

MALTE WILLER

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Chicago

Professor of Philosophy	2024–present
Associate Professor of Philosophy	2017–2024
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

Research Articles

- [1] **Credences for Strict Conditionals**
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, 110(1): 23–50, 2025
- [2] **Quantifiers for a Modal Future**
Philosophical Perspectives, forthcoming
- [3] **Familiarity Inferences, Subjective Attitudes and Counterstance Contingency: Towards a Pragmatic Theory of Subjective Meaning** (with Chris Kennedy)
Linguistics and Philosophy 45(6): 1395–1445, 2022
- [4] **Negating Conditionals**
Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Language, Volume II, edited by Ernest Lepore and David Sosa. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 234–266, 2022
- [5] **Assertion, Expression, Experience** (with Chris Kennedy)
Inquiry 65(7): 821–857, 2022
- [6] **Perspectival Content and Semantic Composition** (with Chris Kennedy)
Perspectives on Taste, edited by Jeremy Wyatt, Julia Zakkou, and Dan Zeman. New York: Routledge, 207–230, 2022
- [7] **Two Puzzles about Ability *Can***
Linguistics and Philosophy 44(3): 551–586, 2021
- [8] **Simplifying with Free Choice**
Topoi 37(3): 379–392, 2018

- [9] **Lessons from Sobel Sequences**
Semantics & Pragmatics 10(4): 1–57, 2017
- [10] **Advice for Noncognitivists**
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly 98(S1): 174–207, 2017
- [11] **Dynamic Foundations for Deontic Logic**
Deontic Modality, edited by Nate Charlow and Matthew Chrisman, 324–354. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016
- [12] **Dynamic Thoughts on Ifs and Oughts**
Philosophers' Imprint 14(28): 1–30, 2014
- [13] **Dynamics of Epistemic Modality**
Philosophical Review 122(1): 45–92, 2013
- [14] **A Remark on Iffy Oughts**
Journal of Philosophy 109(7): 449–461, 2012
- [15] **Realizing What Might Be**
Philosophical Studies 153(3): 365–375, 2011
- [16] **New Surprises for the Ramsey Test**
Synthese 176(2): 291–309, 2010
- [17] **Der Wahrheitsbegriff in Martin Heideggers *Sein und Zeit***
Philosophisches Jahrbuch 113(1): 78–98, 2006

Conference Proceedings Papers

- [18] **Negating Conditionals in Bilateral Semantics**
Proceedings of the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium: 407–416, 2019
- [19] **Widening Free Choice**
Proceedings of the 21st Amsterdam Colloquium: 511–520, 2017
- [20] **Subjective Attitudes and Counterstance Contingency** (with Chris Kennedy)
Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory XXVI, 913–933, 2016
- [21] **Simplifying Counterfactuals**
Proceedings of the 20th Amsterdam Colloquium: 428–437, 2015
- [22] **Indicative Scorekeeping**
Proceedings of the 19th Amsterdam Colloquium: 249–256, 2013

Overviews

- [23] **Modality, Gradability and Probability**
Cambridge Handbook of Natural Language Modality, edited by Ana Arregui, Valentine Hacquard, and Michela Ippolito. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming
- [24] **Subjectivity**
The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy of Language, edited by Ernest LePore and Una Stojnić. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 653–675, 2025
- [25] **An Update on Epistemic Modals**
Journal of Philosophical Logic 44(6): 835–849, 2015

Book Reviews and Symposia Contributions

- [26] **Dynamic Semantics versus Dynamic Propositionalism** (critical notice on Una Stojnić's *Context and Coherence: The Logic and Grammar of Prominence*)
Inquiry, forthcoming
- [27] **The Modal Future: A Theory of Future-Directed Thought and Talk**, by Fabrizio Cariani
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews 2022.11.04, 2022 (2765 words)
- [28] **Suppose and Tell: The Semantics and Heuristics of Conditionals**, by Timothy Williamson
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews 2022.02.03, 2022 (2888 words)
- [29] **Epistemic Modality**, edited by Brian Weatherson and Andy Egan
Philosophical Review 122(4): 641–647, 2013

Edited

- [30] **Reasons, Argumentation and Justification: DEON 2016 Special Issue** (with Olivier Roy and Allard Tamminga)
Journal of Logic and Computation 29(2): 185–317, 2019
- [31] **Proceedings of DEON 2016** (with Olivier Roy and Allard Tamminga)
London: College Publications

