

## Justin Bledin

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### Academic Positions

Associate Professor, [Department of Philosophy](#), Johns Hopkins University, 2021–present

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 2013–2020

Secondary Appointment as Associate Professor in the [Department of Cognitive Science](#)

Member of the [JHU Foundations of Mind Group](#)

### Education

Ph.D. Logic, [University of California, Berkeley](#), 2013

Dissertation: *Logic Informed* ([download link](#))

Committee: John MacFarlane (chair), Niko Kolodny, Paolo Mancosu, Hans Sluga, Seth Yalcin

MSc. Philosophy and History of Science, London School of Economics, 2006

B.S. Economics and A.B. Mathematics, *summa cum laude*, Duke University, 2002

### Areas of Specialization

Logic, Philosophy of Language, Theoretical Linguistics

### Areas of Competence

Spinoza, Decision Theory

### Publications

Composing Menus. Forthcoming in Ernest Lepore and David Sosa, editors, *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Language*, Volume 4.

[download link](#)

Free Choice With Arbitrary Variables. In Fausto Carcassi, Tamar Johnson, Søren Brinck Knudstorp, Sabina Domínguez Parrado, Pablo Rivas Robledo, and Giorgio Sbardolini, editors, *Proceedings of the 24th Amsterdam Colloquium*, 2024.

[download link](#)

Justin Bledin and Sadhwi Srinivas. Descriptive *As Ifs*. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 46(1): 87–134, 2023.

[doi: 10.1007/s10988-022-09352-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10988-022-09352-3)

Supersedes: *As Ifs*. In M. Teresa Espinal, Elena Castroviejo, Manuel Leonetti, Louise McNally, and Cristina Real-Puigdollers, editors, *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 23*, pages 163–180, 2019.

[doi: 10.18148/sub/2019.v23i1.509](https://doi.org/10.18148/sub/2019.v23i1.509)

Justin Bledin and Yitzhak Melamed. Spinozian Model Theory. In Nicola Olivetti, Rineke Verbrugge, Sara Negri, and Gabriel Sandu, editors, *Advances in Modal Logic*, Volume 13, pages 133–147, 2020.

[download link](#)

Justin Bledin and Sadhwi Srinivas. Exclamatory *As Ifs*. In Michael Franke, Nikola Kompa, Mingya Liu, Jutta L. Mueller, and Juliane Schwab, editors, *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 24*, pages 84–101, 2020.

[doi: 10.18148/sub/2020.v24i1.854](https://doi.org/10.18148/sub/2020.v24i1.854)

Justin Bledin. Fatalism and the Logic of Unconditionals. *Nous* 54(1): 126–161, 2020.

[doi: 10.1111/nous.12257](https://doi.org/10.1111/nous.12257)

Supersedes: Fatalism and the Logic of Unconditionals. In Alexandre Cremers, Thom van Gessel, and Floris Roelofsen, editors, *Proceedings of the 21st Amsterdam Colloquium*, pages 115–124, 2017.

[download link](#)

Justin Bledin and Kyle Rawlins. Resistance and Resolution: Attentional Dynamics in Discourse. *Journal of Semantics* 37(1): 43–82, 2020.

[doi: 10.1093/jos/ffz015](https://doi.org/10.1093/jos/ffz015)

Justin Bledin and Kyle Rawlins. *What Ifs*. *Semantics & Pragmatics* 12(14): 1-55, 2019.

[doi: 10.3765/sp.12.14](https://doi.org/10.3765/sp.12.14)

Justin Bledin and Tamar Lando. Closure and Epistemic Modals. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 97(1):3–22, 2018.

[doi: 10.1111/phpr.12335](https://doi.org/10.1111/phpr.12335)

Lucas Champollion, Justin Bledin, and Haoze Li. Rigid and Flexible Quantification in Plural Predicate Logic. In Dan Burgdorf, Jacob Collard, Sireemas Maspong, and Brynhildur Stefánsdóttir, editors, *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 27*, pages 418–437, 2017.

