

CONTACT INFORMATION	<p><i>Mailing Address:</i> Department of Philosophy 314 Moses Hall MC2390 Berkeley, CA 94720-2390</p>	<p><i>Email:</i> shamikd@berkeley.edu <i>Webpage:</i> www.shamik.net</p>	
SPECIALIZATION	Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science, Value Theory		
COMPETENCE	Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Physics		
EMPLOYMENT	<p>University of California, Berkeley Associate Professor</p> <p>Princeton University Associate Professor Assistant Professor</p>		<p>2016-ongoing</p> <p>2015-16 2009-15</p>
EDUCATION	<p>New York University Ph.D., Philosophy Dissertation: "Symmetry as a Guide to Reality". Advisors: Kit Fine (chair), Hartry Field, Stephen Schiffer.</p> <p>King's College London MPhil, Philosophy; distinction</p> <p>University College London BSc, Biology; first class honors</p>		<p>2003-9</p> <p>2001-3</p> <p>1996-9</p>
HONORS AND AWARDS	<p>National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship One-year fellowship awarded for the project 'Empirical Rationalism',</p> <p>William G. Bowen Presidential University Preceptor Preceptorships are endowed positions at Princeton "awarded to outstanding assistant professors for the furtherance of their teaching and scholarship".</p> <p>Winner of the Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholar Prize Awarded annually.</p> <p>Dean's Outstanding Dissertation Award in the Humanities Awarded annually to one NYU doctoral dissertation in the humanities.</p> <p>James Arthur Fellowship Awarded annually to one final-year graduate student at NYU.</p> <p>Honorary Fellow at The Humanities Initiative, NYU Awarded annually to three humanities graduate students at NYU.</p> <p>AHRB Postgraduate Scholarship Arts and Humanities Research Board, United Kingdom</p>		<p>2016-17</p> <p>2014-17</p> <p>2011</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2008-9</p> <p>2008-9</p> <p>2002-3</p>
PUBLICATIONS	<p>"Undoing the Truth Fetish: The Normative Path to Pragmatism", forthcoming in <i>Midwest Studies in Philosophy</i></p> <p>"Practical Nihilism", forthcoming in <i>Oxford Studies in Metaphysics</i></p>		

- "Objectivity as a Normative Notion", in *New Essays on Normative Realism* (2025), edited by Paul Boghossian and Chris Peacocke (OUP), pp. 141-162.
- "Quietism and Normative Symmetry", *Analysis* 84.4 (2024): 869-882.
- "From Plotinus to Rorty: A History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps", in *Extreme Philosophy: Bold Ideas and a Spirit of Progress* (2024), edited by Stephen Hetherington (Routledge), pp. 29-46.
- "School in the Time of Covid", *Monash Bioethics Review* (2022): <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40592-022-00161-9>.
- "Symmetry and Superfluous Structure: A Metaphysical Overview", in *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Physics* (2021), edited by E. Knox and A. Wilson (Routledge), pp. 551-563.
- "How to Be a Relationalist", *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics: Volume 12* (2021): 113-163.
- "Privilege in the Construction Industry", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 98.2 (2019): 489-496.
- "Realism and the Absence of Value", *The Philosophical Review* 127.3 (2018): 279-322.
- "Essentialism and the Nonidentity Problem", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 96.3 (2018): 540-570.
- "Normative Non-Naturalism and the Problem of Authority", *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 117.3 (2017): 297-319.
- "Constitutive Explanation", *Philosophical Issues* 27 (2017): 74-97.
- "Can We Do Without Fundamental Individuals? Yes", and (with J. Turner) "Postscript", in *Current Controversies in Metaphysics* (2017), edited by E. Barnes (Routledge), pp. 7-24. (Previous titled "Quality and Structure".)
- "Metaphysical Rationalism", *Nous* 50.2 (2016): 379-418.
Selected for inclusion in *The Philosopher's Annual* 2016.
- "Symmetry as an Epistemic Notion (Twice Over)", *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 67.3 (2016): 837-878.
- "Inexpressible Ignorance", *The Philosophical Review* 124.4 (2015): 441-480.
- "Substantivalism vs. Relationalism About Space in Classical Physics", *Philosophy Compass* 10.9 (2015): 601-624.
- "The Possibility of Physicalism", *The Journal of Philosophy*, 111.9 (2014): 557-592.
- "On the Plurality of Grounds", *Philosophers' Imprint* 14.14 (2014): 1-28.
- "Absolutism vs. Comparativism About Quantities", *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics: Volume 8* (2013): 105-148. (Winner of the 2011 Younger Scholar Prize.)
- "The Bare Necessities", *Philosophical Perspectives* 25 (2011): 115-159.
- "Individuals: An Essay in Revisionary Metaphysics", *Philosophical Studies* 145.1 (2009): 35-67.

