

# Katherine Ritchie

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## EMPLOYMENT

University of California, Irvine, Assistant Professor, 2020-present  
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Assistant Professor, 2018 — 2020  
City College of New York, CUNY, Assistant Professor, 2014 — 2020  
Central European University (Summer Seminar on *Ontology and Metaontology*), Summer 2017  
Duke University, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2013 — 2014

## EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin — Ph.D., Philosophy, 2013  
Lewis and Clark College — B.A. with Honors in Philosophy, 2007

## RESEARCH AREAS

Specialization — Metaphysics, Social Philosophy, Philosophy of Language  
Competence — Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind

## PUBLICATIONS

- [19] Noyes, A., Dunham, Y., Keil, F.C., & **Ritchie, K.** (2021). Evidence for Multiple Sources of Inductive Potential: Occupations and Their Relations to Social Institutions. *Cognitive Psychology*.
- [18] **Ritchie, K.** (2021). Essentializing Inferences. *Mind & Language*.
- [17] **Ritchie, K.** (2021). Essentializing Language and the Prospects for Ameliorative Projects. *Ethics*.
- [16] **Ritchie, K.** (2021). Does Identity Politics Reinforce Oppression? *Philosophers' Imprint*.
- [15] Mason, R. & **Ritchie, K.** (2020). Social Ontology. In *Routledge Handbook of Metametaphysics* (R. Bliss and J. Miller (Eds.), Routledge).
- [14] **Ritchie, K.** & Knobe, J. (2020). Kindhood & Essentialism: Evidence from Language. In *Advances in Child Development and Behavior* (M. Rhodes (Ed.), Elsevier)
- [13] **Ritchie, K.** (2020). Social Structures and the Ontology of Social Groups. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

- [12] **Ritchie, K.** (2020). What *We* Can Do. *Philosophical Studies*.
- [11] **Ritchie, K.** (2020). Minimal Cooperation and Group Roles. In *Minimal Cooperation and Shared Agency* (A. Fiebich (Ed.), Springer).
- [10] **Ritchie, K.** (2019). Should We Use Racial and Gender Generics? *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*.
- [9] **Ritchie, K.** (2018). Social Groups and Social Creationism. In *Collectivity: Ontology, Ethics, and Social Justice* (K. Hess, T. Isaacs, and V. Ignieski (Eds.), Rowman & Littlefield).
- [8] **Ritchie, K.** (2017). Social Identity, Indexicality, and the Appropriation of Slurs. *Croatian Journal of Philosophy*.
- [7] **Ritchie, K.** (2017). Plural and Collective Noun Phrases. In *Routledge Handbook of Collective Intentionality*, (M. Jankovic and K. Ludwig (Eds.), Routledge).
- [6] **Ritchie, K.** (2016). Can Semantics Guide Ontology? *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- [5] **Ritchie, K.** (2015). The Metaphysics of Social Groups. *Philosophy Compass*.
- [4] **Ritchie, K.** (2013). What are Groups? *Philosophical Studies*.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- [3] **Ritchie, K.** (2020). Review of Astra's *Categories We Live By. Analysis*.
- [2] **Ritchie, K.** (2017). Review of Ron Mallon's *The Construction of Human Kinds. Ethics*.
- [1] **Ritchie, K.** (2016). Review of Deborah Tollefsen's *Groups as Agents. Journal of Social Ontology*.

## WRITING FOR A GENERAL AUDIENCE

Jenkins, K. & **Ritchie, K.** (2021). The Ontology of Gender. *The Philosopher*.

**Ritchie, K.** (2019). Neither Fate Nor Fiction: Finding Social Groups in Networks of Relations. *The Philosopher*.

## PODCASTS, VIDEOS, AND INTERVIEWS

“The Ontology of Gender: A Conversation between Katharine Jenkins and Kate Ritchie” streamed live on Zoom November, 2020. Transcript forthcoming in *The Philosopher*.