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- [1] **Credences for Strict Conditionals** 11/2023
PhLiP 2023, Tarrytown
- [2] **Negating Conditionals in Bilateral Semantics** 12/2019
22nd Amsterdam Colloquium (Presentation), Amsterdam
- [3] **Two Puzzles about Agentive *Can*** 02/2018
115th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Symposium), Chicago
- [4] **Widening Free Choice** 12/2017
21st Amsterdam Colloquium (Presentation), Amsterdam
- [5] **Widening Free Choice** 12/2017
Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary 2, Amsterdam
- [6] **Subjective Attitudes and Counterstance Contingency** (with Chris Kennedy) 09/2016
PhLiP 2016, Tarrytown
- [7] **Subjective Attitudes and Counterstance Contingency** (with Chris Kennedy) 05/2016
Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26 (Poster Session), Austin
- [8] **Simplifying Counterfactuals** 12/2015
20th Amsterdam Colloquium (Presentation), Amsterdam
- [9] **Advice for Noncognitivists** 02/2015
112th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Symposium), St. Louis
- [10] **Advice for Noncognitivists** 11/2014
2nd Workshop on Semantic Content and Conversational Dynamics, Barcelona
- [11] **Another Case for Dynamic Conditionals** 09/2014
PhLiP 2014, Tarrytown
- [12] **A Problem with Thinning** 02/2014
111th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Colloquium), Chicago
- [13] **Indicative Scorekeeping** 12/2013
19th Amsterdam Colloquium (Presentation), Amsterdam
- [14] **Contrary-to-Duty Obligations and Dynamic Semantics** 05/2013
USC Deontic Modality Workshop, LA
- [15] **Deontic Paradoxes from a Dynamic Perspective** 06/2012
Reasoning and Interaction at NASSLLI, Austin
- [16] **Nonmonotonic Thoughts on Conditional Oughts** 04/2012
86th Annual Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium), Seattle
- [17] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 12/2009
106th Annual Meeting of the APA Eastern Division (Symposium), NYC
- [18] **New Dynamics for Epistemic Modality** 03/2009
9th Annual NYU/Columbia Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, NYC
- [19] **New Surprises for the Ramsey Test** 05/2008
36th Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Laramie
- [20] **Visual Perceptions: A Plea for Simple Contents** 03/2008
82nd Annual Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium), Pasadena
- [21] **Moore + Ramsey \neq God** 02/2008
3rd Annual USC/UCLA Graduate Philosophy Conference, LA

- [22] **Negative Existentials and DRT** 05/2007
35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Vancouver
- [23] **In Defense of the Phenomenal Concept Strategy** 04/2007
81st Annual Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium), San Francisco
- [24] **In Defense of the Phenomenal Concept Strategy** 06/2006
MIND 2006, Bristol

INVITED TALKS

- [1] **Points of View for Strict Modals and Conditionals** 06/2024
Point of View in Language, Uppsala
- [2] **Grounding Acquaintance Inferences** 06/2024
New Approaches to Evaluative Discourse, Umeå
- [3] **On AI and the Humanities** (with Chris Kennedy and Hoyt Long) 04/2024
Franke Institute for the Humanities, Chicago
- [4] **Credences for Simplifying Conditionals** 02/2023
120th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division (Symposium), Denver
- [5] **Decomposing Acquaintance** (with Chris Kennedy) 10/2022
The Acquaintance Inference — Linguistic and Philosophical Perspectives, Konstanz
- [6] **Consider: A Pragmatic Theory of Subjectivity** (with Chris Kennedy) 06/2022
NASSLLI Workshop on Subjectivity and Semantic Interpretation, LA
- [7] **Credences for Iffy Updates** 03/2022
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
- [8] **Judgement, Opinion, and Ground: Decomposing Subjective Attitudes** 11/2021
University of Maryland, College Park
- [9] **Negating Conditionals** 06/2020
Virtual Philosophy of Language Work in Progress Group
- [10] **Toward a Pragmatic Theory of Subjective Meaning** 08/2018
24th World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing
- [11] **Zur modalen Analyse des Könnens** 07/2018
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale)
- [12] **Evidence, Attitudes, and Counterstances** (with Chris Kennedy) 11/2017
Workshop on Subjective Language, Berlin
- [13] **Two Puzzles about Agentive *Can*** 09/2017
Philosophy of Linguistics and Language, Dubrovnik
- [14] **Free Choice Failures** 06/2017
Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary, Broek in Waterland
- [15] **Have You Ever Been Experienced?** (with Chris Kennedy) 05/2017
Northwestern Philosophy and Linguistics Workgroup, Evanston
- [16] **Reasoning with Epistemic Modals** 06/2016
CSI 2016 Summer School, Montréal
- [17] **On the Semantics of Subjective Attitude Verbs** 03/2016
Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York
- [18] **Free Choice for Simplification** 03/2016
2nd Meaning Sciences Workshop, Berkeley
- [19] **Free Choice Effects in Counterfactuals** 12/2015
Workshop on Nonveridical Expressions and Subjectivity in Language, Chicago
- [20] **Binding into Deontic Contexts** 11/2014
Workshop on Nonstandard Modals, Leeds
- [21] **Another Case for Dynamic Conditionals** 05/2014
University of Chicago Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop, Chicago

