

BORIS KMENT

Department of Philosophy
Room 212, 1879 Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

Phone: (609) 258 4289
Fax: (609) 258 1502
Email: bkment@princeton.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2022–present **Professor of Philosophy**
Princeton University
- 2015–2022 **Associate Professor of Philosophy**
Princeton University
- 2009–2015 **Assistant Professor of Philosophy**
Princeton University
- 2006–2009 **Assistant Professor of Philosophy**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2005 **Instructor in Philosophy** (tenure-track)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

EDUCATION

- 2000–2005 **Princeton University**
Ph.D. in Philosophy, April 2006
- 1998–2000 **Magdalen College, University of Oxford**
B.Phil. in Philosophy, July 2000
- 1997–1998 **Peterhouse, University of Cambridge**
Undergraduate visiting student in philosophy
May 1998 Final exam of B.A. course (straight first)
- 1995–1997 **Johannes-Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany**
- 1994–1995 **Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany**

AREAS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Early Analytic Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Logic (introductory to intermediate), Philosophy of Language, Wittgenstein, Decision Theory, Philosophy of Mind

PUBLICATIONS

1. Book

Modality and Explanatory Reasoning, Oxford University Press (UK), 2014.

2. Papers

“Decision, Causality, and Pre-Determination,” forthcoming in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

“Necessity and Linguistic Rules,” contribution to book symposium on Amie Thomasson's *Norms and Necessity*, to appear in *Inquiry*.

“Modality, Capacities, and Intuition,” forthcoming in *Philosophisches Jahrbuch*.

“Modality, Worlds, Essence, and Modal Knowledge,” to appear in *Epistemology of Modality and Philosophical Methodology*, ed. A. Vaidya and D. Prelevic, Routledge.

“Russell-Myhill and Grounding,” *Analysis* 82, 2022: 49–60.

“*De re* modality,” in O. Bueno and S. Shalkowski (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Modality*, 2021: 70–81.

“Counterfactuals and Causal Reasoning,” in E. Siegal and N. Boneh (eds.), *Perspectives on Causation*, Springer, 2020: 463–82.

“Essence and Modal Knowledge,” *Synthese* 198, 2018: 1–23.

“Chance and the Structure of Modal Space,” *Mind* 127, 2018: 633–55.

“Free Will and Ultimate Explanation,” *Philosophical Issues* 27, 2017: 114–30.

“Summary of *Modality and Explanatory Reasoning*” and “Replies to Dorr, Hill, and Yablo,” *Analysis* 77, 2017: 129–33, 166–88.

“Model Theory and Contingent Existence,” *Analysis* 76, 2016: 172–190.

“Précis of *Modality and Explanatory Reasoning*” and “Reply to Sullivan and Lange,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 91(2), 2015: 489–498, 516–539.

“Modality, Metaphysics, and Method,” in C. Daly (ed.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophical Methods*, Palgrave/Macmillan, 2015: 179–207.

“Haecceitism, Chance, and Counterfactuals,” *Philosophical Review* 121, 2012: 573–609.

“Varieties of Modality,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, published 2012, available online at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/modality-varieties/>.

“Causation: Determination and Difference-Making,” *Noûs* 44, 2010: 80–111.

“Counterfactuals and Explanation,” *Mind* 115, 2006: 261–310.

“Counterfactuals and the Analysis of Necessity,” *Philosophical Perspectives* 20, 2006: 237–302.

“Conditionals,” in D. Borchert (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, vol. 2, Macmillan, 2006: 424–430.

3. Work in preparation

“Cantorian paradoxes.”

Ground and Paradox, book manuscript.

“Instrumental Rationality and Doxastic Paradox.”

Modality, under contract with Princeton UP, volume in the series *Princeton Foundations of Contemporary Philosophy*.

HONORS, AWARDS, PRIZES

- 2015–2017 Behrman Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities, Humanities Council, Princeton University
- 2012–2015 Class of 1936 Bicentennial Preceptorship, Princeton University
- 2012 American Council of Learned Societies, Summer Stipend
- 2011–2012 American Council of Learned Societies Ryskamp Fellowship
- 2011–2012 Princeton Dean of the Faculty top-up award (topping up the ACLS Ryskamp fellowship)
- 2008–2009 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
- 2008 Emerging Scholars Prize, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
- 2008 Denise Research Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan
- 2008 Rackham Faculty Grant, University of Michigan
- 2006–2009 William Wilhartz Assistant Professorship, University of Michigan
- 2004–2005 Mrs. Giles Whiting Honorific Fellowship
- 1998–2000 Arts and Humanities Research Board Postgraduate Scholarship (UK)
- 1998 Scholar of the Year 1997/1998 in Philosophy (Peterhouse, Cambridge)
- 1998 College Book Prize in Philosophy (Peterhouse, Cambridge)

