BORIS KMENT

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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 Predetermination," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 107, 2023: 638–70.

"Modality, Worlds, Essence, and Modal Knowledge," in *Epistemology of Modality and Philosophical Methodology*, ed. A. Vaidya and D. Prelevic, Routledge, 2023.

"Necessity and Linguistic Rules," contribution to book symposium on Amie Thomasson's *Norms and Necessity*, *Inquiry*, 2023: 2400–2416.

"Modality, Capacities, and Intuition," contribution to symposium on modality and capacities, *Philosophisches Jahrbuch* 129, 2022: 319–24.

"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, 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

"Abductive Knowledge of Grounding," to appear in D. Aleksiev and Y. Kappes (eds.), *The Epistemology of Grounding*, Cambridge UP.

Ground and Paradox, book manuscript.

"Ground and Paradox," paper that presents some of the main ideas of the book manuscript.

"Paradoxes of Inference and Conditional Reasoning."

"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

June 2025	Title TBA, workshop and essences and powers, Heinrich Heine Universität, Düsseldorf
April 2025	Title TBA, symposium on the semantic paradoxes, Pacific APA
April 2025	Title TBA, University of Vienna
January 2025	Comments on Lily Hu, "Making Models Up," Arizona Metaphysics Workshop
October 2024	"Human Freedom and Ultimate Explanation," Princeton Metaphysics Reading Group
September 2024	"Laws, Modality, and Knowledge," Issues in the (Im)possible, Bratislava (online)
August 2024	"Abductive Knowledge of Grounding," University of Vienna
June 2024	"Ground and Paradox," WSZOP Katowice (online)
June 2024	"Inquiry and Indeterminacy," University of St. Andrews (online)
March 2024	"The Dark Side of Grounding," Princeton Metaphysics Reading Group
December 2023	"Paradoxes of Inference and Conditional Reasoning," Human Abilities Center, Freie Universität and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
November 2023	"Paradoxes of Inference and Conditional Reasoning," Princeton Faculty Lunch-time Colloquium
June 2023	"Ground and Paradox," Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network (SPAWN), Syracuse University
April 2023	"Ground and Paradox," panel on essence, grounding, and modality, Pacific APA
March 2023	"Ground, Paradox, and Logic," University of Manitoba, colloquium
March 2023	"Ground and Paradox," Princeton Faculty Lunch-time Colloquium
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,'" Arizona Metaphysics Workshop
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
Februar 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