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

COMMENTARIES

- [1] **On David Boylan and Ginger Schultheis’s “Ability and Actuality” and on Annina Loets’s “Inexact Ability”** 01/2025
121st Annual Meeting of the APA Eastern Division, NYC
- [2] **On Floris Roelofsen’s “*Might* in Questions”** 06/2017
Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary, Broek in Waterland
- [3] **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
- [4] **On Sven Lauer and Cleo Condoravdi’s “The Basic Dynamic Effect of Interrogative Utterances”** 06/2012
13th Texas Linguistics Society Conference, Austin
- [5] **On Theodore Korzukhin’s “Dominance Conditionals and Adams’s Thesis”** 02/2012
109th Annual Meeting of the APA Central Division, Chicago

- [6] **On Jon Litland’s “An Actualist Theory of Properties”** 04/2009
UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference, Austin
- [7] **On Kai von Fintel and Anthony Gillies’s “*Must ...Stay ...Strong!*”** 10/2008
3rd Annual UT/UNAM Conference, Austin
- [8] **On Alex Grzankowski’s “Against DeRose on Epistemic Modals”** 01/2008
3rd Annual UT Austin MLK Conference, Austin
- [9] **On Pedro Stepanenko’s “The Pyrrhonian Reports”** 10/2007
2nd Annual UT/UNAM Conference, Mérida
- [10] **On Shawn Standefer’s “Least Common Denominator”** 04/2007
UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference, Austin
- [11] **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 Volchenboun (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

Graduate Seminars

Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i>	Autumn 2024
Language, Evidence, and Mind (with Chris Kennedy)	Spring 2024
MAPH Core Course: Contemporary Analytic Philosophy	Autumn 2021
Future Contingents	Spring 2020
Language and Games	Autumn 2016
Indexicals	Spring 2016
Subjectivity	Autumn 2014
Expressivism	Winter 2013
Conditionals	Winter 2012
Meaning Without Truth	Winter 2011

Graduate Workshops

Topical Workshop	2024
Paper Revision and Publication Workshop	Spring 2024/2025
Placement Seminar	2019–2022

Undergraduate Classes (cross-listed as graduate seminar unless marked with *)

Introduction to Logic	Autumn 2023
Logic for Philosophy	Spring 2017/2023, Winter 2015
An Introduction to Martin Heidegger's <i>Sein und Zeit</i>	Winter 2022*
The Epistemology of Deep Learning (with Anubav Vasudevan)	Spring 2021
Meaning and Reference	Autumn 2017, Winter 2012/2016/2020*
Elementary Logic	Autumn 2012/2018
Counterfactuals	Autumn 2016*
Modality	Spring 2016
Reference and Description	Autumn 2014
Dynamic Semantics	Autumn 2012
Non-classical Logic	Spring 2011
Introduction to Philosophy of Language	Autumn 2010

Humanities Core Classes

Philosophical Perspectives I	Autumn 2017/2018/2020/2023
Philosophical Perspectives II	Winter 2019/2021
Philosophical Perspectives III	Spring 2023/2025
Human Being & Citizen I	Autumn 2011
Human Being and Citizen II	Winter 2011/2013/2015/2016/2017

