



Metaphysics

The Sanders Prize in Metaphysics is administered by [Dean Zimmerman](#), Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University and co-editor of *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*.

This contest is now open! Deadline is January 31, 2026.

All submissions should be sent to osm@philosophy.rutgers.edu.

Current Competition Details

The Marc Sanders Prize in Metaphysics is a biennial essay competition open to scholars who are within fifteen (15) years of receiving a Ph.D. or students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program. Independent scholars may also be eligible and should direct inquiries to [Dean Zimmerman](#) at dwzimmer@rci.rutgers.edu. The award for the prize-winning essay is \$5,000 and winning essays will be published in *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*. Submitted essays must present original research in metaphysics. Essays should be between 7,500 and 15,000 words. Since winning essays will appear in *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, submissions must not be under review elsewhere.

To be eligible for the next prize in 2026, submissions must be received, electronically. Refereeing will be blind; authors should omit remarks and references that might disclose their identities. **The deadline for this prize is January 31, 2026; all submissions should be sent to osm@philosophy.rutgers.edu.** Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged by email. The winner will be determined by a committee of members of the Editorial Board of *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* and will be announced by late-March. Inquiries should be directed to [Dean Zimmerman](#) and [Karen Bennett](#), co-editor of *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, at dwzimmer@rci.rutgers.edu.

Prize Winners



2024 Winner

Andrew Y. Lee, University of Toronto
Title: ["A Puzzle About Sums"](#)



The 2024 Sanders Prize in Metaphysics has concluded, and we are pleased to announce that the winning essay is “A Puzzle about Sums,” by Andrew Yuan Lee of the University of Toronto.

The selection committee—consisting of Dean Zimmerman, Karen Bennett, and Jason Turner—was faced with a challenging job. There were many worthy essays among the 39 submissions, including these runners-up (in no particular order): “Distinctions with a Difference,” by Alexander Roberts; “Permeating Properties,” by Erica Shumener; and “Matter and Mereology,” by Jeremy Goodman.

Author Bio:

[Andrew Y. Lee](#) is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. His main line of research examines how structural concepts—such as degrees, dimensions, continuity, discreteness, parts, wholes, isomorphisms, and state-spaces—can be applied to conscious experiences. But he’s interested in many philosophical topics, including also infinite sums, locations, value, welfare, perception, introspection, attention, and analog representation.

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2022 Winners

David Builes, Princeton University, and **Michele Odisseas Impagnatiello**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Title: [An Empirical Argument for Presentism](#)



Congratulations to David Builes (Princeton) and Michele Odisseas Impagnatiello (MIT) for winning the 2022 Sanders Prize in Metaphysics! Judges found this essay to be a creative, original model of scientifically informed metaphysics, explaining what is needed from physics in the simplest terms, while still allowing the authors to make their case.

Author Bios:

David Builes is currently an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. Previously, he was a Bersoff Faculty Fellow at New York University, and he received his PhD in philosophy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2020. His main research interests are in metaphysics and epistemology, with overlapping interests in philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, and philosophy of mathematics.

Michele Odisseas Impagnatiello is a fifth year PhD student in the MIT Philosophy department. He is interested in metaphysics, epistemology, rationality and how they intersect.

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2020 Winner

Martin Pickup, University of Oxford
Title: ["The Situationalist Account of Change" \(PDF\)](#)

Congratulations to [Martin Pickup](#), Turpin Junior Research Fellow at Oriel College, Oxford, for winning the 2020 Sanders Metaphysics Prize. Dr. Pickup works primarily in metaphysics, early modern philosophy, and the philosophy of religion.

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2020 Honorable Mention

Han Sungil, Seoul National University
Title: ["Essence and Thisness"](#)

Abstract forthcoming



2018 Winner

Harjit Singh Bhogal, University of Maryland, College Park

Title: ["Nomothetic Explanation and Humeanism about Laws of Nature" \(PDF\)](#).

