

# Robert Michels

## Curriculum Vitae

Université de Neuchâtel, Institut de philosophie  
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### Employment

- 2017-2019 Temporary lecturer (part-time, replacing Prof. Fabrice Correia), Institute of philosophy, University of Neuchâtel and Department of philosophy, University of Geneva
- 2014-2017 Postdoc, SNSF-funded research project 'Indeterminacy and Formal Concepts', Department of Philosophy, University of Geneva
- 2010–2014 Scientific collaborator, Department of Philosophy, University of Geneva
- 2006-09 Teaching assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Constance

### Education

- 2010-2013 **PhD in philosophy**, *University of Geneva*, Thesis title: *Metaphysical Modality and Essentiality*, supervised by Prof. Kevin Mulligan.  
Defended on 16 December 2013
- 2008-10 PhD-student, *University of Constance*, supervised by Prof. Wolfgang Spohn
- 2008 **MA in philosophy**, *University of Constance*, supervised by Prof. Wolfgang Spohn and Prof. Tobias Rosefeld.
- 2005 **BA in pedagogics and art history**, *University of Karlsruhe (TH)*.

### Publications

#### Research articles

- Forthcoming On How (Not) to Define Modality in Terms of Essence – *Philosophical Studies*; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11098-018-1040-8>  
The Limits of Non-Standard Contingency – *Philosophical Studies*; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11098-017-1027-x>
- 2018 Cross-World Comparatives for Modal Realists – *Organon F*, Volume 25, Issue 3, pp. 368-391; [http://www.klemens.sav.sk/fiusav/organon/organon\\_counter.php?year=2018&number=3&pages=368-391](http://www.klemens.sav.sk/fiusav/organon/organon_counter.php?year=2018&number=3&pages=368-391)  
Essential Truths and Their Truth-Grounds – *Ergo*, Volume 5, Number 30, pp. 790-815; <http://dx.doi.org/10.3998/ergo.12405314.0005.030>
- 2012 Soames's Argument 1 Against Strong Two-Dimensionalism – *Philosophical Studies*, Volume 161, Issue 3, pp. 403-420; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11098-011-9746-x>

#### Other

- Forthcoming Editor of a special issue of *dialectica* on the formalization of arguments
- 2018 Review of David Wiggins, *Continuants: Their Activity, Their Being, and Their Identity*, Oxford University Press, 2016, *dialectica*, Volume 72, Issue 2; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/1746-8361.12233>
- 2008 Conference report: With Fritz, Peter; Ramanava, Maryia; Zinke, Alexandra: First Formal Epistemology Festival, 28–30 July. In: *The Reasoner*, Volume 2, Number 9 - September 2008, pp. 13-14

## Presentations

### Research presentations (selection)

- Upcoming Defining Essentiality – *Quodlibeta*, University of Geneva
- 2018 On Objectual Understanding and Essence – *Colloque de recherches de l'institut de philosophie*, University of Neuchâtel
- Multidimensional Vagueness: A Supervaluational Approach – *GAP.10*, Cologne (peer-reviewed)
- (with C. Mariani, G. Torrenco) Against Quantum Mechanics Based Objections to Metaphysical Supervaluationism – *4th Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference*, Milan (peer-reviewed)
- 2017 Multi-Dimensional Vagueness – Invited talk at the Philosophy Department, Saarland University
- Essentialism and Contingent Existence Claims – *3rd Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference*, New York (peer-reviewed)
- An Existential Problem for Metaphysical Necessity – *Colloque de recherches de l'institut de philosophie*, University of Neuchâtel
- Multi-Dimensional Vagueness and Formal Concepts – *The Future of Swiss Philosophy* workshop, Ligerz
- Conceivability and Essence – *Workshop of the Groupe d'Etudes en Métaphysique* at the Collège de France, Paris & *ECAP 9*, Munich (peer-reviewed)
- Cross-World Comparatives for Modal Realists – *Issues on the (Im)Possible V*, Bratislava (peer-reviewed)
- The Formalization of Arguments – *Making it (too?) Precise*, Geneva
- 2016 Two-Dimensional Semantics and Zombies – *Phileas* talk, University of Geneva
- Is 'Metaphysical Necessity' Ambiguous? – *Issues on the (Im)Possible IV*, Bratislava (peer-reviewed)
- Notwendigkeit und Unbestimmtheit [Necessity and Indeterminacy] – Early Lunch Philosophy, University of Constance
- Rosen's Correct-Conceivability-Based Argument for Contingentism – *Fifth Italian Conference in Analytic Ontology*, Padua (peer-reviewed)
- 2015 One-Dimensional versus Two-Dimensional Zombies – *Toward a Science of Consciousness 2015*, Helsinki (peer-reviewed) & *GAP.9*, Osnabrück (peer-reviewed)