Episode 115 of *Elucidations* Podcast entitled “Katherine Ritchie discusses Social Groups”. Available here: <https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/elucidations/2019/07/01/episode-115-katherine-ritchie-discusses-social-groups/>

Blog of the APA Interview. Post titled “APA Member Interview: Kate Ritchie.” Available here: <https://blog.apaonline.org/2018/02/16/apa-member-interview-kate-ritchie/>

Interviewed for a segment of Samantha Bee's *Not the White House Correspondents' Dinner: What is Facts?*  
Available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAglmj1zuZ8>

Wireless Philosophy (WiPhi) video entitled "Meaning and Language." Available here: <https://www.wi-phi.com/videos/meaning-and-language/>

## PRESENTATIONS

\* denotes refereed

### **Labeling Unlabeled Identities**

Vermont Mind Language and Social Change Workshop, 08/2021

2021 Social Metaphysics Conference, 06/2021 (via Zoom)

Vienna Colloquium in Analytic Philosophy, 05/2021 (via Zoom)

Colloquium at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 04/2021 (via Zoom)

UCI Identities and Epistemic Injustice Workshop, 03/2021 (via Zoom)

### **Language, Essentialism, and Socio-Political Projects**

Society for Philosophy and Psychology Preconference on Essentialism, 6/2021 (via Zoom)

### **Essentializing Language and the Prospects for Ameliorative Projects**

Bochum Conceptual Engineering: Feasibility & Normativity, 03/2021 (via Zoom)

Colloquium at Lewis and Clark College, 10/2020 (via Zoom)

Social Metaphysics in Barcelona, 10/2020 (via Zoom)

Colloquium at Vassar College, 4/2020 (postponed due to COVID)

Group for Empirical Approaches to Morality and Society, 03/2020

Colloquium at Rice University, 1/2020

Colloquium at Mount Holyoke, 11/2019

\*2019 Conference on Essentialism and Anti-Essentialism, 9/2019

Rutgers Feminist Philosophy Workshop, 4/2019

Zermatt Conceptual Engineering Workshop, 2/2019

### **Essentializing Inferences**

Colloquium at Brandeis University, 02/2021 (via Zoom)

Lima Workshop on Philosophy of Mind and Language, 7/2019

Taipei Meaning and Reality in Social Context Conference, 1/2019

\*Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy (PhLiP), 11/2018

University of Minnesota Feminist Philosophy and Formal Logic Workshop, 4/2018

### **Two Ways Not to Refer to a Kind**

Ontario Meaning Workshop, 8/2019

### **Does Identity Politics Reinforce Oppression?**

University of California, Irvine, 2/2020

\*Social Ontology 2018 (The 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference), 8/2018

Barcelona Conference on Race and Gender (GRSelona4), 6/2018

Nassau Community College, 3/2018

CCNY Rifkind Seminar, 2/2018

USC California Metaphysics Conference, 1/2018

### **Minimal Cooperation and Group Roles**

University of San Francisco, 9/2017

### **What *We* Can Do**

The Nova Scotia Meaning Workshop, 7/2017

New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, 4/2017

### **Social Groups and Group Nouns**

MIT Colloquium, 10/2017

CUNY Graduate Center Colloquium, 9/2016

Junior Metaphysics Workshop, 4/2015

### **Social Structures and the Ontology of Social Groups**

\*Critical Social Ontology Workshop, 6/2017

Canadian Philosophical Association, 5/2017

Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference—Metaphysics on the Mountain, 3/2017

### **Varieties of Social Structures**

Oxford University Structure in Metaphysics Conference, 5/2016

Early Career Women in Metaphysics Workshop, 4/2016

### **Social Position and the Reclamation of Slurs**

IUC-Dubrovnik Philosophy of Language and Linguistics Conference, 9/2016

Dartmouth Mind and Language Workshop, 8/2016

### **No Easy Answers to Ontological Category Questions (with V. Flocke)**

Columbia University Seminar on Metametaphysics, 11/2016

\*Society for Exact Philosophy, 5/2016

### **Collective Nouns: Polysemy and Predication**

Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy, 11/2014  
New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, 10/2014  
Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy (PhLiP), 9/2014

### **Group Persons and Normative Individualism**

\*Collective Intentionality IX, 9/2014

### **Groups and Social Creationism**

\*The Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 04/2016  
Ohio State University Social Ontology Conference, 02/2016  
Notre Dame University, 2/2016  
Lewis and Clark College, 11/2015  
CUNY Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, 11/2015

