

Will Dempsey | CV

Department of Philosophy
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Education

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D., Philosophy (expected) 2023-ongoing
Committee: Shamik Dasgupta (co-chair), Veronica Gómez Sánchez (co-chair),
Benjamin Recht

Brandeis University

M.A., Philosophy 2021-2022
Thesis: *Process Monism*
Advisors: Peter Epstein, Katrina Elliott

Washington University in St. Louis

B.A., Philosophy 2017-2021

Research Areas

Specialization

Metaphysics
Philosophy of Mind

Competence

Philosophy of Language
General Philosophy of Science
Philosophy of Cognitive Science
Philosophy of Perception
Philosophy of Fiction

Talks

Presentations

* = invited; † = refereed

1. How (Not) to Disagree About What's Real

University of Toronto Philosophy Graduate Conference † 10/16/26
UC Berkeley LEMM Working Group 10/12/26
UC Santa Cruz Graduate Metaphysics Workshop * 5/17/26
UC Berkeley Wollheim Society 4/24/26

2. The Weight of Worlds

UC Berkeley Wollheim Society 2/14/25

3. Fictive Artifactualism Remastered

UC Berkeley Wollheim Society	7/27/24
4. Modality and Metaphysical Rationalism	
UC Berkeley Wollheim Society	3/1/24
5. Process, Emergence, and Monism	
Brandeis Graduate Student Series	9/30/22

Commentary

1. Nora Heinzelmann, "The Metaphysics and Politics of Xenophobia"	
LMU-Berkeley Conference: <i>Metaphysics and Politics Across the History of Philosophy</i>	5/30/25
2. Irene Romero Suarez, "Is Factual Knowledge Artistically Relevant in Fiction?"	
Berkeley-London Graduate Student Conference	5/3/25
3. Filipp Matveev, "On the Coherence of Naturalized Metaphysics"	
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Student Conference	4/5/25
4. Jerome Romagosa, "OSR and Underdetermination in the Structure of Space in Quantum Mechanics"	
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Student Conference	4/27/24

Teaching

University of California, Berkeley

TA for Prof. John Campbell, PHILOS 3: <i>The Nature of Mind</i>	Fall 2026
TA for Prof. Geoffrey Lee, PHILOS 100: <i>Philosophical Methods</i>	Spring 2026
TA for Prof. Ezra Rubenstein, PHILOS 5: <i>Science and Human Understanding</i>	Fall 2024

Brandeis University

TA for Prof. Peter Epstein, 213PHIL-35A: <i>Philosophy of Science</i>	Spring 2022
TA for Prof. Jerry Samet, 213PHIL-131A: <i>Philosophy of Mind</i>	Fall 2021

Graduate Coursework

° = audited; all others taken for credit

University of California, Berkeley

<i>Physicalism</i> , with Ezra Rubenstein °	Fall 2026
<i>Knowledge and Belief</i> , with Verónica Gómez Sánchez and Snow Zhang °	Fall 2026
<i>Philosophy of Physics: Quantum Mechanics</i> , with Ezra Rubenstein °	Spring 2026
<i>The Unity of Consciousness</i> (Qualifying Exam), with Geoffrey Lee	Fall 2025
<i>Conceptual Role Semantics</i> (Qualifying Exam), with Verónica Gómez Sánchez	Fall 2025
<i>Metaphysical Anti-Realism</i> (Qualifying Exam), with Shamik Dasgupta	Fall 2025
<i>Kant</i> , with Daniel Warren	Spring 2025
<i>Aristotle's Physics</i> , with Landon Hobbs	Spring 2025
<i>Relationalism vs. Representationalism</i> , with M.G.F. Martin	Fall 2024
<i>Empathy</i> , with Olivia Bailey	Spring 2024
<i>Explanation</i> , with Ezra Rubenstein	Spring 2024
<i>Eternity</i> , with Kristin Primus and John Carriero	Spring 2024
<i>Concepts</i> , with Verónica Gómez Sánchez °	Spring 2024
<i>Proseminar</i> , with Shamik Dasgupta and John MacFarlane	Fall 2023

Objective Experience, with M.G.F. Martin
Contextualism, with Seth Yalcin

Fall 2023
Fall 2023

Brandeis University

Causation and Explanation, with Katrina Elliott
Infinity, with Palle Yourgrau
Foundations of Decision Theory and Game Theory, with Peter Epstein
God, Man, and World: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, with Jerry Samet
The Problem of the World, with Avner Baz (at Tufts University)
Proseminar, with Umrao Sethi
Consciousness and Empirical Science, with Peter Epstein
The Metaphysics of Color, with Umrao Sethi

Fall 2022
Fall 2022
Spring 2022
Spring 2022
Spring 2022
Fall 2021
Fall 2021
Fall 2021

Washington University in St. Louis

History of Analytic Philosophy, with Jonathan Kvanvig

Spring 2020

Service

Chairing

1. David Wong, "Savoring and Satisfying Morbid Curiosity: A Revisionist Account of Horror"
APA Pacific Division

4/9/26

Departmental Service

Wollheim Society Graduate Student Talks Organization (UC Berkeley)
Philosophy Colloquium Reception Organization (UC Berkeley)
Wollheim Society Graduate Student Talks Organization (UC Berkeley)
Berkeley-London Graduate Conference Organization (UC Berkeley)

2023-2024
2023-2024
2026-2027
2026-2027

References

Shamik Dasgupta

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University of California, Berkeley
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Verónica Gómez Sánchez

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University of California, Berkeley
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Geoffrey Lee

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