

# MALTE WILLER

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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### University of Chicago

Associate Professor of Philosophy	2017–present
Assistant Professor of Philosophy	2010–2017

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Texas at Austin</b>	2005–2010
Ph.D. Philosophy, supervised by Nicholas Asher and Josh Dever	

<b>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München</b>	2001–2005
M.Phil. Philosophy, Logic and Theory of Science	

<b>University of Oxford</b>	2003–2004
Visiting Full-Time Undergraduate Student	

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Areas of Specialization**    Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Logic

**Areas of Competence**    Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, History of Analytic Philosophy,  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

- [1] **Simplifying with Free Choice**  
*Topoi*, forthcoming
- [2] **Lessons from Sobel Sequences**  
*Semantics & Pragmatics*, forthcoming
- [3] **Advice for Noncognitivists**  
*Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 98(S1): 174–207, 2017
- [4] **Dynamic Thoughts on Ifs and Oughts**  
*Philosophers' Imprint* 14(28): 1–30, 2014
- [5] **Dynamics of Epistemic Modality**  
*Philosophical Review* 122(1): 45–92, 2013
- [6] **A Remark on Iffy Oughts**  
*Journal of Philosophy* 109(7): 449–461, 2012
- [7] **Realizing What Might Be**  
*Philosophical Studies* 153(3): 365–375, 2011
- [8] **New Surprises for the Ramsey Test**  
*Synthese* 176(2): 291–309, 2010
- [9] **Der Wahrheitsbegriff in Martin Heideggers *Sein und Zeit***  
*Philosophisches Jahrbuch* 113(1): 78–98, 2006

### Invited Contributions

- [10] **Dynamic Foundations for Deontic Logic**  
*Deontic Modality*, edited by Nate Charlow and Matthew Chrisman, 324-354. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- [11] **An Update on Epistemic Modals**  
*Journal of Philosophical Logic* 44(6): 835–849, 2015

### Conference Proceedings Papers

- [12] **Widening Free Choice**  
*Proceedings of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amsterdam Colloquium*: 511–520, 2017
- [13] **Subjective Attitudes and Counterstance Contingency** (with Chris Kennedy)  
*Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory XXVI*, 913–933, 2016
- [14] **Simplifying Counterfactuals**  
*Proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> Amsterdam Colloquium*: 428–437, 2015
- [15] **Indicative Scorekeeping**  
*Proceedings of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amsterdam Colloquium*: 249–256, 2013

### Book Reviews

- [16] **Epistemic Modality**, edited by Brian Weatherson and Andy Egan  
*Philosophical Review* 122(4): 641–647, 2013

### Edited

- [17] **Reasons, Argumentation and Justification: DEON 2016 Special Issue** (with Olivier Roy and Allard Tamminga)  
*Journal of Logic and Computation*, forthcoming
- [18] **Proceedings of DEON 2016** (with Olivier Roy and Allard Tamminga)  
London: College Publications

### REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

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- [1] **Two Puzzles about Agentive *Can*** 02/2018  
115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Symposium), Chicago
- [2] **Widening Free Choice** 12/2017  
21<sup>st</sup> Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam
- [3] **Widening Free Choice** 12/2017  
Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary 2, Amsterdam
- [4] **Subjective Attitudes and Counterstance Contingency** (with Chris Kennedy) 09/2016  
PhLiP 2016, Tarrytown
- [5] **Subjective Attitudes and Counterstance Contingency** (with Chris Kennedy) 05/2016  
Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26 (Poster Session), Austin
- [6] **Simplifying Counterfactuals** 12/2015  
20<sup>th</sup> Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam
- [7] **Advice for Noncognitivists** 02/2015  
112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Symposium), St. Louis
- [8] **Advice for Noncognitivists** 11/2014  
2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Semantic Content and Conversational Dynamics, Barcelona
- [9] **Another Case for Dynamic Conditionals** 09/2014  
PhLiP 2014, Tarrytown
- [10] **A Problem with Thinning** 02/2014  
111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Colloquium), Chicago

