

William A. Kowalsky Jr.

PO Box 176 | Saugerties, NY 12477

william.kowalsky@gmail.com | williamkowalsky.org

EMPLOYMENT

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Philosophy
Visiting Assistant Professor, 2023–24

York University, Department of Philosophy
Postdoctoral Fellow, 2021–23

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles
Ph.D. in Philosophy, December 2020

Dissertation: *Confidence and Objective Probability Signaling in Perceptual Systems*
Committee: Tyler Burge (chair),
Gabriel Greenberg,
Josh Armstrong, and
Hakwan Lau (external)

Harvard University
B.A. in Philosophy (Mind, Brain, and Behavior track), 2012
Secondary Field in Neurobiology, 2012
Foreign Language Citation in Japanese, 2012

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Cognitive Science/Psychology; Philosophy of Mind; Philosophy of Perception

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Language; Philosophy of Science; Epistemology (formal and traditional); Logic;
Philosophy of A.I.

PUBLICATIONS

“Representation of Pure Magnitudes in ANS” (with Tyler Burge and Steven Gross). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 44. 2021.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

“Levels of Confidence in Perceptual Systems,” Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Philosophy*

“A Minimal Bayesian Realism for Perceptual Systems,” Manuscript Under Review

“Confidence and Perceptual Experience,” Manuscript Prepared for Submission

“Pure Magnitudes and Numerosity Representations,” Manuscript in Progress

“Robust Representation and Explainable AI,” Manuscript in Progress

AWARDS AND HONORS

University Distinguished Teaching Award, UCLA, 2018

Competitive award given annually to five Teaching Assistants university wide.
Annual Departmental Teaching Award, UCLA, 2018
Award in recognition of teaching excellence by a graduate student.
Robert M. Yost Prize for Excellence in Teaching, UCLA, 2016
Annual award for excellent performance as a Teaching Assistant.

PRESENTATIONS

“Minimal Bayesian Realism for Perceptual Systems,” Society for Philosophy and Psychology, July 2023.
“Levels of Confidence in Perceptual Systems,” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, March, 2023.
“Minimal Bayesian Realism for Perceptual Systems,” York University Cognitive Science Speaker Series, January, 2023. (Invited)
“Levels of Confidence in Perceptual Systems,” Joint Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology and the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Milan, 2022.
“Perceptual Uncertainty and Perceptual Computation,” UCLA Mind and Language Workshop, 2018.
“‘Numerosity Representations’ Are Not Representations,” UCLA Mind and Language Workshop, 2018.
“Against Beck on Numerosity Representation,” UCLA Prospectus Defense, 2016.
“Implicit Assumptions Are Not Represented,” UCLA Albritton Society, 2015.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

University Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA, September 2018–December 2019
Mellon Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA, Summer 2017
Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA, September 2014–June 2015
Mellon Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA, Summer 2013
University Fellowship, UCLA, September 2012–June 2013

TEACHING

As Primary Instructor

University of Pennsylvania

Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2023
Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology, Spring 2023
Topics in Epistemology and Philosophy of Psychology (graduate seminar), Fall 2023
What is Meaning?, Fall 2023

UCLA

Introduction to Symbolic Logic, Spring 2021
Introduction to Philosophy of Science, Winter 2021
Philosophy of Psychology, Summer 2020
Introduction to Metalogic, Winter 2020
Introduction to Symbolic Logic, Summer 2019
Teaching College Philosophy, Fall 2018

Philosophy of Psychology, Summer 2018
Teaching College Philosophy, Fall 2017
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind, Summer 2016

As Teaching Assistant

Anti-Individualism (Tyler Burge), Fall 2018
Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Sheldon Smith), Spring 2018
Skepticism and Rationality (Andrew Hsu), Spring 2017
Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Alexis Burgess), Winter 2017
Philosophy of Psychology (Alexis Burgess), Fall 2016
Philosophy of Psychology (Tyler Burge), Spring 2016
Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics (Sheldon Smith), Winter 2016
Introduction to Symbolic Logic (Steve Levy), Fall 2015
Introduction to Symbolic Logic (Jason Carnell), Summer 2015
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind (Gabriel Greenberg), Spring 2014
Contemporary Philosophy of Science (Sheldon Smith), Winter 2014
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind (Luca Struble), Fall 2013

As Tutor

Departmental tutor for Introduction to Metalogic, Winter 2017
Departmental tutor for Introduction to Metalogic, Winter 2016

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Departmental Visiting Teaching Assistant Coordinator, 2018–2019.
Research Assistant for Gabriel Greenberg, help designing undergraduate computation course, 2018–2019.
Research Assistant for Sherrilyn Roush, collection and summarization of research materials on direct inference and the reference class problem, 2018–2019.
Research Assistant for Gabriel Greenberg, collection and summarization of research materials on the use of feature maps in psychology, philosophy, and computer science, Summer 2018.
Departmental Teaching Assistant Coordinator, 2017–2018.
Co-organizer, UCLA Mind and Language Workshop, 2018–2019.
Graduate Student Representative, 2016–2017.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Chair, York Predictive Vision Philosophy Workshop, Summer 2019
Referee, UCLA-USC Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2014–2018
Chair, UCLA-USC Graduate Philosophy Conference, Winter 2016

GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSES TAKEN

Epistemology

Epistemology of the Apriori (Tyler Burge, 2019–20, audited)
Epistemology of the Apriori (Tyler Burge, 2017–18, audited)
Direct Inference and the Reference Class Problem (Sherrilyn Roush, 2017–18, audited)
Epistemology of Perception (Tyler Burge, 2014–15)

Philosophy of Perception

Visual Object Reference (Gabriel Greenberg, 2016–17, audited)

Philosophy of Perception (Tyler Burge, 2016–17, audited)
Philosophy of Perception (Tyler Burge, 2015–16)
Philosophy of Perception (Rene Jagnow, 2013–14, audited)
Philosophy of Perception (Tyler Burge, 2013–14)
Pictorial Semantics (Gabriel Greenberg, 2012–13)
Philosophy of Perception (Tyler Burge, 2012–13)

Philosophy of Language

Teleosemantics (Josh Armstrong, 2014–15)
Evolution of Language (Josh Armstrong, 2013–14)
Counterfactual Conditionals (Gabriel Greenberg and Jessica Rett, 2013–14)

Logic

Buridan's Theory of Consequences (Terry Parsons and Calvin Normore, 2014–15)
Aristotle's Logic (Adam Crager, 2014–15)
Meta-logic (Donald Martin, 2012–13)
Modal Logic (Ed Stabler, 2012–13)
Abduction (Sam Cumming and Sheldon Smith, 2013–14)

Metaphysics

Meta-ontology (Sheldon Smith, 2012–13)

Ethics

Meta-ethics (Pamela Hieronymi, 2014–15)
Meta-ethics (Pamela Hieronymi, 2013–14)