

Heather Demarest

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University of Colorado
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Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Physics

Areas of Competence

Logic, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Language

Employment

University of Colorado, Boulder

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

2017-present

University of Oklahoma

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

2013-2017

Education

Rutgers University

2013

PhD in Philosophy

Dissertation: *A Theory of Laws, Dispositions, and Chances*

Advisor: Barry Loewer

Committee: Jonathan Schaffer, Branden Fitelson, and Jenann Ismael

Oxford University

2007

BPhil in Philosophy

Advisors: Timothy Williamson and John Hawthorne

University of Colorado, Boulder

2004

BA in Philosophy, *Phi Beta Kappa*, *summa cum laude* with Allan Franklin

BA in Physics, *summa cum laude* with Noah Finkelstein

Minor in Mathematics

Publications

“Time and Special Relativity”

forthcoming

In *Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Time*,

Routledge Taylor and Francis, ed., Nina Emery

“On the Roles of Function and Selection in Evolving Systems,” with Michael Wong,

2023

Robert Hazen, Carol Cleland, Jonathan Lunine, Stuart Bartlett, Henderson Cleaves,

Anirudh Prabhu, and Daniel Arends Jr

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences **120**(43): e2310223120

“Generalizing the Problem of Humean Undermining” with Elizabeth Miller

2023

In *Humean Laws for Humean Agents*, Oxford University Press, ed., Hicks, Jaag, and Loew

“Isolation, Not Locality,” with Michael Townsen Hicks

2021

- Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, **103**: 607–619.
- “Mentaculus Laws and Metaphysics” 2019
Principia **23**(3): 387–399.
- “Similarity and Enjoyment Predict Continuation for Women in Philosophy” 2017
Analysis, **77**(3): 525–541.
- “Powerful Properties, Powerless Laws” 2017
 In *Causal Powers*, Oxford University Press, ed., Jonathan Jacobs.
- “Fission May Kill You (But Not for the Reasons You Thought)” 2016
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, **93**(3): 565–582.
- “The Universe Had One Chance” 2016
Philosophy of Science, **83**(2): 248–264.
- “Fundamental Properties and the Laws of Nature” 2015
Philosophy Compass, **10**(5): 334–344.
- “Do Counterfactuals Ground the Laws? A Critique of Lange” 2012
Philosophy of Science, **79**(3): 333–344.
- Review: “Laws of Nature”* (2018) eds. Walter Ott and Lydia Patton, Oxford University Press 2018
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews.

Presentations

- “Bringing the Mentaculus to Life”
SPAWN Workshop: Laws of Nature, Syracuse University 2023
Humeanism Conference, Johns Hopkins University 2023
- “Are the Laws of Nature Useful?”
Laws of Nature, Explanation, and Understanding Conference, North Carolina State University 2022
- “Persisting Against the (Spatiotemporal) Odds”
Colloquium, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, New Hampshire 2022
International Association for the Philosophy of Time 7th Annual Conference, Barcelona 2022
- “Does Complexity Require a Temporally Asymmetric Law?”
Workshop on Complexity and Time, Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington DC 2022
- “Against Pragmatic Humean Accounts of Laws”
Society for the Metaphysics of Science (online) 2021
- “Relativistic Causation”
Causation, Modality, and Explanation, Simon Fraser University (online) 2020
- “Mentaculus Counterfactuals” with Elizabeth Miller
Workshop on Humeanism, Harvard 2019
- “Flowing Alone”
Workshop on Time and Explanation, CPT and FraMEPhys, Milan 2018
- Comments on Casey McCoy’s, “The Universe Never Had a Chance: A Critique of Demarest”
Fourth Annual Conference, Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Milan 2018
- “Nonlocal Science” with Michael Townsend Hicks
Conference on History and Metaphysics of Laws, Central European University, Budapest 2018
- “Relativistic Persons: What special and general relativity can tell us about who we are”
Morris Colloquium: The Self and Its Realizations, University of Colorado, Boulder 2018

