

Eric Swanson

eric.swanson@gmail.com
<https://counterexamples.github.io>

Academic	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	
Appointments	Professor of Philosophy and Linguistics (by courtesy)	2019–
	Faculty Affiliate, Michigan Institute for Data Science	2023–
	Faculty Affiliate, Digital Studies Institute	2019–
	Faculty Affiliate, Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	2013–
	Faculty Affiliate, Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science	2013–
	James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow in Philosophy	2012–
	Faculty Associate, Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies	2009–
	Associate Professor of Philosophy and Linguistics (by courtesy)	2012–2019
	Assistant Professor of Philosophy	2006–2012
Education	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	
	Ph.D. in Philosophy, Minor in Linguistics	2006
	Tufts University, M.A. in Philosophy	2001
	Yale University, M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures	1999
	Bard College, B.A. in Literature	1997
Publications	“Communicating about Ethics with AI”	In preparation
	In <i>Communicating with AI: Philosophical Perspectives</i> , edited by Herman Cappelen and Rachel Sterken. Oxford University Press.	
	“Slurs and Ideologies”	Forthcoming
	In <i>Analyzing Ideology: Rethinking the Concept</i> , edited by Robin Celikates, Sally Haslanger, and Jason Stanley. Oxford University Press.	
	“Language and Ideology”	2021
	In <i>The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language</i> , edited by Justin Khoo and Rachel Sterken. Routledge.	
	“Channels for Common Ground”	2020
	<i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> , vol. 104, issue 1: 171–185. DOI: 10.1111/phpr.12741	
	“Omissive Implicature”	2017
	<i>Philosophical Topics</i> , vol. 45, no. 2: 117–137, edited by Jason Stanley. DOI: 10.5840/philtopics201745216	
	Critical Notice of Jason Stanley’s <i>How Propaganda Works</i>	2017
	<i>Mind</i> , vol. 126, no. 503: 937–947. DOI: 10.1093/mind/fzw045	
	“Indeterminacy in Causation”	2017
	<i>Philosophical Quarterly</i> , vol. 67, no. 268: 606–624. DOI: 10.1093/pq/pqw068	

- “Probability in Philosophy of Language” 2016
 In *The Oxford Handbook of Probability and Philosophy*, pp. 772–788.
 Alan Hájek and Chris Hitchcock, editors. Oxford University Press.
- “The Application of Constraint Semantics to the Language of Subjective Uncertainty” 2016
Journal of Philosophical Logic, vol. 45, no. 2: 121–146.
 DOI: 10.1007/s10992-0159367-5
- “Ordering Supervaluationism, Counterpart Theory, and Ersatz Fundamentality” 2014
Journal of Philosophy, vol. 109, no. 6: 289–310.
- “Subjunctive Biscuit and Stand-Off Conditionals” 2013
Philosophical Studies, vol. 163, no. 3: 637–648.
 DOI: 10.1007/s11098-011-9836-9
- “Conditional Excluded Middle without the Limit Assumption” 2012
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, vol. 85, no. 2: 301–321.
 DOI: 10.1111/j.1933-1592.2011.00507.x
- “The Language of Causation” 2012
 In *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Language*, edited by Delia Graff Fara and Gillian Russell, pp. 716–728.
- “Propositional Attitudes” 2012
 In *Semantics: An International Handbook of Natural Language Meaning*, vol. 2, edited by Claudia Maienborn, Klaus von Heusinger, and Paul Portner, pp. 1538–1561. Mouton de Gruyter.
- “On the Treatment of Incomparability in Ordering Semantics and Premise Semantics” 2011
Journal of Philosophical Logic, vol. 40, no. 6: 693–713.
 DOI: 10.1007/s10992-0109157-z
- “How Not to Theorize about the Language of Subjective Uncertainty” 2011
 In *Epistemic Modality*, edited by Andy Egan and Brian Weatherson, pp. 249–269. Oxford University Press.
- “Lessons from the Context Sensitivity of Causal Talk” 2010
Journal of Philosophy, vol. 107, no. 5: 221–242.
- “Structurally Defined Alternatives and Lexicalizations of XOR” 2010
Linguistics and Philosophy, vol. 33, no. 1 (2010): 31–36.
 DOI: 10.1007/s10988-010-9074-1
- “On Scope Relations between Quantifiers and Epistemic Modals” 2010
Journal of Semantics, vol. 27, no. 4: 529–540. DOI: 10.1093/jos/ffq010

