

Jeffrey Sanford Russell

University of Southern California
Mudd Hall of Philosophy
3709 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0451

jeff.russell@usc.edu
<https://jefelino.github.io>
650 796 6216

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Research Interests | Metaphysics, Epistemology, Decision Theory, Ethics, Logic, Philosophy of Religion, Mathematics, and Science |
|---------------------------|---|

Career

University of Southern California

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Professor of Philosophy | 2022–present |
| Associate Professor of Philosophy | 2017–2022 |
| Assistant Professor of Philosophy | 2014–2017 |

Magdalen College, Oxford University

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Tutorial Fellow and CUF Lecturer | 2011–2014 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|

Education

New York University

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| PhD in Philosophy | 2007–2011 |
| Dissertation | <i>Possible Worlds and the Objective World</i> |
| Committee | Ted Sider (supervisor), Hartry Field, Kit Fine, Michael Strevens |

Rutgers University

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| PhD candidate in Philosophy | 2006–2007 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|

Stanford University

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Bachelor of Arts with Distinction in Philosophy | 2001–2005 |
| Bachelor of Science with Distinction in Mathematics | |
| Minor in Symbolic Systems | |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Stanford-in-Oxford Programme | Fall 2004 |
|------------------------------|-----------|

Awards and Grants

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Global Priorities Research Prize | 2022 |
| Honorable mention, Alvin Plantinga Prize | 2022 |
| Longview grant, <i>Big Decisions: Infinite and Unbounded Values</i> | 2021–2023 |
| Marc Sanders Prize in Philosophy of Religion | 2021 |
| <i>The Philosopher's Annual</i> vol. 35, “Groupthink” | 2015 |
| Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholars Prize | 2008 |
| MacCracken Fellow, New York University | 2007 |
| Rhodes finalist | 2005 |
| Barry M. Goldwater Scholar | 2004 |
| Phi Beta Kappa, early induction | 2003 |
| President’s Award for Excellence in the Freshman Year, Stanford University | 2001 |
| President’s Scholar, Stanford University | 2001 |

Publications

- [1] “Fixing Stochastic Dominance”. Forthcoming in *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.
- [2] “On Two Arguments for Fanaticism”. Winner of the 2021 Global Priorities Research Prize. GPI Working Paper No. 17–2021. DOI: [10.1111/nous.12461](https://doi.org/10.1111/nous.12461). Forthcoming in *Noûs*.
- [3] With Yoaav Isaacs and Adam Lerner. “Counting Your Chickens”. Forthcoming in *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- [4] “The Value of Normative Information”. Forthcoming in *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- [5] With Yoaav Isaacs. “Updating Without Evidence”. Forthcoming in *Noûs*.
- [6] With Charity Anderson. “Divine Hiddenness and Other Evidence”. Winner of the Marc Sanders Prize in Philosophy of Religion. Forthcoming in *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion*.
- [7] With Yoaav Isaacs and John Hawthorne. “Multiple Universes and Self-Locating Probabilities”. In: *Philosophical Review* 131.3 (2022). Honorable mention, Alvin Plantinga Prize, pp. 241–294. DOI: [10.1215/00318108-9743809](https://doi.org/10.1215/00318108-9743809).
- [8] With Yoaav Isaacs. “Infinite Prospects”. In: *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 103.1 (2021), pp. 178–198. DOI: [10.1111/phpr.12704](https://doi.org/10.1111/phpr.12704).
- [9] “On the Probability of Plenitude”. In: *Journal of Philosophy* 117 (5 2020), pp. 267–292. DOI: [10.5840/jphil2020117517](https://doi.org/10.5840/jphil2020117517).
- [10] “Non-Archimedean Preferences Over Countable Lotteries”. In: *Journal of Mathematical Economics* 88 (May 2020), pp. 180–186. DOI: [10.1016/j.jmateco.2020.03.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmateco.2020.03.011).
- [11] “Sleeping Beauty’s Evidence”. In: *The Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Evidence*. Ed. by Maria Lasonen-Aarnio and Clayton Littlejohn. Forthcoming.
- [12] “How Much is at Stake for the Pragmatic Encroacher”. In: *Oxford Studies in Epistemology* 6 (2019). DOI: [10.1093/oso/9780198833314.003.0013](https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198833314.003.0013).
- [13] “Quality and Quantifiers”. In: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 96.3 (2018), pp. 562–577. DOI: [10.1080/00048402.2017.1363259](https://doi.org/10.1080/00048402.2017.1363259).
- [14] With John Hawthorne. “Possible Patterns”. In: *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* 11 (2018). DOI: [10.1093/oso/9780198828198.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198828198.001.0001).

