

Department of Philosophy, Brown University
Box 1918
Providence, RI 02912

ORCID: 0000-0002-1945-5377
Joshua.Schechter@brown.edu

Employment

Department Chair, Department of Philosophy, Brown University, 2023–present
Professor, Department of Philosophy, Brown University, 2023–present
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Brown University, 2011–2023
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Brown University, 2005–2011

Visiting Positions

External Faculty Fellow, University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, 2015–2016
Visiting Fellow, New College, University of Oxford, Hilary Term 2009

Education

Ph.D., New York University, Department of Philosophy, 2006
A.B., Princeton University, Department of Mathematics, 1998

Research Interests

Areas of Specialization: Epistemology, Logic, Philosophy of Logic, Metaethics
Areas of Competence: Philosophy of Mathematics, History of Analytic Philosophy

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Rational Defeat Beyond Belief”

Philosophy and Phenomenological Research (forthcoming).

doi: 10.1111/phpr.70135

“The Theoretical Significance of the A Priori–A Posteriori Distinction”,

Dylan Dodd and Elia Zardini (eds.), *The A Priori: Its Significance, Sources and Extent* (2026),
Oxford University Press, pp. 106–134. doi: 10.1093/oso/9780198799030.003.0006

“Epistemic Characterizations of Validity and Level-Bridging Principles”,

Philosophical Studies (2024) 181(1): 153–178. doi: 10.1007/s11098-023-02068-5

“Etiological Debunking Beyond Belief”,

Oxford Studies in Metaethics (2024) 19: 274–298. doi: 10.1093/oso/9780198911876.003.0012

“A Liar-Like Paradox for Rational Reflection Principles”,

Analysis (2024) 84(2): 292–300. doi: 10.1093/analys/anad070

“Supervaluationism, Modal Logic, and Weakly Classical Logic”,

Journal of Philosophical Logic (2024) 53(2): 411–461. doi: 10.1007/s10992-023-09737-0

“Five Kinds of Epistemic Arguments Against Robust Moral Realism”,

Paul Bloomfield and David Copp (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Moral Realism* (2023),
Oxford University Press, pp. 345–69. doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190068226.013.16

“Internalism and Entitlement to Rules and Methods”,

Nikolaj Jang Pedersen and Peter Graham (eds.), *Epistemic Entitlement* (2020),
Oxford University Press, pp. 254–78. doi: 10.1093/oso/9780198713524.003.0009

“Aiming at Aptness”,

Episteme (2019) 16(4): 438–52. doi: 10.1017/epi.2019.35

- “Small Steps and Great Leaps in Thought: The Epistemology of Basic Deductive Rules”,
Brendan Balcerak Jackson and Magdalena Balcerak Jackson (eds.), *Reasoning: New Essays on Theoretical and Practical Thinking* (2019), Oxford University Press, pp. 152–77.
doi: 10.1093/oso/9780198791478.003.0009
- “Explanatory Challenges in Metaethics”,
Tristram McPherson and David Plunkett (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Metaethics* (2018),
Routledge, pp. 443–58. doi: 10.4324/9781315213217-29
- “Is There a Reliability Challenge for Logic?”,
Philosophical Issues (2018), *Philosophy of Logic and Inferential Reasoning* 28: 325–47.
doi: 10.1111/phis.12128
- “Difficult Cases and the Epistemic Justification of Moral Belief”,
Oxford Studies in Metaethics (2017) 12: 27–50. doi: 10.1093/oso/9780198805076.003.0002
- “No Need for Excuses: Against Knowledge-First Epistemology and the Knowledge Norm
of Assertion”, J. Adam Carter, Emma Gordon, and Benjamin Jarvis (eds.), *Knowledge First:
Approaches in Epistemology and Mind* (2017), Oxford University Press, pp. 132–59.
doi: 10.1093/oso/9780198716310.003.0007
- “Could Evolution Explain Our Reliability about Logic?”,
Oxford Studies in Epistemology (2013) 4: 214–39. doi: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199672707.003.0008
- “Rational Self-Doubt and the Failure of Closure”,
Philosophical Studies (2013) 163(2): 428–52. doi: 10.1007/s11098-011-9823-1
Selected for *The Philosopher’s Annual* (2012) 31.
- “Juxtaposition: A New Way to Combine Logics”,
The Review of Symbolic Logic (2011) 4(4): 560–606. doi: 10.1017/S1755020311000219
- “Weakly Classical Theories of Identity”,
The Review of Symbolic Logic (2011) 4(4): 607–44. doi: 10.1017/S1755020311000220
- “The Reliability Challenge and the Epistemology of Logic”,
Philosophical Perspectives (2010) 24, *Epistemology*, 437–64. doi: 10.1111/j.1520-8583.2010.00199.x
- “How Are Basic Belief-Forming Methods Justified?”, with David Enoch
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research (2008) 76(3): 547–79. doi: 10.1111/j.1933-1592.2008.00157.x
- “Hawthorne’s Lottery Puzzle and the Nature of Belief”, with Christopher Hill
Philosophical Issues (2007) 17, *The Metaphysics of Epistemology*, 102–22.
doi: 10.1111/j.1533-6077.2007.00125.x
Reprinted in Christopher Hill, *Meaning, Mind, and Knowledge* (2014), Oxford University
Press, pp. 253–72. doi: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199665822.003.0014
- “Meaning and Justification: The Case of Modus Ponens”, with David Enoch
Noûs (2006) 40(4): 687–715. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-0068.2006.00629.x

Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews

- “Deductive Reasoning” in Hal Pashler (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the Mind* (2013),
SAGE Reference, pp. 226–30. doi: 10.4135/9781452257044
- “Review of *Grounding Concepts* by C.S. Jenkins”, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2010).
<https://ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/grounding-concepts-an-empirical-basis-for-arithmetical-knowledge/>

Presentations

“Rational Defeat Beyond Belief”

Departmental Colloquium, The Ohio State University, February 6, 2026

Departmental Colloquium, University of Pittsburgh, December 6, 2024

LEMM Research Interest Group, University of Toronto, November 22, 2024

Cologne Epistemology Winter Workshop, University of Cologne, December 2, 2023

“The Rational Significance of Etiological Information”

Madison Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin–Madison, September 30, 2022

Graduate Seminar, Virginia Tech, March 30, 2017

Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, University of British Columbia, August 15, 2016

University of Connecticut Philosophy Department Brown Bag, April 6, 2016

Invited Symposium, APA Eastern Division Meeting, Washington D.C., January 7, 2016

Workshop on Conceptual History, Arché, University of St. Andrews, June 23, 2015

“The Theoretical Significance of the A Priori–A Posteriori Distinction”

Departmental Colloquium, Ashoka University, October 1, 2021

Departmental Colloquium, Kansas State University, November 20, 2020

Centre for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen, July 23, 2014

“Does Expressivism Enjoy an Epistemological Advantage over Realism?”

Ethics and Epistemology Conference, University of Vermont, October 19, 2019

Departmental Colloquium, Dartmouth College, November 8, 2013

Causes of Belief Workshop, Arché, University of St. Andrews, November 10, 2012

Philosophical Society, University of Oxford, May 25, 2012

“Small Steps and Great Leaps in Thought: The Epistemology of Basic Deductive Rules”

Logic Workshop, Boston University, May 5, 2019

Departmental Colloquium, Virginia Tech, March 31, 2017

Departmental Colloquium, MIT, December 4, 2015

Public Talk, Humanities Institute, University of Connecticut, November 3, 2015

Conference on Pluralism, Inter-University Center, Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 16, 2015

Conference on Inference and Logic, Institute of Philosophy, March 20, 2015

Departmental Colloquium, University of Texas at Austin, March 6, 2015

Departmental Colloquium, UCLA, December 5, 2014

Workshop on Knowledge and Skepticism, UNAM, Mexico City, November 14, 2014

Konstanz Reasoning Conference, University of Konstanz, July 26, 2014

Interdisciplinary Workshop on Human Reasoning, University of Notre Dame, April 12, 2013

Graduate Seminar, University of Michigan, February 18, 2013

Epistemology Workshop, Queen’s University, Belfast, June 14, 2012

Epistemology of Logic Workshop, Arché, University of St. Andrews, October 30, 2011

“Aiming at Aptness”

2018 Episteme Conference, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, July 25, 2018

“No Need for Excuses: Against Knowledge-First Epistemology”