	Review of <i>Reflections on Meaning</i> , by Paul Horwich <i>Philosophical Review</i> , vol. 118, no. 1 (2009): 131–134.	2009
	“Modality in Language” <i>Philosophy Compass</i> , vol. 3, no. 6: 1193–1207. DOI: 10.1111/j.1747-9991.2008. 00177.x	2008
	“A Note on Gibbard’s ‘Rational Credence and the Value of Truth’” <i>Oxford Studies in Epistemology</i> , vol. 2, edited by Tamar Szabó Gendler and John Hawthorne: 179–189.	2007
	“Biscuit Conditionals and Common Ground” Second North American Summer School in Language, Logic and Information Student Session Proceedings: 26–34.	2003
Talks	“Pro Tanto Commitments in Natural Language” Wayne State University, Philosophy and Linguistics Colloquium	2025
	“Four Kinds of Normative Tension and the Semantics of Modals” PhLiP (Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy)	2025
	“AI Ethics, Commitment Positioning, and Embodiment” Sight Machine, Ann Arbor / San Francisco	2025
	“Non-Ideal Philosophy of Language and the Space of Pro Tanto Reasons” The Non-Ideal Philosophy of Language Workshop , Boston University	2024
	“‘If You See Something, Say Something’: Legitimization and Its Dynamics” Colloquium series on common ground at the University of Tübingen	2024
	“Teaching (Philosophy) in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” New Currents in Teaching Philosophy, Council of Independent Colleges	2023
	“A New Reconstruction of Raz on Committed, Detached, and External Utterances” Philosophy Desert Workshop	2023
	“Teaching <i>Minds and Machines</i> ” <i>New Currents in Teaching Philosophy</i> , Council of Independent Colleges	2021, 2022
	“‘If You See Something, Say Something’: On the Dynamics of Deniable Possibility Raising” Guest at a seminar taught by Josh Dever, University of Texas, Austin	2021
	HaLO Conference, Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft	2021
	UNC / NCSU Workshop on Social and Political Philosophy of Language	2020

“‘Black Lives Matter’ and ‘White People Are Anxious’: A Case for Pragmatic Particularism” 4th International Congress of the American Pragmatics Association Guest at a seminar taught by Lynne Tirrell, University of Pittsburgh	2018 2018
“Three Kinds of Indeterminacy in Normative Modals” 7th CSLI Workshop on Logic, Rationality, and Intelligent Interaction	2018
“Implicature, Authority, and the Social” Language and Authority Conference, Yale University	2018
“‘Unless That’s Racist,’ If I’m Not Mistaken” Tufts University	2018
“Assorted Biscuits and Conversational Implicatures” Workshop on Biscuit Conditionals, jointly organized by the Konstanz research group <i>What If</i>, the Konstanz Emmy Noether group <i>What is it to ask a question?</i>, and the Hamburg Emmy Noether group <i>Ontology after Quine</i>	2017
“‘Black Lives Matter,’ ‘White People Are Anxious,’ and Omissive Implicature” Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS)	2017
“Dilemmas, Conflicts, and Gaps: Three Varieties of Normative Indeterminacy” The Third Varieties of Normativity Workshop, Uppsala University	2017
“Channels for Common Ground” ConceptLab Meaning Innovation and Meaning Change Workshop, University of Oslo	2017
“Political Context Setting” University of Pittsburgh	2016
“Metaethics Without Semantics: Presupposition, Force, and Ideology in Ethical Appraisal” University of California, Davis	2016
“Omissive Implicature” PhLiP (Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy)	2016
“Metaethics Without Semantics” Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference	2016
“Context and Community” Social and Political Philosophy of Language Roundtable Bob Stalnaker Celebration, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2016