- [15] With Andrew Bacon. “The Logic of Opacity”. In: *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2017). DOI: [10.1111/phpr.12454](https://doi.org/10.1111/phpr.12454).
- [16] “Composition as Abstraction”. In: *Journal of Philosophy* 114 (9 2017), pp. 453–470. DOI: [10.5840/jphil2017114931](https://doi.org/10.5840/jphil2017114931).
- [17] With John Hawthorne. “General Dynamic Triviality Theorems”. In: *Philosophical Review* 125 (3 2016), pp. 307–339. DOI: [10.1215/00318108-3516936](https://doi.org/10.1215/00318108-3516936).
- [18] “Qualitative Grounds”. In: *Philosophical Perspectives* 30 (1 2016), pp. 309–348. DOI: [10.1111/phpe.12078](https://doi.org/10.1111/phpe.12078).
- [19] “Temporary Safety Hazards”. In: *Notûs* 50 (3 2015). DOI: [10.1111/nous.12104](https://doi.org/10.1111/nous.12104).
- [20] “Indefinite Divisibility”. In: *Inquiry* 59 (3 2015), pp. 239–263. DOI: [10.1080/0020174X.2015.1033006](https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2015.1033006).
- [21] With John Hawthorne and Lara Buchak. “Groupthink”. In: *Philosophical Studies* 172 (5 2015). Selected for *The Philosopher’s Annual*, vol. 35, pp. 1287–1309. DOI: [10.1007/s11098-014-0350-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-014-0350-8).
- [22] “On Where Things Could Be”. In: *Philosophy of Science* 81 (1 Jan. 2014), pp. 60–80. DOI: [10.1086/674344](https://doi.org/10.1086/674344).
- [23] “Possible Worlds and the Objective World”. In: *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2013). DOI: [10.1111/phpr.12052](https://doi.org/10.1111/phpr.12052).
- [24] “Actuality for Counterpart Theorists”. In: *Mind* (2013). DOI: [10.1093/mind/fzt037](https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzt037).
- [25] “The Structure of Gunk: Adventures in the Ontology of Space”. In: *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*. Ed. by Dean Zimmerman. Vol. 4. Winner of the 2008 Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholars Prize. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 248–274.

Working Papers (available on request)

- [26] “Planning for Pascal’s Mugging”. Under review.
- [27] With Frank Hong. “Paradoxes of Infinite Aggregation”. Under review.
- [28] “The Epistemic A-Theory”. Under review.
- [29] With John Hawthorne. “Metaphysical Constraints on Objective Priors”.
- [30] *The Limits of Logic*. Textbook, draft available online. URL: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/5vj31iuo149plh5/limits.of.logic.pdf>.
- [31] *Extreme Risks: Moral Value in a Vast and Uncertain World*. Book manuscript in preparation.

Presentations

- [1] “Problems for Impartiality”. Invited colloquium talk. MIT, Mar. 3, 2023.
- [2] “Problems for Impartiality”. Mind and Language seminar. New York University, Feb. 28, 2023.
- [3] “Pascal’s Revenge”. Unbounded Utility in Ethics and Decision Theory. UT Austin, Nov. 17, 2022.

