

Paul Hovda
Curriculum Vitae

Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics, Logic, Philosophy of Language

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mathematics, History of Philosophy (particularly Ancient and Early Modern Metaphysics and Epistemology)

Education

B.A., University of Colorado at Boulder, *summa cum laude*, with majors in Philosophy and Mathematics, awarded June 1992.

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of California at Los Angeles, March 2001.

Dissertation: *The Nature and Logic of Vagueness*, David Kaplan, chair.

Academic and other Positions

Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, Reed College (2018–)

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, Reed College (2008–18)

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, Reed College (2002–2008)

Lecturer, Yale University, (2001–2002)

Software Engineer, Infoservice, Venice, Italy, 2000–2001

Publications

- (2017) Varieties of Parthood. In *Philosophical Logic: Current Trends in Asia*. Syraya Chin-Mu Yang, Kok Yong Lee, and Hiroakira Ono, editors. Springer.
- (2017) Review of Jason Turner's *The Facts in Logical Space*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. 2017.04.06.
- (2016) Parthood-Like Relations: Closure Principles and Connections to Some Axioms of Classical Mereology. *Philosophical Perspectives* 30 (1):183–197.
- (2014) Logical Considerations on Composition as Identity. In *Composition as Identity*, pp. 192–210, edited by Donald Baxter and Aaron Cotnoir, Oxford University Press.
- (2014) Natural Mereology and Classical Mereology. In *Mereology and the Sciences*, pp. 141–159, edited by Claudio Calosi and Pierluigi Graziani, Springer.
- (2013) Grounding Relation(s): Introduction. *Essays in Philosophy* 14 (1):1–6. With Troy Cross.
- (2013) (editor, with Troy Cross) Issue of *Essays in Philosophy* on Grounding Relation(s), Vol. 14, Iss. 1.
- (2013) Tensed mereology. *Journal of Philosophical Logic*. 42 (2):241–283.
- (2010) Semantics as information about semantic values. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 81.2, pp. 502–510. (Part of symposium on Kit Fine's *Semantic Relationism*.)
- (2009) Review of Kathrin Koslicki's *The Structure of Objects*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2009(4).
- (2009) What is classical mereology? *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 38(1), pp. 55–82.
- (2009) Kit Fine. In *A Companion to Metaphysics, Second Edition*, Kim, Sosa, and Rosenkrantz, eds. Blackwell.
- (2008) Quantifying weak emergence. *Minds and Machines* 18(4).

Presentations (since 2005)

(with Levy Wang) "The Content and Limits of Reality," November 9, 2018, Reed College.

Comments on Scott Dixon's "Relative Positionalism Revisited," Canadian Metaphysics Collaborative, October 2018.

"Composition and Indiscernibility," *Mereology and Identity*, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy, July 2017.

Comments on Jeff Russell's "Vague Existence," conference on Metaphysics in higher-order languages, New York Institute of Philosophy, May 2017.

Comments on Roberta Ballarín's "Names and Titles," Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, Spring 2017.

Comments on M. Oreste Fiocco's "Each Thing Is Fundamental: Against Hylomorphism and Hierarchical Structure," Metaphysics on the Mountain 2 (INPC), March 2017.

"Varieties of Parthood," AWPL-TPLC 2016, Taipei, Taiwan, October 2016; TMU, Tokyo, Japan, October 2016.

(with Janifa Guevara) "Routes to Logical Pluralism," Reed College, September 2016.

Comments on Guindon and Vertanen's "Originating at the Edge of Essence: A Skeptical Puzzle (and a Solution)," Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, Spring 2016.

"Parthood, Plurality, and Sets," California Metaphysics Conference, USC, January 2016.

Comments on Byeong-Uk Yi's "Cognition of the Many and Mathematical Knowledge," Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, April 2015.

"Explanation and Contingency." Colloquium talk at University of Victoria, September 2014.

"Finean mereology" at *Themes from Kit Fine* conference, NYU, January 2013.

Comments on Geoff Georgi's "Logic for Languages Containing Referentially Promiscuous Expressions." Northwest Philosophy Conference, October 2012.

Comments on Andrew Bailey's "A priority problem for the constituent solution." Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Spring 2011.