“Range Occupancy and Endangerment: A Test With a Butterfly Community” (with D. Goehring, G. Daily, and P. Ehrlich), *The American Midland Naturalist* 157 (2006): 106-120.

“Ecosystem Services” (with G. Daily), in *The Encyclopedia of Biodiversity* (2001): 353-62.

EDITED
COLLECTIONS

Current Controversies in Philosophy of Science (2020), co-edited with Ravit Dotan and Brad Weslake. Routledge Press.

PRESENTATIONS

Immanent Monism

Wade Memorial Lecture, St. Louis University

March 2026

The Metaphysics of Mystical Experience

Ranch Metaphysics Workshop

Jan 2025

The Philosophy of Emptiness: Fine + Rorty = Nagarjuna

Conference on Buddhism and Pragmatism, Banaras Hindu University

Dec 2024

WIP, UC Berkeley

March 2025

Metaphysics Conference, UC Berkeley

March 2025

Theoretical Philosophy Workshop, U Chicago

Oct 2025

Colloquia, Tufts University

Nov 2025

Colloquia, Stanford University

April 2026

Practical Nihilism

Colloquia, University of Michigan

March 2024

Colloquia, University of Pittsburgh

Sept 2024

Colloquia, Rutgers University

Nov 2024

Conference on “New Directions in the Philosophy of AI”, Washington U St Louis

April 2025

MadMeta, U Wisconsin Madison

Sept 2025

Comments on “Newtonian vs Galilean Substantivalism” by Dan Marshall

APA Pacific Meeting, Portland

April 2024

Mental Representation and Alethic Joins: Putnam’s Paradox Revisited

Conference on Consciousness, Meaning, Understanding; Kerala, India

Jan 2024

Workshop on Alien Structure, Uppsala

May 2024

Workshop on Idealism, Rationalism, and Explanation; UBC, Vancouver

Sept 2024

Colloquia, Visva-Bharati University; Santiniketan, India

Dec 2024

Workshop on Pragmatism and the Applicability of Mathematics, Cambridge University

Sept 2025

Science in the Time of Covid

Presentation at Covid Policy Workshop, Princeton University

April 2023

Explanation for Anti-Realists

Conference on “Metaphysical Explanation: Theory, Applications, and Prospects”, Tel Aviv University (by zoom)

June 2022

Objectivity as a Normative Notion

Workshop on Normative Realism, New York University

May 2022

Seminar, Tel Aviv University

July 2022

Colloquia, UC Irvine

Oct 2022

Colloquia, UC Santa Cruz

Oct 2022

Colloquia, UC Davis

Feb 2023

Metaphysics on the Mountain Conference

March 2023

Colloquia, Stanford University

April 2023

Colloquia, Simon Fraser University	Sept 2023
Colloquia, Harvard University	Nov 2023
The Semantics and Metaphysics of Quantities	
Colloquia, University of Bristol, Philosophy of Science group (by zoom)	March 2022
Undoing the Truth Fetish: A Path to Pragmatism	
Workshop on "Normativity in Philosophy", Hamburg	Aug 2018
Colloquia, University of Wisconsin, Madison	Sept 2018
Mind and Language Seminar, NYU	Feb 2019
Colloquia, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	March 2019
SoCal Metaphysics Network, UC Irvine	Dec 2019
Steven Humphrey Lecture in Philosophy of Science, UC Santa Barbara	March 2020
Colloquia, University of Nebraska, Lincoln (by zoom)	Feb 2022
The Meta-Ethics of AI: Are Machines Beholden to Normative Joins?	
Colloquia, UT Austin	March 2018
Conference on "Ethical Issues: Theoretical and Applied", Bled, Slovenia.	June 2018
Keynote talk, University of Virginia Philosophy Department annual retreat.	Sept 2018
Invited talk, Center for Human Friendly AI (CHAI) annual workshop.	May 2019
Invited talk, workshop on Humanizing Machine Intelligence, Australian National University.	Aug 2019
Normative Non-Naturalism and the Problem of Authority	June 2017
The Aristotelian Society, London	
How To Be Authentic	April 2017
Keynote address at the <i>APA Pacific Meeting Pre-Conference: Themes in Transformative Experience</i>	
Physical Salience and Autonomy: Could Spacetime be an Emergent Phenomenon?	Nov 2016
<i>Space and Time After Quantum Gravity</i> project, UI Chicago	
Realism and the Absence of Value	
Colloquia, UNC Chapel Hill	Sept 2016
University of California, San Diego	Sept 2017
University of Ohio, Columbus	Oct 2017
Stanford University	Jan 2018
Conference on Kant and Metaphysics, University of Toronto	April 2018
Qualitativism and Haecceitism	Aug 2016
Conference on "Haecceitism and Individuals", University of Neuchatel	
Constitutive Explanation After Carnap	June 2016
Conference on "Metaphysics After Carnap", Leeds University	
Symmetry Principles: Why Use Them? Where Do They Lead?	May 2016
Conference on "Structure in Metaphysics", Oxford University	
Comments on John Roberts' "Comparativism and Absolutism About Quantities: Two Unsuccessful Arguments"	April 2016
APA Pacific Division Meeting	
How To Be A Relationalist	
Colloquia, National Autonomous University of Mexico	March 2016
Physics as Metaphysics Workshop, Brown University	Nov 2015
Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, CUNY	Nov 2015
Metro Area Philosophers of Science (MAPS)	Nov 2015

