

# BORIS KMENT

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2015– **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.

**PUBLICATIONS** (*cont.*)**2. Papers**

- “Chance and the Structure of Modal Space,” forthcoming in *Mind*.
- “Counterfactuals and Causal Reasoning,” to appear in the proceedings of the Hebrew University conference on linguistic perspectives on causation, venue TBA.
- “*De re* modality,” to appear in *Routledge Handbook of Modality*, ed. by O. Bueno and S. Shalkowski, Routledge.
- “Free Will and Ultimate Explanation,” *Philosophical Issues* 27, 2017, pp. 114–30.
- “Summary of *Modality and Explanatory Reasoning*” and “Replies to Dorr, Hill, and Yablo,” *Analysis* 77, 2017, pp. 129–33, 166–88.
- “Model Theory and Contingent Existence,” *Analysis* 76, 2016, pp. 172–190.
- “Précis of *Modality and Explanatory Reasoning*” and “Reply to Sullivan and Lange,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 91(2), 2015, pp. 489–498, 516–539.
- “Modality, Metaphysics, and Method,” in C. Daly (ed.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophical Methods*, Palgrave/Macmillan, 2015, pp. 179–207.
- “Haecceitism, Chance, and Counterfactuals,” *Philosophical Review* 121, 2012, pp. 573–609.
- “Varieties of Modality,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, published 2012, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/modality-varieties/>.
- “Causation: Determination and Difference-Making,” *Noûs* 44, 2010, pp. 80–111.
- “Counterfactuals and Explanation,” *Mind* 115, 2006, pp. 261–310.
- “Counterfactuals and the Analysis of Necessity,” *Philosophical Perspectives* 20, 2006, pp. 237–302.
- “Conditionals,” in D. Borchert (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Detroit (Macmillan), 2006, vol. 2, pp. 424–430.

**3. Work in preparation**

- Modality*, under contract with Princeton University Press, volume in the series Princeton Foundations of Contemporary Philosophy.
- “Possibility and the Method of Conceiving”
- “On the Genealogy of Modality” (working title), contribution to a planned volume titled *The Philosophy of Modality: Beyond the Standard Model*, ed. by A. Vaidya and D. Prelevic (tentative, publisher TBD).

**PUBLICATIONS** (*cont.*)

“Ground and Paradox”

“Rational Decision and Causality”

“Opacity and Second-Order Logic”

**HONORS, AWARDS, PRIZES**

- 2015–2017 Behrman Faculty Fellow 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**

- October 2018 Keynote address, title TBD, Conference of the German Research Foundation (DFG) Research Unit “What if?”, University of Konstanz, Germany
- March 2018 Comments on Antonella Mallozzi, title TBD, session on modality, Pacific APA
- October 2017 “The Nature of Necessity,” presentation in Paul Horwich’s seminar on modality at NYU

**PRESENTATIONS** (*cont.*)

- 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’”
- 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

**PRESENTATIONS** (*cont.*)

- 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
- February 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

**PRESENTATIONS** (*cont.*)

- 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

**PRESENTATIONS** (*cont.*)

- January 2005 “Counterfactuals, Causation and Explanation,” Cornell University  
 January 2005 “Counterfactuals, Causation and Explanation,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**TEACHING**

- Spring 2018 PHI 339 (Princeton): *Philosophical Analysis Since 1950*, upper-level introduction to the history of post-war analytic philosophy  
 Spring 2018 PHI 540 (Princeton): *The Metaphysical Basis of Logic*, graduate research seminar on metaphysical issues in logic with special emphasis on the paradoxes  
 Spring 2017 PHI 339 (Princeton): *Philosophical Analysis Since 1950*, upper-level introduction to the history of post-war analytic philosophy  
 Fall 2016 PHI 318 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to metaphysics  
 Fall 2016 PHI 599 (Princeton): *Dissertation Seminar*, weekly seminar that gives graduate students a forum to present their dissertation work  
 Spring 2016 PHI 318 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to metaphysics  
 Fall 2015 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Metaphysics, Logic, and the One*, graduate research seminar on the intersection of metaphysics and logic and on monism, with Shamik Dasgupta  
 Fall 2015 PHI 981 (Princeton): *Junior Seminar: Newcomb’s Problem*, a small writing-intensive seminar for juniors  
 Spring 2015 PHI 339 (Princeton): *Philosophical Analysis Since 1950*, upper-level introduction to the history of analytic philosophy since 1950  
 Spring 2015 PHI 203 (Princeton): *Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology*, introduction to metaphysics and epistemology for freshmen and sophomores  
 Fall 2014 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Grounding and Essence*, graduate research seminar on recent work on grounding and essence and its metaphilosophical implications  
 Spring 2013 PHI 203 (Princeton): *Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology*, introduction to metaphysics and epistemology for freshmen and sophomores

