

## MARK HELLER

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Fall 2013

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Department of Philosophy  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse NY 13244

### Tenured Positions Held

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Syracuse University: Fall 2004-present; Full Professor.

William P. Tolley Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities

Southern Methodist University: Fall 1991-Spring 2004; Easterwood Professor.

Northern Illinois University: Fall 1985-Spring 1991; Associate Professor.

### Visiting Positions

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Harvard University: Fall 2001

Temple University: Spring 1990-Spring 1991

University of Vermont: Fall 1984-Spring 1985

### Education

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Ph.D. Syracuse University, 1984

B.A. Whitman College, 1976

### Areas

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AOS: Metaphysics, Epistemology

AOC: Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Logic

### National Awards

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NEH Research Fellowship, 1995-1996 academic year

NEH Summer Research Grant, 1994

### Books

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*All There Is in the Material World: An Ontology Without Physical Objects*  
Oxford University Press, Forthcoming

*The Ontology of Physical Objects: Four Dimensional Hunks of Matter*  
Cambridge University Press, 1990.

### Articles

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- “The Disconnect Problem and the Influence Strategy.” Forthcoming  
*Van Inwagen Festschrift*, Oxford University Press.
- “The Donkey Problem”  
*Philosophical Studies*, 2008, pp. 83-101
- “Hudson Fine Tunes His Way to Hyperspace”  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 2008, pp. 436-443
- “Worlds, Pluriverses, and Minds”  
*Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, 2007, pp.77-98
- “Anti-Essentialism and Counterpart Theory”  
*The Monist*, 2005, pp. 600-618
- “The Immorality of Modal Realism”  
*Philosophical Studies*, 2003, pp. 1-22
- “Transworld Identity for the Ersatzist”  
*Philosophical Topics*, 2002, pp.77-101
- “Temporal Overlap is not Coincidence”  
*The Monist*, 2000, pp. 362-380
- “The Worst of All Worlds”  
*Philosophia*, 2000, pp. 255-268
- “Hobartian Voluntarism:  
 Grounding a Deontological Conception of Epistemic Justification”  
*Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 2000, pp. 130-141
- “The Proper Role for Contextualism in an Anti-Luck Epistemology”  
*Philosophical Perspectives*, 1999, pp. 115-129
- “Relevant Alternatives and Closure”  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 1999, pp. 196-208
- "Five Layers of Interpretation for Possible Worlds"  
*Philosophical Studies*, 1998, pp. 205-214
- "Ersatz Worlds and Ontological Disagreement"  
*Acta Analytica* 1996, pp. 35-44
- "Against Metaphysical Vagueness"  
*Philosophical Perspectives* 1996, pp. 177-183
- "The Mad Scientist Meets the Robot Cats:  
 Compatibilism, Kinds, and Counterexamples"  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 1996, pp. 333-337
- "Painted Mules and the Cartesian Circle"  
*Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 1996, pp. 29-56
- "Practically Strange"  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 1996, pp.203-207
- "The Simple Solution to the Problem of Generality"  
*Nous* 1995, pp. 501-515
- "Might Counterfactuals and Gratuitous Differences"  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 1995, pp. 91-101

- "The Miracle of Counterfactuals:  
Counterexamples to Lewis's Theory of World Ordering"  
*Philosophical Studies* 1994, pp. 27-43 (Co-authored by Daniel  
Krasner)
- "Varieties of Four-Dimensionalism"  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 1993, pp. 47-59
- "Things Change"  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 1992, pp. 695-704
- "Indication and What Might Have Been"  
*Analysis* 1991, pp. 187-191
- Book Review of *Parts: A Study in Ontology*, by Peter Simons  
*The Philosophical Review*, 1991
- Book Review of *Freedom from Necessity*, by Bernard Berofsky  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 1991
- "Metaphysical Boundaries: A Question of Independence"  
*The Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 1989, pp. 263-276  
(Co-authored by William R. Carter)
- "Relevant Alternatives"  
*Philosophical Studies* 1989, pp. 23-40
- "Vagueness and the Standard Ontology"  
*Nous* 1988, pp. 109-131
- "Putnam, Reference, and Realism"  
*Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 1988, pp. 113-127
- "The Best Candidate Approach to Diachronic Identity"  
*The Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 1987, pp. 434-451
- Book Review of *Elbow Room*, by Daniel Dennett  
*Canadian Philosophical Reviews*, 1986
- "Non-Backtracking Counterfactuals and the Conditional Analysis"  
*The Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 1985, pp. 75-85
- "Temporal Parts of Four Dimensional Objects"  
*Philosophical Studies*, 46 (1984), pp. 323-334.  
Reprinted in  
J. Kim and E. Sosa, *Metaphysics: An Anthology* (1999).  
S. D. Hales, *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*  
(1999).  
M. Rae, *Material Constitution* (1997)

### Papers Delivered

Except for those early papers designated as "refereed," all are invited.