Undergraduate Seminar, Dartmouth College, February 1, 2016

“Difficult Cases and the Epistemology of Moral Belief”

Chapel Hill Metaethics Workshop, UNC Chapel Hill, October 31, 2015

“Indispensability to a Rationally Required Project”

Workshop on Epistemic Consequentialism, University of Konstanz, July 23, 2015

- “Rational Self-Doubt and the Failure of Closure”
 van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, June 3, 2012
 MIT Epistemology Reading Group, April 1, 2011
 Departmental Colloquium, University of Connecticut, February 26, 2010
 Departmental Colloquium, Princeton University, February 12, 2010
 Eidos Centre for Metaphysics, University of Geneva, March 18, 2009
 Institute of Philosophy, Eötvös University, Budapest, March 9, 2009
 Basic Knowledge Workshop, Arché, University of St. Andrews, September 28, 2008
- “Juxtaposition: A New Way to Combine Logics”
 New England Colloquium in Logic and Language, Harvard University, February 20, 2010
- “The Reliability Challenge and the Epistemology of Logic”
 Philosophy of Mathematics Seminar, Oxford University, March 3, 2009
 University of Bristol, February 6, 2009
 Arché Core Seminar, University of St. Andrews, March 28, 2008
- “Against Inferential Internalism”
 Workshop on Inferential Internalism, University of Fribourg, June 17, 2008
- “In Virtue of What Are We Epistemically Responsible in Believing Logical Truths?”
 University of Kansas, February 11, 2005
 Brown University, January 25, 2005
 University of Notre Dame, January 21, 2005

Delivered Commentaries

- Comments on “Rationality Does Not Always Exculpate” by Kieran Britt
 Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop, Montreal, Canada, April 2026
- “Do We Need Transitional Attitudes?”
 Author Meets Critics Session on *Unfinished Business* by Julia Staffel,
 American Philosophical Association, Central Division, February 2026
- “Calling for Explanation?”
 Author Meets Critics Session on *Calling for Explanation* by Dan Baras,
 American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, January 2024
- Comments on “Metaethics and the Functions of Moral Language” by Amie Thomasson
 Metaphysics on the Mountain 4, Idaho, March 2023
- Comments on “An Epistemology for Moral Naturalists” by Caleb Perl
 American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, March 2020
- Comments on “Inference, Agency and Responsibility” by Paul Boghossian
 UNC Chapel Hill Workshop on Inference and Reasoning, March 2018
- Comments on “Rational Endorsement” by Will Fleischer
 Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2017
- Comments on “Leaving Room for Doubt” by David Faraci
 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2014
- “Some Questions about Rational Entailment”
 Authors Meets Critics Session on *The Rules of Thought* by Benjamin Jarvis and Jonathan
 Jenkins Ichikawa, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, April 2014
- Comments on “What’s Basic about Basic Logical Principles?” by Matthew Carlson
 American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, December 2013
- Comments on “The Basic A Priori: Simple Arithmetic as a Case Study” by Crispin Wright
 NY Institute of Philosophy Workshop on the A Priori, Villa La Pietra, Florence, June 2013

- Comments on “A Forward Looking Decision Rule for Imprecise Credences” by Rohan Sud
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2013
- Comments for interdisciplinary panel on “Ways of Knowing: Truth Claims and Evidence”
University of Connecticut Humanities Institute Conference, March 2012
- Comments on “A General Definition of Argument Validity” by Peter Vranas
American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, February 2012
- Comments on “In Defense of Moral Testimony” by Paulina Sliwa
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2011
- Comments on “Google Morals” by Robert Howell
Princeton Workshop on Moral Expertise, May 2011
- Comments on “Following the Argument Where it Leads” by Thomas Kelly
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2010
- Comments on “Knowledge and the Action-Guiding Role of Assertion” by Giovanni Mion
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, April 2010
- Comments on “Lucky to be Rational” by Adam Elga
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2008
- Comments on “The Possession Conditions of Arithmetical Concepts” by Christopher Pincock
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, December 2007
- Comments on “Empirical Metaphysics” by Janice Dowell
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2007
- Comments on “The Illusion of Transmission: Where Wright Goes Wrong” by Stephen Wykstra
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, April 2007

