

Ryan Simonelli

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy,
1115 E. 58th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

(401) 714-3570
simonelli@uchicago.edu
ryansimonelli.com

Employment:

Wuhan University. To begin Fall, 2024.
International Research Fellow in Philosophy.

University of Chicago. 2022-present.
Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Humanities.

Education:

University of Chicago. PhD, Philosophy. 2015-2022.
University of Pittsburgh. Visiting Scholar. Fall 2019.

New College of Florida. BA, Philosophy. 2010-2014.
Oxford University. Visiting Student. Winter 2013.

Areas of Specialty:

Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic

Areas of Competence:

Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, History of Analytic Philosophy, Indian Buddhist Philosophy

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications (preprints available at ryansimonelli.com/papers):

"A General Schema for Bilateral Proof Rules." *Journal of Philosophical Logic*. 2024.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10992-024-09743-w>

"How to be a Hyper-Inferentialist." *Synthese*. 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-023-04382-1>

"Why Must Incompatibility Be Symmetric?" *Philosophical Quarterly*. 2023.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqad078>

"Considering the Exceptions: On the Failure of Cumulative Transitivity for Indicative Conditionals." *Synthese*. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-022-03854-0>

"Sellars's Ontological Nominalism." *European Journal of Philosophy*. 2021.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ejop.12729>

Invited Publications and Conference Proceedings (preprints available at ryansimonelli.com/papers):

“Meaning, Coherence, and Consequence: Rethinking the Philosophical Significance of the Sequent Calculus.” For a Festschrift for Michael Kremer.

“Generalized Bilateral Harmony.” In the *2023 Logica Yearbook*, ed. Igor Sedlár. Forthcoming.

“Sellars’s Two Worlds.” In *Reading Kant with Sellars*, ed. M. Ranee and L. C. Seiberth. Routledge. Forthcoming.

“The Normative/Agentive Correspondence.” *Journal of Transcendental Philosophy* 3, no. 1. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1515/jtph-2019-0021>

“Pointing Out the Skeptic’s Mistake.” *Florida Philosophical Review* Volume 9, Issue 1. 2014.

“Reformulating the Two Aspects of Justification.” *Florida Philosophical Review*. Volume 8, Issue 1. 2013.

Papers Under Review (available at ryansimonelli.com/papers):

“Bringing Bilateralisms Together” Revise and Resubmit at *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.

“An Act-Based Theory of Assertibles and Instantiables.” Revise and Resubmit at *Ergo*.

“‘Yes,’ ‘No,’ Neither, and Both: Bilateral Systems for the FDE Family.”

Papers in Progress (drafts available upon request):

“Properties without Problems”

“Against Conceptual Svabhāva”

“The Consequentiality of Explicitation”

“Reinstating Existential Instantiation”

“Transcendental Linguistics and Picturing.” For *The Sellarsian Mind*, ed. by Jeremy R. Koons. Under contract with Routledge.

Dissertation:

Meaning and the World. 2022. Available at ryansimonelli.com/dissertation

I motivate and develop a use-based semantic theory in opposition to the dominant paradigm in philosophical and linguistic semantics. Drawing inspiration from Wilfrid Sellars, I argue that contemporary semantic theories are faced with a basic problem of explanatory circularity. These theories universally presuppose that worldly knowledge of such things as properties

or sets of possible worlds precedes and underlies knowledge of meaning. I argue, however, that it is only through learning a language—mastering the rules governing the use of the expressions belonging to that language—that knowledge of these worldly entities is possible. In response to this fundamental problem, I develop a formal semantic framework in which the meaning of a sentence is understood directly in terms of its role in discourse. In contrast to existing semantic frameworks, this framework does not presuppose speakers' worldly knowledge, and so is actually able to explain it. The result is not just a new kind of semantic theory, but a new conception of the relation between meaning and the world.