“Women in Philosophy”	
<i>Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy</i> , University of Colorado	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
“In Defense of a Modal Best System”	
<i>International Workshop: Properties and Laws</i> , University of Dusseldorf	2018
“Consequences of Relativistic Frame-Dependence”	
<i>Pacific APA</i>	2018
<i>Colloquium</i> , Center for Philosophy of Time, Milan	2018
<i>Metro Area Philosophers of Science</i> , New York University	2017
“Special Relativity and Consciousness”	
<i>Undergraduate Philosophy Club</i> , University of Colorado, Boulder	2017
“What we can do about the Underrepresentation of Women in Philosophy”	
<i>Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy</i> , University of Colorado	2017
“It Matters how You Slice it: Special Relativity and Causation”	
<i>1st New England Workshop on Philosophy of Time</i> , Rhode Island College	2017
<i>Mentoring Workshop for Pre-tenure Women Faculty in Philosophy</i> , University of Utah	2017
Panel on Time and Causation	
<i>International Association for the Philosophy of Time</i> , Wake Forest University, NC	2016
“What is Bad About the Lack of Diversity in Philosophy? Implicit Bias and Efforts to Recruit and Retain Philosophers from Underrepresented Groups”	
Western Washington, <i>13th Northwest Student Philosophy Conference</i> (Special Lecture)	2015
Comments on “A Scientific Realist’s Guide to Objective Chance” by Nina Emery	
Whistler, British Columbia, <i>The Philosophy Mountain Workshop</i>	2015
“Fission May Kill You (But Not for the Reasons You Thought)”	
Western Washington, <i>13th Annual Northwest Student Philosophy Conference</i> (Keynote)	2015
<i>Back at the Ranch</i> Metaphysics Conference, Tucson, AZ (Invited Speaker)	2015
University of Colorado, Boulder (Colloquium)	2015
<i>Midwest Annual Workshop on Metaphysics</i> (Invited Speaker)	2014
Comments on “Against Simplicity” by Mary Beth Willard	
Western Washington University, <i>Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference</i>	2013
“Fundamental Chance”	
The University of Oklahoma, <i>Mathematics Department, Analysis and Convexity Seminar</i>	2016
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, <i>Necessity Conference</i>	2013
The University of Georgia (Colloquium Speaker)	2013
The University of Oklahoma (Colloquium Speaker)	2013
Purdue University (Colloquium Speaker)	2013
“Fundamental Chance and the Mentaculus”	
Prague, <i>Ernst Mach Workshop: Issues in Physicalism</i>	2012
“Dispositional Best System Accounts of Laws”	
St. Louis University, <i>Putting Powers to Work</i>	2011
“Justifying the Lebesgue Measure”	
SUNY, Buffalo, Graduate Conference, <i>Nature and Structure</i>	2007

Honors and Awards

Faculty Fellow for Quality Teaching Initiative: Education through Technology	2021–2022
President’s Fund for the Humanities Grant	2019

Research and Innovation Office Conference Grant	2019
Dean's Summer Grant	2018
Course Development Grant	2016
Faculty Fellow Award	2015
College of Arts and Sciences Career Development Grant	2015
Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Summer Fellowships	2014, 2015
SAS Excellence Fellowship	2012–2013
Mellon Summer Grants	2011, 2012
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship	2008–2012
SAS Excellence Fellowship	2007–2008
Clarendon Scholarship	2005–2007
Fawkes Memorial Scholarship	2005–2007
Overseas Research Student Award	2005–2007
<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> Merit Scholarship	2004

Teaching and Advising

Philosophy and the Sciences	2017, 2022
History and Philosophy of Physics	2021, 2022
Introduction to Philosophy (35, 75, and 150 students)	2014, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020
Metaphysics	2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Philosophy of Time Seminar	2014, 2019, 2021
Metaphysics of Laws of Nature at CEU Summer School, Budapest	2018, 2022
Critical Thinking and Writing in Philosophy	2018
Philosophy of Physics and Cosmology	2014, 2016, 2017
Self and Identity	2013, 2015, 2016
Philosophy of Physics	2012
Current Moral and Social Issues	2011
Introduction to Logic	2011
Introduction to Metaphysics	2010
Philosophy of Literature	2009
Dissertation Committee Member (3 completed)	2019, 2020
Masters Thesis Committee Member (1 completed)	2021
Honors Thesis Advisor (4 completed)	2018, 2019, 2020

Service

Professional Service

Society for the Metaphysics of Science Program Committee Member	2023
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Council Member	2017–2021
International Association for the Philosophy of Time Board of Advisors	2018–2023
International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference Organizer	2019

Referee for:

Philosophical Review

Mind
Philosophy of Science
British Journal for the Philosophy of Science
European Journal for the Philosophy of Science
Philosopher's Imprint
Philosophical Studies
Philosophical Quarterly
Analysis
Synthese
American Philosophical Quarterly
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly
Erkenntnis
Ergo
Journal of the American Philosophical Association
Thought
Dialectica
Topoi
Philosophical Papers
National Science Foundation (Grant Proposal)
Oxford University Press
Routledge/Taylor & Francis

University Service

Chair of Committee on the History and Philosophy of Science (CHPS)	2017–2023
Organizer of CU Boulder's CHPS Conference	2017, 2018, 2019
Center for the Study of Origins Core Faculty Member	2021–2022
Mentor for graduate and undergraduate students in philosophy	2018–2023
Climate Committee Member	2017–2023
Chair of Quality Teaching Initiative Committee	2021–2022
Department Liaison for Hellems Renovation	2017–2023
Graduate Admissions Committee Member	2021
Executive Council Committee Member	2020–2021
3-Year Visiting Scholar Hiring Committee Member	2018
Evaluation of Interventions to Retain Women in Philosophy (Design and Implementation)	2014–2016
Initiatives for Undergraduate Inclusiveness and Community-Building (Creator and Organizer)	2014–2016
Recruitment and Diversity Committee	2014–2017
Undergraduate Studies Committee	2013–2017
Rutgers-Columbia-NYU Philosophy of Cosmology Project (Organizer)	2012–2013
Rutgers Graduate Summary Workshop (Creator and Organizer)	2012
Climate Committee for Underrepresented Groups (Graduate Representative)	2011–2012
Graduate Student Climate Survey (Chief Designer and Implementer)	2012
Departmental Colloquia (Organizer)	2011–2012
Philosophy of Science Reading Group (Organizer)	2007–2011
Philosophy of Cosmology, Quantum Theory, and Time Conference (Organizer)	2010
Foundations of Statistical Mechanics Conference (Organizer)	2009

Metaphysics Meets Physics on the Banks of the Raritan Conference (Organizer)

2008