

CURRICULUM VITAE

ADAM RUSSELL MURRAY

Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
170 St. George Street, rm. 503
Toronto, ON, M5R 2M8 Canada

mobile: 647-740-0602
fax: 416-978-8703
adam.murray@utoronto.ca
www.adammurray.com

Employment

Faculty lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto (July 2016–present)

Education

PhD, Philosophy, University of Toronto; Dissertation: *Perspectives on Modal Metaphysics*; Supervisors: Benj Hellie and Jessica Wilson; Readers: Nate Charlow and Nick Stang; External Examiner: Louis deRosset; 2017

MA, Philosophy, University of Manitoba; Thesis: *Actualist Modal Realism*; Supervisor: Chris Tillman; 2009

BA, University of Winnipeg (Political Science; 2003)

Area of Specialization

Metaphysics and philosophy of language (modality; essence; singular reference; context; individuation; and their philosophical logic)

Areas of Competence

Early modern philosophy; logic (through completeness); epistemology; general metaphysics of science (laws of nature); history of analytic philosophy

Articles

- 2017 Entry on Relativized Metaphysical Modality (with Benj Hellie and Jessica Wilson). In: Otávio Bueno and Scott Shalkowski, editors, *The Routledge Handbook of Modality*. New York: Routledge.
- 2014 Not the Optimistic Type (with Ben Caplan, Brian McLean, and Chris Tillman). *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 43: 575–589. (6600 words)
- 2013 Spinoza on Essence and Ideal Individuation. *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 43: 78–96. (9800 words)
- 2012 Relativized Metaphysical Modality (with Jessica Wilson). In: Karen Bennett and Dean Zimmerman, editors, *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* 7: 189–226. (13,500 words)

Invited Contributions in Progress

Modality and the Possible-worlds Conception of Propositions. Under contract for Chris Tillman, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Propositions*. New York: Routledge. (6000 words). Forthcoming 2018.

In Progress/Under Review

- Existence and Nonexistence in Modal Perspectivism (9500 words)
- Chisholm's Paradox in Perspective (8000 words)
- Paper on context-relativity and higher-order ontological necessitism
- Paper on modality and Humean conceptions of lawhood

Awards and grants

- University of Toronto (Doctoral Completion Award, CAD 8000: 2014–15)
- Ontario Provincial Government (Graduate fellowship, CAD 15,000: 2013–14)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Government of Canada (PhD Research Fellowship, CAD 40,000: 2011–13)
- Ontario Provincial Government (Graduate fellowship, CAD 15,000: 2011–12)
- Manitoba Provincial Government (Graduate fellowship, CAD 15,000: 2008–9)
- University of Manitoba (Mary Catherine Cartwright Graduate Fellowship, CAD 10,000: 2008–9)

Academic Talks

- 2017 *Contingency in the Necessary Framework of Objects*: Canadian Philosophical Association, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
- 2016 *Modal Dependence*: Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey (Department colloquium; invited)
- 2014 *Essence, Modality, and Material Origins*: Yonsei Philosophy Conference, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea (invited)
- 2013 *Relative Essentialism*: Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Winnipeg, Manitoba, with comments by Damian Melamedoff (University of Toronto); Canadian Philosophical Association, Victoria, British Columbia, with comments by Curtis Kehler (University of British Columbia); Society for Exact Philosophy, Montreal
- 2011 *Spinoza on Essence and Ideal Individuation*: Princeton-Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference in the History of Philosophy, Princeton University, with comments by Katharine Gasdaglis (Columbia)
- Independence and Parallelism in Spinoza's Ethics*: University of Toronto Early Modern Research Group; Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary, Alberta, with comments by Amy Schmitter (University of Alberta); Southern Philosophical Association, Pensacola, FL
- 2010 *Actualism and Mere Possibilia*: East-Asian Society for Analytic Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Kyong-Hee University, Seoul, South Korea
- 2009 *Fine on Proxy Actualism*: XXII World Congress of Philosophy, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea; Philosophy Department, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

Commentaries

- 2017 Andrew Parisi, *Barcan Up the Wrong Tree*: Canadian Philosophical Association, Ryerson University
- 2014 Justin Dallman, *Existence and Cognitive Event Theories of Propositions*: Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 2012 Juhani Yli-Vakkuri, *Modal Skepticism and Counterfactual Knowledge: Varieties of Possibility*, 11th Annual Graduate Conference, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto
- 2008 Jeff Kochan, *Technology and Freedom in Martin Heidegger*: Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Other research activities

