

# Nina Emery

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Mount Holyoke College

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## APPOINTMENTS

Mount Holyoke College  
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, 2020 — ongoing.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, 2017 — 2020.  
  
University of Massachusetts at Amherst  
Affiliate Graduate Faculty, Department of Philosophy, 2019 — ongoing.  
  
Brown University  
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, 2013 — 2017.

## EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2012.  
Dissertation: ‘Chance, Indeterminacy, and Explanation’  
Committee: Brad Skow, Robert Stalnaker, Ned Hall  
  
Cornell University  
B.A. in Physics, Philosophy, 2005.  
*Summa Cum Laude*

## AOS

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Physics.

## AOC

Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Language, Applied Ethics.

## PUBLICATIONS

— PAPERS —

‘Time.’ *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 2020. (Co-authored work with Ned Markosian and Meghan Sullivan.)  
  
‘Temporal Ersatzism and Relativity.’ *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. Forthcoming.  
  
‘Laws and their instances.’ *Philosophical Studies*. 2018.  
  
‘Actualism without Presentism? Not by way of the Relativity Objection.’ *Nous*. 2018.

'Actualism, Presentism and the Grounding Objection.' *Erkenntnis*. 2018.

'Against Radical Quantum Ontologies.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 2017.

'Laws of Nature.' *Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding*, Mike Raven (ed). Forthcoming.

'A Naturalist's Guide to Objective Chance.' *Philosophy of Science*. 2017.

'Temporal Ersatzism.' *Philosophy Compass*. 2017.

'Impossible Worlds and Metaphysical Explanation: Comments on Kment's *Modality and Explanatory Reasoning*.' *Analysis*. 2016. (Co-authored work with Christopher Hill, Brown University.)

'Chance and Determinism.' *Routledge Handbook in Philosophy of Physics*. Alastair Wilson and Eleanor Knox (eds). Forthcoming.

'The Metaphysical Consequences of Counterfactual Skepticism.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 2015.

'Chance, Possibility, and Explanation.' *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 2015.

— BOOK REVIEWS & OTHER SCHOLARSHIP —

'Review of Alastair Wilson (ed.), *Chance and Temporal Asymmetry*.' *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. 2015.

'What is chance?' (A Wireless Philosophy video.)

'Compatibilism about Chance and Determinism.' (An entry for *Auxiliary Hypotheses*, the blog of the British Journal for the Philosophy of Science.)

'A Middle Ground for Metaphysics.' (A contribution to Meena Krishnamurthy's *Featured Philosoph-her* blog series.)

PRESENTATIONS

— PAPERS —

'The Governing Conception of the Wavefunction'

- The Harvard Foundations of Physics Workshop. June 2020.
- University of Toronto. March 2021.

'Subjective and Objective in the Metaphysics of Science' at the Cal Tech Philosophy of Physics Group. February 2021.

'Quantum Correlations and the Explanatory Power of Radical Metaphysics Hypotheses' at ELLMM City at Yale. February 2021.

'Methodological Naturalism' at an invited session of the Eastern APA on metaphysics of science. January 2021.

'What Was and What Could Be: What Makes Time Different from Modality'

- The California Metaphysics Conference at USC, January 2020.
- Colloquium talk at Amherst College, March 2019.

'Mooreanism in Metaphysics from Mooreanism in Physics'

- The New England Workshop in Metaphysics, Rhode Island College, December 2019
- Colloquium talk at UVM, March 2019.
- The MITing of the Minds Conference at MIT, January 2019.
- The Metaphysics Ranch Conference, January 2019.
- Colloquium talk at Vassar College. October 2017.

'The Governing Conception of Laws'

- The Modality, Laws, and Causation Workshop at Simon Fraser University (online). May 2020.
- The FraMEPhys Workshop on Grounding and Laws at Birmingham University, United Kingdom. June 2019.
- The Humean Laws Workshop at Harvard University. May 2019.
- The Metro Area Philosophy of Science Group at NYU. April 2019.
- Keynote at the MARI Graduate Conference at UMass Amherst. April 2019.
- The Explanations Across the Disciplines Conference, Middlebury College. September 2018.

'Temporal Ersatzism and Relativity'

- The International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference at the University of Colorado, Boulder. June 2019.
- Philosophy of Time Society Group Meeting. Pacific APA. April 2017.