- [4] “Problems for Impartiality”. Derek Parfit Memorial Lecture. Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford, June 16, 2022. URL: <https://globalprioritiesinstitute.org/parfit-memorial-lecture-jeffrey-sanford-russell-problems-for-impartiality/>.
- [5] “Shots in the Dark”. Invited talk. Baylor University, Mar. 25, 2022.
- [6] “Divine Hiddenness and Other Evidence”. Hiddenness Workshop. Baylor University, Nov. 5, 2021.
- [7] “Pascalian Wagers”. 6th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research. University of Oxford (online), Mar. 18, 2021.
- [8] “Infinite Values and Large Finite Values”. 5th Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research. University of Oxford (online), Dec. 8, 2020.
- [9] “Teaching the Limits of Logic”. Math Education Seminar. University of Southern California, Mar. 18, 2019.
- [10] “Vague Existence”. NYIP Workshop on Metaphysics in Higher-Order Languages. New York, May 21, 2017.
- [11] “Vague Existence”. Invited talk, Hans Kamp Seminar in Language and Logic. University of Texas, Austin, Mar. 2, 2017.
- [12] “Testimonial Evidence”. Invited talk, Sawyer Seminar in Social Epistemology. Northwestern University, Aug. 27, 2016.
- [13] “The Logic of Opacity”. Workshop on Higher-Order Metaphysics. with Andrew Bacon. Oslo, June 5, 2016.
- [14] “Possible Patterns”. Invited talk, Structure in Metaphysics Workshop. Ertegun House, Oxford, May 30, 2016.
- [15] “Possible Patterns”. Invited talk, Working Group in the History and Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics, and Science. University of California, Berkeley, Oct. 21, 2015.
- [16] “Sleeping Beauty and the Dogmatist”. Invited talk. Baylor University, Apr. 24, 2015.
- [17] “Temporary Safety Hazards”. Ranch Metaphysics Workshop. Tucson, Arizona, Jan. 30, 2015.
- [18] “Indefinite Divisibility”. California Metaphysics Conference on the Relationship Between Logic and Metaphysics. University of Southern California, Jan. 25, 2015.
- [19] “Trivialities”. Invited talk, CRNAP Philosophy of Language Workshop. University of Oxford, June 22, 2014.
- [20] “Quality and Quantifiers”. Invited talk. University of Leeds, Mar. 28, 2014.
- [21] “Monadic Foundations for Probability”. Theoretical Work in Progress Seminar. University of Oxford, Feb. 28, 2014.
- [22] “Quality and Quantifiers”. Stanford University, Mar. 17, 2014.
- [23] “Quality and Quantifiers”. University of Notre Dame, Feb. 14, 2014.
- [24] “On Where Things Could Be”. University of Michigan, Jan. 31, 2014.
- [25] “Quality and Quantifiers”. Columbia University, Jan. 28, 2014.
- [26] “On Where Things Could Be”. Invited talk. University of Southern California, Sept. 27, 2013.
- [27] “Temporary Safety Hazards”. Birmingham Time Workshop. Birmingham, May 1, 2013.
- [28] “How Much is at Stake for the Pragmatic Encroacher”. Epistemology Workshop. Innsbruck, Apr. 11, 2013.
- [29] “Conceptual Revision”. Philosophical Society. University of Oxford, Feb. 1, 2013.

- [30] “On Where Things Could Be”. Invited talk, CRNAP Modality Conference. Princeton University, Nov. 18, 2012.
- [31] “Possible Worlds and the Objective World”. Invited talk, PERSP Metaphysics Seminar. Universitat de Barcelona, Mar. 9, 2012.
- [32] “On Where Things Could Be”. Philosophy of Physics Seminar. University of Oxford, Mar. 1, 2012.
- [33] “Possible Worlds and the Objective World”. Theoretical Works in Progress Seminar. University of Oxford, Feb. 23, 2012.
- [34] “Possible Worlds and the Objective World”. Invited talk. University of Michigan, Jan. 27, 2012.
- [35] “Possible Worlds and the Objective World”. Invited talk. Magdalen College, Oxford, Mar. 2, 2011.
- [36] “The Future in Context”. Oxford Graduate Conference. University of Oxford, Nov. 21, 2010.
- [37] “Indefinite Divisibility”. Arché/CSMN Graduate Conference. St. Andrews University, Nov. 8, 2009.
- [38] “Actuality for Counterpart Theorists”. Phloxshop II: Modality. Humboldt University, Berlin, Sept. 11, 2009.
- [39] “Indefinite Divisibility”. Washington Square Circle. New York University, Jan. 27, 2009.
- [40] “‘Probably If’ and Conditional Probability”. Yale/UConn Graduate Philosophy Conference. University of Connecticut, Nov. 10, 2007.
- [41] “A Domain-Specific Statistical Surface Realizer”. In: *Proceedings of the Student Research Workshop at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*. University of Michigan, June 27, 2005.
- [42] “Statistical Natural Language Generation for Navigation Instructions”. CSLI Talk. Stanford University, Aug. 27, 2004.

Comments, Etc.

