

Robert Michels

Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

- 2017-2018 Temporary Lecturer ('Chargé d'enseignement'), replacing Prof. Fabrice Correia, autumn semester 2017, Department of Philosophy, University of Neuchâtel
- 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 Kevin Mulligan.
Defended on 16 December 2013
- 2008–10 PhD-student, *University of Constance*, supervised by Wolfgang Spohn
- 2008 **MA in philosophy**, *University of Constance*, supervised by Wolfgang Spohn and Tobias Rosefeld.
- 2005 **BA in pedagogics/art history**, *University of Karlsruhe (TH)*.

Publications

- 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>
- 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>

Presentations (selection)

- Upcoming Multidimensional Vagueness – A Supervaluational Approach – *Congrès international triennal 2018 de la SoPhA*, Louvain-la-Neuve (peer-reviewed) & *GAP.10*, Cologne (peer-reviewed)
- 2017 Multi-Dimensional Vagueness – Invited talk at the Philosophy Department, Saarland University
Essentialism and Contingent Existence Claims – *2017 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
- 2011 Worldly Indeterminacy and Modality – *ECAP7*, Milan (peer-reviewed)
- 2011 “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 on presentations

- 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 Korbmacher'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
- 2010 Comments on Kyle Stanford's 'Scientific Realism: When Should We Worry?' – *Monthly Monday Meeting*, Constance

Teaching experience

As an instructor

- 2017 Introduction to Metaphysics (in French, french title: *Introduction à la métaphysique*, undergraduate level seminar, University of Neuchâtel)
- 2017 The Necessity of Identity – 90 minute teaching session as part of the *First eidos Winterschool in Metaphysics*, Neuchâtel
- 2016 Carnap and Metaphysics (in French, french title: *Carnap et la métaphysique*), graduate level seminar, University of Geneva
- 2016 (with T. Rechnitzer, R. Reick, M. Rudolph) Philosophy and Society (in German, German title: *Philosophie und Gesellschaft*, interdisciplinary undergraduate-level seminar, University of Karlsruhe (KIT))
- 2016 (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))
- 2014 (with K. Mulligan) Formal Concepts (in French, French title: *Concepts formels*, 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).

Scholarships & individual grants

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

Fundraising & organization of research projects

- 2014-17 (with Kevin Mulligan (PI)) 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

Fundraising & organization of events

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>

Organisation of the weekly eidos seminar (with Claudio Calosi), Universities of Geneva and Neuchâtel (spring semester 2017) and University of Geneva (autumn semester 2017, spring semester 2018)

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/>

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/>

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

Refereeing & editorial work

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

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

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

In preparation: guest editor of a special issue of *dialectica* on the formalization of arguments

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)

Co-author of a short report on the First Formal Epistemology Festival in Constance: Fritz, Peter; Michels, Robert; Ramanava, Maryia; Zinke, Alexandra: First Formal Epistemology Festival, 28–30 July. In: *The Reasoner*, Volume 2, Number 9 - September 2008, pp. 13-14.

In preparation: Review of David Wiggins, *Continuants: Their Activity, Their Being, and Their Identity*, Oxford University Press, 2016 for *dialectica*

Languages

German native speaker

English fluent

French advanced