PRESENTATIONS

- April 2023 Title TBD, panel on essence, grounding, and modality, Pacific APA
- April 2022 “Rational Choice, Causality, and Predetermination,” DEX VII, University of California, Davis
- March 2022 “Pre-Determination and Rational Choice,” Princeton Faculty Lunch-time Colloquium

- May 2021 “Modality, Essence, and Explanation,” Workshop on Modal Modelling in Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
- May 2021 “Ground and Paradox,” Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge
- April 2021 “Ground and Paradox,” Notre Dame University (online)
- February 2020 “What are modal concepts for?,” Mind and Language Seminar, New York University
- February 2020 “Metaphysics With and Without Ontology,” symposium contribution, Central APA
- September 2019 “Decision, Causality, and Pre-Determination,” departmental colloquium, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
- September 2019 “Ground and Paradox,” departmental colloquium, University of Hong Kong
- August 2019 “Decision, Causality, and Pre-Determination,” departmental colloquium, Monash University
- August 2019 “Decision, Causality, and Pre-Determination,” departmental colloquium, University of Melbourne
- August 2019 “Ground and Paradox,” University of Melbourne Logic Group
- July 2019 “Rational Action and Causality,” Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference
- March 2019 “Ground and Paradox,” LOGOS Workshop on Philosophical Methodology, University of Barcelona
- December 2018 “Ground and Paradox,” departmental colloquium, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- October 2018 “Ground and Paradox,” CUNY workshop on logic and metaphysics
- October 2018 “Counterfactuals in Rational Deliberation,” keynote address, Conference of the German Research Foundation (DFG) Research Unit “What if?,” University of Konstanz, Germany
- June 2018 “Degrees of Necessity,” presentation in Simona Aimar and Alexander Kaiserman’s joint UCL/Oxford graduate seminar on modality and causation (via Skype)
- March 2018 Comments on Antonella Mallozzi, “Putting Modal Metaphysics First,” Pacific APA
- October 2017 “The Nature of Necessity,” presentation in Paul Horwich’s seminar on modality at NYU
- October 2017 “Causation and Practical Rationality,” colloquium talk, University of Louisville

- June 2017 “Counterfactuals and Causal Reasoning,” Linguistic Perspectives on Causation Conference, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
- June 2017 “Possibility and the Method of Conceiving,” Conceivability and Modality Conference, Sapienza University, Rome
- May 2017 “Counterfactuals and Causal Reasoning,” Belgrade Conferences on Conditionals, University of Belgrade
- April 2017 Comments on Yael Loewenstein, “Reverse Sobel Sequence and Why Most Counterfactuals Are Not True,” Pacific APA
- March 2017 Comments on Brett Sherman, “Modal Grounds and Gradability,” Central APA
- August 2016 “Ground and Paradox,” Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University
- May 2016 “Rational Decision and Counterfactuals” (tentative title), Belgrade Conference on Conditionals
- April 2016 “Replies to Berstein, Stalnaker, and Sullivan,” book symposium on *Modality and Explanatory Reasoning*, Pacific Convention of the American Philosophical Association
- February 2016 “Practical Rationality, Causation, and Hypothetical Reasoning” (tentative title), Causation and Cognition, joint conference of Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Princeton University
- January 2016 Comments on Marc Lange, “Putting Explanation Back Into ‘Inference to the Best Explanation’”
- October 2015 “Newcomb’s Problem,” Behrman Faculty Fellows discussion group, Humanities Council, Princeton University
- March 2015 “Worlds,” Brown University, proseminar
- March 2015 “Modality and Explanation,” Columbia University, seminar on modality and causation
- February 2015 “Reply to Manley and Rayo,” book symposium on *Modality and Explanatory Reasoning*, Princeton University
- December 2014 “The Layers of the Universe,” Corridor Workshop Group
- June 2013 “Chance and the Structure of Modal Space,” Corridor Workshop Group
- March 2013 “*De Re* Modality and *De Re* Chance,” Chambers Conference on Necessity, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- January 2013 “Modal Controversies and the Philosophy of Chance,” Oxford University
- September 2012 “Perverse, Yet Strangely Appealing: The Tractarian Theory of Language,” Paper Tigers, Princeton University
- June 2012 “Essence, Laws, and Explanation,” Corridor Workshop Group