### **Reduction, Fundamentality, and Groups**

\*Society for Exact Philosophy, 06/2014

### **The Ontological Commitments of Natural Language are Indeterminate**

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1/2014 (under title “Natural Language and Ontology”)  
Triangle Area Philosophy Conference, 8/2013 (under title “Natural Language and Ontology”)  
\*Mathematising Science: Limits and Perspectives Conference, 5/2013  
University of Edinburgh, 2/2013 (under title: “Natural Language, Ontology and Indeterminacy”)  
Gottingen University, 7/2011 (under title “Plurals and Ontological Commitment”)  
\*Arché Ordinary Language, Philosophy and Linguistics Conference, 6/2011

### **The Shifty Behavior of Collective Nouns**

\*Society for Exact Philosophy, 10/2012  
\*Collective Intentionality VIII, 8/2012

### **What are Groups?**

Duke University, 1/2013  
\*The Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 4/2012

### **What the Externalist Cannot Say About Slow Switching Case**

\*Society for Exact Philosophy, 5/2011  
\*Brandeis Graduate Philosophy Conference, 4/2011  
\*University of Iowa Graduate Philosophy Society Conference, 4/2010  
Fourth Philosophy Conference UT-Austin/UNAM, 10/2009

## COMMENTARIES

### **On Asya Passinsky’s “Social Kind Essentialism”**

Re-evaluating Social Essences Workshop, 5/2021

### **On Ted Sider’s “Determinism and the Metaphysics of Quantity”**

Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, 1/2020

### **On Ashley Atkins’s “Partial Events: On the Legacy of the Imperfective Paradox”**

Iceland Meaning Workshop, 8/2018

### **On Samia Hesni’s “Deviant Assertion: When Relying on Accommodation is Preferable”**

The Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 4/2018

### **Distinctions Between Groups: On Brian Epstein’s *The Ant Trap***

The Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (symposium on Epstein’s *The Ant Trap: Rebuilding the Foundations of the Social Sciences*), 4/2017

### **On Kevin Klement’s “Russell on Ontological Fundamentality and Existence”**

Metaphysics in Higher Order Languages Workshop, 4/2017

### **On Marion Boulicault’s “The Contingency of Logical Necessity”**

SWIP-Analytic, 4/2017

### **On James Miller’s “The Nature of Words”**

Junior Metaphysics Workshop, 3/2016

### **On Matthew Baddorf’s “Phenomenal Consciousness, Collective Mentality and Collective Moral Responsibility”**

The Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 4/2015

### **On Juan Colomina’s “Problematizing Prohibitionism”**

The Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 4/2014

### **On Bradley Rettler’s “A Truthmaker View of Ontological Commitments”**

University of Texas at Austin Graduate Conference, 3/2012

## **On Matt Teichman's "Casting Slurs"**

University of Texas at Austin Graduate Conference, 4/2011

### **AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS**

PSC-CUNY Award (\$3500), 2020-2021

PSC-CUNY Award (\$3500), 2019-2020

Faculty Fellowship Publishing Program (3 credit hours of course release), 2019

PSC-CUNY Award (\$3500), 2018-2019

CUNY Mellon Faculty Diversity Career Enhancement Initiative Fellow

PSC-CUNY Award (\$3450), 2017-2018

William Stewart Travel Award, 2017, 2018

Office of the Provost International Travel Grant, 2016, 2018, CCNY

Dean of Arts and Humanities Research Award (\$5,000), 2015-2016, CCNY

Dean of Arts and Humanities Travel Grant, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, CCNY

Office of the Provost Domestic Travel Grant, 2015, CCNY

Cogburn Essay Prize, 2013, University of Texas at Austin

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE**

#### **Memberships**

American Philosophical Association, Society for Exact Philosophy,

International Social Ontology Society, Society for Philosophy and Psychology

#### **Referee**

*Analytic Philosophy,*

*Australasian Journal of Philosophy,*

*Canadian Journal of Philosophy,*

*Cognitive Science,*

*Dialectica,*

*Ergo,*

*Erkenntnis,*

*Ethics,*

*Hypatia,*

*W.W. Norton & Company Publishing,*

*Journal of the American Philosophical Association,*

*Journal of Social Ontology,*

*Journal of Social Philosophy,*

*Linguistics and Philosophy,*

*Mind,*

*Mind & Language,*  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research,*  
*Philosophy Compass,*  
*Philosophical Quarterly,*  
*Philosophical Studies,*  
*Philosophy of Science,*  
*Review of Philosophy & Psychology,*  
*Routledge Philosophy,*  
*Synthese,*  
*Swiss National Science Foundation*

