

# SHIEVA KLEINSCHMIDT

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## Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion

## Areas of Competence

Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Logic, Philosophical Linguistics

## Employment

2017-Present: Associate Professor, University of Southern California

2010-2017: Assistant Professor, University of Southern California

## Career Breaks:

2024 Spring (parental leave)

2021 Fall (parental leave)

2019 Spring (parental leave)

## Education

2007-2011: New York University, Ph.D. in Philosophy

Dissertation: *Mereology, Ontology, and Location*

Committee: Ted Sider (advisor) Kit Fine, Achille Varzi, Dean Zimmerman

2005-2007: Rutgers University

2002-2005: Western Washington University, B.A. in Philosophy

2001-2002: University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan

## Grants

2025-2027: Recipient (partner investigator) with Ryan Byerly (chief investigator), and Jonathan Jong, Neil Van Leeuwen, Elizabeth Jackson, Philip Goff, Laura Ekstrom, Dan Howard-Snyder, and Daniel McKaughan (partner investigators): John Templeton Foundation, for “The Beliefless Spirituality Project: Philosophical Foundations and Scientific Explorations”

2020-2024: Recipient (partner investigator) with Antony Eagle (chief investigator) and Cody Gilmore (partner investigator): Australian Research Council Discovery Project, \$224,672 AUD for “[Everything in its Place: Location, Persistence, and Change](#)”.

2019: Recipient with [Michael Hall: USC’s Interdisciplinary Teaching Grant](#), \$20,000 to develop the course *Infinity in Mathematics and Philosophy*

## Publications

Under Contract: *Parts Across Space and Time* (book manuscript), Oxford University Press.

Anticipated submission to publisher: July 2025

Forthcoming. “[Presentist Perdurantism and Parthood](#)”, *Philosophical Perspectives*

2021: “[The Overlap Problem](#)”, *Philosophical Studies*, vol. 178, no. 6; pp. 1801-1827.

2019: “[Fusion First](#)”, *Nous*, vol. 53, no. 3; pp. 689-707.

2018: “[Simple Trinitarianism and Empty Names](#)”, *Religious Studies*, vol. 54, special issue 3; pp. 325-335.

2018: “[The Experiential Problem for Petitionary Prayer](#)”, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, vol. 83, no. 3; pp. 219-229.

2017: “[At It Again: Time-Travel and Motion](#)”, *Erkenntnis*, vol. 82, no.1; pp. 185-198.

2017: “[Atheistic Prayer](#)”, *Faith and Philosophy*, vol. 34, no. 2; pp. 152-175.

2017: “[Extensionality of Proper Part Containment](#)”, *Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 67, no. 269; pp. 835-844.

2017: “[Refining Four-Dimensionalism](#)”, *Synthese*, vol. 194, no. 11; pp. 4623-4640.

2016: “[Placement Permissivism and Logics of Location](#)”, *Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 113, no. 3; pp. 117-136.

2016: “[Simple Trinitarianism and Feature-Placing Sentences](#)”, *Faith and Philosophy*, vol. 33, no. 3; pp. 257-277.

2015: “[Fundamentality and Time-Travel](#)”, *Thought*, vol. 4, no. 1; pp. 46-51.

2015: “[Shaping Up Location: Against the Humean Argument for the Extrinsicity of Shape](#)”, *Philosophical Studies* vol. 172, no. 8; pp. 1973-1983.

2014: *Mereology and Location*, edited vol., Oxford University Press (with [a chapter](#) by the editor)

2013: “[Reasoning Without the Principle of Sufficient Reason](#)”, in *The Puzzle of Existence: Why Is There Something Rather Than Nothing?*, edited by Tyron Goldschmidt (New York: Routledge); pp. 64-79.

2012: “[Repeatable Artwork Sentences and Generics](#)”, with Jacob Ross, *Art and Abstract Objects*, edited by Christy Mag Uidhir (Oxford: Oxford University Press); pp. 125-157.

2012: “[Many-One Identity and the Trinity](#)”, *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion*, vol. 4, ed. Jonathan Kvanvig; pp. 84-96.

2011: “[Multilocation and Mereology](#)”, *Philosophical Perspectives*, vol. 25; pp. 253-276.

2007: “[Some Things About Stuff](#)”, *Philosophical Studies*, vol. 135, no. 3; pp. 407-423.

