

Erica Shumener

curriculum vitae

Syracuse University
Department of Philosophy
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Areas of specialization

Metaphysics

Areas of competence

Philosophy of Science (general)

Appointments

2022– Assistant Professor, Syracuse University
2015–2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
2015–2022 Resident Fellow, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
2018–2022 Associate Director, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
2018–2022 Secondary Appointment, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Visiting Appointments

Sp 2019 Visiting Faculty Member, Rutgers University
2019–20 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Education

2016 Ph.D. in Philosophy, New York University. Dissertation Title: *Identity, Intrinsicity, and Laws of Nature*. Dissertation Committee: David Chalmers, Kit Fine (chair), Ted Sider.
Fall 2011 Visiting Student, Cornell University
Win 2011 & Visiting Student, Australian National University.
Sum 2009
2008 B.A. *Summa Cum Laude* in Philosophy (with highest honors) and History, New York University

Papers

2022 “The Power to Govern”, *Philosophical Perspectives*
2022 “Intrinsicity and Determinacy”, *Philosophical Studies*
2021 “Humeans are out of this World”, *Synthese*
2021 “Do Identity and Distinctness Facts Threaten the PSR?”, *Philosophical Studies*
2020 “Identity” in the *Routledge Handbook on Ground*
2020 “Explaining Identity and Distinctness” *Philosophical Studies*
2019 “Building and Surveying: Relative Fundamentality in Bennett’s *Making Things Up*,” *Analysis* (Book Symposium)
2017 “Laws of Nature, Explanation, and Semantic Circularity,” *The British Journal for Philosophy of Science* (Editor’s Choice)
2017 “The Metaphysics of Identity,” *Philosophy Compass*

(Short) Book

2022 *Identity* a volume for the *Cambridge Elements Series*, Cambridge University Press

In Progress

ms. "Permeating Properties" (Runner-Up for the 2024 Sanders Metaphysics Prize, R&R at *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*)
 ms. "The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far" (In Preparation)
 ms. "Governing the Nonphysical World" (In Preparation)

Fellowships, grants, honors, etc.

2024 Runner-Up 2024 Sanders Metaphysics Prize
 2023-4 Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship, Syracuse University
 2019-20 Beca Postdoctoral, IIFs UNAM
 2014-15 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship
 2012-13 Graduate Student Fellow, New York Institute of Philosophy: Foundations of Epistemology
 2010 New York University Travel Grant
 2008-13 MacCracken Dissertation Fellowship, New York University
 2008 elected *Phi Beta Kappa*
 2007 Salomonowitz Memorial Prize, awarded by the New York University Philosophy Department (one recipient per year)
 2007 John W. Wilkes Memorial Prize, awarded by the New York University History Department

Presentations

2024 (August) "TBA." Ludwig Wittgenstein Conference, Austria
 2024 (August) "TBA." Higher Order Metaphysics Conference, Rome
 2024 (July) Comments on Ted Sider's "Accept No Substitutes." LanCog Summer Metaphysics Workshop
 2024 "Governing the Non-Physical World," MIT Metaphysics Graduate Seminar
 2024 "The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far" Pacific APA
 2024 "When Properties Collapse." UC Irvine Metaphysics Conference
 2024 "When Properties Collapse." University of Michigan Spring Colloquium
 2023 "The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far." UT Austin Colloquium
 2023 "Comments on Silva's 'Assessing Howard Robinson's Criticism of Hylomorphism.'" Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference ;;
 2023 "Comments on LeBrun's 'No Science without Composites.'" Pacific APA
 2023 "The Governing Conception of Physicalism", Princeton University Metaphysics Conference
 2023 "Distinctness Near and Far", Syracuse University Graduate Conference
 2022 "Physicalism as a Nomic Thesis", Cape Cod Workshop
 2022 "Physicalism as a Nomic Thesis", Umea University (Research Seminar Series)
 2022 "Powerful Explanations", Central APA Symposium on Laws and Dispositions
 2021 "Physicalism as a Nomic Thesis", University of Geneva (Reading Group)
 2021 "Physicalism as a Nomic Thesis", University of Massachusetts-Amherst (Colloquium)
 2021 "Qua-Relations", Central APA Symposium on Relations
 2021 "The Power to Govern", Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
 2020 "The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far", University of Indiana-Bloomington, (Metaphysics Meetup)
 2020 "Are the Laws of Nature Intrinsic to the Universe?", Simon Fraser University (Workshop on Causation, Modality, and Explanation)
 2020 "A Problem with Identity" Syracuse University (Colloquium)
 2020 "The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far", Texas Tech (Colloquium)
 2020 "The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far", Speaker Series at UNAM
 2019 Commentary on Oscar Monroy's "Truth is not Enough", UNAM