- An Argument Against the Claim that Grounding is Minimal – *Truth and Grounds*, Ascona (peer-reviewed)
- 2014 Epistemic Rigidity and the Zombie Argument – *Workshop with David Chalmers*, Fribourg
- 2013 Fine on Necessity – *Fine Conference*, Varano Borghi (peer-reviewed)
- 2012 Can Conceptual Possibilities Be Metaphysically Impossible? – *GAP.8*, Constance (peer-reviewed) & *10th BPPA Masterclass: Modality and the A Priori / A Posteriori Distinction*, Institute of Philosophy, London & *Graduate Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy*, Stockholm University
- Necessity and Apriority in Two-Dimensional Semantics – Fourth Workshop: What Did We Learn From Two-Dimensionalism, 2012 metaphysics graduate school, Geneva
- 2011 Worldly Indeterminacy and Modality – *ECAP7*, Milan (peer-reviewed) & *PETAF Midterm Conference*, Aberdeen
- “Against an Argument Against the Indexicality of ‘Actually’” – Bonn Graduate Conference, Bonn (peer-reviewed)
- Two Kinds of ‘Actually’-Operators – *PETAF Semantics Workshop*, Centre Culturel International de Cerisy-la-Salle
- 2010 Soames’s Critique of Two-Dimensional Semantics – *MMA-Symposium, Research Workshop with Scott Soames*, Cologne (peer-reviewed)
- 2009 Soames’s Critique of Two-Dimensional Semantics – *GAP.7*, Bremen (peer-reviewed)
- Comments**
- 2018 Comments on Matt Leonard’s ‘On the Contingency and Vagueness of Where I am’ – *4th Society for the Metaphysics of Science conference*, Milan
- 2017 Comments on Stephan Leuenberger’s ‘Inscrutable Cross-Family Sentences’ – *Metaphysics sans phrase. 10 years of eidos - the centre for metaphysics*, Geneva
- Comments on Matthew Collier’s ‘The Representational Deficiencies of Hybrid Modal Realism’ – *Issues on the (Im)Possible V*, Bratislava
- 2016 Comments on Frances Heather Fairbairn’s ‘The Problem of Advanced Modalizing’ – *Issues on the (Im)Possible IV*, Bratislava
- 2015 Comments on Johannes Korbmayer’s ‘Towards Axiomatic Theories of Ground’ – *GAP.9 satellite-workshop Logical and Metaphysical Perspectives on Grounding*, Osnabrück
- 2010 Comments on Shane Babcock’s ‘An Argument Against Actualist Accounts of Possible Worlds as Truthmakers for Modal Claims’ – *MMA-Symposium, Graduate Conference*, Cologne
- Comments on Kyle Stanford’s ‘Scientific Realism: When Should We Worry?’ – *Monthly Monday Meeting*, Constance

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## Teaching experience

### As an instructor

- 2018 Introduction to propositional logic (in French), undergraduate level lecture, University of Neuchâtel  
Wittgenstein – Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (in French), undergraduate level seminar, University of Neuchâtel
- 2017 Introduction to Metaphysics (in French), undergraduate level seminar, University of Neuchâtel  
The Necessity of Identity (in English) – 90 minute teaching session as part of the *First eidos Winterschool in Metaphysics, Neuchâtel*
- 2016 Carnap and Metaphysics (in French), graduate level seminar, University of Geneva  
(with T. Rechnitzer, R. Reick, M. Rudolph) Philosophy and Society (in German, interdisciplinary undergraduate-level seminar, University of Karlsruhe (KIT))  
(with A. Frischhut, K. Mulligan) On Existence, Quantification, and Modes of Being (in English), graduate-level seminar, University of Geneva
- 2015 Modality (in English), graduate-level seminar, University of Geneva
- 2014 (with M. Dusseldorp, R. Reick, M. Rudolph) The Role of Scientific Knowledge in Society (in German, German title: *Wissen als Gut*), interdisciplinary undergraduate- and graduate-level seminar, University of Karlsruhe (KIT)  
(with K. Mulligan) Formal Concepts (in French), graduate-level seminar, University of Geneva