"Counterparts and Conventionalism," April 2012

Mellon Metaphysics Workshop, Cornell

- “Libertarianism, Randomness, and Degrees of Influence,” April 2012
- “Against Epistemic Vagueness”
- ◆University of Manitoba, October 2010
  - ◆Syracuse University Metaphysics Workshop, Dec 2008
  - ◆ Vagueness Workshop, keynote speaker, Switzerland, June 2006
- “Cheap and Ordinary: What Knowledge Isn’t”
- ◆University of California, Irvine, Feb 2010
  - ◆Mellon Epistemology Workshop, University of Rochester, Sept 2008
  - ◆University of Colorado, Oct 2007
- “The Donkey Problem”
- ◆Metaphysics of Time Conference, keynote speaker, Bergamo, Italy, Sep 2007
  - ◆Metaphysics Workshop, keynote speaker, Switzerland, July 2007
- “Hudson Fine Tunes His Way to Hyperspace”
- Symposium on Hud Hudson’s *The Metaphysics of Hyperspace*
- ◆APA Pacific Division, March 2007
- “Counterparts: Alive and Kicking”
- ◆University of St. Andrews, Nov 2006
  - ◆University of Manitoba, Mar 2006
  - ◆Syracuse University Grad Student Conference Keynote Address, Mar 2006
- “How to be a Contextualist about Free Will”
- ◆Bled Philosophy Conference, Slovenia, May 2006
- “Defending Contextualist Anti-Luck Epistemology”
- ◆Inland States Philosophy Conference, May 2004
- “Anti-Coincidence Arguments for Four-Dimensionalism”
- Symposium on Ted Sider’s *Four-Dimensionalism*
- ◆APA Eastern Division, 2003
- “The Conventionality of the 3D/4D Debate”
- ◆Idaho State University, March 2004
  - ◆University of Toronto, Feb 2003
  - ◆University of Colorado, Oct 2002
- “The Immorality of Modal Realism”
- ◆Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Aug 2002
  - ◆Arizona State University, Nov 2002
- “Worlds, Pluriverses, and Minds”
- ◆Brown University, Dec 2001
- “Interpreting Worlds: Identity and Impossibility”
- ◆Yale University, Sept 2001
  - ◆Texas A&M University, Oct 2000
  - ◆Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conf., inaugural keynote speaker, Aug 2000
- "Linguistic Ersatzism, Counterpart Theory, and Transworld Identity"
- ◆APA Central Division, 1997 (refereed)
- "Ersatz Worlds and Ontological Disagreement"

- ♦APA Pacific Division, 1996 (refereed)
- "How to be an Ersatzist about Possible Worlds"
  - ♦IUC Metaphysics Conference, Bled, Slovenia, June 1995
- "A Simple Solution to the Problem of Generality"
  - ♦Rice University, November 1993
- "Painted Mules and the Cartesian Circle"
  - ♦Syracuse University, January 1993
- "Varieties of Four Dimensionalism"
  - ♦Ontology Workshop, University of Texas, December 1991
- "Might-Counterfactuals"
  - ♦University of Manitoba, November 1991
  - ♦University of Oklahoma, October 1991
- Symposium Participant: "Temporal Parts"
  - ♦APA Central Division, 1990
- Symposium Participant: "Language, Thought, and Content"
  - ♦Society for Philosophy and Psychology, April 1989
- "Balancing the Scales, A Non-Consequentialist Compatibilism"
  - ♦APA Pacific Division, 1989 (refereed)
- "The Mad Scientist Meets the Robot Cats"
  - ♦APA Pacific Division, 1988 (refereed)
- "Why Alternative Logics Cannot Handle Vagueness"
  - ♦APA Central Division, 1986 (refereed)
- "Wiggins Vs. the Best Candidate Approach"
  - ♦APA Central Division, 1985 (refereed)
- "Temporal Parts of Four Dimensional Objects"
  - ♦APA Eastern Division, 1983 (refereed)
- "Non-backtracking Counterfactuals and the Conditional Analysis"
  - ♦APA Pacific Division, 1983 (refereed)

## Commenting and Chairing

All are invited. Asterisk indicates session chair.