**TEACHING** (*cont.*)

- Fall 2012 PHI 343 (Princeton): *Wittgenstein*, upper-level introduction to Wittgenstein's philosophy
- Fall 2012 PHI 599 (Princeton): *Dissertation Seminar*, weekly seminar that gives graduate students a forum to present their dissertation work
- Spring 2011 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Hyperintensional Metaphysics*, graduate research seminar on hyperintensional concepts in metaphysics, with Shamik Dasgupta
- Fall 2010 PHI 737 (Princeton): *First Year Seminar: Key Papers of Analytic Philosophy*, introductory philosophy course for first-year graduate students, with Adam Elga
- Fall 2010 PHI 313 (Princeton): *Theory of Knowledge*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to epistemology
- Spring 2010 PHI 540 (Princeton): *Possible Worlds*, graduate research seminar on modality
- Spring 2010 PHI 318 (Princeton): *Metaphysics*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to metaphysics
- Fall 2009 PHI 981 (Princeton): *Junior Seminar: The Metaphysics of Time*, a small writing-intensive seminar for juniors
- 2005–2008 Graduate Student Modality Discussion Group
- Winter 2008 PHIL 345 (Michigan): *Language and Mind*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to epistemology and metaphysics
- Fall 2007 PHIL 607 (Michigan): *Metaphysics*, research seminar on causation, explanation and counterfactual conditionals
- Fall 2006 PHIL 297 (Michigan): *Honors Introduction to Philosophy*, introduction to the discipline for students in the Michigan honors program
- Fall 2006 PHIL 597 (Michigan): *Proseminar*, survey course in core areas for first-graduate students, with Ian Proops
- Winter 2006 PHIL 383 (Michigan): *Knowledge and Reality*, upper-level undergraduate introduction to epistemology and metaphysics
- Winter 2006 PHIL 297 (Michigan): *Honors Introduction to Philosophy*, introduction to the discipline for students in the Michigan honors program
- Fall 2005 PHIL 607 (Michigan): *Metaphysics*, research seminar on the metaphysics of modality

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2005– Referee for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophia Scientiae*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Thought*
- 2016– Authored tenure and other promotion letters
- 2017–18 Chair, Seminar Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- 2017 Referee for 24<sup>th</sup> German Congress for Philosophy
- 2016–17 Junior Search, Philosophy Department (reviewing applications for assistant professorship)
- 2016–17 Graduate Admissions Screening Committee, Philosophy Department
- 2015–2016 Appointments Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- 2015–2016 Course Allocation Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- 2015 Referee for Oxford University Press
- 2014–15 Chair, Seminar Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- July 2013 Evaluator, National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship program
- 2012–13 Co-organizer (with Elizabeth Harman), Corridor Workshop Group
- 2012–13 Chair, Seminar Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- Fall 2012 Organizer, conference on modality of the Collaborative Research Network in Analytic Philosophy (CRNAP)
- Spring 2011 Graduate Admissions Screening Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- Fall 2009 International Network Committee, Philosophy Department, Princeton
- Winter 2008 Honors Students Advisor, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- Winter 2008 Chair, Undergraduate Advising Committee, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- Fall 2008 Undergraduate Advising Committee, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- 2007–2008 Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- Winter 2007 Faculty Liaison for *Meteorite*, the Michigan undergraduate philosophy journal

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE** (*cont.*)

- 2006–2007 Interviewing job candidates during junior search, Department of  
Philosophy, Michigan
- 2006–2007 Search Committee, Junior Search, Philosophy Department, Michigan
- 2006 Referee for the Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference
- 2005–2006 Graduate Admissions Committee, Philosophy Department, Michigan
- 2005–2006 Undergraduate Advising Committee, Department of Philosophy, Michigan
- 2005–2006 Interviewing job candidates during junior search, Department of  
Philosophy, Michigan