### As a teaching assistant

- 2009 Wittgenstein – Rule-Following and Private Language (in German, University of Constance) – Grading (homework assignments and take-home exam).
- 2008-9 Introduction to the Philosophy of Wittgenstein (in German, University of Constance) – Grading (homework assignments and take-home exam).
- 2007-8 Introduction to the Philosophy of Language (in German, University of Constance) – Tutorials.
- 2007 Introduction to Epistemology (in German, University of Constance) – Tutorials, Grading (homework assignments and written examination).
- 2006-7 Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking (in German, University of Constance) – Tutorials, Grading (homework assignments and written examination).

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### Scholarships & individual grants

- 2010-13 ‘Early Stage Researcher’ within the EU-funded FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network “PETAF” (Perspectival Truth and Facts)
- 2009 SUN Scholarship, CEU Summer University, Budapest
- 2008-10 PhD research grant of the University of Constance (Stipendium nach Landesgraduiertenförderungsgesetz)

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### Fundraising for & organization of research projects

2014-17 (with Kevin Mulligan) Research project ‘Indeterminacy and Formal Concepts’ (University of Geneva, principal investigator and applicant: Kevin Mulligan) funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) – Grant for one three-year postdoc-position at the University of Geneva

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### Fundraising for & organization of academic events

2017- Organisation of the weekly eidos seminar (with Claudio Calosi), Universities of Geneva and Neuchâtel (spring semester 2017) and University of Geneva (autumn semester 2017-)

2017 Organization of the conference ‘Metaphysics sans phrase. 10 years of eidos – the centre for metaphysics’ (with Claudio Calosi, Fabrice Correia, Alexander Skiles): 23-24 November 2017, University of Geneva – website: <http://eidoscentre.org/index.php?cID=168>

Organization and fundraising for the workshop ‘Making it (too?) precise – Ordinary Reasoning, Formalization, and Logical Modeling’ (with Dominik Aeschbacher and Maria Scarpati): 7-8 July 2017, University of Geneva, funded by the Conférence universitaire de Suisse occidentale (CUSO) and the University of Geneva – website: <https://makingit2precise.weebly.com/>

2016 Organization and fundraising for the workshop ‘Kinds of Indeterminacy’ (with Kevin Mulligan): 11-12 November 2016, University of Geneva, funded by the University of Geneva – website: <https://kindsofindeterminacy.weebly.com/>

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### Academic visits & summer schools

2012 Visiting student, Stockholm University, supervised by Peter Pagin (3 months)  
Attended the 10th BPPA Masterclass: ‘Modality and the A Priori / A Posteriori Distinction’ (instructor: Timothy Williamson), Institute of Philosophy, London

2011 Visiting student, Birkbeck, University of London, supervised by Keith Hossack (2 months)

2010 Visiting student, Emmy Noether research group *Understanding and the A Priori*, University of Cologne, supervised by Magdalena and Brendan Balcerak Jackson (2 months,)

2009 Attended the summer school ‘Conditionals: Philosophical and Linguistic Issues’, CEU Summer University, Budapest

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### Refereeing & other editorial work

Member of the editorial committee of *dialectica* (since 2010)

Journal refereeing: *Acta Analytica*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Mind*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Synthese*

Conference refereeing: Lake Geneva Graduate Conference (2016), 1st eidos Winter School in metaphysics (2016)

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### Other academic activities

In cooperation with Phileas, the association of philosophy students of the University of Geneva: organisation of a reading group on Frege for students (2016)

Member of a job committee for a professorship in theoretical philosophy (student representative), University of Constance (2009)

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## Knowledge of languages

German native language

English spoken: fluent, written: fluent

French spoken: fluent, written: intermediary

Russian spoken: basic