April, 2011.

Lecture, “All Worlds in One: Reassessing the Forrest-Armstrong Argument,” NELLCC conference, Holbox Island, Mexico, December, 2010.

Seminar Presentation, “The Fabric of Space,” MIT, April, 2008.

Lecture, “Primitive Modality,” University of Connecticut, April, 2007.

Lecture, “Absolute Actuality and the Plurality of Worlds,” Eastern APA Meetings, December, 2004.

Lecture, “Absolute Actuality and the Plurality of Worlds,” Tufts University, November, 2004.

Discussant, Metaphysical Mayhem VIII, Rutgers University, August, 2004.

Lecture, "General Facts," Arizona State University, February, 2003.

Lecture, "Vagueness and *Sorites* Arguments," *Looking at Language* symposium, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, January, 2003.

Lecture, "The Relation Between General and Particular: Supervenience vs. Entailment," Metaphysical Mayhem VII, Syracuse University, August, 2002.

Discussant, Metaphysical Mayhem VI, Syracuse University, August, 2001.

Comments on "Intrinsic Causation," by Ned Hall, Metaphysical Mayhem V, Syracuse University, August, 2000.

Lecture, "The World: Facts or Things?" New York University, February, 1999.

Lecture, "Humean Chance," Columbia University, March, 1998.

Comments on "Realism and Mathematical Change," by Michael Liston, Pacific APA Meetings, March, 1997.

Lecture, "Island Universes and Modality," Princeton University, March, 1996.

Comments on "Reference for the Realist: A Puzzle," by Michael Bishop, Pacific APA Meetings, March, 1994.

Lecture, "Realism Without Parochialism," Symposium, Pacific APA Meetings, March, 1992.

Lecture, "Plenitude of Possible Structures," Symposium, Eastern APA Meetings, December, 1991.

Comments on "On Mechanical Procedures (and Aspects of Mathematical Experience)" by Wilfried Sieg, Mathematics and Mind Conference, Amherst College, April, 1991.

Lecture, "The Alien Threat to Actualism," Dartmouth College, February, 1989.

Lecture, "Quantified Modal Logic and the Plural De Re," Rutgers University, April, 1988.

Lecture, "Quantified Modal Logic and the Plural De Re," University of California at Santa Barbara, April, 1988.

Comments on Lawrence Sklar's "Real Quantities and their Sensible Measures," Newton Conference, Yale University, November, 1987.

Lecture, "Principles of Plenitude," University of Southern California, January, 1987.

Lecture, "Principles of Plenitude," Princeton University, October, 1986.

Discussant, Perspectives in the Philosophy of Language, University of Notre Dame, October, 1985.

Lecture, "Newcomb's Problem and Models of Rationality," Yale Statistics Department, April, 1985.

Comments on "The Rule of Non-Common Location" by Marjorie Price, APA Central Division Meeting, April, 1985.

Lecture, "On Living Forever," APA Pacific Division Meeting, March, 1985.

Lecture, "On Living Forever," Queens College, CUNY, December, 1984.

Comments on a paper by Massimo Piatelli-Palmerini, Davidson Conference, Rutgers University, April, 1984.

### ***Honors, Grants, Fellowships***

Exceptional Merit Award, UMass, 2014

*The David Lewis Lecture*, Princeton University, 2013

Griswold Grant for Publishing, Yale University, 1989

Senior Faculty Fellowship, Yale University, 1988-89

Morse Fellowship, Yale University, 1985-86

NEH Summer Stipend, May-June, 1985

Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, 1979-80

Phi Beta Kappa, 1975

Highest Honors in Mathematics, UC Berkeley 1975

### ***Professional Service***

Consulting Editor, *Philosophical Studies*, 1993-present.

Editorial Board, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2005-2022.

Consulting Editor, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, 1980-1983.

Referee articles for *Journal of Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Nous*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, *Synthese*, *Analysis*, *Theoria*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Erkenntnis*, *Hume Studies*, *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Dialectica*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Philosophia*.

Referee book manuscripts and proposals for *Oxford University Press*, *Cambridge University Press*, *Acumen Publishing*, *Harcourt-Brace College Publishers*, *McGill-Queens University Press*, *Broadview Press*, *Columbia University Press*, *MacMillan Press*.

Review tenure or promotion cases for University of Virginia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Brown University, Rochester University, University of California at Riverside, University of Connecticut.

Outside dissertation reader for Australian National University.