'The Explanatory Role Argument and the Metaphysics of Deterministic Chance'

- The 34<sup>th</sup> Committee on the History and Philosophy of Science Conference, University of Colorado at Boulder. October 2018.
- Foundations of Probability Seminar at Rutgers University. September 2017.

'Laws and their Instances'

- The Inaugural Balter Distinguished Lecture at UNC Chapel Hill. April 2017.
- Metaphysics on the Mountain II. Sun Valley, ID. March 2017.
- Colloquium talk at the University of Colorado Boulder. February 2017.

- The Ground in Philosophy of Science Conference, University of Geneva. September 2016.

‘Actualism without Presentism: Not by way of the Relativity Objection’

- The SPAWN Conference. Syracuse University. June 2017.
- The International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference at Lake Garda, Italy. June 2017.
- The Early Career Workshop in Metaphysics, Fordham University. April 2016.
- Colloquium talk at Dartmouth College. April 2016.

‘Against Radical Quantum Ontologies’

- RISD Digital+Media Visiting Speaker Series. November 2016.
- Colloquium talk at CUNY Graduate Center. September 2016.
- The 2016 Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference, University of Geneva. September 2016.
- The Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, University of British Columbia. August 2016.
- The Midsummer Philosophy Workshop, University of Cambridge. June 2016.
- The Philosophy Desert Workshop. April 2016.
- Colloquium talk UMass Amherst. February 2016.
- Colloquium talk at Rhode Island College. February 2016.
- Colloquium talk at the Brown University Physics Department. 2013.

‘From Observables to Ontology in Quantum Mechanics’

- The Grounding in the Quantum World Workshop, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland September 2016.

‘Production and the Passage of Time’

- The International Association for the Philosophy of Time Meeting Panel on Time and Causation, Wake Forest University. June 2016.

‘Deterministic Chance as Emergent Chance’

- The University of Colorado at Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science. October 2015.
- The Chance Encounter Workshop, University of Groningen, Netherlands. June 2016.

‘A Naturalist’s Guide to Objective Chance’

- The Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference, Rutgers Newark. September 2015.
- The Young Philosophers Lecture Series, DePauw University. September 2015.
- The Chance and Conditionals Workshop, University of London. June 2014.

‘Temporal Uniformity and the Governing Conception of Laws’

- MIT Work In Progress Seminar. February 2015.

‘Actualism without Presentism? Not by way of the Grounding Objection’

- The Philosophy Mountain Workshop. February 2015.
- Keynote at the Schapiro Graduate Conference at Brown University. November 2014.

‘The Metaphysical Implications of Counterfactual Skepticism’.

- Brown University, January 2012.
- Tufts University, January 2011.
- Weber State University, January 2011.
- Colorado College, January 2011.

‘Chance, Indeterminacy, and Explanation’

- Franklin and Marshall College, January 2011.

— COMMENTS —

Comments on Jenann Ismael, ‘Closing the Circle: Physics and the Human Being.’  
Lost in the Cosmos Conference, Indiana University, October 2019.

Comments on Laura Reutsche, ‘Do Pions Exist.’ The Philosophy Mountain  
Workshop. March 2019.

Comments on L.A. Paul, ‘Reverse Engineering the Self.’ The New England  
Metaphysics Workshop at Rhode Island College. November 2018.

Comments on Jonah Nagashima, ‘Against Humean Compatibilism’. The  
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference. August 2018.

Comments on Erica Schumener, ‘Explaining Identity and Distinctness’.  
The Philosophy Mountain Workshop. March 2018.

Comments on Barry Loewer, ‘Laws and Natural Properties’. Boulder Conference  
on the History and Philosophy of Science. University of Colorado Boulder.  
October 2017.

Comments on Michael Townsen Hicks, ‘What Humean Laws Can’t Explain’. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference. Fordham University.  
October 2017.

Comments on Benjamin Henke’s, ‘Nomological Contingency and Scientific  
Essentialism’. Pacific APA. April 2017.

Comments on Craig Callender’s, ‘Explaining the Temporal Value Asymmetry’.

The Philosophy Mountain Workshop. February 2016.

Comments on Jessica Wilson's 'Quantum Metaphysical Indeterminacy'.  
The Ranch Metaphysics Conference. January 2016.

Comments on Karen Lewis, 'Elusive Counterfactuals'. The Philosophy  
Mountain Workshop. January 2014.

— SEMINAR & READING GROUP VISITS —

Hans Halvorsen's undergraduate Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics course at  
Princeton for a discussion of my paper, 'Against Radical Quantum Ontologies'.  
May 2020.