Congratulations to [Harjit Singh Bhogal](#), Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University Maryland, College Park, for winning the 2018 Sanders Metaphysics Prize. Dr. Bhogal works primarily in the philosophy of science and metaphysics.

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2017 Winner

Scott Dixon, Ashoka University

Title: ["Plural Slot Theory" \(PDF forthcoming\)](#).

The Marc Sanders Foundation wishes to congratulate [Scott Dixon](#), the 2017 winner of the Sanders Prize in Metaphysics for his paper "Plural Slot Theory". This year, there was a particularly large and strong pool from which to choose.

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2016 Winner

Andrew Bacon, University of Southern California

Title: ["Relative Locations" \(PDF\)](#).

This year's winner is [Andrew Bacon](#) (USC) for his essay "Relative Locations" which will be published in Oxford Studies in Metaphysics next year. There were 45 entries for the prize, many of which were excellent. The panel of judges included Karen Bennet, Cian Dorr, Bradford

Skow, Meghan Sullivan, Jason Turner, and Jessica Wilson.

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2015 Winner

Jon Litland, University of Texas at Austin
Title: [“Grounding Ground” \(PDF\)](#)

With the help of a panel of judges including [Louis deRosset](#), [Daniel Nolan](#), [Kris McDaniel](#), and [Karen Bennett](#), the editorial board of Oxford Studies in Metaphysics has awarded the 2015 Sanders Prize in Metaphysics to [Jon Litland](#) for his essay “Grounding Ground.” Jon Litland is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas, Austin.

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2014 Winner

Nick Kroll, Franklin & Marshall College
Title: [“Teleological Dispositions” \(PDF forthcoming\)](#)

With the help of judges [Laurie Paul](#), [Karen Bennett](#), [Ross Cameron](#), and [Elizabeth Barnes](#), the editorial board of Oxford Studies in Metaphysics has selected [Nick Kroll](#) as the winner of the 2014 Sanders Prize in Metaphysics for his essay “Teleological Dispositions.” Nick Kroll is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Franklin & Marshall College.

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2013 Winner

Louis deRosset, University of Vermont

Title: [“Analyticity and Ontology” \(PDF\)](#)

With the help of judges [Kathrin Koslicki](#), [Jonathan Schaffer](#), and [Jason Turner](#), the editorial board of Oxford Studies in Metaphysics has selected [Louis deRosset](#) as the winner of the 2013 Sanders Prize in Metaphysics for his essay “Analyticity and Ontology.” Louis de Rosset is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Vermont and interim Department Chair.

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2012 Winner

Nicholas Jones, Merton College, Oxford

Title: [“Multiple Constitution” \(PDF\)](#)

[Jonathan Schaffer](#), [Karen Bennett](#), and [Jason Turner](#) served as the 2012 judges for The Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholar Prize. This year there were a total of 49 essays competing to be included in a future Volume of Oxford Studies in Metaphysics. The judges identified several excellent candidates, including three runner-up essays: “Vague Existence” by Alessandro Torza (UNAM), “Half-Hearted Humeanism” by Aaron Segal (Notre Dame), and “Paraphrase, Semantics, and Ontology” by John Keller (Niagra University). Ultimately, the judges determined [Nicholas Jones](#)’s essay “Multiple Constitution” be awarded first prize.

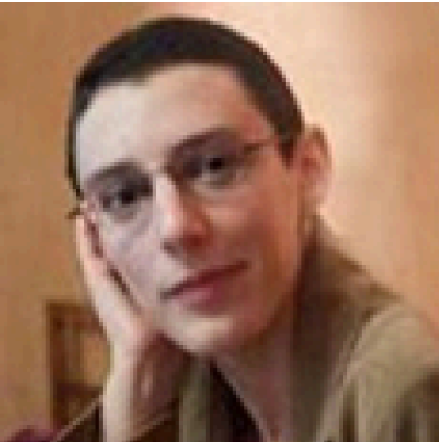


2011 Winner

Shamik Dasgupta, Princeton University

Title: [“Absolutism vs. Compatativism About Quantity” \(PDF\)](#)

