

Bradford Skow

Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Philosophy

Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

2018-	Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor, MIT.
2016-2018	Laurance S. Rockefeller Associate Professor, MIT.
2014-2016	Associate Professor, MIT.
2011-2014	Associate Professor (without tenure), MIT.
2007-2011	Assistant Professor, MIT.
2005-2007	Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Education

2005	Ph.D. in Philosophy, New York University.
1999	M.A. in Philosophy, University of Sydney. Awarded with merit.
1998	B.A. in Philosophy and English, Oberlin College.

Research

Books

Objective Becoming. Oxford University Press, 2015. (Paperback: 2016.)

Reasons Why. Oxford University Press, 2016. (Paperback: 2019).

Causation, Explanation, and the Metaphysics of Aspect. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Articles in Metaphysics

1. “The Moodless Theory of Modality: An Introduction and Defense.” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 100 (2022): 279–95.
2. “The Tenseless Theory of Time and the Moodless Theory of Modality.” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 100 (2019): 506–524.
3. Precis of *Objective Becoming*. *Philosophical Studies* 175 (2018): 1787–89.
4. Replies to Deasy and Maudlin. *Philosophical Studies* 175 (2018): 1815–23.
5. Summary of *Objective Becoming*. *Analysis* 78 (2018): 93–96.
6. Replies to Cameron, Wilson and Leininger. *Analysis* 78 (2018): 128–38.
7. “The Metaphysics of Quantities and Their Dimensions.” In *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, volume 10, Karen Bennett and Dean Zimmerman (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2017.
8. “‘One Second Per Second’.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 85 (2012): 377-389.
9. “Why Does Time Pass?” *Noûs* 46 (2012): 223-242.
10. “Experience and the Passage of Time.” *Philosophical Perspectives 25: Metaphysics* (2011): 359-387.
11. “More on Haecceitism and Possible Worlds.” *Analytic Philosophy* 52 (2011): 267-269.
12. “On the Meaning of the Question ‘How Fast Does Time Pass?’ ” *Philosophical Studies* 155 (2011): 325-344.
13. “The Dynamics of Non-Being.” *Philosophers’ Imprint* 10 (2010).
14. “Extrinsic Temporal Metrics.” In *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, volume 5, Dean Zimmerman (ed.), Oxford University Press, 2010.
15. “Deep Metaphysical Indeterminacy.” *The Philosophical Quarterly* 60 (2010): 851-858.
16. “Relativity and the Moving Spotlight.” *The Journal of Philosophy* 106 (2009): 666-678.
17. “Haecceitism, Anti-Haecceitism, and Possible Worlds.” *The Philosophical Quarterly* 58 (2008): 98-107.
18. “What Makes Time Different From Space?” *Noûs* 41 (2007): 227-252.
19. “Are Shapes Intrinsic?” *Philosophical Studies* 133 (2007): 111-130.

Articles in the Philosophy of Science

20. "Levels of Reasons and Causal Explanation." *Philosophy of Science* 85 (2017): 905–915 (PSA 2016 Proceedings).
21. "Against Understanding (as a Condition on Explanation)." In *Making Sense of the World: New Essays on the Philosophy of Understanding*, Stephen Grimm (ed.), Oxford University Press 2017.
22. "Are There Genuine Physical Explanations of Mathematical Phenomena?" *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 66 (2015): 69-93.
23. "Are there Non-Causal Explanations (of Particular Events)?" *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 65 (2014): 445-467.
24. "The Role of Chance in Explanation." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92 (2014): 103-123.
25. "Does Temperature Have a Metric Structure?" *Philosophy of Science* 78 (2011): 472-489.
26. "On A Symmetry Argument for the Guidance Equation in Bohmian Mechanics." *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* 24 (2010): 393-410.
27. "Local and Global Relativity Principles." *Philosophers' Imprint* 8 (2008).
28. "Sklar's Maneuver." *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 58 (2007): 777-786.
29. "Earman and Roberts on Empiricism about Laws." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 75 (2007): 158-162.

Articles in Aesthetics

30. "When (imagined) evidence explains fictionality." To appear in *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*.
31. "Questioning imaginative resistance and resistant reading." *British Journal of Aesthetics* 61 (2021): 575–87.

Articles in Value Theory

32. "How to Adjust Utility for Desert." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 90 (2012): 235-257.
33. "A Solution to the Problem of Indeterminate Desert." *Mind* 121 (2012): 37-65.
34. "Preferentism and the Paradox of Desire." *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 3 (2009).

