

# David Braun

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## Education

Ph.D. 1987, University of California, Los Angeles (Philosophy)  
M.A. 1981, University of California, Los Angeles (Philosophy)  
B.A. 1978, Pomona College (Philosophy)

## Academic Positions

2008-Present Professor of Philosophy, and Patrick and Edna J. Romanell Chair in  
Philosophy, University at Buffalo, State University of New York  
2004-2008 Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester  
1996-2004 Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester  
1989-1996 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester  
1988-89 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Chapman College, Orange, CA  
Spring 1988 Postdoctoral Research Affiliate in Cognitive Science, Stanford University  
Fall 1987 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, UCLA

## Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind

## Areas of Competence

Metaphysics, Logic

## Dissertation

*Content and Psychological Explanation*. Committee: Tyler Burge (director), Keith  
Donnellan, Rogers Albritton.

## Publications

*Articles* ('i' means *invited*, 'r' means *refereed*)

"Proper Names, Cognitive Contents, and Beliefs," *Philosophical Studies* 62 (1991), pp.  
289-305. (r)

"Content, Causation, and Cognitive Science," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 69  
(1991), pp. 375-389. (r)

"Empty Names," *Noûs* 27 (1993), pp. 449-469. (r)

"Structured Characters and Complex Demonstratives," *Philosophical Studies* 74 (1994),  
pp. 193-219. (r)

- “What Is Character?” *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 24 (1995), pp. 227-240. (r)
- “Causally Relevant Properties,” *Philosophical Perspectives* 9 (1995), pp. 447-475. (r)
- “Katz on Names without Bearers,” *Philosophical Review* 104 (1995), pp. 553-575. (r)
- “Demonstratives and Their Linguistic Meanings,” *Noûs* 30 (1996), pp. 145-173. (r)
- “Understanding Belief Reports,” *Philosophical Review* 107 (1998), pp. 555-595. (r)
- “Russellianism and Psychological Generalizations,” *Noûs* 34 (2000), pp. 203-36. (r)
- “Russellianism and Prediction,” *Philosophical Studies* 105 (2001), pp. 59-105. (r)
- “Indexicals,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2001), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL=<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/indexicals/>. Substantial revision for Fall 2007. (i, r)
- “Russellianism and Explanation,” *Philosophical Perspectives* 15 (2001), pp. 253-289. (r)
- “Cognitive Significance, Attitude Ascriptions, and Ways of Believing,” *Philosophical Studies* 108 (2002), pp. 65-81. (i, r)
- “Simple Sentences, Substitutions, and Mistaken Evaluations” (with Jennifer Saul), *Philosophical Studies* 111 (2002), pp. 1-41. (r)
- “Direct Reference,” *Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science* (2002), Vol. 1, pp. 972-6, L. Nadel (ed.), London: Nature Publishing Group. (i)
- “Empty Names, Fictional Names, Mythical Names,” *Noûs* 39 (2005), pp. 596-631. (r)
- “Dthat,” *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2006), pp. 796-7. (i)
- “Demonstratives,” *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2nd edition (2006), Donald Borchert (ed.). Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA. (i, r)
- “Kripke’s Revenge” (with Theodore Sider), *Philosophical Studies* 128 (2006), pp. 669-682. (i, r)
- “Illogical, But Rational,” *Noûs* 40 (2006), pp. 376-379. (i)
- “Now You Know Who Hong Oak Yun Is,” *Philosophical Issues* 16 (2006), pp. 24-42. (i)
- “Names and Natural Kind Terms,” *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Language*, Ernest Lepore and Barry Smith (Eds.), Oxford University Press (2006), pp. 490-515. (i, r)
- “Vague, So Untrue,” (with Theodore Sider), *Noûs* 41 (2007), 133-156. (r)
- “Problems for a Quantificational Theory of Complex Demonstratives,” *Philosophical Studies* 140 (2008), 335-358. (r)
- “Complex Demonstratives and Their Singular Contents,” *Linguistics and Philosophy* 31 (2008), 57-99. (r)
- “Persisting Problems for a Quantificational Theory of Complex Demonstratives,” *Philosophical Studies* 141 (2008), 243-262. (i)
- “Implicating Questions,” *Mind & Language* 26 (2011), 574-595. (r)
- “Knowing How and Knowing Answers,” *Knowing How*, edited by Marc A. Moffett and John Bengson, Oxford University Press (2011), pp. 244-260. (i)
- “Extension, Intension, Character, and Beyond,” *Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Language*, edited by Delia Graff Fara and Gillian Russell, Routledge Press (2012), pp. 9-17. (i, r)
- “Hob, Nob, and Mythical Witches,” *Reference and Referring*, edited by William P. Kabasenche, Michael O’Rourke, and Harry S. Silverstein, MIT Press (2012), pp. 149-187. (i, r)