- March 2012 “Essence, Laws, and Explanation,” University of Colorado
- February 2012 “Are All Fundamental Facts Purely Qualitative?”, Symposium paper, Central Convention of the American Philosophical Association
- February 2012 “Are All Fundamental Facts Qualitative?”, University of Leeds
- December 2011 “Are All Fundamental Facts Purely Qualitative?”, University of Stirling
- November 2011 “Are All Fundamental Facts Purely Qualitative?”, University of Manchester
- October 2011 “Are All Fundamental Facts Purely Qualitative?”, University of Geneva
- October 2011 “Essence, Laws, and Explanation,” Paper Tigers, Princeton University
- August 2011 “Worlds,” Corridor Workshop Group
- April 2011 “Is Fundamental Reality Purely Qualitative?”, Keynote Address, Rocky Mountains Philosophy Conference
- October 2010 Comments on Michael Strevens, “Why Care about Counterfactual Support?”, Chapel Hill Philosophy Colloquium
- May 2010 “In Defense of Haecceitism,” Corridor Workshop Group
- April 2010 “Newcomb’s Problem,” Princeton Philosophical Society
- January 2010 “Causation: Determination and Difference-Making,” Oxford University
- December 2009 Comments on Sara Bernstein, “Over-Determination Underdetermined,” Eastern Convention of the American Philosophical Association
- March 2009 “Objectivity and Knowledge,” Emerging Scholars Prize Lecture, Humanities Institute, University of Michigan
- March 2009 Comments on Ted Sider, *Writing the Book of the World*, Colorado Conference on Ontological Dependence
- January 2009 “Causation: Necessitation and Difference-Making,” Arizona Ontology Conference
- October 2008 “Causation: Nomic Sufficiency and Difference-Making,” Princeton University
- July 2008 “Causation: Nomic Sufficiency and Difference-Making,” Australian National University, Canberra
- July 2008 “Haecceitism and Counterfactuals,” Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference
- June 2008 “Haecceitism and Counterfactuals,” University of Sydney
- June 2008 “Haecceitism and Counterfactuals,” University of Auckland, New Zealand

- June 2008 “Causation: Necessitation and Difference-Making,” Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand
- November 2007 “Causation: Necessitation and Difference-Making,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- March 2007 “Causation: Necessitation and Difference-Making,” University of Notre Dame
- March 2007 “Causation: Necessitation and Difference-Making,” University of Michigan, Faculty Colloquium
- December 2006 “The Similarity Account of Counterfactuals,” Eastern Convention of the American Philosophical Association
- July 2006 Comments on Agustín Rayo, “On Specifying Content,” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference
- May 2006 “The Similarity Account of Counterfactuals,” Annual Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy
- April 2006 Comments on Peter Hanks and Brendan O’Sullivan, “Reflexive Content and the Modal Argument,” Central Convention of the American Philosophical Association
- February 2005 “Counterfactuals, Causation and Explanation,” University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- February 2005 “Counterfactuals, Causation and Explanation,” University of Pittsburgh
- January 2005 “Counterfactuals, Causation and Explanation,” Cornell University
- January 2005 “Counterfactuals, Causation and Explanation,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

TEACHING

- Spring 2021 PHI 523 (Princeton): *Decision Theory*, a graduate-level survey of selected topics in recent work in decision theory
- Spring 2021 PHI 345 (Princeton): *Philosophy of Humor*, an undergraduate seminar on the philosophy of humor
- Spring 2020 PHI 318 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to metaphysics
- Fall 2019 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, graduate research seminar on the use of formal methods in philosophy, with Hans Halvorson
- Fall 2019 PHI 981 (Princeton): *Junior Seminar: Newcomb’s Problem*, a small writing-intensive seminar for juniors
- Spring 2019 PHI 339 (Princeton): *Philosophical Analysis Since 1950*, upper-level introduction to the history of post-war analytic philosophy