- [1] Visiting Researcher. Trinity Term. Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford, 2022.
- [2] Invited Participant. Ranch Metaphysics Workshop. Jan. 28, 2022.
- [3] Remote Visitor. Trinity Term. Global Priorities Institute, University of Oxford, June 2021.
- [4] William MacAskill, Krister Bykvist, and Toby Ord. “Moral Uncertainty”. Book symposium. Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm, and Australian National University (online), Feb. 4, 2021.
- [5] Jack Spencer. “Is Non-Fundamental Existence Relative?” Metaphysics on the Mountain Workshop (online). July 3, 2020.
- [6] Invited Participant. Ranch Metaphysics Workshop. Jan. 28, 2019.
- [7] Martin Glazier. “What Time is it in Other Possible Worlds?” APA Eastern Division Meeting. Savannah, Jan. 4, 2018.
- [8] Olla Solomyak. “The Meta-Metaphysics of Distant Entities: Unifying the Temporal and Modal Domains”. APA Eastern Division Meeting. Savannah, Jan. 4, 2018.

- [9] Michael Bergmann. “Skeptical Theism, Representativeness, and Radical Uncertainty”. APA Central Division Meeting. Kansas City, Mar. 3, 2017.
- [10] Invited Participant. Ranch Metaphysics Workshop. Jan. 25, 2017.
- [11] Peter van Inwagen. “The Rev’d Mr. Bayes and the Life Everlasting”. International Conference on New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology. St Anne’s College, University of Oxford, June 23, 2015.
- [12] Visiting Fellow. Princeton University, fall semester, 2013.
- [13] Eli Hirsch. “Talmudic Destiny”. Association for the Philosophy of Judaism. online symposium, July 28, 2013. URL: <http://www.theapj.com/symposium-on-eli-hirschs-talmudic-destiny-28-august-04-july/>.
- [14] Tim Pickavance and Daniel Eaton. “Wagering on Pragmatic Encroachment”. Religious Epistemology, Contextualism, and Pragmatic Encroachment Workshop. University of Oxford, Mar. 14, 2013.
- [15] Internal visitor. New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology. University of Oxford, 2013.
- [16] Huiming Ren. “Inverted Earth Revisited”. Meiguo Metaphysical Mayhem. Peking University, June 2012.
- [17] Lara Buchak. “Risk and Tradeoffs”. Meiguo Metaphysical Mayhem. Peking University, June 2012.
- [18] Commentator-at-large. California Metaphysics Conference. University of Southern California, Jan. 21, 2012.
- [19] Timothy Williamson. “Metaphysics and Higher-Order Modal Logic”. Oxford Metaphysics Workshop. University of Oxford, Sept. 25, 2011.
- [20] Invited participant. St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology. University of St. Thomas, June 2011.
- [21] Aaron Segal. “Identity Variance”. APA Eastern. Boston, Dec. 30, 2010.
- [22] Invited participant. St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology. University of St. Thomas, June 2010.
- [23] Sean Aas. “Modality: Norms and Naturalism”. NYU/Columbia Graduate Philosophy Conference. New York University, Mar. 7, 2009.
- [24] Katrina Przyjemski. “A Monstrous Semantics for Anaphoric Pronouns”. NYU / Columbia Graduate Philosophy Conference. Columbia University, Mar. 1, 2008.
- [25] Joshua Rasmussen. “A Scotistic Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God”. Religion at Rutgers. Rutgers University, Jan. 13, 2007.

Graduate Supervising

Past dissertation committees

Zachary Goodsell
Unbounded Utility
 Bersoff Fellow, New York University

co-supervisor with Andrew Bacon — PhD 2023

| | |
|---|---|
| Noah Gordon <i>Theism and Secular Modality</i> | supervisor — PhD 2023 |
| Frank Hong <i>Uncertain Knowledge</i> Post-doctoral research fellow, Hong Kong University | co-supervisor with Andrew Bacon — PhD 2023 |
| James Milford <i>An Examination of Certain Counterpart Accounts</i> | external examiner — Oxford, DPhil 2022 |
| Simon Blessenohl <i>Political Decision-Making in an Uncertain World</i> Research software engineer, DeepL | co-supervisor with Jonathan Quong — PhD 2021 |
| Lu Chen <i>Continua</i> Assistant Professor, University of Southern California | University of Massachusetts, PhD 2020 |
| Matt Leonard <i>What It Is To Be Located</i> Assistant Professor, California Baptist University | PhD 2019 |
| Maegan Fairchild <i>Unlimited Ontology and Its Limits</i> Assistant Professor, University of Michigan | PhD 2018 |
| Thomas Møller-Nielsen <i>Symmetry and the Generalist Picture</i> Journalist | co-supervisor with Oliver Pooley — Oxford, DPhil 2016 |