[doi: 10.3765/salt.v27i0.4190](https://doi.org/10.3765/salt.v27i0.4190)

Justin Bledin and Kyle Rawlins. Epistemic Resistance Moves. In Mary Moroney, Carol-Rose Little, Jacob Collard, and Dan Burgdorf, editors, *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26*, pages 620–640, 2016.

[doi: 10.3765/salt.v26i0.3812](https://doi.org/10.3765/salt.v26i0.3812)

Justin Bledin. *Modus Ponens* Defended. *Journal of Philosophy*. CXII(2):57–83, 2015.

[doi: 10.5840/jphil201511225](https://doi.org/10.5840/jphil201511225)

Justin Bledin. Logic Informed. *Mind* 123(490):277–316, 2014.

[doi: 10.1093/mind/fzu073](https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzu073)

Justin Bledin. Challenging Epistemology: Interactive Proofs and Zero Knowledge. *Journal of Applied Logic* 6(4):490–501, 2008.

doi: [10.1016/j.jal.2008.09.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jal.2008.09.002)

Justin Bledin and Sharon Shewmake. Research Programs, Model-Building and Actor-Network-Theory: Reassessing the Case of the Leontief Paradox. *Journal of Economic Methodology* 11(4):455–476, 2004

doi: [10.1080/1350178042000280630](https://doi.org/10.1080/1350178042000280630)

### **Work Under Contract, Revision, or Review**

Justin Bledin. Truthmakers and Mental Models. *Cambridge Elements in Semantics*.

Justin Bledin and Yitzhak M. Melamed. *Ethica more logico demonstrata*. Under revision for *Philosophical Review*.

Justin Bledin and Sadhwi Srinivas. Expressive *As Ifs*. Under revision for *Linguistics and Philosophy*.

### **Fellowships and Awards**

Johns Hopkins Discovery Award, 2022-2023

Project: Deception and Bad-Faith Communication

Investigators: Kyle Rawlins, Justin Bledin, Ying Chen, Chen Cheng, Ali Khan

ConceptLab Visiting Fellowship, University of Oslo (declined due to Covid)

Bersoff Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellowship, New York University (declined)

Graduate Division Summer Grant, UC Berkeley, 2012

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2007

Imre Lakatos Prize (for best performance in MSc. Philosophy and History of Science), London School of Economics, 2006

Phi Beta Kappa, 2002

### **Presentations (\* invited)**

Free Choice With Arbitrary Objects/Variables

Kyle Rawlins' Semantics Lab, JHU, December 2025\*

Philosophy Colloquium, Virginia Tech, November 2025\*

Università di Padova, October 2025\*

MiLC, Heinrich Heine, Düsseldorf, June 2025\*

Human Abilities Centre, Berlin, June 2025\*

24rd Amsterdam Colloquium, December 2024

Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, May 2024\*

Nothing is Logical Seminar (joint talk with Discourse and Philosophy Colloquium),  
University of Amsterdam, March 2024\*

Workshop on Ability: Language and Action, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,  
March 2024\*

Comments on Luca Passi's 'Probabilistic Knowledge and Factivity'

Northeastern Epistemology Workshop, April 2025\*

Comments on Brian Haas's 'Lying with "Ouch!" and "Oops!"'

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, New York,  
January 2024\*

Composing Menus

Kit Fine's Truthmakers Seminar, NYU, December 2025\*

Conference on Truthmaker Semantics and Related Approaches,  
NYU's Villa La Pietra in Florence, June 2023\*

University of Toronto, May 2023\*

Negative Individuals in Truthmaker Semantics

23rd Amsterdam Colloquium, December 2022\*

Kit Fine's Truthmakers Seminar, NYU, December 2022\*

Dublin Language Workshop, August 2022\*

Composing Truthmakers

NY Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, April 2022\*

Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, May 2021\*

NYU Semantics Group, May 2021\*

Josh Dever's Philosophy of Language Seminar, UT Austin, March 2021\*

The Logic Supergroup, February 2021\*

About *What About*

Revisiting the Common Ground Workshop, Princeton University, May 2021\*  
(with Kyle Rawlins)

