

David Friedell  
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy  
Union College  
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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2020-present Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Union College  
2023 Visiting Fellow in Philosophy, Yale University.  
2019-2020 Lecturer of Philosophy, University of British Columbia  
2017-2019 Postdoctoral Fellow of Philosophy, University of British Columbia  
2015-2017 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Barnard College, Columbia University.

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Philosophy, 2014  
M.A. University of California, Los Angeles, Philosophy, 2009  
M.A. University of the West Indies, Mona, Philosophy, 2007 (Distinction)  
B.A. University of California, Berkeley, Philosophy, 2006 (High Distinction)

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Metaphysics, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Language

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Gender, Philosophy of Race

**EDITED BOOK**

2025 *The Philosophy of Ted Chiang*. Palgrave Macmillan.

**ARTICLES**

Forthcoming “Time Machines, Oracles, and Easy Arguments”, with Patrick Grafton-Cardwell.  
*Disputatio*.  
Forthcoming “How to Change an Artwork” in *Art and Philosophy*, ed. Alex King. Oxford University Press.

- 2025 “Time Machines and Predictors are Possible but Unlikely” in *The Philosophy of Ted Chiang*, ed. David Friedell. Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2025 “The Morality and Aesthetics of Personal Beauty”, with Madeleine Ransom. *Acta Analytica*.
- 2024 “Becoming non-Jewish” in *New Perspectives on the Ontology of Social Identities*, eds. Alejandro Arango and Adam Burgos. Routledge.  
-featured on *New Work in Philosophy* March 14, 2024.
- 2022 “How Statues Speak” with Shen-yi Liao, *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 80, 444-452.
- 2021 “Creating Abstract Objects.” *Philosophy Compass* 16.
- 2020 “Medicalization and Linguistic Agency,” with Ashley Feinsinger, *Ratio* 33, 232-242.
- 2020 “Fiction and Indeterminate Identity,” *Analysis* 80, 221-229.
- 2020 “Abstracta are Causal,” *Philosophia* 48, 133-142.
- 2020 “Why Can’t I Change Bruckner’s *Eighth Symphony*?” *Philosophical Studies* 177, 805–82.
- 2018 “A Problem for All of Creation,” *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 76, 98-101.
- 2017 “Music and Vague Existence,” *Res Philosophica*. 94, 437-449.
- 2017 “Abstract and Concrete Products: A Response to Cray,” *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 75, 292-296.
- 2016 “Abstract Creationism and Authorial Intention,” *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 74, 129-37.
- 2013 “Salmon on Hob and Nob,” *Philosophical Studies* 165, 213-20.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Time Machines, Oracles, and Easy Arguments,” LanCog Summer Metaphysics Workshop. University of Lisbon. July 2.
- 2024 “Cowling and Cray’s *Philosophy of Comics*,” American Philosophical Association. New York, NY, January 17.
- 2024 “How to Change an Artwork,” American Philosophical Association. New York, NY, January 16.
- 2022 “Becoming non-Jewish,” Kansas PRISM Workshop, University of Kansas, May 26.
- 2021 “Against Treating People Like Sunsets,” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, November 17. (with Madeleine Ransom).
- 2021 “How Statues Speak,” Southern Aesthetics Workshop, Auburn University, October 15. (with Shen-yi Liao).

- 2020 “Against Treating People Like Sunsets.” Southern Aesthetics Workshop, University of Georgia, September 18. (with Madeleine Ransom).
- 2019 “Fiction and Indeterminate Identity,” Canadian Philosophical Association. Vancouver, BC, June 4.
- 2019 “Why Can’t I Change Bruckner’s *Eighth Symphony*?” American Philosophical Association, Central Division. Denver, CO, February 20.
- 2017 “Music and Vague Existence,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division. Kansas City, MO, March 2.
- 2016 “What Corporations Can Teach Us About Music,” American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division. Philadelphia, PA, April 15.
- 2016 “What Corporations Can Teach Us About Music,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, San Francisco, CA, April 1.
- 2016 “Abstract Creationism and Authorial Intention,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, IL, March 5.
- 2013 “Abstract Objects are Causally Efficacious,” Graduate Conference in Aesthetics, Temple University, April 21.
- 2013 “A Theory of Abstract Artifacts,” Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Philosophy Conference, UC Berkeley, April 6.
- 2012 “Parked in a Loading Zone,” The 5<sup>th</sup> California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Conference, UC San Diego, October 28.
- 2009 “Salmon on Hob and Nob,” Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Philosophy Conference, Stanford University, April 18.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2022 “Are People Abstract?” Northeastern University, September 23.
- 2022 “Are People Abstract?” Queen’s University, April 7.
- 2020 “The Power of Abstract Objects,” Union College, February 26.
- 2020 “Why Can’t I Change Bruckner’s *Eighth Symphony*?” University of Victoria, February 7.
- 2019 “The Power of Abstract Objects,” University of Manchester, August 19.
- 2019 “The Power of Abstract Objects,” California State University, San Bernardino, June 6.
- 2019 “Oracles and Time Machines,” Lehigh University, April 29.
- 2018 “Becoming non-Jewish,” Kwantlen Polytechnic University, October 19.
- 2018 “Why Can’t I Change Bruckner’s *Eighth Symphony*?” Beauty and Why It Matters Summer Seminar, University of British Columbia, July 8.

2016 “Abstract Artifacts and Vague Existence,” New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, NYU, February 8.

## COMMENTS

- 2021 On Caterina Moruzzi’s “Everyone can Change a Musical Work.” American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division. March 20.
- 2019 On Michalle Gal’s “Visual Hybrids, Visual Metaphors, and Non-Conceptual Aesthetic Perception,” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ. October 12.
- 2018 On William Seeley’s “Locating Art,” American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON. October 11.
- 2018 On Miguel Dos Santos’s “Vague Art,” American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA. April 20.