Ned Markosian's graduate seminar at UMass for a discussion of my papers  
'Actualism, Presentism and Grounding' and 'Actualism without Presentism? Not  
by way of the Grounding Objection'. December 2019.

Ned Markosian's undergraduate Metaphysics seminar at UMass for a discussion  
of my papers 'Mooreanism in Metaphysics from Mooreanism in Physics' and  
'Laws and their Instances'. April 2019.

Peter Lewis's senior seminar on quantum ontology at Dartmouth College for a  
discussion of my paper, 'Against Radical Quantum Ontologies'. November 2018.

Adam Elga and Boris Kment's graduate seminar on chance and causation at  
Princeton University for a discussion of my papers, 'A Naturalist's Guide to  
Objective Chance', 'The Governing Conception of Laws' and 'The Explanatory  
Role Argument and the Metaphysics of Deterministic Chance. November 2018.

Michaela McSweeney's graduate seminar on metaphysics at Boston University  
for a discussion of my papers 'Against Radical Quantum Ontologies' and 'A  
Naturalist's Guide to Objective Chance'. November 2017.

The Rutgers Philosophy of Science Reading Group for a discussion of my paper  
'A Naturalist's Guide to Objective Chance'. October 2017.

Sam Levey's seminar at Dartmouth College for a discussion of my  
'Actualism, Presentism, and the Grounding Objection'. April 2016.

Phil Bricker's graduate seminar at UMass Amherst for a discussion of my  
'Actualism without Presentism? Not by way of the Relativity Objection'.  
December 2016.

TEACHING

— AT MOUNT HOLYOKE —

Logical Thought (PHIL 210), Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018 & Fall 2017.

Metaphysics (PHIL 272), Fall 2019 & Fall 2017.

Science & Human Values (PHIL 104), Spring 2020 & Spring 2019.

Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics (PHIL 222), Fall 2020, Spring 2019.

Seminar: Philosophy of Time (PHIL 350), Fall 2018.

Seminar: Radical Metaphysical Hypotheses (PHIL 350), Spring 2020.

Honors Thesis Supervision (PHIL 395), Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019 & Fall 2018.

— AT BROWN —

Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics, Spring 2016, Fall 2013.

Graduate Proseminar, Spring 2016.

Undergraduate Independent Study, Spring 2016, Spring 2014,  
Spring 2015, Fall 2013.

Modern Science and Human Values, Fall 2015, Spring 2014.

Graduate Seminar: Physics as Metaphysics, Fall 2015.

Metaphysics, Fall 2014, Fall 2013.

Philosophy of Time, Fall 2014.

Graduate Seminar: Metaphysics of Chance, Spring 2014.

— AT MIT —

Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics, Spring 2012.

## AWARDS

Visiting Fellowship at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Spring 2017.

Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship. Brown University. 2016 — 2017.

The Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Junior Faculty Teaching Fellow. Brown University. 2014 — 2015.

## SERVICE

### — TO THE PROFESSION —

The Mount Holyoke Summer Philosophy Conference, co-founder and co-organizer, 2019 — ongoing.

Summer Immersion Program in Philosophy at Brown (SIPP@Brown), co-founder and faculty director, 2015 — 2019.

The Philosophy Mountain Workshop, co-founder and co-organizer, 2013 — ongoing.

Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Pacific APA Group Meeting Organizer, 2017 — 2019.

Referee, *Mind*, *Nous*, *Philosophy of Science*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *Analysis*, *Oxford University Press*, *Routledge Publishing*

### — AT MOUNT HOLYOKE —

Advisory Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid. 2019 - 2022. (Chair, Fall 2020)

AALAC Assembly, Mount Holyoke representative and presenter. 2019.

HackHolyoke, guest presenter. 2019.

First year advisor. 2018 - ongoing.

Philosophy Department work in progress series, organizer. 2017 - ongoing.

Philosophy Department speaker series, co-organizer. 2018 - ongoing.

### — AT BROWN —

Physics and Philosophy Group, director, 2015 — 2017.

Brown National Diversity Summit session on diversity in philosophy, Co-organizer, 2015.

The Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, departmental liaison, 2013 — 2017.

Physics and Philosophy concentration advisor, 2013 — 2017.

Brown-RISD Dual Degree program senior project advisor, 2014 — 2015.



First-year TEAM advisor, 2015.

First-year advisor, 2013 — 2016.

Sophomore advisor, 2014 — 2016.

Senior hiring committee, 2015.