

# Rory Harder

AOS      Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind  
AOC      Epistemology (including formal), Logic

## Contact Information

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Address     Philosophy Department, 170 St. George St., Toronto, ON, Canada M5R 2M8

## Academic Employment

2021–2022    Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto  
2019–2021    Part Time Lecturer, Rutgers University

## Education

### GRADUATE

2015–2022    PhD in Philosophy, University of Toronto, ABD  
                 *Dissertation Title:* Joint Action and Communication, With a Focus on Demonstratives  
                 *Co-Supervisors:* Imogen Dickie and Nate Charlow  
                 *Expected Defense:* January 2022  
2019        VISITING STUDENT in Linguistics, Rutgers University  
                 *Host Supervisor:* Simon Charlow

### UNDERGRADUATE

2012–2015    BA (HONS) with High Distinction in Philosophy (Specialist) and History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (Minor), University of Toronto  
2011–2012    Trent University

## Papers

[A paper on the formal pragmatics of demonstratives]  
*Revise and Resubmit*  
[A paper on the formal semantics of demonstratives]  
*Under Review*  
[A paper on joint attention]  
*Under Review*

## Presentations

### REFEREED

- 2021 Joint Attention: The Window Into Other Minds?  
*American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division Meeting* (Symposium)  
Joint Attention and Communication  
*Mutual Knowledge 40 Workshop*  
A Puzzle about Demonstrative Understanding  
*PhiLang2021*
- 2020 Perspectives in Demonstrative Semantics  
*WeSSLLI Student Session; Szklarska Poreba Workshop*
- 2019 The Affiliative Conception of Sense  
*Communication, Context, Conversation Workshop*  
Clearing up Clouds  
*APA Pacific Division Meeting* (Colloquium)
- 2018 Clearing up Clouds  
*Context, Cognition, and Communication Conference*
- 2017 Inferences and Neutrality of the Deliberative Ought  
*APA Pacific Division Meeting* (Colloquium); *Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting*

### INVITED

- 2020 The Grammar of Reference  
*New York Philosophy of Language Workshop*
- 2017 Inferences and Neutrality of the Deliberative Ought  
*Semantics Research Group* (University of Toronto Department of Linguistics); *Computational Linguistics Seminar* (University of Toronto Department of Computer Science)

## Teaching

### COURSE INSTRUCTORSHIPS

- 2020 Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision Making (*1st year, Online, Rutgers University*)  
Special Topics in Philosophy: Frege's Puzzle (*3rd year, Online, University of Toronto*)
- 2019 Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision Making (*1st year, Rutgers University*)  
Issues in Philosophy of Mind: Perception and Conception (*3rd year, University of Toronto*)

#### TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS (AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)

- 2013–2018 Ancient Philosophy (*2nd year*), 17th- and 18th-Century Philosophy (*2nd year*), Introduction to Philosophy (*1st year*), Knowledge and Reality (*2nd year*), Probability and Inductive Logic (*2nd year*), Introduction to Symbolic Logic (*2nd year*)

#### OTHER

- 2021–2022 Super-TA for the Socrates Project (*Supervising Undergraduate TAs, University of Toronto*)  
2016–2018 Philosophy Don (*Tutor and Residence Assistant, Trinity College, University of Toronto*)

## Scholarships & Awards

#### GRADUATE

- 2020–2021 Doctoral Completion Award (\$14,859)  
*Merit-based award for graduate students at the University of Toronto.*
- 2019–2020 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)  
*Merit-based scholarship for graduate students at public universities in Ontario.*
- 2019 SSHRC CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (\$6,000)  
*Awarded annually to 125 Canadian graduate students in the social sciences and humanities.*
- 2016–2019 SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship (\$105,000)  
*Awarded to about 22% of applicants, who are Canadian graduate students in the social sciences and humanities.*

#### UNDERGRADUATE

- 2015 The George Kennedy Scholarship, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto  
*Awarded annually to a graduating philosophy student.*
- 2012 Socrates Award, Department of Philosophy, Trent University  
*Awarded annually to a philosophy student in each of the second and third years.*

## Professional Activity

- 2020 GRADUATE STUDENT COORDINATOR for Institutional Strategic Initiative in Language and Cognition, University of Toronto
- 2017 ATTENDEE at 29th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information
- 2016 ATTENDEE at Seventh North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information
- REFEREE and COMMENTATER for Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, University of Toronto

## Dissertation

Title	<i>Joint Action and Communication, With a Focus on Demonstratives</i>
Summary	My dissertation develops a view of human communication, as a refinement of the Gricean orthodoxy, according to which it is the essentially joint activity of making sense of one another's actions. I begin by motivating my view on the basis of recent work on joint attention. I then discuss the distinctiveness of linguistic communication, and elaborate the Chomskian view that it involves the deployment of autonomous linguistic competence. The general considerations about communication and language are then applied to the meaning and use of demonstratives. I provide a formal semantics for demonstratives in the dynamic tradition, as I argue that dynamic semantics is a component of linguistic competence. Finally, I draw on that semantics and the overarching refined Gricean view of communication in order to solve two old puzzles about what demonstrative understanding requires.

## References

Research	IMOGEN DICKIE, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto <i>Contact:</i> imogen.dickie@utoronto.ca NATE CHARLOW, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto <i>Contact:</i> nate.charlow@utoronto.ca PHILIP KREMER, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto <i>Contact:</i> philip.kremer@utoronto.ca
Teaching	RACHEL BARNEY, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto <i>Contact:</i> rachel.barney@utoronto.ca MICHAEL RATCLIFFE, Dean of Arts and Vice-Provost, Trinity College, University of Toronto <i>Contact:</i> michael.ratcliffe@utoronto.ca