Semantics and Linguistic Theory 31, Brown University, May 2021  
(with Kyle Rawlins)

PhLiPonLine, November 2020

Virtual Language WiP, August 2020\*

Spinozian Model Theory

Advances in Modal Logic, August 2020

Perceptual Resemblance Reports

Workshop on Clausal Complements and Sentence-Embedding Predicates,  
New York University, November 2019

Exclamatory *As If*

PhLiP, Tarrytown, November 2019

Sinn und Bedeutung 24, Universität Osnabrück, September 2019

(with Sadhwi Srinivas)

*Ethica more logico demonstrata*

The Society for Early Modern Philosophy, Yale University, April 2019\*

(with Yitzhak Melamed)

*As Ifs*

Ontario Meaning Workshop, August 2019\*

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver,  
April 2019

New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York University, November  
2018

Sinn und Bedeutung 23, Universitat Autònoma Barcelona, September 2018

(poster with Sadhwi Srinivas)

Philosophy Colloquium, University of Hong Kong, May 2018\*

Fatalism and the Logic of Unconditionals

Nate Charlow's Attitudes in Language Seminar, University of Toronto,  
March 2021\*

New York Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center,  
November 2018\*

Philosophy Colloquium, Lingnan University, May 2018\*

American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Symposium on  
Logical Consequence and Discourse, Chicago, February 2018\*

21st Amsterdam Colloquium, December 2017

InqBnB2, Amsterdam, December 2017

*What Ifs*

North East Linguistics Society 48, University of Iceland, October 2017

(poster with Kyle Rawlins)

InqBnB1, Broek, June 2017\*

Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Ryerson University, May 2017\*

Lucas Champollion's Counterfactuals and Inquisitive Semantics Seminar, New York University, April 2017\*

Comments on Ivano Ciardelli, Linmin Zhang, and Lucas Champollion's 'Two Switches in the Theory of Counterfactuals: A Study of Truth Conditionality and Minimal Change'

InqBnB1, Broek, June 2017\*

Rigid and Flexible Quantification in Plural Predicate Logic

Semantics and Linguistic Theory 27, University of Maryland, May 2017  
(poster with Lucas Champollion and Haoze Li)

Sobel-like Sequences of Attention and Belief Change

Workshop on Conditionals at the Crossroads of Semantics and Pragmatics,  
Konstanz, November 2016

Modus Ponens Defended (Again)

2nd Belgrade Conference on Conditionals, Workshop on *Modus Ponens*, May 2016\*

Resistance and Resolution in Discourse

Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26, UT Austin, May 2016  
(poster with Kyle Rawlins)

The Unstructured Conference, Rutgers, April 2016 (with Kyle Rawlins)

Philosophy Colloquium, Johns Hopkins, April 2016\*

New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York University,  
November 2015\*

Discourse and Philosophy Colloquium, University of Amsterdam, November 2015\*

Closure and Epistemic Modals

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco,  
March 2016 (with Tamar Lando)

Branden Fitelson's Seminar, Rutgers University, December 2014\*  
(with Tamar Lando)

Comments on Una Stojnić's 'Modality, Coherence, and Logic'

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore,  
January 2016\*

The Informational Turn in Logic

World Congress on Universal Logic, University of Istanbul, June 2015\*

Propositions without Descriptions

New York Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center, April 2015\*

Modality with Content

Cognitive Science Colloquium, Johns Hopkins, October 2014\*

Undergraduate Philosophy Forum, Johns Hopkins, October 2014\*

University of Graz, July 2014\*

Modus Ponens Defended

International Conference on Deontic Logic and Normative Systems, Ghent University, July 2014

Society for Exact Philosophy, Caltech, June 2014

Two Kinds of Supposition

CSLI Workshop on Logic, Rationality & Intelligent Interaction, Stanford, May 2013\*

Logic Informed

University College London, February 2013

Johns Hopkins University, February 2013

Philosophy Colloquium, UC Berkeley, November 2012

Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, April 2012

The Myth of Logical Coherence

Student Logic Colloquium, UC Berkeley, May 2011

Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, December 2010

Is Formal Coherence a Myth?

