

# Trevor Teitel

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy  
New York University  
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## Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, New York University, 2015-Present  
Dissertation: *Metaphysical Possibilities in Fundamental Physics*  
Committee: Cian Dorr (advisor), David Albert, Tim Maudlin

B.Phil. in Philosophy, University of Oxford, 2015  
Thesis: *How to Reduce Metaphysical Modality*. Advisor: Tim Williamson

B.A.Hon. in Philosophy, University of Toronto, 2013  
Awarded with High Distinction (highest possible honours)

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**Areas of Specialization**    Metaphysics, Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Science

**Areas of Competence**    Epistemology, Logic, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind,  
History of Analytic Philosophy

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## Publications

“Contingent Existence and the Reduction of Modality to Essence”  
Forthcoming in *Mind*. Available online in early view, [doi:10.1093/mind/fzx001](https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzx001)

“Background Independence: Lessons for Further Decades of Dispute”  
Forthcoming in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* [[Preprint](#)]

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## Selected Presentations

- What Theoretical Equivalence Could Not Be  
*Washington Square Circle* (NYU Philosophy’s Work in Progress Seminar), November 2018
- Comments on Casey McCoy’s “An Objectivist’s Guide to Objective Chance”  
*Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference*, October 2017
- Contingent Existence and the Reduction of Modality to Essence  
*Washington Square Circle* (NYU Philosophy’s Work in Progress Seminar), September 2016
- Why Skolem Can’t have ‘Everything’ (refereed conference)  
*Graduate Conference on Logic and the Philosophy of Mathematics*, Cambridge University, January 2015
- Comments on Rima Basu’s “Epistemic and Pragmatic Reasons”  
*Formal Epistemology Conference*, Oxford University, December 2015
- Comments on Juhani Yli-Vakkuri’s “Modal Skepticism and Counterfactual Knowledge”  
*U of T Graduate Philosophy Conference*, University of Toronto, March 2012

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## Service

- Journal Refereeing: *Mind* (x2), *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Philosophical Studies* (x2), *Synthese* (x3)
- Conference Refereeing: *Society for the Metaphysics of Science*
- Graduate Student Mentor for Incoming PhD Students, NYU Philosophy, 2018-Present
- Curriculum Committee Member, NYU Philosophy, 2017-2018
- Climate Committee Member, NYU Philosophy, 2016-2017
- Organizer of NYU Philosophy Departmental Colloquia, 2015-2017
- Inclusiveness and Diversity Committee Member, NYU Philosophy, 2015-2016
- Organizer of NYU Philosophy of Physics Reading Group, 2015-2016
- Conference Organizer "Verbal Disputes and their Philosophical Significance" (two day international conference), Oxford, June 2015 (for details see <https://verbaldisputesoxford.wordpress.com/>)
- Organizer of Jowett Society (Oxford's Weekly M&E Departmental Colloquia), 2014-2015

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## Teaching

### As Sole Instructor:

- Metaphysics, NYU, Summer 2018

### As Teaching Assistant:

- Philosophy of Science (Tim Maudlin), NYU, Spring 2018
- Consciousness (Ned Block), NYU, Fall 2017
- Introduction to Philosophy (Peter King), year long history of philosophy survey, University of Toronto, Fall 2011-Spring 2012 (during my undergraduate degree)

### Guest Lectures:

- "Quantum Mechanics and Consciousness: A Cautionary Tale", Consciousness (Ned Block), Oct 31 2017

### Certification:

- Completed NYU's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Teaching Certificate Program, a "non-credit seminar for Doctoral level students interested in developing effective classroom skills and a reflective teaching practice"
- Completed NYU's Safe Zone training, designed to "provide a foundation of knowledge needed to be an effective ally to LGBTQ students"

### Outreach:

- Broome St. Academy (tuition-free public high school), Spring 2017  
Volunteered to teach weekly classes for high school students in foster care and transitional housing  
Covered topics across most areas of philosophy, focusing on ethics and epistemology

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## Selected Grants and Awards