“Slurs and Ideologies”	
Michigan Faculty Forum, University of Michigan Law School	2020
Michigan / Mellon Project on the Egalitarian Metropolis	2016
Yale Ideology Conference	2016
SIUCC XXIV, University of Valladolid	2015
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference	2015
“Causal Distribution: The Logic of Counterfactuals Reflected in the Logic of Causation”	
Second Annual California Metaphysics Conference, USC	2013
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2012
“Imperative Force in the English Modal System”	
Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics	2012
“Context Setting”	
University of Toronto	2011
University of St. Andrews	2011
“Ordering Supervaluationism, Counterpart Theory, and Ersatz Fundamentality”	
Carolina Metaphysics Workshop	2011
“Constraint Semantics and the Language of Subjective Uncertainty”	
Chambers Philosophy Conference, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	2010
Guest speaker at a seminar taught by Daniel Rothschild, Yale University	2008
“Counterpart Theory and Limit Assumptions”	
Summer Seminar Tenth Anniversary Reunion Conference	
University of Colorado, Boulder	2009
“Conditional Excluded Middle (and Causal Decision Theory) without the Limit Assumption”	
Second Formal Epistemology Festival, University of Michigan	2009
“Incomparability and Ordering Semantics for Modals and Counterfactuals”	
Rutgers Semantics Workshop	2009
“Lessons from the Context Sensitivity of Causal Talk”	
Guest speaker at a seminar taught by Sam Cumming	
University of California, Los Angeles	2009
“Constraint Semantics and its Application to Conditionals”	
First Formal Epistemology Festival, University of Konstanz	2008
“Something ‘Might’ Might Mean”	
University of California, Berkeley	2006
Harvard University	2006
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	2006
Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference	2005

	"Frege's Puzzle and the Presuppositions of Proper Names"	
	APA Central Division Meeting	2005
	Brown Graduate Philosophy Conference	2004
	56th Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference	2004
	"Common Attitudes"	
	APA Pacific Division Meeting	2005
	University of Rochester Graduate Epistemology Conference	2004
	"Supposition and Compartmentalization"	
	APA Eastern Division Meeting	2004
	"Demonstratives as Pronouns"	
	Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference	2004
	University of Pittsburgh-Carnegie Mellon Graduate Philosophy Conference	2004
	"A Friendly Amendment to the Standard Analysis of Supposition"	
	University of Colorado, Boulder Graduate Philosophy Conference	2004
	CUNY Graduate Philosophy Conference	2004
	University of Miami Graduate Epistemology Conference	2004
	"Biscuit Conditionals and Common Ground"	
	North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information	2003
Commentaries	"The Behavior Grounding Problem, Commitment, and Co-participation" (On Peter Railton's "Real Ethics for Artificial Agents")	
	Michigan Law and Philosophy Workshop	2024
	"Capacious Outputs"	
	(On Frank Pasquale's "Power and Knowledge in Policy Evaluation: From Managing Budgets to Analyzing Scenarios")	
	Michigan Law, Philosophy, and Social Theory Colloquium	2023
	"Flailing about 'Try' "	
	(On Ben Holguín and Harvey Lederman's "Trying without Fail")	
	Ranch Metaphysics Workshop	2023
	On Robin Dembroff's "Oppressive Categories"	
	Ranch Metaphysics Workshop	2018
	On David Boylan's "What the Future 'Might' Brings"	
	Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference	2017
	On David Pizarro's "Disgust as a Metaphor for Moral Disapproval"	
	Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy	2016
	On Ana Arregui's "On Indexical Anchoring in Conditionals"	
	Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics	2012

	On Dilip Ninan's "Counterfactual Attitudes and Assignment-Sensitivity"	2011
	Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics	
	On Eliza Block's "Is the Symmetry Problem Really a Problem?"	2008
	Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics	
	On Adrian Brasoveanu's "Anaphora to Quantificational Dependencies"	2007
	Rutgers Semantics Workshop	
	On Sam Cumming's "Hypercontexts"	2007
	Rutgers Semantics Workshop	
	On Martina Faller's "Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality at the Semantics / Pragmatics Interface"	2006
	Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics	
	On Michael Blome-Tillmann's "Epistemic Contextualism and the Error-Theory Objection"	2005
	Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference	
Panels	Living with AI: The Future of Man and Machine	
	A Virtual AI Conference, Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia	2025
	Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom: A Panel Discussion	
	A MIDAS Data and AI in Society Forum, University of Michigan	2023
Undergraduate Teaching	Minds and Machines	
	Philosophy of Language and Artificial Intelligence	
	Social and Political Philosophy of Language	
	Problems of Philosophy	
	Causation, Responsibility, and the Force of Language in <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i>	
	Philosophy and Narrative	
	Introduction to Formal Philosophical Methods	
	Introduction to Symbolic Logic	
	Introductory Logic	
	Philosophy of Language	
	Language and Mind	
Graduate Teaching	Metasemantics and Normative Language	
	Candidacy Seminar	
	Language and the Law	
	Proseminar	
	Language, Ideology, and Ideologues	
	Social and Political Philosophy of Language	
	Underdetermination	
	Discourse Constraints on Anaphora	
	The Analysis, Representation, and Ascription of Belief	

