

Will Dempsey | CV

Department of Philosophy
314 Philosophy Hall #2390
University of California Berkeley
CA 94720-2390

Email: will_dempsey@berkeley.edu
Web: dempsey-philosophy.vercel.app

Education

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| Ph.D., Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley | 2023-ongoing |
| Advisors: Shamik Dasgupta, Veronica Gómez Sánchez | |
| M.A., Philosophy, Brandeis University | 2021-2022 |
| Thesis: "Process Monism" | |
| B.A., Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis | 2017-2021 |

Research Areas

Specialization: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind

Competence: Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Fiction, General Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Talks

Presentations

1. "How (Not) to Disagree About What's Real"
 - 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 Artfactualism 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. Comments on Nora Heinzelmann, "The Metaphysics and Politics of Xenophobia"
 - LMU-Berkeley Conference: *Metaphysics and Politics Across the History of Philosophy*, 5/30/25
2. Comments on Irene Romero Suarez, "Is Factual Knowledge Artistically Relevant in Fiction?"
 - Berkeley-London Graduate Student Conference, 5/3/25

3. Comments on Filipp Matveev, “On the Coherence of Naturalized Metaphysics”*
 - Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Student Conference, 4/5/25
4. Comments on Jerome Romagosa, “OSR and Underdetermination in the Structure of Space in Quantum Mechanics”
 - Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Student Conference, 4/27/24

*comments written but talk canceled due to speaker illness

Graduate Coursework

University of California, Berkeley

Spring 2026

Philosophy of Physics: Quantum Mechanics, with Ezra Rubenstein*

Qualifying Exams (2025-2026)

The Unity of Consciousness, with Geoffrey Lee

Conceptual Role Semantics, with Veronica Gómez Sánchez

Metaphysical Anti-Realism, with Shamik Dasgupta

Spring 2025

Kant, with Daniel Warren

Aristotle's Physics, with Landon Hobbs

Fall 2024

Relationalism vs. Representationalism, with M.G.F. Martin

Spring 2024

Empathy, with Olivia Bailey

Explanation, with Ezra Rubenstein

Eternity, with Kristin Primus and John Carriero

Concepts, with Veronica Gómez Sánchez*

Fall 2023

Proseminar, with Shamik Dasgupta and John MacFarlane

Objective Experience, with M.G.F. Martin

Contextualism, with Seth Yalcin

Brandeis University

Fall 2022

Causation and Explanation, with Katrina Elliott

Infinity, with Palle Yourgrau

Spring 2022

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)

Fall 2021

Proseminar, with Umrao Sethi

Consciousness and Empirical Science, with Peter Epstein
The Metaphysics of Color, with Umrao Sethi

Washington University in St. Louis

Spring 2020

History of Analytic Philosophy, with Jonathan Kvanvig

*audited

Service

Teaching

University of California, Berkeley

TA for Professor Geoffrey Lee, PHILOS 100: *Philosophical Methods* (Spring 2026)

TA for Professor Ezra Rubenstein, PHILOS 5: *Science and Human Understanding* (Fall 2024)

Brandeis University

TA for Professor Peter Epstein, 213PHIL-35A: *Philosophy of Science* (Spring 2022)

TA for Professor Jerry Samet, 213PHIL-131A: *Philosophy of Mind* (Fall 2021)

Chairing

1. Chair for 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 2023-2024)

Berkeley Philosophy Colloquium Reception Organization (UC Berkeley 2023-2024)

Academic References

Shamik Dasgupta

Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Berkeley
shamikd@berkeley.edu

Verónica Gómez Sánchez

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Berkeley
v.gomez@berkeley.edu

Geoffrey Lee

Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Berkeley
geoffrey_lee@berkeley.edu