- “An Invariantist Theory of ‘Might’ Might Be Right,” *Linguistics and Philosophy* 35 (2012), 461-489. (r)
- “Contextualism about ‘Might’ and Says-That Ascriptions,” *Philosophical Studies* 164 (2013), 435-511. (r)
- “Invariantism about ‘Can’ and ‘May’ (as Well as ‘Might’),” *Linguistics and Philosophy* 36 (2013), 181-185. (i, r)
- “Desiring, Desires, and Desire Ascriptions,” *Philosophical Studies* 172 (2015), 141-62. (r)
- “Indexicals,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, January 2015 (substantial revision of article previously published in *SEP* in 2001 and 2007). (i, r)
- “Wondering about Witches,” in Stuart Brock and Anthony Everett (eds.), *Fictional Objects*, pp. 71-113, New York: Oxford University Press (2015). (i, r)
- “The Objects of Belief and Credence,” *Mind* 125 (2016), 469-497. (Appeared with a response from David Chalmers.) (r)

#### *Short Reviews*

- Review of Eddy Zemach, *The Reality of Meaning and the Meaning of ‘Reality’*, *Philosophical Review* 103 (1994), pp. 148-150. (i)
- Review of Michael Devitt, *Coming to Our Senses, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 60 (2000), pp. 489-92. (i)

#### *Long Reviews*

- Review of David Austin, *What’s the Meaning of ‘This’?* and Palle Yourgrau (Ed.), *Demonstratives, Minds and Machines* 7 (1997), pp. 297-302. (i, r)
- Review of Scott Soames, *Beyond Rigidity*, *Linguistics and Philosophy* 26 (2003), pp. 365-378. (i)
- Review of Michael Thau, *Consciousness and Cognition, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 64 (2004), pp. 484-491. (i)

#### **Forthcoming**

- “Utterances and Expressions in Semantics and Logic,” in Ken Turner and Larry Horn (Eds.), *An Atlas of Meaning* (2017), Leiden: Brill. (i, r)
- “Still for Direct Reference,” in Andrea Bianchi (ed.), *Essays in Honor of Michael Devitt*, Synthese Library. (i, r)

#### **In Progress**

- “Questions are not Answers”
- “Descriptivism and Empty General Terms”
- Questions, Answers, and Knowing Who*

#### **Presentations**

##### *Refereed Conference Talks*

- “The Cognitive Content of Proper Names,” Creighton Club (New York State Philosophical Association), April 1990.
- “Perry on Cognitive Significance,” Pacific APA, March 1991.
- “Empty Names, Beliefs, and Direct Reference,” Pacific APA, March 1993.

- “What Is Character?”, Pacific APA, March 1995.
- “Demonstratives and Their Linguistic Meanings,” Pacific APA, April 1996.
- “Understanding Belief Reports,” Pacific APA, March 1998.
- “Russellianism and Psychological Generalizations,” Pacific APA, April 1999.
- “Vagueness and Truth,” (with Theodore Sider), Creighton Club, October 2002.
- “Hob, Nob, and Mythical Witches,” Barcelona Workshop 6 on Issues in the Theory of Reference: Reference and Non-existence, 17-19 June 2009.

*Invited Talks*

- “Empty Names,” University of Alberta, January 1992.
- “Causally Relevant Properties,” Philosophy of Mind Discussion Group, Cornell University, March 1992.
- “Structured Characters and Complex Demonstratives,” Wayne State University, February 1994.
- “Demonstratives and Their Linguistic Meanings,” University at Buffalo, February 1996.
- “Understanding Belief Reports,” SUNY Albany, April 1999.
- “Demonstratives, Utterances, Linguistic Meaning, and Logic,” Workshop on Semantics and Pragmatics, Cornell University, March 1999.
- “Russellianism and Explanation,” Syracuse University, October 1999.
- “Cognitive Significance, Attitude Ascriptions, and Ways of Believing,” Pacific APA, March 2001.
- “Simple Sentences, Substitutions, and Mistaken Evaluations,” Rutgers Semantics Workshop, September 2001 (with Jennifer Saul).
- “Failure to Substitute Co-referring Names in Simple Sentences,” Vancouver Cognitive Science Conference, February 2003.
- “Empty Names, Fictional Names, Mythical Names,” University of Manitoba, December 2002; Central APA, April 2003; University of California, Riverside, February 2004; University of Massachusetts, Amherst, April 2004; University of California, Davis, February 2005.
- “Now You Know Who Hong Oak Yun Is,” University of Sheffield, March 2004, and Workshop on *De Re* Belief at Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, September 2004.
- “Wondering About Witches,” University at Buffalo, October 2006.
- “Implicating Questions,” University of Sheffield, December 2006, and University at Buffalo, November 2007.
- “Complex Demonstratives,” Semantics Workshop, Cornell University, April 2007.
- “An Invariantist Theory of ‘Might’ Might Be Right,” Workshop on Contextualism, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, 11-13 September 2009.
- “Knowing How and Knowing Answers,” Cognitive Science Speaker Series, University at Buffalo, 28 October 2009.
- “Hob, Nob, and Mythical Witches,” Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Moscow, Idaho, April 30-May 2, 2010.
- “An Invariantist Theory of ‘Might’ Might be Right,” Conference on Linguistics and Mental Phenomena, Dubrovnik, Croatia, September 5-9, 2011.