Graduate Supervision	Dissertation committee member for L. R. “Nik” Nikolai (Michigan Linguistics): <i>Modals of American Sign Language (ASL)</i>	
	Dissertation committee member for Csilla Tatár (Michigan Linguistics): <i>The Prosodic and Information Structural Underpinnings of Co-Speech and Speech Gesture Alignment in Hungarian</i>	
	Dissertation examiner for Oscar Sannen (University of Sydney Philosophy): <i>Proof and Context</i>	2025
	Dissertation committee member for Kevin Craven: <i>Mistaken Identity: Conceptual Change, Pragmatism, and the Truth About Gender</i>	2023
	Dissertation committee member for Rebecca Harrison: <i>Negotiating What We Do With Words: A Social Contestation Theory of Speech Acts</i>	2023
	Dissertation committee member for Chris Campbell (Michigan Political Science): <i>Rhetoric, Plurality, and Political Production</i>	2021
	Postdoctoral mentor for Guillermo Del Pinal Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science, University of Michigan	2017–2019
	Dissertation committee member for Sam Berstler (Yale Philosophy): <i>What We Can Say to Each Other</i>	2019
	Dissertation committee member for Adam Marushak (Pittsburgh Philosophy): <i>Reasons and Modals</i>	2018
	Dissertation committee member for Catharine St. Croix: <i>Non-Ideal Epistemology in a Social World</i>	2018
	Dissertation committee chair for Daniel Drucker: <i>Attitudes Beyond Belief: A Theory of Rational Non-Doxastic Attitude Formation and Evaluation</i>	2017
	Dissertation committee member for Patrick Shirreff: <i>What We Can Do with Words: Essays on the Relationship Between Linguistic and Non-Linguistic Theorizing</i>	2017
	Dissertation committee member for Rohan Sud: <i>Vagueness in a Precise World: Essays on Metaphysical Vagueness</i>	2016
	Dissertation committee member for Alex Silk: <i>What Normative Terms Mean and Why It Matters for Ethical Theory</i>	2013
	Dissertation committee member for Nate Charlow: <i>Practical Language: Its Meaning & Use</i>	2011

	Dissertation committee member for Dustin Tucker: <i>Propositions and Paradoxes</i>	2011
	Dissertation committee chair for Eduardo García-Ramírez: <i>Proper Names, A Cognitive-Philosophical Study</i>	2010
	Dissertation committee member for Ivan Mayerhofer: <i>Talk about Coming into Existence</i>	2010
Professional Service	Area Editor for <i>Ergo</i> (Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence)	2025–
	Central APA Program Committee	2025–2026
	Member of the Editorial Panel for <i>Thought</i>	2024–
	Member of the Editorial Board for the <i>Journal of Philosophical Logic</i>	2020–
	Consulting editor for <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i>	2019–2021
	Member of the Program Committee for PhLiP V (Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy)	2018
	Co-editor of the <i>Journal of Philosophical Logic</i>	2017–2020
	Nominating editor of the <i>Philosopher's Annual</i>	2017–
	Organizer of the Marshall M. Weinberg Symposium on Neurolaw	2014
	Member of the Editorial Board for <i>Linguistics and Philosophy</i>	2012–
	Member of the Editorial Board for <i>Semantics and Pragmatics</i>	2011–
	Co-organizer of the Third Formal Epistemology Festival, on Learning from Experience and Defeasible Reasoning, with Franz Huber and Jonathan Weisberg	2010
	Co-organizer of the Second Formal Epistemology Festival, on Causal Decision Theory and Scoring Rules, with Franz Huber and Jonathan Weisberg	2009
	Co-organizer of Discourse Constraints on Anaphora: An Interdisciplinary Seminar and Conference, with Ezra Keshet Sponsored by the Marshall M. Weinberg Fund for Graduate Seminars in Cognitive Science	2009
	Co-editor of <i>Conditionals and Ranking Functions</i> (a special issue of <i>Erkenntnis</i>) with Franz Huber and Jonathan Weisberg	2009

