

# THIAGO XAVIER DE MELO

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Syracuse University  
Department of Philosophy  
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## Education

*PhD in Philosophy*, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University, “The Naturalness and Structure of Relations,” 2024. Advisor: Kris McDaniel and Mark Heller

*MA in Philosophy (Logic and Metaphysics)*, Graduate Program in Logic and Metaphysics, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, “The Problem of Universals as a Problem of Ontological Categorization,” 2013. Advisor: Guido Imaguire

*BA in Philosophy, Magna cum laude*, Universidade Federal do Ceará, “Frege on *Elucidations*,” 2010. Advisor: Andre Leclerc and Dirk Greimann

## Areas

Specialization: Metaphysics

Competence: Philosophy of Language, Logic, Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Ethics

## Publications

‘Position-Relative Naturalness,’ *The Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming.

‘Negative Natural Properties, Categories, and Mistakes,’ *Synthese* 206, 2025

‘Essence and Naturalness,’ *The Philosophical Quarterly*, Volume 69, Issue 276, July 2019,  
Pages 534–554.

## Manuscripts

A paper on positionalism and symmetry

A paper on naturalnesss, change, and dialetheism

A paper on positionalism about relations and regress

A paper on composition of relational states

Yet another paper on positionalism

A paper on laws and counterfactuals

## Grants and Awards

- 2023 Outstanding TA Award, *The Graduate School, Syracuse University*  
2022 Graduate Student Presentation Award, *Centennial Conference of the Creighton Club*  
2022, 2019 Summer Grant, *Philosophy Department, Syracuse University*  
2015-2019 Grant from CAPES – Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior  
2011-2013 Grant from CAPES – Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior  
2012 Grant from DAAD – Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – Winterkurs. Intensivkurs Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Institut für Internationale Kommunikation, Berlin  
2010 Research grant from CNPq – Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico

## Selected Presentations

- 2023 ‘Reductive Positionalism’, *Metaphysical Mayhem*, Rutgers University.  
2022 ‘Naïve Positionalism and Relative Discernibility,’ winner of the Graduate Student Presentation Award for presentation at the *Centennial Conference of the Creighton Club*, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY.  
2022 ‘Naïve Positionalism and Relative Discernibility,’ *American Philosophical Association Conference*, Pacific Meeting, Vancouver, BC.  
2021 ‘The Naturalness of Negative Properties: a case for category-relativism,’ *American Philosophical Association Conference*, Pacific Meeting, Virtual Meeting.  
2019 ‘Within the Predicate: Non-symmetric Relations and Comparative Naturalness,’ *American Philosophical Association Conference*, Central Meeting, Denver, CO.

## Invited

- 2020 ‘Negative Natural Properties, Categories, and Mistakes in God’s Multi-color Language’, ABD Talk, Syracuse University.  
2020 ‘A Fundamentalidade de Propriedades Negativas,’ *Núcleo de Estudos em Lógica e Filosofia Analítica*, Universidade Federal do Amazonas.  
2018 ‘Within the Predicate: the Naturalness of Non-symmetric Relations’, ABD Talk, Syracuse University.

## Commentaries

- 2024 ‘Fundamental Laws and the Methodology of Science’ by Gabrielle Kerbel and Travis McKenna, *American Philosophical Association Conference*, Central Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2024.  
2023 ‘Non-Dispositional Modality’ by Yusuke Satake, *Syracuse Graduate Conference*, Syracuse, NY, 2023.  
2023 ‘Metaphysical Infinitism and Theoretical Virtue’ by William Welchance, *American Philosophical Association Conference*, Central Meeting, Denver, CO, 2023.

2020 ‘Vicious Infinite Regress and Causal Power’ by Ben Cook, Syracuse University ABD Workshop Series, Syracuse, NY, Fall 2020.

## ■ Employment

- 2025 Adjunct Professor at *Furman University*
- 2024 – 2025 Part-time Instructor at *Syracuse University*
- 2018 – 2024 Teaching Associate at *Syracuse University*
- 2015 – 2018 Teaching Assistant at *Syracuse University*
- 2014 – 2015 Professor Substituto at *Universidade Federal de Alagoas*

## ■ Teaching Experience

- 2025 Main Instructor at Furman University:
  - Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 25)
- 2018–2025 Main Instructor at Syracuse University:
  - Knowledge and Reality (Fall 25, Spring 25, Fall 24, Spring 24, Fall 23, Spring 20, Spring 19, Fall 18)
  - Critical Thinking (Fall 24)
  - Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Summer 23)
  - Free Will (Summer 24, Summer 22)
  - Introduction to Moral Theory (Summer 21, Summer 20, Fall 19)
  - Logic (Summer 25, Spring 21, Summer 19, Summer 18)
- 2015–2023 Teaching Assistant at Syracuse University:
  - Political Theory (Spring 23)
  - Ethics and Media Professions (Fall 22, Fall 20)
  - Introduction to Moral Theory (Spring 22, Fall 15)
  - Human Nature (Fall 21, Spring 18)
  - Knowledge and Reality (Fall 17, Spring 17)
  - Logic (Fall 16, Spring 16)
- 2014–2015 Main Instructor at Universidade Federal de Alagoas:
  - Introduction to Philosophy (two classes)
  - Critical Thinking and Scientific Methods (two classes)
  - Ontology in Medieval Philosophy

## ■ Other Work & Experience

- 2025 Research Assistant (Assisting Mark Heller develop a Grad Seminar on Properties)

- 2024 Translation of Amie Thomasson's *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* entry 'Categories' into Portuguese. forthcoming at *Série Investigação Filosófica*, NEPPFil.
- 2022 Future Professoriate Program, awarded *Certificate in University Teaching*.

## Service

- 2024–2025 PhilPapers Editor, 'Relations'
- 2023 Co-organizer of the SPAWN on Laws of Nature, (with Erica Shumener and Josh Hunt)
- 2020, 2023 Referee for Summer Grant Research Proposals, Philosophy Department, Syracuse University
- 2015–2024 Referee for SU's Graduate Student Conference
- 2020 Referee for *Philosophical Studies*
- 2019–2020 Member of the SU's Graduate Conference Internal/External Committee
- 2019–2020 Colloquia and job talks catering coordinator
- 2016–2017 Working Papers co-organizer