- 2019 “Governance and Necessitation”, FRAMEphys Workshop on Laws of Nature and Grounding, University of Birmingham
- 2019 Commentary on Harjit Bhogal’s “Induction and the Glue of the World”, Humean Laws Workshop, Harvard University
- 2019 “A Problem with Identity”, University of Maryland, College Park (colloquium)
- 2019 “Governance with only Necessitation”, Pacific APA Metaphysics of Science Group
- 2019 “A Problem with Identity”, Diaphora Conference on Philosophical Methodology, University of Barcelona
- 2018 Commentary on Trenton Merricks’ “Identity and What Matters”, 2018 New England Workshop on Metaphysics
- 2018 Commentary on Agustín Rayo’s “The Open-Endedness of Logical Space”, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Colloquium
- 2018 “Properties, Facts, and Object-Identity”, Objects and Properties: Generating Dialogue, University of Cambridge
- 2018 “Grounding and Identity”, Hamburg Workshop on Ground, PHLOX
- 2018 “Explaining Identity and Distinctness”.
- 2018 Conference on the Principle of Sufficient Reason, Simon Fraser University
- 2018 Philosophy Mountain Workshop, Telluride, Colorado
- 2017 “Against Fundamental Identity and Distinctness”, Conference on Personal Identity, Paros, Greece
- 2017 Commentary on Chris Dorst’s “Why are the Laws so Useful?” CU Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2017 Commentary on Marianna Antonutti Marfori’s “Indirect Mathematical Naturalism” Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
- 2017 Commentary on Rebecca Chan’s “Ethics-First Metaphysics” Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
- 2017 “A Minimal Account of Governance” Iris Einheuser Memorial Lecture, Duke University
- 2017 “A Minimal Account of Governance” SPAWN workshop, Syracuse University
- 2017 “A Minimal Account of Governance” Junior Metaphysics Workshop, Virginia Tech
- 2017 “Physicalism without Ground” Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
- 2017 “Physicalism without Ground” Ranch Metaphysics Workshop
- 2017 “Commentary on Jonathan Schaffer’s ‘The World for Explanation’ ” Sociedad Filosófica Ibero Americana (SOFIA) XXI Conference
- 2016 “Physicalism without Ground” Grounding and Consciousness Conference University of Birmingham
- 2016 “Intrinsicity, Grounding, and Parthood” Workshop on the Metaphysics of Ground University of Texas at Austin
- 2016 “Commentary on Ted Sider’s ‘Object-Free Ontology’”, American Philosophical Association Meeting, Central Division
- 2015 “Hempel, Explanation and Circularity” University of Toronto M &E Group
- 2015 “Hempel, Explanation and Circularity” Hempel and Beyond Workshop, University of Cologne
- 2015 “Commentary on Jon Litland’s “Bicollective Ground” American Philosophical Association Meeting, Pacific Division
- 2015 “Silliness, Loneliness, and Intrinsicity” University of Notre Dame
- 2015 “Silliness, Loneliness, and Intrinsicity” University of Pittsburgh
- 2015 “Silliness, Loneliness, and Intrinsicity” Northern Illinois University
- 2015 “Silliness, Loneliness, and Intrinsicity” Yale University
- 2014 “Explaining Identity and Distinctness” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University
- 2014 “Grounding Questions” Recent Work on the Logic of Ground Workshop, University of Oslo
- 2013 “How the Laws of Nature Govern” Women in Metaphysics Retreat and Workshop (supported by the Princeton, Rutgers, and NYU philosophy departments)
- 2012 Commentary on Ryan Perkins’ “Of Grounding and Explanation” 12th Annual Columbia-NYU Philosophy Conference, New York University
- 2011 “Truthmaking: Problems with the Monistic Approach” Australian National University, Kioloa Postgraduate Conference.
- 2011 “Exploring Hyperintensional Approaches to Intrinsicity” Australian National University Philosophy Society Seminar.