Undergraduate 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: Theoretical Philosophy Workshop	2023–2024
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: Mason Geller (in progress), Oscar Dorr (graduated 2024), Tala Germani (graduated 2024), Marcos Motter (graduated 2022), Benjamin Andrew (graduated 2019), Lauren Richardson (graduated 2018), Nathaniel Schwartz (graduated 2016), Edwin Jiang (graduated 2016), Douglas Vaaler (graduated 2015), Julian Katz-Samuels (graduated 2012), Sasha Reschektko (graduated 2011)

M.A. Thesis Supervised: Sam Simpson (graduated 2022), Felipe Urrutia (graduated 2022), Noella Chye (graduated 2021), Matthew Hagan (graduated 2021), Corey O'Connor (graduated 2013), Alissa Smith (graduated 2012), Benjamin Kramer-Miller (graduated 2011)

Ph.D. Committee Member: Marguerite Sandholm (in progress) Aaron Graham (graduated 2023), Ryan Simonelli (graduated 2022, co-chair), Julian Grove (graduated 2019), Patrick Muñoz (graduated 2019), Tamara Vardomskaia (graduated 2018), Timothy Grinsell (graduated 2017), Nicholas Koziolk (graduated 2015), Matt Teichmann (graduated 2015), Peter Klecha (graduated 2014)

University and Departmental Service

Director of Graduate Studies (2023–present), Director of Placement (2018–2022), Departmental Listening Committee Co-chair (2018, 2021), Curriculum Committee Member (2014–2016, 2023–present), History of Philosophy Search Committee Member (2020–21), Open Search Subcommittee for Metaphysics and Epistemology Chair (2017–18), Harper and Schmidt Search Committee Member (2016–2017), 20th Century & Contemporary Continental Philosophy Search Committee Member (2012–2013), Metaphysics and Epistemology Search Committee Member (2010–2011), DIGS MA Admissions Committee Member (2022, 2024, 2025), Graduate Admissions Committee Member (2010–2013), Graduate Placement Committee Member (2010–2011), Graduate Program Committee Member (2012–2013, 2014–2016, 2019–2020, 2023–present), Neubauer Fellowship Committee Member (2016), Prize Essay Committee Member (2014–2016), Stuart Tave-Whiting Teaching Fellowship Committee Member (2011), Dean’s Representative (2012, 2015, 2016, 2017),

Editing

Associate Editor at *Semantics & Pragmatics* (03/20–present), Area Editor at *Ergo* (11/18–11/23)

Refereeing

JOURNAL REFEREEING: *Analysis* (×2), *Analytic Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (×3), *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Ergo* (×6), *Erkenntnis* (×6), *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, *Inquiry* (×2), *International Review of Pragmatics*, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Logic and Computation*, *Journal of Logic, Language and Information* (×2), *Journal of Philosophical Logic* (×8), *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Journal of Philosophy* (×3), *Journal of Semantics* (×3), *KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge, Linguistics and Philosophy* (×17), *Logic and Logical Philosophy*, *Mind* (×12), *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* (×2), *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, *Noûs* (×7), *Open Linguistics*, *Philosophers’ Imprint* (×6), *Philosophical Quarterly* (×5), *Philosophical Review* (×9), *Philosophical Studies* (×10), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (×2), *Prolegomena*, *Res Philosophica*, *Review of Symbolic Logic* (×2), *Semantics and Pragmatics* (×13), *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese* (×11), *Theoria* (×2), *THEORIA*, *Thought*, *Topoi*

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

CONFERENCE REFEREEING: Amsterdam Colloquium (2022, 2024), Semantics and Linguistic Theory (2012–present), Deontic Logic and Normative Systems (2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2023), ESSLLI Student Session (2021), Chicago Linguistics Society (2018), Going Romance (2018), New Ideas in Semantics and Modeling (2016), 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

The Philosophy of Michael Kremer: Frege, Wittgenstein, Ryle, and the Analytic Tradition (05/2023), In Praise of Unclear and Indistinct Ideas: Implications of Deep Learning and Second Wave AI (04/2019), 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

University of Chicago Digital Studies Faculty Board (2020–present), University of Chicago College Council (2023–2024), DEON Steering Committee (2018–2023)

Last updated — March 2025