This year the Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholar Prize attracted 44 essays, submitted by scholars at various stages in their careers. Most participants were recent Ph.D.s, but there were many graduate students, and a few tenured associate professors as well. The judges, [Kris McDaniel](#), [Laurie Paul](#), and [Hud Hudson](#), found much to like in the submissions, and several runners-up were identified as good candidates for inclusion in a future volume of OSM, including “Composition is Identity” by Aaron Cotnoir and “Fundamental Properties of Fundamental Properties” by Maya Eddon. The judges eventually converged upon [Shamik Dasgupta](#)’s paper, “Absolutism vs. Comparativism about Quantity.”

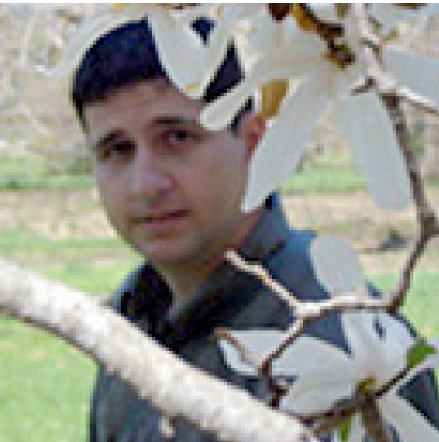


2010 Winner

R.A. Briggs, University of Sydney, (L)
Graeme A. Forbes, Sheffield University (R) T
Title: [“The Real Truth About the Unreal Future” \(PDF\)](#)



With over 50 essays to choose from, the judges of the 2010 Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholar Prize once again faced a difficult decision. The winning essay was “The Real Truth About the Unreal Future,” by [R.A. Briggs](#) (a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Sydney) and [Graeme A. Forbes](#) (a graduate student at Sheffield University). Several other excellent essays from this year’s competition will, along with the winner, be published in volume 7 of Oxford Studies in Metaphysics; including Troy Cross’s “Goodbye, Humean Supervenience” and Joshua Spencer’s “All Things Must Pass.”

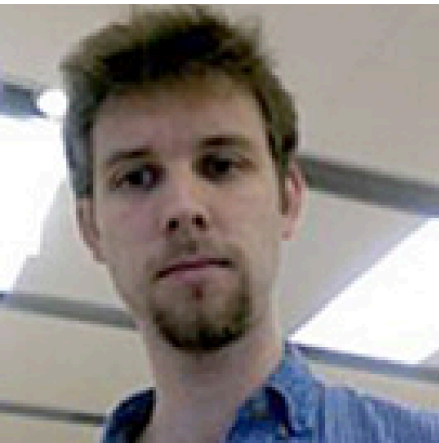


2009 Winner

Jason Turner, University of Leeds
Title: [“Ontological Nihilism” \(PDF\)](#)

The record number of 30 submitted entries in 2008 seemed small compared to the new record-number of 55 submitted entries in 2009. The Marc Sanders Foundation and Editorial Board of Oxford Studies in Metaphysics wish to make special note of the remarkably high quality of essays for 2009, and in particular to highlight the University of Leeds, with whom are associated not only the winning author but also, remarkably, the authors of both exceptionally strong runners-up. We congratulate runners-up [Elizabeth Barnes](#) (Lecturer, University

of Leeds) and [J. Robert G. Williams](#) (Reader in Theoretical Philosophy, University of Leeds) for their essay “A Theory of Metaphysical Indeterminacy,” and runner-up [Ross P. Cameron](#) (Lecturer, University of Leeds) for his essay “Truthmaking for Presentists.” The Editorial Board and The Foundation congratulate [Jason Turner](#), also University of Leeds, as winner of the 2009 Younger Scholar’s Prize. His winning essay, “Ontological Nihilism,” will (with those of his colleagues) be published in Oxford Studies in Metaphysics, Vol. 6 (D. Zimmerman, ed.), forthcoming 2010.