Honors and Awards

- George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation Fellowship, Fall 2019
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, Summer 2009
- Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship, Brown University, 2008–2009

Teaching Experience

Department of Philosophy, Brown University

Undergraduate Courses

- Logic*, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2014, Fall 2012, Fall 2011
- Mathematical Logic*, Fall 2016, Spring 2007, Fall 2005
- Advanced Deductive Logic*, Spring 2018, Spring 2010
- Modal Logic*, Spring 2019, Spring 2011, Spring 2008
- Epistemology*, Spring 2012, Fall 2009, Spring 2008, Spring 2007
- Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy*, Spring 2022, Spring 2019, Spring 2015,
Spring 2013, Fall 2010, Fall 2007, Spring 2006
- Philosophy of Mathematics*, Fall 2020, Spring 2017, Fall 2013, Fall 2011, Fall 2009, Fall 2006
- Paradox and Infinity* (undergraduate seminar), Spring 2026, Spring 2020, Fall 2017,
Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2011

Graduate Courses

- Rationality*, Spring 2025
- Skepticism about the A Priori and A Posteriori* (with David Christensen), Spring 2024,
Spring 2020

Recent Debates in the Philosophy of Logic, Spring 2023
The Epistemology and Metaphysics of Modality, Spring 2021
Inquiry, Fall 2018
Moral Epistemology (with Jamie Dreier), Spring 2018
The Epistemology of Logic, Spring 2017
Non-Causal Explanation, Spring 2015
The Epistemological Significance of Etiology (with David Christensen), Fall 2013
The A Priori, Spring 2012, Fall 2005
The Epistemology and Metaphysics of Modality, Fall 2007
Recent Works in Epistemology (with Ernie Sosa), Fall 2006
Graduate Proseminar, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2012
Dissertation Workshop, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016,
 Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2010

Instructor, Department of Philosophy, New York University

Philosophy of Mathematics, Spring 2005
Deductive Logic, Fall 2004, Summer 2002
Ethics and Society, Summer 1999

Additional Teaching Experience

Instructor for Logic and Epistemology, PIKSI-Logic 2022, Northeastern University, July 2022
 Participant, Brown ANCHOR Course Design Institute, July 2020
 Participant, Brown Team Enhanced Advising and Mentoring program, 2013–2015
 Presentation on Modal Logic to the Brown University Robotics Group, 2021
 Presentation at Thursday Night Supper at the Brown University Chaplain's residence, 2014
 Presentation to the Brown University chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi, 2013
 Presentation to the Philosophy and Mathematics Departmental Undergraduate Groups
 2013, 2011
 Presentation to the Philosophy Departmental Undergraduate Group, 2010, 2006
 Presentation to the Mathematics Departmental Undergraduate Group, 2007
 Two-day tutorial for graduate students on "Norms, Rules, and Meanings"
 Summer School in Analytic Philosophy, Florence, Summer 2005

Academic Advising

Advisor for ten undergraduate honors theses in Philosophy (one jointly with Charles Larmore)
 Advisor for two undergraduate independent concentration theses
 Advisor for two Master's theses (including one for a Ph.D. student in Computer Science)
 Advisor for twenty-three independent studies (seven undergraduate and sixteen graduate)
 Advisor for an undergraduate capstone project in Philosophy, 2026
 Advisor for an undergraduate capstone project in Mathematics, 2018
 Advisor for Group Independent Study Project on Symbolic Systems, Spring 2018
 Advisor for Group Independent Study Project on Model Theory, Spring 2015
 Advisor for Group Independent Study Project on Set Theory, Spring 2013
 Mentor for Philosophy Concentration, 2021–present
 Concentration Advisor for Physics and Philosophy Concentration, 2011–2013
 Concentration Advisor for Logic and Philosophy of Science Concentration, 2011–2012
 Advisor for Independent Concentration in Logic, 2017–2019
 Advisor for Independent Concentration in Logic and Natural Language, 2014–2017