Philosophy of Science Association, Invited Symposium Conference on Grounding and its applications, NC State University	Nov 2018 Sept 2019
Comments on Elizabeth Miller's "Local Qualities" Ranch Metaphysics Workshop	Jan 2016
Essentialism and the Nonidentity Problem ELMM series, Yale University Colloquia, UCLA Colloquia, Cornell University Colloquia, CUNY	Sept 2015 May 2015 Nov 2014 Oct 2014
Structuralism and the Limits of Possibility Keynote lecture, third annual Irvine-Pittsburgh-Princeton conference on the Mathematical and conceptual foundations of physics University of California, Berkeley Columbia University Workshop on Metaphysics and Philosophy of Physics, Rochester University Workshop on the Logic of Ground, Oslo	March 2015 Jan 2015 Jan 2015 Sept 2014 June 2014
Inexpressible Ignorance Workshop on Robert Pasnau's <i>Metaphysical Themes: 1274-1671</i> Jowett Society, Oxford Conference on "Metaphysics", Columbia University Metaphysics on the Mountain conference, organized by Boise State University Colloquia, University of Syracuse	Feb 2015 May 2014 April 2014 March 2014 Nov 2013
Empirical Rationalism Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University Workshop on metaphysics, University of Syracuse	May 2014 Nov 2013
Metaphysical Rationalism Conference on "Explanation in Metaphysics", University of Neuchatel Colloquia, MIT Colloquia, University of Rochester Carolina Metaphysics Workshop	June 2013 Nov 2012 Nov 2012 June 2012
Comments on L.A. Paul's "The Dynamic Ontology of Phenomenal Character" Ranch Metaphysics Conference	Jan 2013
The Possibility of Physicalism Conference on "The Philosophy of Kit Fine", NYU Colloquia, Dartmouth University Pacific APA, Invited Symposium on Fundamentality (given under title "The Status Of Ground")	Jan 2013 Jan 2013 April 2011
Symmetry as an Epistemic Notion (Twice Over) Conference on Structuralism, Bristol University	Sept 2012
Comments on Katia Vavova's "Confidence, Evidence, and Disagreement" Pacific APA	April 2012
Structuralism as a Grounding Thesis Ontological Dependence Workshop, Bristol University	Feb 2011
Absolutism vs. Comparativism About Quantities Jowett Society, Oxford University Leeds University	Jan 2011 Jan 2011

California State University, Los Angeles	Nov 2010
On the Plurality of Grounds Albritton Society, UCLA "Because II" conference, Berlin	Dec 2010 Sept 2010
Comments on Ted Sider's "Against Parthood" Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference	Aug 2010
Comments on Anthony Eagle's "Location and Multiple Location" Carolina Metaphysics Workshop	July 2010
Comments on James Ladyman's "Structuralism and the Ontology of Quantum Mechanics" Conference on "Philosophical Issues in Cosmology, Quantum Theory, and Time", Rutgers University	April 2010
Individuals: An Essay in Revisionary Metaphysics Rutgers University Philosophy of Science Reading Group	Oct 2009
Symmetry and the Undetectable University of Pittsburgh University of Iowa Yale University Barnard College, Columbia University of Texas, Austin University of Southern California Claremont College Simon Fraser University	Feb 2009 Feb 2009 Feb 2009 Feb 2009 Feb 2009 Jan 2009 Jan 2009 Jan 2009

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching

PHIL 290 / COMPSCI 294 The History and Philosophy of Automated Decision UC Berkeley; co-taught with Ben Recht (EECS)	Spring 2024
PHIL 200 First Year Seminar UC Berkeley; co-taught with John MacFarlane	Fall 2023
PHIL 290 Objectivity UC Berkeley	Spring 2023
PHIL 290 Pragmatism UC Berkeley	Spring 2021
PHIL 295 Dissertation Seminar UC Berkeley	AY 2019-20
PHIL 200 First Year Seminar UC Berkeley; co-taught with John MacFarlane	Fall 2018
PHIL 290 Why is there anything except physics? UC Berkeley; co-taught with Geoffrey Lee	Spring 2018
PHI 540 Metaphysics Princeton University; co-taught with Boris Kment	Fall 2015
PHI 599 Dissertation Seminar Princeton University	Fall 2014