Committee: Michael Kremer (co-chair), Malte Willer (co-chair), James Conant, Robert Brandom, Jason Bridges

Presentations (“*” indicates refereed presentation):

*“‘Yes,’ ‘No,’ Neither, and Both: Bilateral Systems for the FDE Family.” 7th World Congress of Paraconsistency. Universidad Benito Juárez de Oaxaca, Mexico.

“Some Thoughts on the General Form of a Linguistic Capacity.” June 2024. Conference on James Conant’s *The Logical Alien*. University of Patras, Greece.

“Against Conceptual Svabhāva.” April 2024. The Philosophy of Religions Workshop. University of Chicago.

“Meanings Done Right: An Act-Based Theory of Linguistic Meaning.” January 2024. Haverford College.

“An Act-Based Theory of Assertibles and Instantiables.” November 2023. University of Potsdam Colloquium in Theoretical Philosophy (invited by Johannes Haag). (virtual)

“The Meaning(s) of the Classical Connectives.” October 2023. The Theoretical Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

*“A General Schema for Bilateral Proof Rules.” June 2023. The 36th Annual Logica Conference. Teplá Monastery, Czech Republic.

“Consequence, Coherence, and Consequence Again: Rethinking the Philosophical Significance of the (Classical) Sequent Calculus.” May 2023. Retirement conference for Michael Kremer. University of Chicago.

“Sellars’s Two Worlds.” December 2022. The International Sellars Colloquium. Virtual.

“Sellars’s Two Worlds.” February 2022. The German Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

“Simply Substructural Semantics.” November 2021. Graduate Student Research Symposium. University of Chicago.

“Sellars’s Ontological Nominalism.” June 2021. The International Sellars Colloquium. Virtual.

“Sellars’s Ontological Nominalism.” November 2020. The Theoretical Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

*“Can the Content of Perception Be Conceptual?” June 2019. The Significance of Self-Consciousness – A Workshop with Mathew Boyle. Leipzig University.

“Frege and the Logical Notion of Judgment.” April 2019. The German Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

“Discursive Role Semantics.” February 2019. The Theoretical Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

*“Discursive Normativity, Agentive Modality, and Perceptual Knowledge.” February 2019. Themes from the Philosophy of Robert Brandom. Marquette University.

“Propositions and the Power to Represent.” December 2017. The Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

“The Skeptical Thought and Its Dissolution.” October 2017. The Wittgenstein Workshop. University of Chicago.

*“Propositional Acts and Opaque Contexts.” July 2017. Logic and Life – A Workshop with Irad Kimhi. Leipzig University.

“Indexicality, Opacity, and Perspectivalty.” March 2017. The Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

*“Truth and Being in Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*.” July 2016. The Activity of Being – A Workshop with Aryeh Kosman. Leipzig University.

“Comments on Markus Gabriel’s ‘The Meaning of “Existence” and the Contingency of Sense’.” April 2016. Contemporary European Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

“Having Knowledge in Experience.” April 2016. German Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago.

*“How to Tell the Skeptic to Get Lost.” November 2013. The Florida Philosophical Association Conference. Stetson University.

*“Reformulating the Two Aspects of Justification.” November 2012. The Florida Philosophical Association Conference. University of Central Florida.

Interviews:

“Inferentialism.” *Elucidations Podcast*. To be released.

“A Conversation with Ryan Simonelli.” Interview conducted by L. Ralon. *Figure/Ground*, March 4, 2022: figureground.org/a-conversation-with-ryan-simonelli.

Honors and Awards:

Nominated by the University of Chicago Philosophy Department for the Dean's Dissertation Award (2022)

University of Chicago Graduate Student Essay Prize in Philosophy (for "Considering the Exceptions") (2021)

The Hanna Holborn Gray Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2021)

Awarded to One Student in the Humanities Division at the University of Chicago Each Year

University of Chicago Graduate Fellowship (2015-2020)

The Gerrit and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Philosophy Paper in a Four-Year College or University (2012 and 2013)

New College of Florida Merit Scholarship (2010-2014)

Teaching:

As Primary Instructor (syllabi and more available at ryansimonelli.com/teaching):

Appearance and Reality: Perspectives Across Philosophical Traditions. University of Chicago. Spring 2024.