Book Reviews, Encyclopedia/Handbook Articles, and Non-Academic Writing

35. “Causal Explanation.” to appear in *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
36. Review of *Beyond the Dynamical Universe* by Silverstein, Stuckey, and McDevitt, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2018.
37. “Thoughts on *Experiencing Time* by Simon Prosser.” *Inquiry* 61 (2018): 302–314.
38. “Of Strawberries and Energy Conservation.” For a symposium on *Because Without Cause* by Marc Lange. *Metascience* 27 (2018): 11–18.
39. “Some Questions about *The Moving Spotlight*.” For a symposium on Ross Cameron’s book. *Analysis* 77 (2017): 800–810.
40. “About Time.” Pop Quiz, New York Times, 6 November 2016 (Education Life section).
41. “What are we asking when we ask why?” Oxford University Press blog, 5 November 2016. URL: <blog.oup.com/2016/11/asking-why/>
42. “Scientific Explanation.” In Paul Humphreys (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Science*. Oxford University Press 2016: 524-43.
43. “Desert.” Co-authored with Fred Feldman. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2015.
44. Review of *The Geometry of Desert* by Shelly Kagan. *Ethics* 124 (2014): 417-426
45. Review of *Physical Relativity: Space-time from a dynamical perspective*, by Harvey Brown, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2006. URL: <ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=6603>.

Essays on Substack

Launched February 2022, 3+ essays a month published at *Mostly Aesthetics*, <https://mostly.substack.com>.

Fellowships and Awards

D’Arbelloff Award (MIT) for Liberalism, Toleration, and Freedom of Speech (course development, joint with Alex Byrne), 2022.
D’Arbelloff Award (MIT) for Philosophy and the Arts (course development), 2017.
New Agendas for the Study of Time, Small Grant, 2013. (With Christina Van Dyke.)

Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, 2012-2013.

Old Dominion Fellowship (MIT), Spring 2010.

Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Grant, Fall 2009.

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress Young Ethicist Prize, 2008. (For “Preferentism and the Paradox of Desire.”)

Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholars Prize, 2007. (For “Extrinsic Temporal Metrics.”)

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

- (2022) “How to imagine feeling musical emotions.” American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- (2021) “Imagined evidence and inquiry in the appreciation of fiction.” American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Montreal.
- “Speculation in science and metaphysics,” Philosophy of Science Biennial Meeting, Baltimore.
 - “The attitude of the story,” University of Vermont.
- (2019) “The Varieties of Relevance.” Causality in Philosophy and the Sciences, Harvard University.
- “The Varieties of Relevance.” Conference on Grounding and Its Applications, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.
 - “A Framework for Theories of Causation.” University of Edinburgh.
- (2018) “Causes and Background Conditions.” Causality in Philosophy and the Sciences. Harvard University.
- Author Meets Critics, *Idealization and the Aims of Science* (as critic). Pacific APA, San Diego.
 - “The Metaphysics of Aspect,” University of Maryland.
 - “The Metaphysics of Aspect,” Franklin and Marshall College.
 - Author Meets Critics, *Reasons Why* (as author), Eastern APA, Savannah, GA.
- (2017) “Background Conditions, Dispositions, and Structural Explanation,” Yale University.
- (2016) “Reasons Why,” UC Berkeley.
- “Levels of Reasons and Causal Explanation,” Philosophy of Science Association Meeting, Atlanta.
 - “What are we asking when we ask why?,” Denison University.