- [11] **Indicative Scorekeeping** 12/2013  
19<sup>th</sup> Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam
- [12] **Contrary-to-Duty Obligations and Dynamic Semantics** 05/2013  
USC Deontic Modality Workshop, LA
- [13] **Deontic Paradoxes from a Dynamic Perspective** 06/2012  
Reasoning and Interaction at NASSLLI, Austin
- [14] **Nonmonotonic Thoughts on Conditional Oughts** 04/2012  
86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium), Seattle
- [15] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 12/2009  
106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Eastern Division (Symposium), NYC
- [16] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 03/2009  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual NYU/Columbia Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, NYC
- [17] **New Surprises for the Ramsey Test** 05/2008  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Laramie
- [18] **Visual Perceptions: A Plea for Simple Contents** 03/2008  
82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium), Pasadena
- [19] **Moore + Ramsey  $\neq$  God** 02/2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual USC/UCLA Graduate Philosophy Conference, LA
- [20] **Negative Existentials and DRT** 05/2007  
35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Vancouver
- [21] **In Defense of the Phenomenal Concept Strategy** 04/2007  
81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium), San Francisco
- [22] **In Defense of the Phenomenal Concept Strategy** 06/2006  
MIND 2006, Bristol

#### INVITED TALKS

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- [1] **Two Puzzles about Agentive *Can*** 09/2017  
Philosophy of Linguistics and Language, Dubrovnik
- [2] **Free Choice Failures** 06/2017  
Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary, Broek in Waterland
- [3] **Have You Ever Been Experienced?** (with Chris Kennedy) 05/2017  
Northwestern Philosophy and Linguistics Workgroup, Evanston
- [4] **Reasoning with Epistemic Modals** 06/2016  
CSI 2016 Summer School, Montréal
- [5] **On the Semantics of Subjective Attitude Verbs** (with Chris Kennedy) 03/2016  
Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York
- [6] **Free Choice for Simplification** 03/2016  
2<sup>nd</sup> Meaning Sciences Workshop, Berkeley
- [7] **Free Choice Effects in Counterfactuals** 12/2015  
Workshop on Nonveridical Expressions and Subjectivity in Language, Chicago
- [8] **Binding into Deontic Contexts** 11/2014  
Workshop on Nonstandard Modals, Leeds
- [9] **Another Case for Dynamic Conditionals** 05/2014  
University of Chicago Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop, Chicago
- [10] **Detaching ‘Ought’ in Dynamic Semantics** 04/2013  
Workshop on Deontic Modals at Northwestern University, Evanston
- [11] **Dynamic Thoughts on Ifs and Oughts** 12/2012  
University of Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics, Ann Arbor
- [12] **Epistemic Modals: An Overview** 12/2012  
University of Chicago Semantics and Philosophy of Language Workshop, Chicago

- [13] **Indicative Scorekeeping** 09/2012  
University of Texas, Austin
- [14] **Reasoning With *If* and *Ought*** 04/2012  
6<sup>th</sup> UChicago Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (Keynote Address), Chicago
- [15] **Nonmonotonic Thoughts on Contrary-to-Duty Oughts** 07/2011  
Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen
- [16] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 02/2011  
Northwestern Philosophy and Linguistics Workgroup, Evanston
- [17] **On Paradoxes and Dynamic Reasoning** 02/2011  
Franke Institute for the Humanities, Chicago
- [18] **Dynamic Semantics: An Overview** (with Anastasia Giannakidou) 10/2010  
University of Chicago Semantics and Philosophy of Language Workshop, Chicago
- [19] **Iffy Oughts** 07/2010  
Institut für Maschinelle Sprachverarbeitung, Stuttgart
- [20] **Modal Conflict** 02/2010  
Cornell University, Ithaca
- [21] **Modal Conflict** 02/2010  
University of Kentucky, Lexington
- [22] **Modal Conflict** 01/2010  
University of Chicago, Chicago
- [23] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 03/2009  
University of Texas Graduate Colloquium Series, Austin
- [24] **Negative Existentials and DRT** 05/2008  
NCS Semantics Colloquium, Nijmegen
- [25] **Moore + Ramsey  $\neq$  God** 02/2008  
University of Texas Graduate Colloquium Series, Austin
- [26] **In Defense of the Phenomenal Concept Strategy** 02/2007  
University of Texas Graduate Colloquium Series, Austin
- [27] **Contents and the Subjects of Visual Experience** 01/2007  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UT Austin MLK Conference, Austin

#### COMMENTARIES

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- [1] **On Floris Roelofsen’s “*Might in Questions*”** 06/2017  
Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary, Broek in Waterland
- [2] **On Andy Egan’s “What I Probably Should Have Said About Epistemic Modals”** 03/2016  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy and Linguistics Workshop at Ohio State, Columbus
- [3] **On Sven Lauer and Cleo Condoravdi’s “The Basic Dynamic Effect of Interrogative Utterances”** 06/2012  
13<sup>th</sup> Texas Linguistics Society Conference, Austin
- [4] **On Theodore Korzukhin’s “Dominance Conditionals and Adams’s Thesis”** 02/2012  
109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division, Chicago
- [5] **On Jon Litland’s “An Actualist Theory of Properties”** 04/2009  
UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference, Austin
- [6] **On Kai von Fintel and Anthony Gillies’s “*Must ...Stay ...Strong!*”** 10/2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual UT/UNAM Conference, Austin
- [7] **On Alex Grzankowski’s “Against DeRose on Epistemic Modals”** 01/2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual UT Austin MLK Conference, Austin
- [8] **On Pedro Stepanenko’s “The Pyrrhonian Reports”** 10/2007  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UT/UNAM Conference, Mérida