2010 Commentary on Karen Bennett's "Construction Area (No Hard Hat Required)" Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University

Teaching

UNDERGRADUATE

S24, S23 Critical Thinking (Syracuse)
 F23 Personal Identity (Syracuse)
 S23 Introduction to Philosophy Honors (Syracuse)
 S21 20th Century Analytic Philosophy (Pitt)
 S17, S18 F18 Freedom and Determinism (Pitt)
 S18, F21 Introduction to Philosophical Problems (Pitt)
 F16, F17 Metaphysics (Pitt)
 F15, F16 Concepts of Human Nature (Pitt)
 S14 Introductory Logic (NYU)
 Sum13 Epistemology (NYU)
 Sum12 Central Problems in Philosophy (NYU)

GRADUATE

F23 Language, Epistemology, Mind, and Metaphysics Proseminar (Syracuse)
 F22 The Metaphysics of Material Constitution (Syracuse)
 F21 Personal Identity (co-taught with Jennifer Whiting) (Pitt)
 S21 Metaphysics and Time-Biases (Pitt)
 F20, S22 Metaphysics and Epistemology Core Proseminar (Pitt)
 F17 Laws of Nature (Pitt)
 S17 The Metaphysics of Relations (Pitt)
 S16 Metaphysics Seminar: Explanation and Fundamentality (Pitt)

MISCELLANEOUS

Sum 2018, 21 "Laws of Nature", Pittsburgh Summer Program 2: A Summer Program in Philosophy of Science for Underrepresented Groups

Supervising

GRADUATE

2023- Syracuse: Dissertation Committee Member for Sean Nalty, Minseok Kim, and Sanggu Lee.
 2017-2024 Pitt Prospectus/Dissertation Committee member: Annika Froese, Daniel Kaplan, Leona Mollica, Travis McKenna, Willy Penn, and Rachael Driver.
 2016-2022 Pitt Comprehensive examination committee member for Rachael Driver, Jason Kay, Leona Mollica, Travis McKenna, Annika Froese, Sophia Arbeiter, Beishi Hao, and Alnica Visser.
 2016-2023 Pitt Teaching Mentor for Jasmin Özel, Maximillion Tegtmeier, Alnica Visser, Shivam Patel, Elena Garadja

UNDERGRADUATE

Sum 2017 Advisor to Jennifer Liu, "Scaling from Micro to Macro: Philosophical Investigations of the Living Through Art", Brackenridge Summer Fellowship

Department and Professional Service

Sp 2024 Interim Director of Graduate Studies (duties include advising and directing current graduate students through the program as well as being director of graduate admissions and placement), Syracuse University
 2023-? Area editor for *Ergo*

- 2023 Workshop Co-organizer (with Josh Hunt), SPAWN, Syracuse University
 2023 ABD Workshop Coordinator, Syracuse University
 2021-2 Pitt Director of Graduate Admissions
 2021 Pitt Horowitz Award Committee
 2020-1 Pitt Placement Director
 2020 Shut Up and Write, UNAM
 2019 Workshop Organizer, MAWM (*Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics*) at the University of Pittsburgh
 18-19, 16-17 Faculty Liaison, Pitt Graduate Student-Faculty Liaison Committee
 2018-19 Member, Pitt Faculty Search Committee
 2018 Member, Pitt Department Chair Nomination Committee
 2017-18 Co-Director (with Mark Wilson), Pitt Graduate Admissions Committee
 17-19, 15-16 Member, Pitt Colloquium Committee
 Fall 2017 Leader, *Shut Up and Write*, Pitt Philosophy
 2016-18 Faculty Ambassador, Pitt Undergraduate Philosophy Club
 2016-17 Scribe, Pitt Graduate Admissions Committee
 2016-?? Planning Committee, *Midwest Annual Metaphysics Workshop*
 2015 Co-organizer (with Zee R. Perry), Workshop on the Metaphysics of Quantity at NYU
 2012 Assistant Organizer, *California Metaphysics Conference at USC*
 2012-13 Member, NYU Colloquium Committee
 2010-12 Co-organizer, *NYU Metaphysics Bootcamp Workshop*
 2009-10 Member, NYU Committee on Women and Minority Hiring
 2009 Co-organizer, *9th Annual NYU-Columbia University Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy*
- ongoing Referee for: *Analysis*, *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *Inquiry*, *Journal of the APA*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Metaphysics*, *Nous*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Res Philosophica*, *Synthese*, *Thought* (editorial panel member: 2015-18)

References

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