Philsoc, Australian National University, July 2010\*

Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, December 2009

Epistemic Lessons From Computer Science: Interactive Proofs and Zero Knowledge

Student Logic Colloquium, UC Berkeley, April 2008

Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, October 2007

Model Theoretic Explanations in the Theory of Dense Linear Orderings

Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics, University of Cambridge, January 2008

Research Programs, Model-Building and Actor-Network-Theory: Reassessing the Case of the Leontief Paradox

History of Economics Society, University of Toronto, June 2004

## Teaching

### Johns Hopkins University

Fall 2025	Graduate Seminar: Truthmakers and Mental Models
Spring 2025	Reading Course: Pietroski's <i>Conjoining Meanings</i> Decisions, Games, and Social Choice
Fall 2024	Partial Truth
Spring 2024	Graduate Seminar: Free Choice With Arbitrary Objects
Fall 2023	Formal Methods of Philosophy
Spring 2023	Language Seminar: Proper Names and Definite Descriptions
Spring 2022	Graduate Seminar: Truthmaker Pragmatics and Anaphora
Fall 2021	Logic of Spinoza's <i>Ethics</i> (with Yitzhak Melamed) Formal Methods of Philosophy
Spring 2021	Modal Psychology Typography and Meaning (with Hilary Greenbaum)
Fall 2020	Graduate Seminar: Truthmakers Modal Logic and Its Applications
Spring 2020	Language Seminar: Proper Names and Definite Descriptions Decisions, Games, and Social Choice
Fall 2019	Graduate Seminar: Currents Topics in Philosophy Formal Methods of Philosophy
Spring 2019	Counterfactual Reasoning (with Steven Gross) Decisions, Games, and Social Choice
Spring 2018	Logic of Spinoza's <i>Ethics</i> (with Yitzhak Melamed) Philosophical Logic
Fall 2017	Graduate Seminar: Fatalism and the Logic of Unconditionals Language Seminar: Proper Names and Definite Descriptions
Spring 2017	Fundamental Principles of Philosophical Rationalism (with Yitzhak Melamed) Modal Logic and Its Applications
Fall 2016	Graduate Seminar: <i>What If</i> Questions Formal Methods of Philosophy
Spring 2016	Decisions, Games, and Social Choice Formal Methods of Philosophy (with Robert Rynasiewicz)
Spring 2015	Introduction to Formal Logic Philosophical Logic
Fall 2014	Graduate Seminar: Counterfactuals Possible Worlds: From Spinoza to Kripke (with Yitzhak Melamed)
Spring 2014	Graduate Seminar: Modality with Content Decisions, Games, and Social Choice

Fall 2013                      Language Seminar: Proper Names and Definite Descriptions  
Modal Logic and Its Applications

### UC Berkeley

Summer 2011/2013    Introduction to Logic

### Other Teaching

Summer 2022                      Negative Events and Truthmaker Semantics, ESSLLI 2022 (with Timothée Bernard)  
Summer 2014                      Philosophical Logic Bootcamp, NASSLLI 2014  
Spring 2009                      Geometry, Prison University Project  
Fall 2008                      Basic Mathematics, Prison University Project  
Summer 2008/2009    Logic Games Workshop, A+ Summer High School

### Graduate and Undergraduate Advising

#### Graduate primary advisor

Dr. Richard Teague. *On Wondering: The Epistemology of a Questioning Attitude*.  
Ph.D. dissertation, Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 2023.

Currently: Teaching Fellow in Philosophy, Trinity College Dublin.

Dr. Hüseyin Güngör. *Counterfactuality, Necessity and Possibility in Truthmaker Semantics*.  
Ph.D. dissertation, Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 2024.

Currently: Lecturer in World Philosophy, University of Glasgow.

Formerly: Postdoctoral Research Associate in Philosophy, Princeton University,  
working as part of the PRÉCIS project.

