

Alex Rausch

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
The University of Texas at Austin
2210 Speedway, 316 Waggener Hall
Austin, TX 78712

www.aprausch.com
aprausch@utexas.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin (2023)

M.A. in Philosophy, University of Notre Dame (2016)

A.B. *magna cum laude* in Philosophy and Mathematics, Dartmouth College (2013)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of language, philosophy of mind

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Logic, metaphysics, formal semantics

DISSERTATION

Title: *Rethinking the Semantics of Attitude Verbs*

Chair: Josh Dever

Committee: Harvey Lederman, Ray Buchanan, Hans Kamp, Jeff Speaks

My dissertation concerns the semantics of propositional attitude reports and the metaphysical nature of truth-evaluable content. It begins with novel linguistic data that challenge the standard view of the attitudes, such as belief, as two-place relations we bear to propositions. These data suggest that certain ‘that’-clauses designate properties, such as *being pretty*, that are not propositions; a formal semantic account demonstrates the complexity required in order to salvage the standard view. In light of this result, I propose a simpler account of the data according to which belief is a three-place relation we bear to things and properties, where propositional belief is understood as a relation we bear to possible worlds and their properties. The view is formally implemented within an intensional semantic framework that allows advocates of structured propositions to account for key features of linguistic intensionality.

PUBLICATION

‘A Puzzle about Belief-about’ (2021). *Mind* 130(512): 1129–1157

WORKS IN PROGRESS

** indicates title change for anonymous review*

‘Ternary Attitudes and Properties of Possible Worlds’*

‘Variable-based Intensionality for Structured Propositions’*

‘You Can’t Geach Donkey Anaphora’*

A paper about compositionally deriving de se attitude reports

AWARDS

Cogburn Essay Prize (for ‘A Puzzle about Belief-about’), 2022

Graduate Student Executive Committee Writing Fellowship, 2020

University of Texas at Austin First-year Recruitment Grant, 2016

Notre Dame Graduate Student Council Travel Grant (NNEPA), 2014

James O. Freedman Presidential Research Scholar, 2012

TALKS

Variable-based Intensionality for Structured Propositions

Content and Cognitive Significance Seminar, UT Austin, April 2022

A Puzzle about Belief-about

Hans Kamp Colloquium in Logic & Language, January 2021

What the Tortoise Then Said to Achilles

Graduate Student Conference, UT Austin, January 2020

Comments on ‘Definite Descriptions and East-West Intuitions about Reference’

Central American Philosophical Association, 2016

A Dilemma for Disjunctivism

North New England Philosophical Association, August 2014

TEACHING, SOLE INSTRUCTOR

University of Texas at Austin

Logic and Scientific Reasoning, Fall 2022 (30 students)

University of Indiana, South Bend

Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2016 (2 classes, 50 students each)

Johns Hopkins University, Center for Talented Youth

Philosophy of Mind, Summer 2018 (15 students)

Introduction to Philosophy, Summer 2016/17 (15 students)

Introduction to Logic, Summers 2014/15 (15 students)

TEACHING, ASSISTANT

University of Texas at Austin

Introduction to Symbolic Logic, Spring 2018

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2017

Minds and Machines, Spring 2017

Intermediate Symbolic Logic, Fall 2016

University of Notre Dame

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2014/15 & Spring 2015/16

GRADUATE COURSEWORK (* = audit, ** = conference course)

Language & Mind: Physicalism, Concepts and Apriority (Tye/Sainsbury), The Explanatory Role of Content (Buchanan/Juhl), New Thinking about Propositions** (Speaks), Philosophy of Linguistics** (Dever), The de dicto/de re Distinction** (Dever/Buchanan)

Linguistics: Natural Language Semantics* (Speaks), Syntax I (Beavers), Semantics I (Kamp), Semantics II (Beaver), Mental State Discourse Representation Theory (Kamp)

Logic: Modal Logic (Bays), Intuitionism (Franks), Intermediate Logic (Dever)

History: Plato, Aristotle and Protagoras (Kelsey), Early Modern Metaphysics (Newlands), Hume (Joy), Frege (Blanchette), Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations (Franks)

Metaphysics: Metaontology and Ontology (van Inwagen), Kripke on Language, Metaphysics and Mind (van Inwagen), Modal Metaphysics (Litland)

Ethics & Epistemology: Normative Reasons and the Virtues (Audi), Intuitionism* (Audi)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

Member, American Philosophical Association (2024-)

Graduate Student Member, American Philosophical Association (2014-2023)

Graduate Student Representative, UT Austin GSC (2020-2021)

Organizer, UT Austin Graduate Student Conference (2017)

Founder, Notre Dame Graduate Student Climate Committee (2014-2015)

Journal submissions reviewed for *Dialectica*

REFERENCES

Josh Dever

The University of Texas at Austin

dever@austin.utexas.edu

Harvey Lederman
The University of Texas at Austin
harvey.lederman@utexas.edu

Jeff Speaks
University of Notre Dame
jspeaks@nd.edu

Hans Kamp
University of Stuttgart, The University of Texas at Austin
hans@ims.uni-stuttgart.de

Michael Tye (teaching)
The University of Texas at Austin
mtye@austin.utexas.edu