"The depth of the problem of the many." University of Idaho, December 2010.

Comments on Gillian Russell's "Indexicals, Context-Sensitivity, and the Failure of Implication." Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, 2010.

"The depth of the problem of the many." Auburn Philosophy Conference, Auburn University, February 2010.

"The significance of the problem of the many." University of Kansas, February 2010.

"Mereology and the problem of the many." Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, February 2010.

"Do we really exist?" Reed College, October 2009.

"The Problem of the Many," Lewis and Clark College, Fall 2007.

Comments on Matti Eklund's "Existence, Quantification and Shallow Ontology," 2007 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, March 2007.

"The Problem of the Many," Occidental College, March 2007.

Comments on Michael Nelson's "Breakin' the Law," 2006 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, March 2006.

Comments on Kit Fine's "Kripke's Puzzle About Belief," The Third Steven Humphrey Excellence in Philosophy Conference: "Advances in the Theory of Meaning", February 2006.

"Two defenses of Composition as Identity," 2005 Western Canada Philosophy Conference, October 2005. (Also delivered at Reed College September 2005.)

Comments on Ted Sider's "Parthood," 2005 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, March 2005.

Other Conference Participation

Session chair, Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, April 2023.

Invited participant and session chair, Metaphysics on the Mountain, Sun Valley Idaho, March 2020, rescheduled to virtual conference July 2020.

Invited participant, Metaphysics on the Mountain, Sun Valley Idaho, March 2013.

Session chair, Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, April 2010.

Invited participant, Philosophical Logic Conference, Princeton University, May 2009.

Invited participant, Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers, Summer 2008.

Awards

Ruby Grant (with Levy Wang and Troy Cross), Reed College, Summer 2018.

Paid Research Leave, Reed College 2016–17.

Ruby Grant (with Janifa Guevara), Reed College, Summer 2016.

Ruby Grant (with Mackenzie Sullivan and Troy Cross), Reed College, Summer 2014.

Paid Research Leave, Reed College 2009–10.

Paid Leave Award, Reed College, 2005.

Ruby Grant (with Mahrhad Almotahari), Reed College, Summer 2004. Vagueness and Metaphysics.

Professional service

Reviewer for:

Analysis

Australasian Journal of Philosophy

Journal of Philosophical Logic

Metaphysics

Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic

Oxford University Press

Philosophers' Imprint

Philosophical Papers

Philosophical Studies
Review of Symbolic Logic
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
Studia Logica
Synthese
Topics in Contemporary Philosophy
and others

Member of Program Committee for Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association (2009–2011).

Sole organizer, 55th Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, Fall 2003.

Theses advised (since 2008, at Reed College)

The way to here: a new approach to Wittgenstein and Asian philosophy. Yangdi (Jerry) Lu, 2022–3.

Asserting as committing. Joseph Puglisi Clark, 2021–22.

The semantics and pragmatics of pejorative terms. Joseph Rumelhart, 2021–22.

Engineering identity: ameliorative social construction of human kind concepts. Espen Swanson, 2020–21.

Rigor in philosophy and its relation to mathematical rigor. Yuta Kato, 2020–21.

This thesis is indeducible: approaches for justifying the consistency of Peano arithmetic after Gödel. Kayleigh Bangs, 2020–2021. Co-advised with Kyle Ormsby, Mathematics.

The categorical imperative: fulfilling freedom's law. Eduardo Navas, 2018–19.

Fundamentality and Friends. Tobias Rubel Janssen, 2018–19.

Mathematics as Fiction. Alyssa Riceman, 2018–19.

Mathematical structuralism and identification problems. Yevgeniya Zhukova, 2018–19.

The categorical imperative: fulfilling freedom's law. Eduardo Navas, 2017–19.

An analysis of thisness as object individuator. Levy Wang, 2017–18.

Tarski's quotation-function paradox: a genuine puzzle in natural language. Max Boddy, 2015–16.

Understanding misunderstanding: a rational reconstruction of reinterpretation. Justin Fishman, 2015–16.

Persistence and intrinsic change. Sanjeev Verma, 2015.

The Stages of Me, Myself, and 'I': Personal Identity Crises, Resolved. Molly LeCompte, 2014–15.

What grounds the direction of time? Charles Manset Mitchell, 2014–15.