- 2012 *Metaphysical Mayhem*, Rutgers University, NJ (Funded, 5-day seminar and discussion event focusing on contemporary metaphysics; invited)
- 2010–12 Research assistant to Byeong-Uk Yi (Project investigating the logic and semantics of mass and count nouns; Department of Philosophy, Toronto)
- 2009 Research assistant to Esa Diaz-Leon (literature review; project on the metaphysics of race; Department of Philosophy, University of Manitoba)
- 2008 Research assistant to Neil McArthur (literature review; project on philosophy of love in the medieval period; Department of Philosophy, University of Manitoba)

Teaching

As instructor:

Socrates Project: Seminar Coordinator (Advanced, 400-level undergraduate seminar focused on research and teaching; University of Toronto; 2016–present)

Seminar in Metaphysics (400-level; Topic: Modal Ontology; University of Toronto; Fall 2017)

Metaphysics (300-level; Topic: “Metaphysical Systems”; University of Toronto; Winter semesters: 2017, 2018)

Knowledge and Reality (200-level survey course in metaphysics and epistemology; enrollment: 215 students; University of Toronto; Fall semesters: 2016, 2017; co-taught with Dominic Alford-Duguid: Summer 2014)

Symbolic Logic (200-level course in propositional and first-order logic, including basic model theory; 100 students; University of Toronto; Summer 2013)

Critical Thinking (200-level course on informal reasoning and argumentation; University of Manitoba; Summer semesters: 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010)

As tutorial leader:

Introduction to Philosophy (2015–16, 2014–15, Fall 2010)

Knowledge and Reality (Summer 2015, Spring 2014, Fall 2011, Fall 2010)

17th and 18th Century philosophy (2012–13)

Symbolic Logic (Fall Semesters: 2012, 2011, 2010)

Supervisions and other teaching activities

Research supervision: Lucas Bennett (undergraduate research project on the ontology of fiction and semantics of fictional names; University of Toronto, Philosophy)

Departmental teacher-training coordinator (for first-time instructors, teaching assistants, and graders; Department of Philosophy, Toronto; Fall and Spring semesters: 2016–present)

Service

Reviewer for *Synthese*; *Minds and Machines*; *Theoria*.

Co-organizer (with Belinda Piercy), University of Toronto Undergraduate Research Conference (Department of Philosophy, Toronto: Spring 2017 and 2018)

Typesetting and general tech consultant, *Noesis*: The University of Toronto Undergraduate Journal of Philosophy; 2017–present (L^AT_EX, BiB_LA_TE_X, Sublime/Vim, Linux OS)

University of Toronto Graduate Conference Committee: submission reviewer (*Varieties of Possibility* conference; Spring 2012)

Departmental Graduate Student Representative, University of Toronto Graduate Students Union (2009–10)

Graduate Student Representative, Departmental Hiring Committee (Department of Philosophy, University of Manitoba; 2007–09)

References

Jessica Wilson (Professor, Philosophy, Toronto); jessica.m.wilson@utoronto.ca

Benj Hellie (Professor, Philosophy, Toronto); benj.hellie@utoronto.ca

Nate Charlow (Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Toronto); nate.charlow@utoronto.ca

Nick Stang (Associate Professor, Philosophy, Toronto); nick.stang@gmail.com

Louis deRosset (Associate Professor and Department Chair, Philosophy, University of Vermont); louis.derosset@uvm.edu

Imogen Dickie (Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies (St. George), Philosophy, Toronto); teaching reference; imogen.dickie@utoronto.ca

Dissertation Abstract

Contemporary modal metaphysics proceeds against an increasingly complex technical and conceptual backdrop. Intuitive hypotheses of modal metaphysics have become controversial, and have been replaced with complicated and contentious theories in many areas of modal-metaphysical theorizing. That is the case, for example, when it comes to recent thinking concerning the structure and logic of essence, and of metaphysical necessity; the nature of lawhood and the modal status of the laws of nature; the metaphysics of transworld identity and of modal representation *de re*; and the relation between existence, quantification, and modality. I argue in my dissertation that much of the recent methodological trajectory towards complexity in these areas of inquiry has its source in lack of proper theoretical attention to the *context-index distinction*. Specifically, by developing a conception of the analytical tools of modal metaphysics as relativized to the *possible world* of the context, I show how systematic modal metaphysics from the view of actuality may be brought more evenly in line with the underlying simplicity of its subject matter.