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship, 2016-2020
- MacCracken Fellowship (full tuition and cost of living for the NYU PhD), New York University, 2015-2020
- Ertegun Scholarship (full tuition and cost of living for the Oxford BPhil, awarded to one philosophy student in the incoming class of 2013), University of Oxford, 2013-2015
- Santander Scholarship, University of Oxford, 2014
- Undergraduate Awards (all at University of Toronto): Sanford Gold Medal (awarded to the graduating philosophy student with the highest overall standing), 2013; Ethel Treble and F Louis Barber Traveling Scholarship, 2013; University of Toronto Scholar, 2013; The Thomas A. Goudge Scholarship in Philosophy (awarded to the third year philosophy student with the highest overall standing), 2012; The Alastair McKinnon Scholarship, 2012; University of Toronto Excellence Award, 2012; The John MacDonald

Scholarship in Philosophy (awarded to the second year philosophy student with the highest overall standing), 2011; Walter Theodore Brown Scholarship, 2011; Vic One Scholarship, 2010; Dean's List, 2010-2013

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## Graduate Coursework

(Audited courses marked with a ‘\*\*’)

At NYU:

- *The Nomological* (Jonathan Schaffer and Ted Sider - Rutgers)\* Fall 2018
- *Gauge Theories* (Tim Maudlin)\* Fall 2017
- *Foundations of Spacetime Theories* (Tim Maudlin) Spring 2017
- *Confirmation Theory and the Scientific Method* (Michael Strevens)\* Fall 2016
- *Axiology and Bipolarity* (Samuel Scheffler) Fall 2016
- *Directed Study on Quantum Mechanics* (Cian Dorr) Spring 2016
- *The Direction of Time* (David Albert - Columbia)\* Spring 2016
- *Proseminar II* (Paul Boghossian and Kit Fine) Spring 2016
- *Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics* (David Albert - Columbia) Fall 2015
- *Philosophy of Applied Math: Science Without Numbers* (Cian Dorr and Hartry Field) Fall 2015
- *Proseminar I* (Rob Hopkins and John Richardson) Fall 2015

At Oxford:

- *Philosophy of Statistical Mechanics* (David Wallace) Summer 2015
- *Conditionals* (John Hawthorne) Spring 2015
- *Philosophy of Probability and Decision Theory* (Frank Arntzenius) Spring 2015
- *Quantum Mechanics* (David Wallace) Fall 2014
- *Metaphysics* (Tim Williamson) Fall 2014
- *Metaphysics* (Tim Williamson and John Hawthorne) Summer 2014
- *Philosophical Logic* (James Studd) Summer 2014
- *Epistemology II* (John Hawthorne) Spring 2014
- *Value Theory* (Hilary Greaves and Ralf Bader) Spring 2014
- *Philosophy of Language* (Tim Williamson) Fall 2013
- *Epistemology I* (John Hawthorne) Fall 2013
- *Proseminar* (Roger Crisp and Josh Parsons) Fall 2013

At University of Toronto:

- *Propositions and Numbers* (Gurpreet Rattan and Byeong-uk Yi) Spring 2013
- *Conditionals* (Nate Charlow) Spring 2013
- *Vagueness* (Diana Raffman)\* Summer 2012
- *The Philosophy of Kit Fine* (Jessica Wilson) Spring 2012
- *Sense after Frege* (Imogen Dickie) Fall 2011

Summer Schools:

- *Metaphysical Mayhem*, Rutgers University, August 2016 and May 2018
- *Black Forest Annual Summer School in the Philosophy of Physics*, July 2017
- *Summer Institute on the Philosophy of Quantum Gravity*, University of Geneva and University of Illinois at Chicago “Space and Time After Quantum Gravity” project, June 2016
- *European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information*, University of Tübingen, August 2014

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## References

Cian Dorr  
Professor of Philosophy, New York University  
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Tim Maudlin  
Professor of Philosophy, New York University  
[twm3@nyu.edu](mailto:twm3@nyu.edu)

David Albert  
Frederick E. Woodbridge Professor of Philosophy  
Columbia University  
[da5@columbia.edu](mailto:da5@columbia.edu)

Gordon Belot  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of Michigan  
[belot@umich.edu](mailto:belot@umich.edu)

Timothy Williamson  
Wykeham Professor of Logic  
University of Oxford  
[timothy.williamson@philosophy.ox.ac.uk](mailto:timothy.williamson@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)

Ned Block (teaching reference)  
Silver Professor of Philosophy and Psychology  
New York University  
[ned.block@nyu.edu](mailto:ned.block@nyu.edu)

Please direct requests for letters to NYU's program administrator Leigh Bond at [leigh.bond@nyu.edu](mailto:leigh.bond@nyu.edu)

CV last updated November 2018