

MALTE WILLER

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Chicago

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

EDUCATION

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

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

University of Oxford	2003–2004
Visiting Full-Time Undergraduate Student	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Logic

Areas of Competence Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, History of Analytic Philosophy,
20th Century Continental Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

- [1] **Lessons from Sobel Sequences**
Semantics & Pragmatics, forthcoming
- [2] **Simplifying with Free Choice**
Topoi 37(3): 379–392, 2018
- [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 21st 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 20th Amsterdam Colloquium: 428–437, 2015
- [15] **Indicative Scorekeeping**
Proceedings of the 19th 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

- [1] **Two Puzzles about Agentive *Can*** 02/2018
115th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Symposium), Chicago
- [2] **Widening Free Choice** 12/2017
21st 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
20th Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam
- [7] **Advice for Noncognitivists** 02/2015
112th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Symposium), St. Louis
- [8] **Advice for Noncognitivists** 11/2014
2nd 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
111th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Colloquium), Chicago

- [11] **Indicative Scorekeeping** 12/2013
19th 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
86th Annual Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium), Seattle
- [15] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 12/2009
106th Annual Meeting of the APA Eastern Division (Symposium), NYC
- [16] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 03/2009
9th Annual NYU/Columbia Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, NYC
- [17] **New Surprises for the Ramsey Test** 05/2008
36th Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Laramie
- [18] **Visual Perceptions: A Plea for Simple Contents** 03/2008
82nd Annual Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium), Pasadena
- [19] **Moore + Ramsey \neq God** 02/2008
3rd Annual USC/UCLA Graduate Philosophy Conference, LA
- [20] **Negative Existentials and DRT** 05/2007
35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Vancouver
- [21] **In Defense of the Phenomenal Concept Strategy** 04/2007
81st 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

- [1] **Toward a Pragmatic Theory of Subjective Meaning** 08/2018
24th World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing
- [2] **Zur modalen Analyse des Könnens** 07/2018
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale)
- [3] **Evidence, Attitudes, and Counterstances** (with Chris Kennedy) 11/2017
Workshop on Subjective Language, Berlin
- [4] **Two Puzzles about Agentive *Can*** 09/2017
Philosophy of Linguistics and Language, Dubrovnik
- [5] **Free Choice Failures** 06/2017
Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary, Broek in Waterland
- [6] **Have You Ever Been Experienced?** (with Chris Kennedy) 05/2017
Northwestern Philosophy and Linguistics Workgroup, Evanston
- [7] **Reasoning with Epistemic Modals** 06/2016
CSI 2016 Summer School, Montréal
- [8] **On the Semantics of Subjective Attitude Verbs** (with Chris Kennedy) 03/2016
Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York
- [9] **Free Choice for Simplification** 03/2016
2nd Meaning Sciences Workshop, Berkeley
- [10] **Free Choice Effects in Counterfactuals** 12/2015
Workshop on Nonveridical Expressions and Subjectivity in Language, Chicago
- [11] **Binding into Deontic Contexts** 11/2014
Workshop on Nonstandard Modals, Leeds
- [12] **Another Case for Dynamic Conditionals** 05/2014
University of Chicago Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop, Chicago

- [13] **Detaching ‘Ought’ in Dynamic Semantics** 04/2013
Workshop on Deontic Modals at Northwestern University, Evanston
- [14] **Dynamic Thoughts on Ifs and Oughts** 12/2012
University of Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics, Ann Arbor
- [15] **Epistemic Modals: An Overview** 12/2012
University of Chicago Semantics and Philosophy of Language Workshop, Chicago
- [16] **Indicative Scorekeeping** 09/2012
University of Texas, Austin
- [17] **Reasoning With *If* and *Ought*** 04/2012
6th UChicago Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (Keynote Address), Chicago
- [18] **Nonmonotonic Thoughts on Contrary-to-Duty Oughts** 07/2011
Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen
- [19] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 02/2011
Northwestern Philosophy and Linguistics Workgroup, Evanston
- [20] **On Paradoxes and Dynamic Reasoning** 02/2011
Franke Institute for the Humanities, Chicago
- [21] **Dynamic Semantics: An Overview** (with Anastasia Giannakidou) 10/2010
University of Chicago Semantics and Philosophy of Language Workshop, Chicago
- [22] **Iffy Oughts** 07/2010
Institut für Maschinelle Sprachverarbeitung, Stuttgart
- [23] **Modal Conflict** 02/2010
Cornell University, Ithaca
- [24] **Modal Conflict** 02/2010
University of Kentucky, Lexington
- [25] **Modal Conflict** 01/2010
University of Chicago, Chicago
- [26] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 03/2009
University of Texas Graduate Colloquium Series, Austin
- [27] **Negative Existentials and DRT** 05/2008
NCS Semantics Colloquium, Nijmegen
- [28] **Moore + Ramsey \neq God** 02/2008
University of Texas Graduate Colloquium Series, Austin
- [29] **In Defense of the Phenomenal Concept Strategy** 02/2007
University of Texas Graduate Colloquium Series, Austin
- [30] **Contents and the Subjects of Visual Experience** 01/2007
2nd Annual UT Austin MLK Conference, Austin