## In Preparation

“[Decompositional Plenitude](#)” (under review: R&R from *Mind*)

*Decompositional Multitude* (book manuscript, 80 pages drafted; overview given at Rutgers)

“Tensed Mereology Without Non-Existent Parts” with Paul Hovda and Michael Nelson

“Hylomorphic Change” with Maegan Fairchild

“Against ‘You Made Me Do It’: Causation and Abuse”

“Temporal Parts Upstaged”

“[Conditional Desires](#)”

## Presentations

TBA

Beliefless Spirituality Conference, January 2027

University of Colorado, Boulder Colloquium

Western Washington University Colloquium

Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project

*Parts Across Space and Time*: Book Overview

Purdue, October 2023

*Decompositional Multitude*: Book Overview

Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University, August 2023

Women in Metaphysics Workshop Series, July 2023

“Presentist Perdurantism and Parthood”

Women in Metaphysics Workshop Series, February 2022

ARC Discovery Project: Everything In Its Place, March 2021

“Decompositional Plenitude”

Boise State University, April 2023

Purdue, November 2019

Southern Methodist University, November 2018

University of California, Davis, October 2018

University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2018

The Arizona Ontology Conference, January 2018

“The Overlap Problem”

University of Notre Dame, November 2017

The Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network, June 2017

“Fusion First”

Georgetown University, February 2018

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, October 2017

The Pisa Conference on Mereology and Identity, July 2017

California State University, Los Angeles, March 2017

Texas Tech University, February 2017

The Creighton Club, Syracuse University, October 2016

“The Experiential Problem of Petitionary Prayer”

Purdue, October 2023

The Eastern Division Meeting of the APA, January 2017

“Atheistic Prayer”

Boise State University Public Lecture, April 2023

Purdue, November 2019

Pepperdine University, Spring 2018

University of Notre Dame, November 2017

The Nature and Value of Faith Workshop, July 2016

“Simple Trinitarianism”

Oxford Conference on the Metaphysics of the Trinity, March 2016

“Refining Four-Dimensionalism”

The Central Division Meeting of the APA, February 2015

“Shaping Up *Location*: Against the Humean Argument for the Extrinsicity of Shape”

The Pacific Division Meeting of the APA, April 2014

Metaphysics on the Mountain, March 2014

“Reasoning Without the Principle of Sufficient Reason”

The Baylor/Georgetown/Notre Dame Phil Religion Conference, October 2013

“Placement Permissivism and Logics of Location”

University of Southern California, April 2016

University of California, Riverside, April 2015

Berkeley, March 2015

Oxford Mereology Workshop, March 2014

Southwest Graduate Conference at Arizona State University, (Keynote) April 2014

California State University, San Bernardino, February 2013

The University of Pittsburgh, October 2012

The Carolina Metaphysics Workshop, June 2012

“Repeatable Artwork Sentences and Generics”

The Dubrovnik Conference on the Ontology of Art, June 2013

Western Washington University’s Alumni Conference, May 2012

The University of Manitoba, March 2012

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, October 2011

“Mereology and Location”

The University of California, Irvine, December 2011

Third Vagueness and Metaphysics Workshop, September 2011

The Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, (Guest Speaker) May 2010

The University of Southern California, February 2010

The Western Washington University Mereology Workshop, January 2006

“At It Again: Time Travel and Motion”

Western Washington University, May 2009

The Central Division Meeting of the APA, April 2007

Rutgers University, March 2007

“Many-One Identity and the Trinity”

The Baylor Philosophy of Religion Conference, November 2010

The Pacific Division Meeting of the APA, April 2007

The Midwest Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, April 2006

“Three Puzzles for Desire Fulfilment”

To the Undergraduate Philosophy Club at Rutgers University, November 2005

“~~Conditional~~ Desires”

The Pacific Division Meeting of the APA, March 2006

Rutgers University, March 2006

The 57<sup>th</sup> Northwest Philosophy Conference, October 2005

Western Washington University, March 2005 and July 2005  
 The 7<sup>th</sup> Rocky Mountain Student Conference, March 2005

“Some Things About Stuff”

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Arché Graduate Conference, February 2005  
 The 101<sup>st</sup> Eastern Division Meeting of the APA, December 2004  
 Western Washington University, November 2004  
 The 56<sup>th</sup> Northwest Philosophy Conference, October 2004  
 The 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, April 2004

Comments Presented:

For Jonathan Schaffer: “The Action of the Whole”,  
 at the Arizona Ontology Conference, January 2013  
 For Andrew Bailey: “A Priority Problem for the Constituent Solution”  
 at the Pacific Division Meeting of the APA, April 2011  
 For Dan and Frances Howard-Snyder: “The Puzzle of Petitionary Prayer”  
 at the Baylor Philosophy of Religion Conference, January 2010  
 For Derek Jones: “Digging for Gold: A Defense of Scientific Essentialism”  
 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, May 2005  
 For Neal Tognazzini: “Planning Around Perfect Knowledge: A Dilemma,”  
 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, May 2003

Presentations for the General Public:

“It’s About Time”  
 Canada/USA Mathcamp, July 2014  
 “An Introduction to Hyperspace”  
 Nerd Nite NYC, August 2007

## Teaching

Grant:

2019: Recipient with Michael Hall: [USC’s Interdisciplinary Teaching Grant](#), \$20,000 to develop *Infinity in Mathematics and Philosophy*

Pedagogical Development:

2019-21: Member of the [Philosophy as a Way of Life Network](#), participating in a 3-year program of pedagogy workshops  
 2020: Completed the 6-week [Online Teaching Intensive](#) through the Center for Excellence in Teaching

2018-19: Completed the year-long [New Faculty Institute](#) through the Center for Excellence in Teaching

#### Courses Taught:

[Metaphysics Seminar](#) (500-level)

Spring 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2022

[Advanced Teaching Seminar](#) (500-level)

Fall 2020, Fall 2021

[Teaching Seminar](#) (500-level)

Fall 2018 (with Mark Schroeder), Fall 2020, Fall 2021

Metaphysics (400-level)

Spring 2013, Spring 2016, Fall 2018, Spring 2020

Metaphysics and Epistemology (300-level)

Texts: *Metaphysics: An Introduction*, Ney; *Transformative Experience*, Paul.