Elsie Campell. Ph.D. Philosophy, Johns Hopkins, 2020–present

Riccardo Pellegrini. Ph.D. Philosophy, Johns Hopkins, 2021–present

Jacob Yang. Ph.D. Philosophy, Johns Hopkins, 2023–present

#### Graduate committee member

Dr. Josef Simpson. *Knowing How to Know: Competence and Epistemic Evaluability*.  
Ph.D. dissertation, Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 2017.

Dr. Patrick O'Donnell. *Racialized Discourse at the Intersection of Meaning, Mind, and Metaphysics*.  
Ph.D. dissertation, Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 2019.

Dr. Sadhwi Srinivas. *The semantics of (in)definiteness in bare vs. non-bare nominals: a study of Kannada and English*, Ph.D. dissertation, Cognitive Science,  
Johns Hopkins University, 2021.

Dr. Zachary Gartenberg. *Prospects for Nothing: Representing Nonbeing and the Metaphysics of Intentionality in Aquinas, Spinoza, and Leibniz*. Ph.D. dissertation,  
Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 2022.

## **Graduate Board Orals at Johns Hopkins**

Karl Mulligan (Cognitive Science, 2025)  
Alexander Ioakimidis (Philosophy, 2025)  
Shozo Kamiya (Philosophy, 2025)  
Hüseyin Güngör (Philosophy, 2024)  
Ryan Ross (Philosophy, 2024)  
Natalia Talmina (Cognitive Science, 2023)  
Richard Teague (Philosophy, 2023)  
Austin Heath (Philosophy, 2023)  
Nathaniel Weir (Computer Science, 2022)  
Zachary Gartenberg (Philosophy, 2022)  
Sadhi Srinivas (Cognitive Science, 2021)  
Karen Clothier (Cognitive Science, 2019)  
David Lindeman (Philosophy, 2019)  
Patrick O'Donnell (Philosophy, 2019)  
Marianna Ganapini (Philosophy, 2017)  
Nick Goldberg (Philosophy, 2017)

## **Undergraduate**

Matthew McCauley. *The Problem of Religious Reference*. Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Johns Hopkins University, 2014.

## **Professional Service**

### **Service at Johns Hopkins**

Director of Graduate Studies, Johns Hopkins Philosophy, 2023–present  
Associate Chair, Johns Hopkins Philosophy, Spring 2024  
Co-organizer ‘Struggles & Triumphs’ Speaker Series, 2023–present  
Co-established ‘Struggles & Triumphs’ Speaker Series, Johns Hopkins Philosophy, 2023  
Organizer, Graduate Life Seminar, 2016–2018, 2019–2022  
Established Graduate Life Seminar, Johns Hopkins Philosophy, 2016  
Job Market Placement Coordinator, Johns Hopkins Philosophy, 2019–2022  
Subcommittee of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs,  
Shared Governance Council, 2025–present  
Ad hoc Committee for associate professor tenure case, 2024, 2025  
Search Committee, Johns Hopkins Philosophy, 2021–2022  
Graduate Admissions, Johns Hopkins Philosophy, 2015, 2025–present  
Departmental Learning Assessment Committee, Johns Hopkins Philosophy, 2014  
Green Team, Johns Hopkins, 2014–2016

### **Service to the Field**

Co-organizer, [New York Philosophy of Language Workshop](#), 2015–present

Co-organizer, Advances in Truthmaker Semantics 2, Munich, July 2025

Co-organizer, Workshop on Clausal Complements and Sentence-Embedding Predicates, New York University, November 2019

Member of editorial board of *Semantics & Pragmatics*

Journal reviewing: *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Episteme*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy*, *Journal of Cognitive Science*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Linguistics & Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Semantics & Pragmatics*, *Social Epistemology*, *Studia Logica*, *Synthese*, *Topoi*, and *Theoria*.

Grant and conference reviewing: Amsterdam Colloquium, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation), Semantics and Linguistic Theory, Society for Philosophy and Psychology

### **Service at UC Berkeley**

Co-organizer, Townsend Center Working Group in the History and Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics, and Science, UC Berkeley, 2008–13

Co-organizer, London-Berkeley Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2011 and 2012

Logic Tea Coordinator, UC Berkeley, 2009–11