- “Reasons Why,” causal pluralism workshop, Harvard University.
 - Author Meets Critics: *Objective Becoming*. Central APA, Chicago.
 - “Reasons Why,” Calvin College.
- (2015) “Remarks on the Perception of Change,” workshop on time and experience, University of St. Andrews.
- “Remarks on the Perception of Change.” Workshop on Temporal Experience and Transformative Experiences, Sydney, Australia.
 - “The Metaphysics of Dimensional Analysis,” Conference on the Metaphysics of Quantity, NYU.
 - Guest leader, Joshua Schechter’s seminar on explanation, Brown University.
 - “Reasons Why,” Columbia University.
 - “Levels of Reasons and Causal Explanation.” Pacific APA, Vancouver.
 - “Explanations, Reasons Why, and Causes.” University of Georgia.
 - “Explanations, Reasons Why, and Causes.” ELLMM City, Yale.
 - Guest leader, L. A. Paul’s “Experience, Time and Self” seminar, UNC-Chapel Hill.
- (2014) “Does Time Pass?” Eastern APA, Philadelphia.
- “Explanations, Why-Questions, Reasons, and Causes.” Explanation Beyond Causation Conference, LMU Munich.
 - “Explanations, Why-Questions, Reasons, and Causes.” Creighton Club: New York Philosophical Association Meeting, Syracuse.
 - “The Metaphysics of Dimensional Analysis,” University of Rochester.
 - “What is a Theory of Persistence?”, Central APA, Chicago.
- (2013) “Does Time Pass?”, USC.
- “A Strategy for Resisting Alleged Examples of Non-Causal Explanation,” Explaining without Causes — Non-causal Explanations in the Sciences, Mathematics and Philosophy, University of Cologne.
 - Comments on Yuri Balashov, Philosophy of Time Society Meeting, Pacific APA, San Francisco.
- (2012) “Are there Genuine Physical Explanations of Mathematical Phenomena?”, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, San Diego.
- (2011) “Experience and the Passage of Time,” Bard College.
- “Experience and the Passage of Time,” Monash University, Melbourne.
 - Comments on Meghan Sullivan, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference.
 - Comments on Ned Hall, Conference on Lewis’s *On the Plurality of Worlds* 25th anniversary, Umass-Amherst.

- “Constraint Explanation,” Columbia University.
- (2010) “How to Adjust Utility for Desert,” Conference on Desert, University of Calgary.
- “The Rate of Time’s Passage in the Moving Spotlight Theory,” Pacific APA.
 - “How to Adjust Utility for Desert,” The University of Texas, Austin.
 - “How to Adjust Utility for Desert,” University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- (2009) “The Dynamics of Non-Being,” Arizona Ontology Conference.
- (2008) Guest Seminar Presentation on the passage of time, Princeton.
- “The Dynamics of Non-Being,” Princeton.
 - “Preferentism and the Paradox of Desire,” MIT Philosophy Retreat.
 - “Preferentism and the Paradox of Desire,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, CO.
 - “Why Does Time Pass?,” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference.
 - “Why Does Time Pass?,” Eidos metaphysics conference, Geneva.
 - “Local and Global Relativity Principles,” Third International Conference on the Ontology of Spacetime, Montreal.
 - “Why Does Time Pass?,” Central APA.
 - Guest seminar presentation on the bias toward the future, Princeton.
 - “Local and Global Relativity Principles,” Pacific APA.
 - “Why Does Time Pass?,” Brandeis University.
 - “Why Does Time Pass?,” MITing of the minds, MIT.
 - Comments on “Time Reversal in Classical Electromagnetism” by Hilary Greaves, Arizona Ontology Conference.
- (2007) Comments on “Gunk, Topology, and Measure” by Frank Arntzenius, Eastern APA, Baltimore.
- Comments on “The Structure of Physics” by Jill North, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference.
 - “The Law of Inertia,” Central APA, Chicago.
 - “Two Arguments Against the Mill-Ramsey-Lewis Theory,” Pacific APA, San Francisco.
 - “Extrinsic Temporal Metrics,” MIT.
- (2006) Comments on “Two Causal-isms” by Karen Bennett, NYU Conference on Causation, Florence, Italy.
- “Extrinsic Temporal Metrics,” International Conference on the Ontology of Spacetime, Montreal.

- “Sophisticated Substantivalism and Spacetime Symmetries,” Central APA, Chicago.
- (2005) “Extrinsic Temporal Metrics,” University of Pittsburgh.
- “Are Shapes Intrinsic?,” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference.
 - “Are Shapes Intrinsic?,” University of Michigan.
 - “Are Shapes Intrinsic?,” Duke University.
 - “Are Shapes Intrinsic?,” University of Southern California.
 - “Are Shapes Intrinsic?,” Tulane.
 - “Are Shapes Intrinsic?,” Brown University.
 - “Are Shapes Intrinsic?,” University of Rochester.
 - “Are Shapes Intrinsic?,” University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
 - “What Makes Time Different from Space?,” Australian National University.
- (2004) “What Makes Time Different from Space?,” Eastern APA, Boston.
- “What Makes Time Different from Space?,” International Conference on the Ontology of Spacetime, Montreal.
 - “Skepticism about Metaphysical Modality,” Harvard/MIT graduate student philosophy conference.
- (2003) Comments on Jeffrey McDonough, “Newton’s Scholium on Time, Space, Place, and Motion,” Columbia/NYU graduate student philosophy conference.