Fall 2011, Fall 2019

Issues in Space and Time (200-level)

Spring 2017, Fall 2017

Knowledge, Explanation, and the Cosmos (200-level)

Texts: *Metaphysics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Taylor; *Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Rowe  
Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015

The Physical World and our Place In It (100-level)

Texts: *Metaphysics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., assorted readings

Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2021, Fall 2023

Introduction to Philosophy Through Film (100-level)

Texts: *Metaphysics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Taylor; *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Descartes

Fall 2006

Ancient Philosophy (100-level)

Text: *Readings in Ancient Philosophy, Thales to Aristotle*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Cohen, Curd, Reeve (eds)

Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Spring 2015, Spring 2017

## Advising

### Academic Advising

Quyen Pham (2024), dissertation committee

Noah Gordon (2023), dissertation committee

Jessica Pohlmann (2023, University of Adelaide), MPhil external member

Isaiah Lin (2020, Syracuse), dissertation committee, external member

Matt Leonard (2019), dissertation committee

Maegan Fairchild (2018), dissertation committee

(Not listed: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year advising, area exam committees, qualifying committees)

### Pedagogical Advising

Jaime Castillo Gamboa (2024), teaching mentor  
 Maegan Fairchild (2018), teaching mentor  
 Madiha Hamdi, teaching mentor  
 Michael Hatcher (2017), teaching mentor  
 Rachel Keith, teaching mentor  
 Caleb Perl (2017), teaching mentor  
 Christa Peterson, teaching mentor  
 Abelard Podarski (2016), teaching mentor  
 Andrew Stewart (2024), teaching mentor  
 Stephanie Van Fossen, teaching mentor  
 Jesse Wilson (2023), teaching mentor

### Service

Director of Undergraduate Studies, fall 2016, fall 2017, fall 2019-present

Co-Chair of the Climate Committee, 2016-2017, 2021-2024

Other assorted committee work (an incomplete list!):

USC Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2011-present, (Chair 2019-present)

USC Faculty Advisory Committee, 2019-2020

USC Peer Teaching Review Committee, 2018-2019

USC Merit Review Committee, 2019

USC Job Search Committee, 2010-2014

USC Graduate Recruitment Committee, 2012-2018

USC Graduate Admissions Committee, 2011-12

Metaphysics teacher in the NYU High School Outreach Program, Fall 2009

Conferences I've Organized:

Summer Metaphysics Workshop at USC, June 2025

9<sup>th</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: Metaphysics and Feminism, USC January 2025

The *Everything In Its Place* Metaphysics Workshop at USC, May 2024

8<sup>th</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: [The Metaphysics of Spacetime](#), USC January 2020

7<sup>th</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: [Social Metaphysics](#), USC January 2018

- 6<sup>th</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: [Metaphysics and Philosophy of Religion](#), USC  
January 2017
- 5<sup>th</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: [Parthood](#), USC January 2016
- 4<sup>th</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: [the Relationship Between Logic and Metaphysics](#),  
USC January 2015
- 3<sup>rd</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: [the Metaphysics of Ordinary Objects](#), USC January  
2014
- 2<sup>nd</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: [Metaphysically Relevant Linguistics](#), USC January  
2013
- 1<sup>st</sup> California Metaphysics Conference: [Persistence](#), USC January 2012
- [Philosophy of Mathematics Conference](#), New York University, April 2009
- [Student Philosophy of Religion Conference](#), Rutgers University, January 2007
- [Mereology, Topology and Location Conference](#), Rutgers University, October 2006
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University, May 2005
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University, May 2004

Conferences I've Assisted in Organizing:

- 8<sup>th</sup> Formal Epistemology Workshop, USC, May 2011
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, WWU, August 2006
- [Metaphysical Mayhem](#), Rutgers University, June 2006
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, WWU, August 2005
- 5<sup>th</sup> Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, WWU, August 2004
- 4<sup>th</sup> Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, WWU, August 2003

Other Events I've Organized:

- Philosophy Dinners for Undergrads and Faculty
- Philosophy Hikes for Grad Students and Faculty
- Philosophy Hikes for Undergrads and Faculty
- Philosophy Picnics (at NYU and USC)
- Philosophy Laser-Tag
- Philosophy Ice-Skating
- Philosophy Art Walks
- Metaphysics Lunch Workshops for Faculty
- Metaphysics Low-Stakes Lunch Series for Grad Students
- Summertime Working Groups

Referee for:

*American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, The Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Faith and Philosophy, Mind, Noûs, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy Compass, Thought*