Introduction to Logic. University of Chicago. Winter 2023.

Authored textbook, available at: ryansimonelli.com/logic-textbook

Doing Things with Words: A Venture into Speech Act Theory. University of Chicago. Winter 2023.

Philosophical Perspectives II. University of Chicago (Core curriculum). Winter 2023. Winter 2024 (prospective)

Science Fiction and Philosophy. University of Chicago. Fall 2022.

Philosophical Perspectives I. University of Chicago (Core curriculum). Fall 2022. Fall 2023.

Consciousness and Language. University of Chicago. Spring 2020.

As Course Assistant:

Elementary Logic (Michael Kremer). University of Chicago. Winter 2021.

Philosophy of Religion (Ben Callard). University of Chicago. Winter 2021.

Varieties of Philosophical Skepticism (James Conant). University of Chicago. Spring 2019.

Consciousness (David Finkelstein). University of Chicago. Fall 2018.

Cognition (Jason Bridges and Chris Kennedy). University of Chicago. Spring 2018.

Formal Logic (Aron Edidin). New College of Florida. Fall 2013.

Research Groups:

Research on Logical Expressivism (ROLE), a weekly research group focused on the development substructural logics in the theoretical framework of inferentialism and logical expressivism, led by Robert Brandom and Ulf Hlobil, (2019-Present). (logicaexpressivism.wixsite.com/role)

The *International Sellars Colloquium*, a monthly reasearch group focused on the philosophy of Wilfrid Sellars, (2021-Present). (wilfridsellars.org/isc)

Professional Service:

Referee:

Ergo, Erkenntnis, The Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy (× 2), *Open Philosophy*, *Review of Symbolic Logic*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*

Conference Co-Organizer:

Skepticism as a Form of Philosophical Experience, with James Conant, Jason Bridges, and Rico Gutschmidt. University of Chicago. February 2017.

Concepts of Aesthetic Form, with James Conant, Robert Pippin, and David Wellbery. University of Chicago. January 2017.

Editorial Work:

Editorial Assistant for *Engaging Putnam*, with James Conant and Sanjit Chakraborty. De Gruyter: 2022.

Manuscript preparation and indexing for *Belief, Inference, and the Self-Conscious Mind*, Eric Marcus. Oxford University Press: 2021.

Manuscript preparation, indexing, and editorial assistant for *The Logical Alien*, James Conant and Sofia Miguens. Harvard University Press: 2020.

Popular Philosophy:

Talking in Circles: Serious Philosophical Dialogues on the Silliness of Philosophy. An illustrated book of dialogues about overarching philosophical systems that undermine themselves. Self-Published in 2014, available at ryansimonelli.com/talking-in-circles.

“Absolute Irony” (www.ryansimonelli.com/absolute-irony), a blog where I post about philosophy and related fields for a non-academic audience (2014-present).

2nd Place Winner of the 3 Quarks Daily Philosophy Prize, Judged by Huw Price (2014).

“A Word on Our Being Here.” A short piece on Heidegger’s “question of being,” in *Property Zine*, vol. 1. no. 3. 2016.

“Seeing Red, Working Nine to Five, and Wearing Platform Shoes.” An article about Frank Jackson’s Knowledge argument in *The Sophist*, a philosophy magazine organized by Oxford University students (2013).

“The Do-Be Tune.” A short philosophical dialogue published in the New College Academic/Literary Journal *Nude Collage* (2011).

References:

Robert Brandom
University of Pittsburgh
brandom@pitt.edu

James Conant
University of Chicago
jconant@uchicago.edu

Michael Kremer
University of Chicago
kremer@uchicago.edu

Malte Willer
University of Chicago
willer@uchicago.edu

David Finkelstein (teaching)
University of Chicago
davidf.uchicago@gmail.com