An essay on metaphysical grounding. Mackenzie Sullivan 2013–2014. (Co-advised with Troy Cross, Philosophy.)

Parts, properties, and persistence: how objects persist in a relativistic setting. Brent Bailey, 2013–14.

Approaching epistemology through memory. Alexander Nord, 2013–14.

What does not compute? Finn O. Terdal, 2012–13.

The continuum hypothesis: a mathematico-philosophical exposition. Kelsey A. Houston-Edwards, 2012–13. (Co-advised with Tom Wieting, Mathematics.)

Gödel arguments and computationalism. Stephen C. Pastan, 2011–12.

The metaphysics of ordinary things. Alexander A. Dunn, 2011–12.

On the transcendental aspects of Kant's philosophy. Laura G. Tomlinson, 2010–11.

I tell you this as a friend...: love, friendship, and belief. Dustin Schmidt, 2010–11. (Co-advised with Steven Arkonovich, Philosophy.)

Composition & common sense. Thaddeus J. Woodman, 2008–09.

On the consistency of common sense and a kooky view. Rebecca Jade Ok, 2008–09.

Teaching (courses since Fall 2008, all at Reed College)

Humanities 110 (2010–11, 11–12, 13–14, 14–15, 18–19 (two sections), 19–20, 20–21, 21–22, 22–23)

PHIL 201 Logic (Spring 08, Fall 08, Fall 10, Spring 12, Spring 13 (two sections), Fall 13, Fall 14, Spring 16 (two sections), Spring 18, Fall 19, Spring 22)
 PHIL 201 Introduction to Metaphysics (Spring 09)
 PHIL 209 Minds, Computers, Worlds (Spring 23)
 PHIL 302 History of Modern Philosophy (Fall 08, Spring 11, Fall 15)
 PHIL 307 History of Analytic Philosophy (Fall 12, Spring 16)
 PHIL 320 Topics in Logic (Spring 21, Fall 22)
 PHIL 321 Modal Logic and Metaphysics (Fall 06, Spring 09, Spring 13, Spring 15, Fall 17, Spring 20)
 PHIL 411 Metaphysics: Ontology (Fall 21)
 PHIL 411 Metaphysics: The Material World (Spring 08, Fall 11)
 PHIL 411 Metaphysics: Structure and Grounding (Fall 17)
 PHIL 414 Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic (Fall 12, Fall 15, Spring 18, Fall 20)
 PHIL 418 / CLAS 303 Hellenistic Philosophy (with Walter Englert, Classics) (Fall 14)
 Senior Seminar (Fall 08)
 PHIL 481 Independent Study (Spring 16 (Set Theory), Fall 19 (Mathematical Structuralism))

Service at Reed College (since 2010)

Chair, Humanities 110 (Summer 2020–Spring 2023)
 Reactor (Fall 2022–Summer 2023)
 Member of Linguistics Department Visiting Position Search (Spring 2023)
 Legislation Committee, Community Affairs Committee (Fall 2019–Spring 2020)
 Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance (Fall 2017–Spring 2019). Chair (18–19), Co-chair (17–18).
 Member of Art Department Visiting Position Search (Spring 2018)
 Chair of Philosophy Department (July 2015 – June 2016)
 Member of Music Department Visiting Position Search (Spring 2016)
 Ad Hoc Committee on Community Governance (Fall 2015 – Spring 2016)

Committee on Academic Planning and Policy (elected) (Fall 2014 – Spring 2016), Chair (Fall 2014 – 15)

Member of Linguistics Department Visiting Position Search (Spring 2015)

Member of Strategic Planning Working Group on Community Governance (Fall 2013 – Spring 2014)

Chair of Appeals Board (Fall 2010 – Spring 2013); member (Fall 2013–Spring 2014)

Chair of Ad Hoc Committee to write Discriminatory Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy (Summer 2013)

Chair of Community Affairs Committee (Fall 2010 – Spring 2013), Member (Fall 2013 – Spring 2014)

Chair of Reed Union Committee (Fall 2010 – Spring 2012)

Chair of Philosophy Department Visiting Position Search (Spring 2011)

Member of Linguistics Department Visiting Position Search (Spring 2011)