Advisory Committee for the Program Committee, Eastern APA:  
 Philosophy of Mathematics, 2007-2009.  
 Metaphysics, 1998-2000.

Program Committee, Eastern APA, 1987.

Member, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, 1980-present.

Organizer, conference at UMass Amherst, David Lewis's *On the Plurality of Worlds @ 25*, April, 2011.

Co-organizer, conference at Yale University, *Philosophical Perspectives on Newtonian Science*, Nov 1987.

### ***University Service***

Member, Academic Honesty Board, 1998-2004, 2013-present

Member, College of Humanities and Fine Arts Research Council, 2011-2013

UMACC Department Coordinator, 2005-2008

Commonwealth College Search Committee, 2003

Member, College of Humanities and Fine Arts Personnel Committee, 1998-2000

Member, Academic Matters Council, 1996-1999

Yale College Executive Committee, 1984-85

***Department Service***

Department Chair, 2019-2022  
 Graduate Program Director, 2013-2017  
 Department Head, fall, 2001-2010  
 Acting Department Head, spring, 2001  
 Graduate Admissions Committee, 1991-1995, 1997-2004, 2006-2010, 2012-2016  
 Graduate Placement Officer, 1995-2001  
 Speaker Committee Chair, 1991-2001  
 Graduate Supervisory Committee, 1991, 1992, 1996, 2010, 2013-2017  
 Departmental Personnel Committee, 1990-2001, 2011 (Chair), 2012-2019  
 Search Committees, 1995, 1999, 2000 (Chair), 2001 (Chair), 2003 (Chair), 2004, 2005  
 (Chair), 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018 (Chair).  
 Yale University: 1985, 1988  
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Philosophy Department, Yale University, 1987-88

***Dissertations Directed***

Ted Sider, *Naturalness, Intrinsicity, and Duplication*, 1993  
 Cranston Paull, *Property Supervenience*, 1994  
 David Denby, *Metaphysical Theories of Modality: Properties, Relations and Possibilities*, 1997  
 Neil Schaefer, *The Incompatibility of Determinism and Moral Obligation*, 1998  
 E. Russ Colton, *Advancing the Counterfactual Analysis of Causation*, 2003  
 Kristopher McDaniel, *Simples and Gunk*, 2004  
 Thomas Bell, *Vagueness*, 2006  
 Stephan Torre, *A Tenseless Account of Tensed Sentences and Tensed Belief*, 2008  
 Edward Abrams, *'Can' and Consequentialism: An Account of Options*, 2008  
 Namjoong Kim, *Sleeping Beauty and De Nunc Updating*, 2010  
 Sam Cowling, *Identity and the Limits of Possibility*, 2011  
 Barak Krakauer, *Counterpossibles*, 2011  
 Heidi Buetow, *Disagreement and the Semantics of Predicates of Personal Taste*, 2014  
 Josh Moulton, *The Path to Supersubstantivalism*, 2016  
 Jesse Fitts, *Meaning and Modality*, 2018.

Jordan Kroll, *Exploring the Easy Road to Nominalism*, 2018.

Cameron Gibbs, *A Defense of Hume's Dictum*, 2019.

Lu Chen, *Continua*, 2019.

Dennis Kavlakoglu, in progress.

Ryan Olsen, in progress.

Elham Faghanimehr, in progress.

Sam Schechter, in progress.

***Dissertation Committee Member***

Mark Aronsjahn, Anna Arregui (linguistics), Elle Benjamin, James Binkoski, Einar Bohn, Ben Bradley, Cruz Davis, Amy Rose Deal (linguistics), Justin Dealy, Jeff Dunn, Neil Feit, Ed Ferrier, Ilaria Frana (linguistics), Geoff Goddu, Patrick Grafton-Cardwell, Meghan Griffith, Darin Harootunian, Masashi Hashimoto (linguistics), Chris Heathwood, Jayme Johnson, Tim Juvshik, Daniel Kervick, Justin Klocksiem, Casey Knight, Mark Lucas, Dan Marshall (ANU), Meghan Masto, Kevin Moon, Keeyuk Nahm, Bailie Peterson, John Pogue, Paul Portner (linguistics), Jason Raibley, Michael Rubin, Roger Schwarzschild (linguistics), Jennifer Susse, Miles Tucker, Brandt van der Gaast, John Paul Vessel, Kai von Fintel (linguistics), Christopher Wahren (Yale).