- [9] **On Shawn Standefer’s “Least Common Denominator”** 04/2007  
 UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference, Austin
- [10] **On Michael Allers’s “Bruce’: A Predicate”** 04/2006  
 UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference, Austin

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- [1] **Faculty Research Initiative on *An Organon for the Information Age: Ontology-Based Data Integration for Humanistic and Biomedical Research*** 10/2017  
 Co-led with David Schloen (University of Chicago NELC) and Samuel Volchenbom (University of Chicago Medicine) and funded for two years by the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, Chicago
- [2] **Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching** 05/2016  
 University of Chicago
- [3] **Faculty Research Initiative on *Subjectivity in Language and Thought*** 10/2014  
 Co-led with Chris Kennedy (University of Chicago Linguistics) and funded for three years by the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, Chicago
- [4] **Franke Institute Fellowship, Academic Year 2013–14** 10/2013  
 Franke Institute for the Humanities, Chicago
- [5] **Cogburn Family Foundation Philosophical Prize** 04/2009  
 University of Texas, Austin
- [6] **University Continuing Fellowship, Academic Year 2008–9** 09/2008  
 University of Texas, Austin
- [7] **Summer Fellowship from the Department of Philosophy** 05/2007  
 University of Texas, Austin
- [8] **Philosophy Essay Prize** 07/2005  
 Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Courses taught at the University of Chicago

Meaning and Reference	Autumn 2017
Philosophical Perspectives I	Autumn 2017
Logic for Philosophy	Spring 2017
Human Being and Citizen II	Winter 2017
Language and Games	Autumn 2016
Counterfactuals	Autumn 2016
Indexicality	Spring 2016
Modality	Spring 2016
Meaning and Reference	Winter 2016
Human Being and Citizen II	Winter 2016
Logic for Philosophy	Winter 2015
Human Being & Citizen II	Winter 2015
Subjectivity	Autumn 2014
Reference and Description	Autumn 2014
Expressivism	Winter 2013
Human Being & Citizen II	Winter 2013
Dynamic Semantics	Autumn 2012
Conditionals	Winter 2012
Meaning and Reference	Winter 2012
Human Being & Citizen I	Autumn 2011
Elementary Logic	Autumn 2011
Non-classical Logic	Spring 2011
Meaning Without Truth	Winter 2011



### Conference Organizing

Program Committee Co-chair of *Deontic Logic and Normative Systems 2016*, Co-organizer of *Subjectivity in Language and Thought* (2017), *Meaning, Metaphor, and Maimonides: A Conference in Honor of Josef Stern* (2016), *Semantics and Linguistic Theory XXII* (2012), the *University of Chicago Workshop on Modality and Subjectivity* (2015), and the *University of Chicago Workshop on Nonveridical Expressions and Subjectivity in Language* (2015)

### Session Chair

Skepticism as a Form of Philosophical Experience (02/2017), Meaning, Metaphor, and Maimonides: A Conference in Honor of Josef Stern (12/2016), Deontic Logic and Normative Systems 2016 (07/16), 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (03/2016), Semantics and Linguistic Theory 22 (04/2012), 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (03/2011), UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference (04/2008), Society for Student Philosophers Annual Conference (01/2007)

### Memberships

Editorial Board of *Semantics and Pragmatics*, American Philosophical Association, Society for Exact Philosophy

### DISSERTATION

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#### Modality in Flux

*Committee:* Nicholas Asher (co-chair), Josh Dever (co-chair), David Beaver, Hans Kamp, Mark Sainsbury

*Short Abstract:* I develop a novel semantic theory for modals that has important consequences for contemporary work in epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. My theory replaces the dominant view about semantics—that our best theory of meaning should ascribe truth-conditions to modalized sentences—with a non-truth-conditional yet fully compositional semantics for modals. Its contributions to current debates in analytic philosophy include an explanation of the possibility of modal disagreement that avoids relativism, a solution to the paradoxes about conditional obligations (including the gentle murder paradox), and new impulses for a generalized solution to the Frege-Geach problem for noncognitivism.

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Last updated — March 2018

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