

Research contributions

1. Relevant research contributions over the last six years

Refereed contributions

The Routledge Handbook of Propositions, co-edited with Chris Tillman. London: Routledge 2022.

‘Propositional Dependence and Perspectival Shift’, in Chris Tillman and Adam Russell Murray, editors, *The Routledge Handbook of Propositions*, pp. 393-407. London: Routledge 2022.

‘Relativized Metaphysical Modality: Index and Context’, with Benj Hellie and Jessica M. Wilson, in Otávio Bueno and Scott Shalkowski, editors, *The Routledge Handbook of Modality*, pp. 82–99. London: Routledge, 2020. (Note: Hellie was the primary drafter of this article; all other co-authored publications are equal.)

Non-refereed contributions (academic talks and commentaries)

2022 Barcan formulas and the limits of possibility: University of Lisbon (Language, Mind and Cognition research group)

Selection and propositional structure: with Chris Tillman, Sixth Italian Conference on Analytic Metaphysics and Ontology, L’Aquila, Italy

2020 Being constraints in modal metaphysics: University of Barcelona (Logos Research Center in Analytic Philosophy) (postponed due to COVID-19)

2019 Modality and propositional dependence: Analytic Philosophy Workshop, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea

Propositional dependence and perspectival shift: Birmingham Higher-Order Metaphysics Workshop, Birmingham University, Birmingham, U.K.

$N \rightarrow E$: with Chris Tillman, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (department colloquium)

Symposium talk on modal paradox: American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (invited)

Symposium talk on propositional dependence: Canadian Philosophical Association, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada (invited)

Comments on Juvshik, Against a neo-Quinean metaontology: Canadian Philosophical Association, University of British Columbia

Comments on Ganson, Causally idle objects of perception: American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Denver CO.

Comments on LaCroix, Reference by proxy and truth-in-a-model: Western Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Calgary

2018 Eternal existents: Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Canada

Existence and nonexistence in modal perspectivism, Society for Exact Philosophy, University of Connecticut

Tolerance puzzles in modal metaphysics: Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey (department colloquium; invited)

Chisholm's Paradox: The University of Manitoba (department colloquium; invited)

Comments on Woods, Many, but almost one: Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal

2017 Dependence in the necessary framework of objects: Canadian Philosophical Association, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

2016 Modal dependence: Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey (Department colloquium; invited)

2. Other research contributions

Dissertation: *Perspectives on Modal Metaphysics*; Supervisors: Benj Hellie and Jessica Wilson; Readers: Nate Charlow and Nick Stang; External Examiner: Louis deRosset. University of Toronto, 2017.

3. Most significant career research contributions

1. 'Relativized Metaphysical Modality', with Jessica Wilson, in Karen Bennett and Dean Zimmerman, editors, *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* 7, 189–226. 2012.

This article develops the founding insight of the RMM program in modal metaphysics, according to which matters of metaphysical possibility and necessity are best understood as relativized to a 'modal perspective' (a possibility considered as-actual). The article develops that insight in service of a novel solution to 'Chisholm's Paradox' of material origins essentialism, and to a related 'undermining' puzzle arising for a robust necessitarian theory of laws.

2. 'Relativized Metaphysical Modality: Index and Context', with Benj Hellie and Jessica M. Wilson, in Otávio Bueno and Scott Shalkowski, editors, *The Routledge Handbook of Modality*, pp. 82–99. London: Routledge. 2020.

This article further develops RMM in connection with a cluster of modal puzzles, concerning material origins, natural laws, and ontology, respectively, each arising against the backdrop of a particular sub-fragment of a quantified modal language (the language of quantified S5 with identity). These puzzles have long been viewed as reflecting a fundamental tension between intuitive metaphysics and simple (quantified) modal logic and semantics. But we show how the puzzles all arise on the basis of a systematic conflation between as-actual and as-counterfactual modal perspective. Incorporating this basic two-dimensionalist insight into modal theorizing reconciles simple modal logic with intuitive metaphysics.

3. 'Propositional Dependence and Perspectival Shift', in Chris Tillman and Adam Russell Murray, editors, *The Routledge Handbook of Propositions*, pp. 393-407. London: Routledge. 2022.

This article elaborates upon the significance of RMM for debates in 'higher-order' metaphysics concerning the existence and nonexistence of singular ('object-involving') properties and propositions. Here, a contingentist view is called upon by the apparent ontological dependence of singular propositions upon their individual subject-matters, whereas a necessitist view is supported by more general and systematic considerations pertaining to the metaphysics of predication and higher-order

quantification. But the tension is merely apparent, and arises only on the basis of a strictly as-counterfactual perspective on the space of metaphysical possibility. I show instead how intuitions supporting the dependence idea can be preserved in a higher-order necessitist setting by representing the space of possible worlds (and subsets thereof) as relativized to an as-actual perspective.

4. Career interruptions and special circumstances

My productivity slowed temporarily during 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and certain family-related difficulties.

5. Contributions to training

Research supervision I have supervised or co-supervised the work of the following students:

Greg Glatz (co-supervisor, current): MA thesis on debunking arguments in epistemology

Ursula Chojko-Bolec (supervisor, completed): MA research project on practical rationality; now Law at University of Alberta

Harley Dyck (primary supervisor, completed): MA thesis project on aesthetics and the theory of symbolic forms; now professionally employed

Julia Minarik (examiner (MA thesis); earlier co-supervisor, completed): MA research project on the metaphysics and aesthetics of tattoos; now PhD student at Toronto

Tumpa Bithy (co-supervisor, completed): MA thesis on Russelianism and the problem of empty names; now professionally employed

Lucas Bennett (supervisor, at Toronto, completed): undergraduate research project on the ontology of fiction and semantics of fictional names; now data scientist with Deloitte

Other contributions to training

Acting graduate chair and general academic supervisor: University of Manitoba Department of Philosophy; July 2019–January 2021

Faculty assessor: University of Manitoba Undergraduate Research Awards; Fall 2018–2020

Co-organizer (with Belinda Piercy): University of Toronto Undergraduate Research Conference; Spring 2017 and 2018

Department teacher-training coordinator: University of Toronto Graduate Department of Philosophy (for first-time instructors, teaching assistants, and graders); Fall and Spring semesters 2016–2018