Second-Year Academic Advisor, 2007–present

First-Year Academic Advisor, 2006–present

Dissertation Advising

Principal Advisor for

Ying Huang (co-advisor with Elizabeth Miller), defended April 2024

Kateryna Samoilova, defended April 2013

Member of Dissertation Committee for

Kim Ramos, in progress

Sam McGrath, defended April 2025

Mark Christman, defended August 2023

Laurence Kenny, defended April 2023

Arianna Falbo, defended April 2022

Anna Brinkerhoff, defended March 2021

Chad Marxen, defended February 2021

Wes Siscoe (University of Arizona), defended July 2020

Geoffrey Grossman, defended April 2019

Zachary Barnett, defended April 2018

Brett Topey, defended March 2018

Han Li, defended July 2017

Nicholas Smyth, defended April 2017

Philip Galligan, defended March 2016

Miquel Miralbes Del Pino, defended August 2015

Andrew Rotondo, defended August 2012

Katherine Rubin, defended October 2011

Benjamin Jarvis, defended August 2009

Member, Doctoral Viva Committee for Carlos Benito-Monsalvo (Barcelona), 2023

Member, Doctoral Assessment Committee for Michael Klenk (Utrecht University), 2018

External Doctoral Examiner for Dan Baras (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), 2016

Professional Activities

Service to the Department

Department Chair, 2023–present

Graduate Placement Officer, 2012–2023

Chair, Search Committee (for a Postdoctoral Research Fellow), 2024–2025

Member, Search Committee, 2017–2018, 2014–2015, 2011–2012, 2006–2007 (two positions)

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2016–2017, 2013–2014, 2009–2010, 2006–2007, 2005–2006

Member, Colloquium Committee, 2011–2015

Service to the University

Facilitator, Brown University Doctoral Futures Working Group, 2025–present

Associated with the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) “Doctoral Futures Initiative”

Affiliate, Program in Linguistics, 2025–present

Brown University Faculty Advising Fellow, 2020–2021, 2018–2019

Facilitator, Transformative Conversations program, February 18, 2014

Service to the Profession

- Member, American Philosophical Association Committee on Lectures, Publications, and Research, 2025–present
- Organizer, 2011 Mark Shapiro Conference in Philosophy: The Epistemology of Inference
- Philosophy TV discussion, “The Problem of Contingency” with Adam Elga and Roger White, November 2010
- Member, Knowledge Beyond Natural Science Project International Network, University of Stirling, 2017–2019
- Member, Arché Basic Knowledge Research Project International Network, University of St. Andrews, 2007–2009
- Co-Founder, New England Logic and Language Colloquium

Service to the Community

- Judge, Rhode Island Ethics Bowl, February 2026

Editorial Work

- Editor, *Noûs*, 2024–present
- Subject Editor (Epistemology), *Thought*, 2013–2024
- Subject Editor (Philosophy of Logic), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2013–present
- Editor (Deductive Reasoning, Epistemology of Logic, Reasoning), *PhilPapers*, 2011–present
- Co-Editor (with Cory Juhl), *Philosophical Issues* (2018), *Philosophy of Logic and Inferential Reasoning* 28.

Refereeing (Articles and Books)

Analysis, Analytic Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Cognitive Science, Dialectica, Episteme, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Ethics, European Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Journal of Logic and Computation, Journal of Philosophical Research, Journal of Philosophy, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Inquiry, Logic and Logical Philosophy, Logica Universalis, Mind, Mind & Language, Noûs, Oxford Studies in Epistemology, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophia, Philosophia Mathematica, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Ratio, Res Philosophica, The Review of Symbolic Logic, Southern Journal of Philosophy, Synthese, Thought

- One book manuscript for Cambridge Elements
- Two book manuscripts for Longman Press
- Two book manuscripts and four book proposals for Oxford University Press
- One book manuscript and one book proposal for Routledge
- One volume of Oxford Studies in Metaethics
- Chapters in collections for Routledge, Onto Verlag, and Oxford University Press

Refereeing (Conferences)

- American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting
- Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference
- Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting
- Episteme Conference on the Epistemological Significance of Disagreement
- Logic in Computer Science meeting
- Mount Holyoke Summer Philosophy Conference
- Society for Exact Philosophy

Society for Philosophy and Psychology
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference

Refereeing (Fellowships and Grants)

Austrian Science Fund Erwin Schrödinger and ESPRIT fellowship proposals
German Research Foundation (DFG) fellowship proposals
Israel Science Foundation grant application
National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship proposals
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council research proposals
John Templeton Foundation proposal

Professional Associations

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division
Association for Symbolic Logic