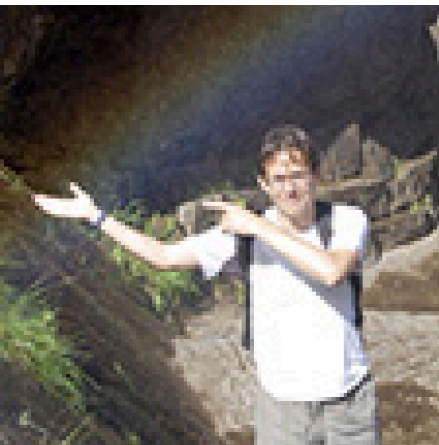


2008 Winner

Jeff Russell, New York University

Title: [“The Structure of Gunk: Adventures in the Ontology of Space” \(PDF\)](#)

After a difficult review of a record 30 submitted entries, The Marc Sanders Foundation and the Editorial Board of Oxford Studies in Metaphysics are pleased to announce [Jeff Russell](#), NYU, as winner of the 2008 Sanders Prize in Metaphysics. Jeff Russell’s winning essay, “The Structure of Gunk: Adventures in the Ontology of Space,” is published in Oxford Studies in Metaphysics, Vol. 4 (2008, D. Zimmerman, ed.), pp. 248-274.



2007 Winner

Bradford Skow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Title: [“Extrinsic Temporal Metrics” \(PDF\)](#)

The Marc Sanders Foundation congratulates [Bradford Skow](#), MIT, for winning the 2007 Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Sanders Competition. Bradford Skow’s winning essay, “Extrinsic Temporal Metrics,” is now published in Oxford Studies in Metaphysics, Vol. 5 (2010, D. Zimmerman, ed.) pp.179-202.



2006 Winner

Stephan Leuenberger, Princeton University

Title: [“Ceteris Absentibus Physicalism” \(PDF\)](#).

The Marc Sanders Foundation joins Oxford Studies in Metaphysics in congratulating [Stephan Leuenberger](#) for winning the 2006 Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Sanders Competition. His winning essay “Ceteris Absentibus Physicalism” is published in Oxford Studies in Metaphysics, Vol. 4 (2008, D. Zimmerman, ed.), pp. 145 – 170.



2005 Winner

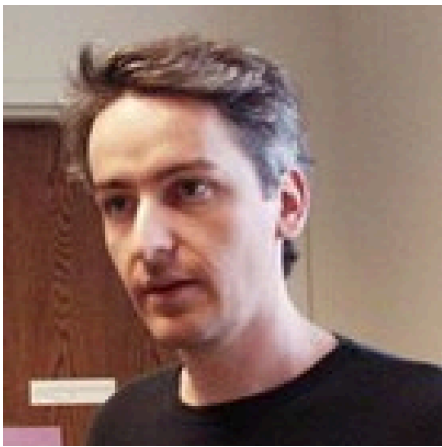
Matthew McGrath, University of Missouri, Columbia (L)

Cody Gilmore, University of Nebraska at Omaha (R)

Title: [“Time Travel, Coinciding Objects, and Persistence” \(PDF\)](#).

The Marc Sanders Foundation is pleased to announce [Matthew McGrath](#) (University of Missouri, Columbia) and [Cody Gilmore](#) (University of Nebraska at Omaha) as co-winners of the Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Sanders Prize for 2005. McGrath’s winning essay, “Four Dimensionalism and the Puzzles of Coincidence,” is published in Oxford Studies in Metaphysics, Vol. 3 (2007, D. Zimmerman, ed.), pp. 143 – 176.

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2004 Winner

Thomas Hofweber, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Title: [“Inexpressible Properties and Propositions” \(PDF\)](#).



The Marc Sanders Foundation is pleased to announce [Thomas Hofweber](#) (University of North Carolina) as winner of the inaugural OSM Sanders Prize for 2004. His winning essay, “Inexpressible Properties and Propositions,” is published in Oxford Studies in Metaphysics, Vol. 2 (2006, D. Zimmerman, ed.), pp. 155 – 206.

Contact Us

The Marc Sanders Foundation would be happy to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us (e-mail is preferred) about any questions you might have.



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