- “Wondering about Witches,” Philosophy of Art Conference, Dubrovnik, Croatia, July 17-21, 2013.
- “Invariantism about ‘Might’,” Third Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy, November 9, 2013.
- “Physicalism, Representation, and Consciousness,” Origins@UB, University at Buffalo, December 19, 2013.
- “Wondering about Witches,” McMaster University, October 24, 2014.
- “You Can Be a Millian Heir,” Workshop on Proper Names, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, May 18, 2015.
- “Problems with Proper-Name Predicativism,” University of Nevada, Las Vegas, November 13, 2015.
- “Utterances and Expressions in Semantics and Logic,” Kline Workshop on Context-Sensitivity, University of Missouri, November 5, 2016.
- “Physicalism, Representation, and Consciousness,” Cognitive Science Colloquium Series, University at Buffalo, November 30, 2016.
- “Questions are not Answers,” Workshop on Loving, Wondering, and Knowing, University of Southampton (UK), June 28-29, 2017.

#### *Invited Comments*

- Comment on William Lycan’s “A New Argument for the Representational Theory of Thinking,” University of Rochester, May 1991.
- Comment on Colin Allen’s “The Causal Relevance of Content,” Pacific APA, March 1994.
- Comment on Thomas Peard’s “Semantics of Demonstratives,” Pacific APA, March 1997.
- Comment on Christopher Gauker’s “Truth in Context,” Eastern APA, December 1999.
- Comment on Delia Graff’s “Vagueness, Adjectives, and Interests,” Rutgers Semantics Workshop, May 2000.
- Comment on Gabriel Segal’s “Two Theories of Names,” Rutgers Semantics Workshop, September 2000.
- Comment on David Chalmers’s “Probability and Propositions,” Online Philosophy Conference, May 2006, [http://experimentalphilosophy.typepad.com/online\\_philosophy\\_confere/](http://experimentalphilosophy.typepad.com/online_philosophy_confere/)
- Comment on Paul Teller, Peter Ludlow, and Michael Glanzberg, “Vagueness, Truth, and the Goals of Inquiry,” Pacific APA, April 2009.
- Comment on Sam Cumming, “Kripke’s Puzzle, Coordination, and Content,” Syracuse University, August 10, 2011.
- Comment on John Keller’s “Paraphrase, Semantics, and Ontology,” Creighton Club, November 5, 2011.
- Comment on Jennifer Saul’s Work in Philosophy of Language, Society for Women in Philosophy, American Philosophical Association Meeting, December 28, 2011.
- Comment on Christine Gunlogson and Greg Carlson’s “Predicates of Personal Taste,” Second Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy, October 20, 2012.
- Comment on Bryan Pickel, Brian Rabern, and Josh Dever’s “A Solution to the Problem of Recurring Demonstratives,” Pacific APA, April 2015.

Comment on Dilip Ninan's "What is the Problem of *De Se* Attitudes?", Fifth Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy, November 7, 2015.

### **Courses Taught**

Lower Division: Introduction to Philosophy; Critical Reasoning; Symbolic Logic  
Upper Division: Philosophy of Mind; Metaphysics; Philosophy of Language;  
Logical Methods in Philosophy; Philosophy of Science; History of  
Modern Philosophy (Descartes to Kant); Advanced Logic  
Graduate Level: Logical Methods in Philosophy; Theory of Direct Reference;  
Attitude Ascriptions; Mental Content and Causation; Reference  
and Nonexistence; Indexicals and Demonstratives; Vagueness;  
Consciousness; Knowing That and Knowing Who and Context;  
Fiction and General Terms; Qualia and Representation; Knowing  
How and Knowing That; Empty Terms and Fictional Characters;  
Questions and Answers; Invariantism, Contextualism, and  
Relativism; Indexicals and Indexical Attitudes

### **Doctoral Dissertations Supervised**

#### *University of Rochester*

Ram Majhi. PhD, 1994. Ravenshaw University (India). Tenured.  
Aliye Karanfil Soyhun. PhD, 1999. Bogazici University (Turkey). Tenured.  
Alice Kyburg. PhD, 2000. University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. Tenured.  
Jeffrey Goodman. PhD, 2001. James Madison University. Tenured.  
Chris Tillman. PhD, 2007. University of Manitoba. Tenured.  
Joshua Spencer. PhD, 2008. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Tenured.  
Hannah Shoemaker (nee Hyejeong Oh). PhD, 2011. Private industry.  
Taeryang Kim. PhD, 2011. Soongsil University, Korea.  
Andrew Wake. PhD, 2011. Lawyer in private practice.