Current committees

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Jaime Castillo Gamboa | metaphysics, language |
| Mahmoud Jalloh | co-supervisor with Porter Williams — philosophy of physics, metaphysics |
| Philip Li | ethics, epistemology |
| Quyen Pham | metaphysics |
| Weng Kin San | supervisor — ethics, epistemology, decision theory |

Teaching

Graduate

| | |
|--|--|
| Dissertation Seminar | (Phil 700) 2023–2024 |
| Epistemology | (Phil 570) with John Hawthorne, Spring 2020 |
| Identity Confusion | (Phil 551) with Andrew Bacon, Fall 2016 |
| Metaphysics | (Phil 560) with Shieva Kleinschmidt, Spring 2016 |
| Epistemology and Metaphysics of Time and Space | (Phil 570) Fall 2014 |
| Philosophy of Logic and Language | BPhil Seminar, with Cian Dorr, Michaelmas 2011 |

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Metaphysics | BPhil Tutorials, various terms 2011–2014 |
| Philosophy of Language | BPhil Tutorials, various terms 2011–2014 |

Undergraduate

| | |
|--|---|
| The Limits of Logic | (Phil 450) F 2014, F 2015, S 2017, F 2018, F 2019, F 2022, F 2023 |
| Probability and Rational Choice | (Phil 258g) S 2019, F 2019, S 2021, F 2021 |
| Philosophy of Religion | (Phil 361) S 2015, S 2019 |
| The End of the World | (GESM 120) S 2021 |
| Minds and Machines: Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence | (GESM 120) S 2017 |
| Frege's <i>Foundations of Arithmetic</i> | Lectures, Trinity 2013 and 2014 |
| Undergraduate Tutorials | various terms 2011–2014 |
| Introduction to Logic, Elements of Deductive Logic, Formal Logic, General Philosophy, The Leibniz-Clarke Correspondence, Ethics, Knowledge and Reality, Philosophy of Logic and Language, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mathematics | |

Professional Service

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Director of Graduate Studies | 2023–present |
| Graduate Studies Committee | 2015–2016, 2018–2019, 2022–present |
| Placement Director | 2021–2023 |
| Placement Committee | 2014–present; co-chair 2019–2020 |
| Climate Committee | 2021–present |
| Diversity Liaison | 2017–2020 |
| Culture & Outreach Committee | 2016–2017 |
| GPS California workshop organizing committee | 2018 |
| Graduate Admissions Committee | 2014–2015, 2019–2021 |
| Faculty Search Committee | 2017–2018, 2022, 2023 |
| Promotion Committee | 2023 |
| Fifth Year Review Committee | chair 2021 |
| Third Year Review Committee | 2019–2020 |
| Faculty Mentor | 2019–2022 |
| Tenure Review Committee | 2018 |
| USC Society of Fellows Admissions | 2018, 2019 |
| Metaphysics Subject Co-Editor, <i>Pacific Philosophical Quarterly</i> | 2016–2019 |
| Co-convener, Philosophical Society, Oxford | 2014 |
| Magdalen College Governing Body | 2011–2014 |
| Magdalen College Tutorial Board | 2011–2014 |
| Magdalen College Library and Archives Committee | 2012–2014 |
| Referee | |
| <i>American Philosophical Quarterly, Dialectica, Economics and Philosophy, Ergo, Journal of Philosophical Logic, Journal of Philosophy, Mind, Oxford University Press, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophia, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Synthese</i> | |
| NYU Philosophy computer & website maintenance | 2008–2011 |
| Co-organizer, NYU/Columbia Graduate Conference | 2008 |

Research Experience Outside Philosophy

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Robert Bosch Corp. Research and Technology Center Computational linguistics & artificial intelligence Supervisor: Fuliang Weng | 2005–2006 |
| Center for the Study of Language and Information, Semantics Lab Computational linguistics Supervisor: Stanley Peters | 2004–2005 |
| U. Washington, Research Experiences for Undergraduates Mathematics Supervisor: James Morrow | Summer 2003 |
| Philips/Heartstream Applied mathematics, signal processing Supervisor: Stacy Gehman | Summer 2002 |