Philosophical Gourmet Report Department Evaluator	2008
and Area Evaluator for Philosophy of Language and Epistemology	2011

Co-organizer of the First Formal Epistemology Festival, on Conditionals and Ranking Functions, with Franz Huber and Jonathan Weisberg	2008
--	------

Co-organizer of the Harvard-MIT-UConn Workshop on Indexicals, Speech Reports, and Logophors, with Pranav Anand, Andrew Nevins, and Yael Sharvit	2004
--	------

Reviewer for the Amsterdam Colloquium*; *Analytic Philosophy*; *Analysis**; *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy**; *The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic, and Communication*; the Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference*; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience; Deutscher Kongress für Philosophie; *Dialectica**; *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics (Third Edition)*; *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*; *Ethics*; *Ergo**; *Erkenntnis**; Freie Universität Berlin, Dahlem Postdoctoral Fellowship Program; International Congress of Linguists*; *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*; *Journal of Philosophical Logic*; *Journal of Philosophy**; *Journal of Pragmatics*; *Journal of Semantics**; *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*; *Linguistics and Philosophy**; *Mind**; *Natural Language Semantics*; *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*; *Noûs**; *Oxford Studies in Epistemology*; Oxford University Press*; *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly**; Palgrave Macmillan; *Philosophers' Imprint**; *Philosophical Exchange*; *Philosophical Quarterly**; *Philosophical Review**; *Philosophical Studies**; *Philosophy Compass*; *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research**; *Ratio*; Research Committee of Lingnan University; *Res Philosophica*; *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)**; *Semantics and Pragmatics**; *Social Theory and Practice*; *Southern Journal of Philosophy*; Springer; *Studia Logica*; *Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy**; *Synthese**; *Theoria*; *Thought**; University of Vienna REWIRE (Reinforcing Women in Research) Fellowship Program, the Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference*. (** indicates that I have refereed multiple submissions.)

Reviewer for various tenure and promotion cases

University Service	Philosophy Graduate Admissions Committee	2025–
	Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science Graduate Certificate Committee	2025–
	Philosophy Course Scheduler	2024–
	Philosophy Placement Director	2022–2025
	Linguistics Promotion Review Panel Chair	2024
	Philosophy Third Year Review Panel	2024
	University of Michigan Artificial Intelligence Research Committee; Ethics Subcommittee	2023–2024
	Philosophy Events Chair	2021–2022
	Philosophy and DAAS Promotion Review Panel Chair	2021

	Philosophy Graduate Studies Committee	2021
	Graduate Student Instructor Training and Evaluation Committee	2020–2021
	Philosophy Promotion Review Panel	2020
	Philosophy Graduate Studies Committee	2017–2019
	Philosophy Ombudsperson	2017–2019
	Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science Graduate Certificate Committee	2016–2019
	LSA Information Technology Faculty Advisory Committee	2015–2019
	Linguistics Tenure Review Panel	2014
	Philosophy Course Scheduler	2013–2019
	Philosophy Graduate Admissions Committee Chair	2012–2013
	Philosophy Graduate Admissions Committee	2008–2014
	University of Michigan Senate Assembly Alternate	2010–2011
	Philosophy Undergraduate Studies Committee	2006–2010
	Philosophy Faculty Recruitment Committee	2006–2007
Awards and Grants	Michigan Housing Honored Instructor	2020
	University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Associate Professor Support Fund	2017–2018
	Fellowships awarded, but declined for family reasons Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship Stanford Humanities Center External Faculty Fellowship	2013–2014
	Marshall M. Weinberg Fund for Graduate Seminars in Cognitive Science \$42,000 to support a co-taught seminar and a conference on issues in philosophy, linguistics, and other cognitive sciences	2009
	University of Michigan, Office of the Vice President for Research Small Grants to Support Major Conferences \$2,455 to support the Second Formal Epistemology Festival, described above	2009
	University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Organize an Event Grant \$2,500 to support the Second Formal Epistemology Festival, described above	2009

Rackham Graduate School Dean's Strategic Funding for Conferences 2009
\$1,000 to support the Second Formal Epistemology Festival, described above

Last updated October 2025