

Jack Spencer

Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

- 2022 **Associate Professor (with tenure)**, MIT
- 2018–2022 **Associate Professor (without tenure)**, MIT
- 2014–2018 **Assistant Professor**, MIT
- 2013–2014 **Instructor**, MIT
- 2015 **Visitor**, *École Normal Supérieure, Institut Jean Nicod*

Education

- 2007–2013 **Ph.D.**, *Princeton University*, Philosophy
- 2003–2007 **B.A.**, *University of Colorado*, Economics and Philosophy, *summa cum laude*

Areas

- AOS Metaphysics • Decision Theory
- AOC Philosophy of Language • Metaethics

Publications

- invited “Relativity in an Fundamentally Absolute World”
Philosophical Perspectives
- forthcoming “Intrinsically Desiring the Vague”
Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society
- forthcoming “Can It Be Irrational to Knowingly Choose the Best?”
Australasian Journal of Philosophy
- 2021 “The Procreative Asymmetry and the Impossibility of Elusive Permission”
Philosophical Studies 178: 3819–42
- 2021 “Knowledge of Objective ‘Oughts’: Monotonicity and the New Miners Puzzle”
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 103: 77–91
(w/ Daniel Muñoz)
- 2021 “An Argument Against Causal Decision Theory”
Analysis 81: 52–61

- 2021 “Rational Monism and Rational Pluralism”
Philosophical Studies 178: 1769-1800
- 2020 “Objective Value is Always Newcombizable”
Mind 129: 1157-92
(w/ Arif Ahmed)
- 2020 “No Crystal Balls”
Noûs 54: 105–25
- 2019 “Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Radiology: Summary of the Joint European and North American Multisociety Statement”
Radiology 294: 436–40
(w/ J. Raymond Geis, Adrian Brody, Carol C. Wu, Erik Ranschaert, Jacob L. Jaremko, Steve G. Langer, Andrea Borondy Kitts, Judy Birch, William F. Shields, Robert van den Hoven van Genderen, Elmar Kotter, Judy Wawira Gichoya, Tessa S. Cook, Matthew B. Morgan, An Tang, Nabile M. Safdar, and Marc Kohli)
Also published in:
Journal of the American College of Radiology (2019) 16: 1516-21
Also published in:
Insights into Imaging (2019) 10:101
Also published in:
Canadian Association of Radiologists Journal (2019) 70: 329-34
- 2019 “Why Take Both Boxes?”
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 99: 27–48
(w/ Ian Wells)
- 2017 “Able to Do the Impossible”
Mind 126: 265–96
- 2016 “Disagreement and Attitudinal Relativism”
Mind 125: 511–39
- 2016 “Relativity and Degrees of Relationality”
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 92: 432–59

Reviews

- 2019 Review of Ahmed (ed.) *Newcomb’s Problem* (CUP)
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews

Talks

- 2021 “Intrinsically Desiring the Vague”
Aristotelian Society
- 2021 “Relativity in a Fundamentally Absolute World”
New England Summer Metaphysics Group
- 2021 “Rational Monism and Rational Pluralism”
*Princeton University
(Decision Theory Seminar)*
- 2020 “Relativity in a Fundamentally Absolute World”
*University of Chicago
(Theoretical Philosophy Workshop)*
- 2020 “Why the Present Glows”
*University of Southern California
(presented by David Builes)*
- 2020 “Why the Present Glows”
New England Summer Metaphysics Group
- 2020 “Is Nonfundamental Existence Relative?”
Metaphysics on the Mountain 3
- 2020 “Is Nonfundamental Existence Relative?”
*University of Miami
(Colloquium)*
- 2020 “Is Nonfundamental Existence Relative?”
*UMass Amherst
(Colloquium)*
- 2020 “An Argument Against Causal Decision Theory”
Central APA, Chicago
- 2019 “How (Not) to Justify Chance-Credence Norms”
*Rutgers University
(Rutgers Workshop on the Foundations of Probability)*
- 2019 “Specialization and the Ethics of AI in Radiology”
C-MIMI
- 2019 “Rational Monism and Rational Pluralism”
Ranch Workshop
- 2018 “The Macro-Micro Gap”

*Rhode Island College
(New England Workshop on Identity and Persistence)*

2018 "Why Chance Constrains Credence"

*University of Colorado, Boulder
(Probability and Chance in Science)*

2018 "Why Chance Constrains Credence"

*Emily Noether Research Group; Bochum, Germany
(Epistemology Seminar 2018)*

2018 "Relative Truth, Absolute Correctness"

*Stanford University
(Stanford/CSLI Philosophy of Language and Linguistic Workshop)*

2018 "No Crystal Balls"

Central APA, Chicago

2017 "Relative Truth, Absolute Correctness"

*NYU
(New York Philosophy of Language Workshop)*

2017 "A Consequentialist Theory of Rational Choice"

Northeastern University

2017 "Must Endurance be Primitive?"