COMMENTARIES

- [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
5th 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
13th Texas Linguistics Society Conference, Austin
- [4] **On Theodore Korzukhin’s “Dominance Conditionals and Adams’s Thesis”** 02/2012
109th 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
3rd Annual UT/UNAM Conference, Austin
- [7] **On Alex Grzankowski’s “Against DeRose on Epistemic Modals”** 01/2008
3rd Annual UT Austin MLK Conference, Austin
- [8] **On Pedro Stepanenko’s “The Pyrrhonian Reports”** 10/2007
2nd 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

- [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

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
Human Being & Citizen II	Winter 2011
Introduction to Philosophy of Language	Autumn 2010

Courses taught at the University of Texas at Austin

Introductory Symbolic Logic	Spring 2010
Human Nature	Fall 2009

Additional Teaching Service at the University of Chicago

- Faculty Sponsor: Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop 2014–2018
- Faculty Sponsor: Semantics and Philosophy of Language Workshop 2010–2013
- Panel Speaker (with Amy Dahlstrom and Yaroslav Gorbachov) on “Teaching Linguistics in Different Departments” at the Linguistics Pedagogy Course 10/2015

Advising

B.A. Thesis Supervised: Lauren Richardson (graduated 2018), Nathaniel Schwartz (graduated 2016), Edwin Jiang (graduated 2016), Douglas Vaaler (graduated 2015), Julian Katz-Samuels (graduated 2012), Sasha Reschechtko (graduated 2011)

M.A. Thesis Supervised: Corey O’Connor (graduated 2013), Alissa Smith (graduated 2012) Benjamin Kramer-Miller (graduated 2011)

Ph.D. Committee Member: Patrick Muñoz (in progress), Tamara Vardomskaya (graduated 2018), Timothy Grinsell (graduated 2017), Nicholas Koziolok (graduated 2015), Matt Teichmann (graduated 2015), Peter Klecha (graduated 2014)

SERVICE IN THE FIELD

University and Departmental Service

20th Century & Contemporary Continental Philosophy Search Committee Member (2012–2013), Curriculum Committee Member (2014–2016), Dean’s Representative (2012, 2015, 2016, 2017), Departmental Listening Committee Member (2018), Graduate Admissions Committee Member (2010–2013), Graduate Placement Committee Member (2010–2011), Graduate Program Committee Member (2012–2013, 2014–2016), Harper and Schmidt Search Committee Member (2016–2017), Metaphysics and Epistemology Search Committee Member (2010–2011), Neubauer Fellowship Committee Member (2016), Open Search Subcommittee for Metaphysics and Epistemology Chair (2017–18), Prize Essay Committee Member (2014–2016), Stuart Tave-Whiting Teaching Fellowship Committee Member (2011)

Refereeing

JOURNAL REFEREEING: *Analytic Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (×2), *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Ergo* (×4), *Erkenntnis* (×4), *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, *Inquiry*, *International Review of Pragmatics*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Logic and Computation*, *Journal of Logic, Language and Information* (×2), *Journal of Philosophical Logic* (×6), *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Linguistics and Philosophy* (×8), *Logic and Logical Philosophy*, *Mind* (×7), *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* (×2), *Noûs* (×3), *Open Linguistics*, *Philosophers’ Imprint* (×6), *Philosophical Quarterly* (×3), *Philosophical Review* (×4), *Philosophical Studies* (×5), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (×2), *Prolegomena*, *Review of Symbolic Logic* (×2), *Semantics and Pragmatics* (×10), *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese* (×8), *Theoria*, *Thought*, *Topoi*

BOOK REFEREEING: Oxford University Press (×2), University of Chicago Press, Wiley-Blackwell

CONFERENCE REFEREEING: Chicago Linguistics Society (2018), Deontic Logic and Normative Systems (2014, 2016, 2018), New Ideas in Semantics and Modeling (2016), Semantics and Linguistic Theory (2012–2018), 105th Annual Meeting of the Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology (2013), UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference (2005–2010)

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), 113th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (03/2016), Semantics and Linguistic Theory 22 (04/2012), 108th 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* (2013–present), DEON Steering Committee (2018–present)

DISSERTATION

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.

Last updated — September 2018