#### *University at Buffalo*

David Sackris. PhD, 2014. Appaloosa Community College. Tenure-track.  
Matt Lavine. PhD, 2016. SUNY Potsdam. Tenure-track.  
Shane Sicienski. PhD, 2016. Adjunct teaching.  
Michael Gifford. PhD, 2017. Arizona State University, Polytechnic Campus. Tenure-track.

### **Current Doctoral Dissertation Students**

Patrick Ray. PhD expected in 2018.  
Hector Guzman-Orozco. PhD expected in 2018.

### **Undergraduate Theses Supervised**

#### *University at Buffalo*

Caleb Layton. BA Undergraduate Honors Thesis, 2014. Graduate student at Oxford.

## **Journal Editorial Board**

*The Monist*

## **Journal Refereeing**

For *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Dialogue*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Mind and Language*, *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Perspectives*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Res Philosophica*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, and *Thought*

## **Book Refereeing**

For MIT Press and Oxford University Press

## **Other Refereeing**

*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (online)

2016 Program of the Eastern American Philosophical Association (APA) Meeting

2017 Program of the Eastern APA Meeting

## **Fellowships and Awards**

Sloan Foundation Fellowship in Cognitive Science, 1988 (see under employment)

NEH Summer Stipend, Summer 1989

Bridging Fellowship, University of Rochester, Fall 1992 (one semester paid leave to study linguistics at UR)

## **National Professional Service**

Member of the Program Committee for the 2016 Meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association (served 2014-15).

Chair of the Program Committee for the 2017 Meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association (served 2015-16).

## **Regional Professional Service**

Secretary-Treasurer of the Creighton Club (New York Philosophical Association), 2002-2004

Vice-President of the Creighton Club, 2004-5

President of the Creighton Club, 2005-7

## **University Service**

*University of Rochester*

Cognitive Science Steering Committee, 1994-1999

Cognitive Science Curriculum Committee, 1989-1992

Member of a committee responsible for administering a NIH Training Grant to the Center for the Sciences of Language, 1992-2000

Faculty Council Representative, 1994-5, Spring 2005, Spring 2006  
Freshman Advisor, 1998-2008

### **Departmental Service**

#### *University of Rochester*

Colloquium Director, 1991-2, 1993-00, 1999-2000 (co-director), 2002-3, 2005-6  
Organizer of Philosophy Conferences at UR in 1991 (on Belief and Belief Attribution),  
1992 (on Consequentialism), and 1998 (Lewis White Beck Memorial Conference)  
Hiring Committee, 1991-2, 1997-8, 1998-9, 2004-5, Summer 2006, 2006-7, 2007-8  
Graduate Admissions Committee, 1993-4 (chair), 1998-9, 2004-5 (chair), 2006-7  
Undergraduate Advisor for the Philosophy Department, 1999-2004  
Director of Graduate Student Teaching, Spring 2006  
Graduate Placement Director, 2006-7, 2007-8  
Mellon Humanities Corridor Representative, 2007-8  
Organizer of Mellon Workshop in Epistemology, 2008

#### *University at Buffalo*

Executive Committee, Philosophy Department, 2008-12, 2013-14  
Hiring Committee Chair, Search in Early Modern Philosophy, 2011-12  
Hiring Committee Member, Search for Visiting Assistant Professor in Mind, 2012  
Tenure Advocate for James Beebe, 2009-10  
Tenure Advocate for Neil Williams, 2011-12  
Cognitive Science Representative, 2009-17  
Colloquium Committee, 2008-9, 2009-10 (chair), 2011-2012, 2012-13 (chair), 2013-14  
(chair), 2014-15 (chair)  
Graduate Affairs Committee, 2009-2011  
Progress and Evaluation (of Graduate Students) Committee, 2008-9, 2012-14 (chair)  
Participant in Video Interviews of Ethics Candidates, 2013  
Curriculum Committee Chair (formulates course schedules), 2014-16  
Tenure advocate for Lewis Powell, 2016-17  
Director of Graduate Studies, August 2016 – January 2017, August 2017 – present