- Fall 2018 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Chance and Causation*, graduate research seminar on chance and causation, with Adam Elga
- Fall 2018 PHI 318 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to metaphysics
- Spring 2018 PHI 339 (Princeton): *Philosophical Analysis Since 1950*, upper-level introduction to the history of post-war analytic philosophy
- Spring 2018 PHI 540 (Princeton): *The Metaphysical Basis of Logic*, graduate research seminar on metaphysical issues in logic with special emphasis on the paradoxes
- Spring 2017 PHI 339 (Princeton): *Philosophical Analysis Since 1950*, upper-level introduction to the history of post-war analytic philosophy
- Fall 2016 PHI 318 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to metaphysics
- Fall 2016 PHI 599 (Princeton): *Dissertation Seminar*, weekly seminar that gives graduate students a forum to present their dissertation work
- Spring 2016 PHI 318 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to metaphysics
- Fall 2015 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Metaphysics, Logic, and the One*, graduate research seminar on the intersection of metaphysics and logic and on monism, with Shamik Dasgupta
- Fall 2015 PHI 981 (Princeton): *Junior Seminar: Newcomb's Problem*, a small writing-intensive seminar for juniors
- Spring 2015 PHI 339 (Princeton): *Philosophical Analysis Since 1950*, upper-level introduction to the history of analytic philosophy since 1950
- Spring 2015 PHI 203 (Princeton): *Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology*, introduction to metaphysics and epistemology for freshmen and sophomores
- Fall 2014 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Grounding and Essence*, graduate research seminar on recent work on grounding and essence and its metaphilosophical implications
- Spring 2013 PHI 203 (Princeton): *Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology*, introduction to metaphysics and epistemology for freshmen and sophomores
- Fall 2012 PHI 343 (Princeton): *Wittgenstein*, upper-level introduction to Wittgenstein's philosophy
- Fall 2012 PHI 599 (Princeton): *Dissertation Seminar*, weekly seminar that gives graduate students a forum to present their dissertation work

- Spring 2011 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Hyperintensional Metaphysics*, graduate research seminar on hyperintensional concepts in metaphysics, with Shamik Dasgupta
- Fall 2010 PHI 737 (Princeton): *First Year Seminar: Key Papers of Analytic Philosophy*, introductory philosophy course for first-year graduate students, with Adam Elga
- Fall 2010 PHI 313 (Princeton): *Theory of Knowledge*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to epistemology
- Spring 2010 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Possible Worlds*, graduate research seminar on modality
- Spring 2010 PHI 318 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to metaphysics
- Fall 2009 PHI 981 (Princeton): *Junior Seminar: The Metaphysics of Time*, a small writing-intensive seminar for juniors
- 2005–2008 Graduate Student Modality Discussion Group
- Winter 2008 PHIL 345 (Michigan): *Language and Mind*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to epistemology and metaphysics
- Fall 2007 PHIL 607 (Michigan): *Metaphysics*, research seminar on causation, explanation and counterfactual conditionals
- Fall 2006 PHIL 297 (Michigan): *Honors Introduction to Philosophy*, introduction to the discipline for students in the Michigan honors program
- Fall 2006 PHIL 597 (Michigan): *Proseminar*, survey course in core areas for first-graduate students, with Ian Proops
- Winter 2006 PHIL 383 (Michigan): *Knowledge and Reality*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to epistemology and metaphysics
- Winter 2006 PHIL 297 (Michigan): *Honors Introduction to Philosophy*, introduction to the discipline for students in the Michigan honors program
- Fall 2005 PHIL 607 (Michigan): *Metaphysics*, research seminar on the metaphysics of modality

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Spring 2022 Acting Director of the Program in Linguistics
- 2021–2022 Chair, Placement Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- 2021–2022 Chair of Climate and Inclusion Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- 2021–2022 Equal Opportunities Officer, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- 2018–2020 Program in Linguistics Executive Committee, Princeton

- 2016–present Authored tenure and other promotion letters
- 2012–2021 Chair of Colloquium Committee in numerous years, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- 2005–present Referee for numerous journals, conferences, and publishers
- 2005–present Involved in all parts of hiring for junior and senior positions in numerous years, Michigan and Princeton
- 2005–present Involved in all parts of graduate admissions in numerous years, Michigan and Princeton
- 2020 Referee for ACLS Fellowship Program
- 2020 Referee for Princeton Society of Fellows
- 2018 Panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship competition (reviewing fellowship applications)
- 2015–2016 Course Allocation Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- 2013 Panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship competition (reviewing fellowship applications)
- 2012–13 Co-organizer (with Elizabeth Harman), Corridor Workshop Group
- Fall 2012 Organizer, conference on modality of the Collaborative Research Network in Analytic Philosophy (CRNAP)
- Fall 2009 International Network Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- Winter 2008 Honors Students Advisor, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- Winter 2008 Chair, Undergraduate Advising Committee, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- Fall 2008 Undergraduate Advising Committee, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- 2007–2008 Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- Winter 2007 Faculty Liaison for *Meteorite*, the Michigan undergraduate philosophy journal
- 2005–2006 Undergraduate Advising Committee, Department of Philosophy, Michigan