APA Central

2014, 2010, 2009, 2003, 1999, 1994\*, 1993, 1989, 1987\*

APA Pacific

2014, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2006, 2002, 1995, 1994, 1993

APA Eastern

2000, 1999, 1995\*

Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference

2007\*, 2005, 2004, 2003

Syracuse Metaphysics Conference, Host's Comments

2010

Arizona Ontology Conference

2007, 2006\*

Central States Philosophical Association

2003, 1989

North Texas Philosophical Association  
1999

Refereeing

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I have refereed for each of the following presses and journals (multiple times for most)

Presses

Cambridge University Press  
Cornell University Press  
Oxford University Press  
Routledge Press

Journals

American Philosophical Quarterly  
Analytic Philosophy  
Australasian Journal of Philosophy  
Canadian Journal of Philosophy  
Dialectica  
Erkenntnis  
Journal of Philosophical Research  
Mind  
Nous  
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly  
Philosophia  
Philosophical Compass  
Philosophical Imprints  
Philosophical Papers  
Philosophical Quarterly  
Philosophical Studies  
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research  
Synthese

Outside Reviewer Tenure & Promotion (Associate or Full)

Boise State University  
New York University (thrice)  
Northwestern University  
Rice University  
Rutgers University  
University of California, Irvine  
University of Georgia (twice)  
University of Illinois  
University of Vermont  
Washington University  
Western Washington University (thrice)  
Willamette University

## Teaching Experience

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Graduate: Epistemology  
Contextualism  
Philosophy of Language  
Free Will  
Modal Logic  
Ontology  
Possible Worlds  
Mereological Composition  
Meta-ontology

Upper Level Undergraduate:  
Metaphysics  
Epistemology  
Philosophy of Language  
Philosophy of Religion  
Modal Logic  
Counterfactuals  
Free Will

Introductory Level:  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Introduction to Practical Reasoning/Critical Thinking  
Introduction to Logic

## Dissertation Committees

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Dissertation Director:  
Jeremy Dickinson: Agency Theory; defended 2012  
David Bzdak: Knowing How; defended 2013  
Jay Rourke: Contrastivist Theories of Knowledge  
Mark Barber: The Grounding Relation  
Saikat Guha: A Study of the Nonexistent; Deceased

Second Reader:  
Kelly McCormick: A Revisionist Account of Moral Responsibility;  
defended 2013  
Deke Gould: A Priori Knowledge, Analyticity, and Platonism; defended  
2011  
Kora Gould: Eliminativism about Persons; defended 2010  
Kevin Kukla: Vagueness and Higher Order Vagueness; defended 2007

Committee Member:  
Mihnea Capraru  
Li Kang  
Brian Tackett  
Matt Skene: defended 2013  
Anthony Fisher: Ideology and Fundamentality; defended 2012

Pat Beach: Moral Luck; defended 2012  
Jeremy Pierce: The Metaphysics of Race; defended 2011  
Brendan Murday: Two Dimensionalism; defended 2008  
Irem Kurtal: Composition, Vagueness, and Persistence; defended 2007  
Chris Calvert-Minor: Social Epistemology; defended 2007  
Dimitria Gatzia: Color Fictionalism; defended 2006  
Mark Scala: Three-Dimensionalism; defended 2006  
Mark Steen: An Ontology of Stuff; defended 2005  
Outside Committee Member:  
Jeff Green, Notre Dame: Parts of Possible Worlds; defended 2006  
Outside Examiner:  
Elizabeth Barnes, St. Andrews University: Ontic Vagueness; defended  
2006

## Service

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Mentor to new faculty in the humanities, 2013-2015  
Dept Search Committee, numerous times  
Faculty teaching mentor (Gelber) 2011-present  
University Academic Affairs Committee, 2008-2012  
Director of Graduate Studies, 2008-2009; 2011  
Undergraduate Majors Advisor, 2005-2008; 2011  
Dept self study, graduate curriculum committee 2009  
Department Executive Committee, 2005-2009, 2011-present  
Graduate Student Teaching Advisor, 2005-2008  
Mellon Grant Proposal philosophy department coordinator, 2006  
Department self study, undergraduate committee chair 2006  
Department Chair, 2002-2004  
Faculty Council, 2002-2004  
Dean's tenure committee, 1997-2004  
SACS Re-certification Dept Rep, 1997-2004  
Faculty teaching mentor, 1997-1999; 2011  
Student mentor, 1996 - 1997  
Academic Policy Committee, 1993 - 1995  
Faculty Senate, 1992 - 1995  
Dept Colloquium Coordinator, 1991 - 1995  
Philosophy Club Advisor, 1991 - 1995  
Normal Department Service