## CAMPUS TALKS

- 2024 “The Case of the Puzzling Decision” part of *The Gender Studies: Six Cases of Classroom Curiosity and A-ha’s!* Union College, February 29.
- 2018 “Becoming non-Jewish,” University of British Columbia, November 14.
- 2018 “Why Can’t I Change Bruckner’s Eighth Symphony?” University of British Columbia, November 9.
- 2017 “Novels,” University of British Columbia, October 31.
- 2013 “Abstract Objects are Causally Efficacious,” Occidental College, November 6.
- 2012 “An Intersection Between Philosophy and Linguistics,” Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy Research Day. University of the West Indies, Mona, May 10.

## GUEST LECTURES

- 2020 On “Why Can’t I Change Bruckner’s Eighth Symphony?” for Daniel Star’s graduate seminar in Aesthetics, Boston University, October 20.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020-present **Union College**

Philosophy of Language

Art, Media and Society  
Philosophy of Sports and Games  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Philosophy of Gender and Race  
Knowledge and Reality (SRS)  
Technology and Philosophy (FYI)  
Biomedical Ethics  
Metaphysics Seminar  
Introduction to Metaphysics

- 2017-2020    **University of British Columbia**  
Biomedical Ethics  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Epistemology  
Philosophy of Gender  
Environmental Ethics  
Philosophy of Art
- 2015-2017    **Barnard College, Columbia University**  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Philosophy of Language  
Epistemology  
Graduate Seminar: Abstract Objects  
Graduate Seminar: Metametaphysics
- 2013         **Occidental College**  
Theory of Knowledge
- 2011-2012    **University of the West Indies, Mona.**  
Graduate Seminar: Metaphysics  
Philosophy of Religion  
Theory of Knowledge  
Philosophy of Law
- 2011-2015    **UCLA**  
Film and Philosophy

Topics in Metaphysics  
Philosophy of Language  
Topics in Aesthetics  
Theory of Knowledge

2007-2011     **UCLA (Teaching Assistant)**  
Early Modern Philosophy  
Introduction to Ethical Theory  
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind  
Introduction to Philosophy of Science  
Skepticism and Rationality  
Theory of Knowledge  
Introduction to Logic

2006           **University of the West Indies, Mona (Teaching Assistant)**  
Philosophy of Language  
Philosophy of Mind

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

2019           Participant, Early Career Metaphysics Workshop, Lehigh University.  
2017           Participant, Ontology and Metaontology Summer Program, Central  
European University.  
2014           Carnap Prize (best philosophy essay by a UCLA grad student) for “Abstracta and  
Vague Existence”  
2013-2014     Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division  
2007, 2012     Pauley Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division  
2008, 2009     Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Peer Review**

Referee for *Acta Analytica*, *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal of Aesthetics*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Inquiry*, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *Metaphysics*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophies*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*.

## College or University Service

Member of Retirement Plan Committee, Union College. 2024-present.

Summer Research Mentor for student, Meghan Cenci, Union College. Summer 2024.

Organizer of Gabriel Rabin talk “Contemporary Musical Notation”, Union College June 2, 2024.

Organizer of Shen-yi Liao talk “The Right to Play”, Union College. April 4, 2024.

Organizer of Q&A with Ted Chiang, Union College. May 14, 2022.

Referee for Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, UBC. 2018-2020.

Mentor to undergraduate students for MAP (Minorities and Philosophy), UCLA. 2014-15

Faculty Liaison for undergraduate philosophy club, University of the West Indies, Mona 2011-12

## Community Talks

“Metaphysics and Objectivity,” Guest of Undergraduate Philosophy Club, University of the West Indies, Mona. February 20, 2014.

“Religion and Normativity,” Guest of Philosophy Club, New Community Jewish High School. January 27, 2014.

“Defeating Homophobia,” Guest of Undergraduate Philosophy Club, University of the West Indies, Mona. March 15, 2012.

## Conference Organizing

Organizer for American Society for Aesthetics sessions at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern. 2018-present. Sessions:

2025 Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art Showcase

2024 Contributors-Meet-Contributors, *Art and Philosophy* (ed. Alex King). New York, NY.

2023 Readers-Meet-Readers: Bernard Bolzano, *Essays on Beauty and the Arts* (ed. Dom Lopes). Montreal, QB.

2022 Author-Meets-Critics: Matt Strohl’s *Why it’s OK to Like Bad Movies*. Baltimore, MD.

2021 Author-Meets-Critics: Julian Dodd’s *Being True to Works of Music*. Online.

2020 Author-Meets-Critics: Thi Nguyen’s *Games: Agency as Art*. Philadelphia, PA.

2019 Arthur Danto/American Society for Aesthetics Prize: Kenneth Walden’s “Art and Moral Revolution.” New York, NY.

2018 Author Meets Critics: Nick Riggle’s *On Being Awesome*. Savannah, GA.

Organizer for *Ted Chiang and Philosophy*, a workshop for philosophers and Union College students to discuss with author Ted Chiang the philosophical significance of Chiang’s work. Union College, May 13-14, 2022.

Organizer for *Salish Sea Aesthetics*, a regional conference for scholars located in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. University of Victoria, May 10-11, 2019.

## REFERENCES

Sam Cumming (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Katrina Elliott (Brandeis University)  
Simon Evnine (University of Miami)  
Dominic Lopes (University of British Columbia)  
Dan Korman (University of California, Santa Barbara)  
Elliot Paul (Queen's University) [teaching]