*Brown University
(New England Random Metaphysician Group)*

2017 "Crystal Balls and U-maximization"

UNC, Chapel Hill

2017 "Should Truth Relativists Also Be Correctness Relativists?"

*Cornell University
(Colloquium)*

2016 "Explaining Endurance"

*Rutgers University
(presented by Nathaniel Baron-Schmitt)*

2016 "Rational Monism, Rational Pluralism, and the
Metaethical Foundations of Causal Decision Theory"

Cambridge University

2016 "Three Forms of Physicalism"

- Brown University*
- 2015 “Rational Pluralism and Decision Theory”
- Rutgers University*
- 2015 “Rational Pluralism and Decision Theory”
- École Normal Supérieure, Institut Jean Nicod
(Séminaire Naturalizing Epistemic Norms)*
- 2015 “Attitudinal Relativism”
- École Normal Supérieure, Institut Jean Nicod
(Séminaire Mind and Language)*
- 2014 “Able to Do the Impossible”
- Harvard University
(Colloquium)*
- 2013 “Able to Do the Impossible”
- University of Oklahoma*
- 2013 “Able to Do the Impossible”
- MIT*
- 2013 “Able to Do the Impossible”
- University of Missouri*
- 2013 “Able to Do the Impossible”
- UCLA*
- 2013 “Able to Do the Impossible”
- University of Pittsburgh*
- 2011 “Simple Colors for Some”
- NYU*

Commentaries

- 2020 Issac Wilhelm’s, “Centering the Principal Principle”
- Eastern APA, Chicago*
- 2018 Fatema Amijee, “Why Metaphysical Inquiry Needs the PSR”
- The Principle of Sufficient Reason: Then and Now, Simon Fraser University*
- 2017 Dave Ingram, “The Essence of Time”

- 2017 Rachel Sterken, "Amelioration, Meaning Change, and Defective Communication"
Ranch Workshop
- 2016 Jeremy Wyatt, "Reconceiving Faultless Disagreement"
Pacific APA, San Francisco
- 2014 Benj Hellie, "Knowing What It is Like to Converse in *L*"
Ranch Workshop
- 2012 Olla Solomyak, "Contingency and the Amodal Perspective"
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference

Teaching

- 2022 Philosophy of Religion, PHI 24.05
Metaphysics, PHI 24.221
- 2021 Decision Theory, (taught w/ Branden Fitelson), PHI 24.805
- 2020 Problems in Philosophy of Language, (taught w/ Justin Khoo), PHI 24.729
Philosophy of Religion, PHI 24.05
Metaphysics, PHI 24.221
- 2019 Philosophy of Religion, PHI 24.05
Theory of Knowledge, PHI 24.201
Philosophy of Religion, PHI 24.05
- 2018 Philosophy of Religion, PHI 24.05
Problems in Metaphysics (taught w/ Brad Skow), PHI 24.501
- 2017 Color and Its Place in Nature (taught w/ Alex Byrne and Adam Pautz), PHI 24.501
Proseminar in Philosophy (taught w/ Roger White), PHI 24.400
- 2016 Philosophy of Religion, PHI 24.05
Problems in Metaphysics: Nonfactualism (taught w/ Branden Fitelson)
Philosophy of Religion, PHI 24.05
- 2015 Metaphysics, PHI 24.221
Proseminar in Philosophy (taught w/ Agustín Rayo), PHI 24.400
- 2014 Topics in Metaphysics and Ethics: 'Ought' and Ought (taught w/ Justin Khoo),
PHI 24.502
Proseminar in Philosophy (taught w/ Stephen Yablo), PHI 24.400
- 2013 Minds and Machines, PHI 24.09
Metaphysics: Materialism, PHI 24.501
Metaphysics, PHI 24.221

Grants, Honors, & Awards

- 2011 Jacob K. Javitz Fellow
- 2010 Cotzen Faculty Fellow
- 2007–09 Jacob K. Javitz Fellow

Service

Referee for: *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Ethics*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, Marc Sanders Award for Public Policy, and Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference

Last Updated: July 2022