PHI 531 Philosophy of Science: Symmetry, Structure, and Spacetime Princeton University	Spring 2014
PHI 540 Metaphysics: Medieval, Early Modern, and Contemporary Work on Substance Princeton University; co-taught with John Morrison (Barnard College, Columbia)	Spring 2013
PHI 540 Hyperintensional Metaphysics Princeton University; co-taught with Boris Kment	Spring 2011
PHI 540 Metaphysics: The Structure of the Physical World Princeton University	Fall 2009
<i>Undergraduate Teaching</i>	
PHIL 100 Philosophical Methods UC Berkeley	Spring 2025
PHIL 98/198 Berkeley Connect UC Berkeley	Fall 2024 & Spring 2025
PHIL 100 Philosophical Methods UC Berkeley	Fall 2024
PHIL 100 Philosophical Methods UC Berkeley	Spring 2024
PHIL 100 Philosophical Methods UC Berkeley	Fall 2022
PHIL 128 Philosophy of Science UC Berkeley	Fall 2022
PHIL 100 Philosophical Methods UC Berkeley	Fall 2021
PHIL 128 Philosophy of Science UC Berkeley	Fall 2020
PHIL 5 Science and Human Understanding UC Berkeley	Fall 2020
PHIL 128 Philosophy of Science UC Berkeley	Spring 2020
PHIL 5 Science and Human Understanding UC Berkeley	Spring 2020
PHIL 100 Philosophical Methods UC Berkeley	Fall 2019
PHIL 100 Philosophical Methods UC Berkeley	Spring 2019
PHIL 125 Metaphysics UC Berkeley	Spring 2019

	PHIL 128 Philosophy of Science UC Berkeley	Spring 2018
	PHIL 5 Science and Human Understanding UC Berkeley	Fall 2017 Fall 2018
	PHI 321 Philosophy of Science Princeton University	Spring 2016
	FRS 187 Philosophical Analysis Using Argument Maps Princeton University; co-taught with Simon Cullen	Fall 2014
	PHI 203 Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology Princeton University	Spring 2014
	PHI 318 Metaphysics Princeton University	Fall 2013
	PHI 201 Introductory Logic Princeton University	Fall 2012
	PHI 321 Philosophy of Science Princeton University	Spring 2012
	PHI 203 Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology Princeton University	Fall 2011
	PHI 201 Introductory Logic Princeton University	Spring 2011
	PHI 203 Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology Co-taught with Gideon Rosen	Fall 2009
SERVICE	<i>To the department</i>	
	Equity Advisor UC Berkeley	2018-2024
	Search Committee (chair) UC Berkeley	Fall 2023 Fall 2022 Fall 2020 Fall 2019 Fall 2017
	Target of Opportunity Committee (chair) UC Berkeley	Fall 2016
	Placement Committee UC Berkeley	Fall 2016
	Director of Placement Princeton University	2015-16
	Placement Committee Princeton University	2013-14
	Climate Committee Princeton University	2011-13

Colloquia Committee Princeton University	2010-11
<i>To the university</i>	
Demonstrations and Student Actions Committee UC Berkeley	2024-ongoing
Graduate Council UC Berkeley	2017-19
<i>To the profession</i>	
Associate Editor, Nous	2016-2022
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Editorial Board Co-editor for Metaphysics	2018-ongoing
Pacific APA Program Committee	2017-19
Article Referee	
<i>Analysis</i>	
<i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i>	
<i>British Journal for the Philosophy of Science</i>	
<i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i>	
<i>Ergo</i>	
<i>Erkennsis</i>	
<i>European Journal of Analytic Philosophy</i>	
<i>Foundations of Physics</i>	
<i>Inquiry</i>	
<i>International Studies in the Philosophy of Science</i>	
<i>Journal of Philosophy</i>	
<i>Mind</i>	
<i>Nous</i>	
<i>Oxford Studies in Metaphysics</i>	
<i>Pacific Philosophical Quarterly</i>	
<i>Philosophy Compass</i>	
<i>Philosophers' Imprint</i>	
<i>Philosophical Quarterly</i>	
<i>Philosophical Review</i>	
<i>Philosophical Studies</i>	
<i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i>	
<i>Philosophy of Science</i>	
<i>Studies in History and Philosophy of Science</i>	
<i>Synthese</i>	
<i>Thought</i>	
Book Referee	
Oxford University Press	
Grant Referee	
Israel Science Foundation	