### **Service to University of California, Irvine**

Co-organizer of Mentoring Women in Philosophy, 2020-present

- Co-organized regular meetings for women graduate students and faculty each meeting to discuss research, the job market, and issues related to climate and diversity
- Organized the inaugural Mentoring Women in Philosophy/DECADE lecture in Spring 2021

Associate Director of the Social Unity Research Cluster (SURC), 2021-present

- Collaborated along with Margaret Gilbert (SURC Director) to propose and get approved a new research cluster at UCI focused on understanding forces that make for and might impede social unity.
- Collaborated to develop a plan for activities and a budget for the 2021-2022 academic year
- Forged connections between scholars in philosophy and psychology, with the ultimate aim being to build strong bridges between a number of areas by focusing on shared questions about the history, nature of, and political efficacy of social unity

Member of the Department of Philosophy Curriculum Committee, 2020-present

- Collaborated with colleagues to develop and carry out an assessment plan of a key learning objective for philosophy majors

Developed new course on Topics in Philosophy of Race and Gender, 2020

Collaborated on Black Thriving Initiative, 2020-2021

### **Service to CUNY**

CCNY Undergraduate Philosophy Advisor, 2015-2018, 2019-2020

CUNY Philosophy Graduate Program Placement Committee Member, 2019-2020

CUNY Philosophy Graduate Program Executive Committee Member, 2019-2020

CUNY Philosophy Graduate Program Placement Director, 2018-2019



Member of Mellon Working Group on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Humanities of and for the City Initiative, 2019-2020  
Head of City College Philosophy Honors Program, 2017-2019  
Developer, City College Philosophy Honors Program, 2017  
CCNY Faculty Council Member, 2016-present  
Member of CCNY Philosophy Day Organizing Committee, 2017  
Philosophy Department Representative, CCNY Undergraduate Open House, Fall 2017  
Panelist for *Free Speech in the Wake of Charlottesville*, CCNY, Fall 2017  
Philosophy Department Representative, General Advisors Meeting, Spring 2017  
Humanities & Arts Representative, Macaulay Honors College Recruitment, Spring 2017  
Major/Minor Outreach Campaign, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020  
Major/Minor Recruitment Informational Session, Fall 2017  
Member of the Search Committee for Dean of Humanities and The Arts, City College of New York, 2016  
Philosophy Department Executive Committee Member, 2015-2016  
Organizer, PhD Preparation meeting for Undergraduate Students, 2015, 2016  
Faculty Advisor for the CCNY Philosophy Club, 2014-2015

### **Service to the Profession**

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Social Ontology*, 2020-present  
Eastern APA Program Committee, 2021-present (for 2023 and 2024 meetings)  
Executive Committee Member, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), 2021-present (elected to 3 year term)  
Steering Committee Member, International Social Ontology Society (ISOS), 2020-present  
Chair, ISOS Membership Committee, 2020-present  
Referee for Social Ontology 2021 Conference, 2021  
Referee for Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, 2020  
Co-Organizer of the New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, 2017-2020  
Director of Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP)—Analytic, 2017-2019  
Member of International Social Ontology Society Nominating Committee, 2020  
Speaker at Night of Philosophy Event at Avenues High School, May 2019  
SALT (SALT29) Referee, 2019, 2020  
BayFAP Referee, 2019, 2020  
Job Candidate Mentoring Program for Women in Philosophy Mentor, 2015-2016; 2016-2017; 2017-2018  
Panelist on Minorities & Philosophy (MAP) Panel on Activism and Philosophy, 2018  
Session and Panel Organizer, Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, May 2017  
Junior Metaphysics Workshop Steering Committee Member, 2015-2016  
Co-Organizer, University of Texas—Austin Graduate Colloquia Series 2009-2012  
Organizing Committee Member, University of Texas—Austin Graduate Conference, 2009-2012

## **ADVISING AND MENTORING**

### **Dissertation Committee Member**

Rachel Cooper (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2020-present)

David Neely (CUNY, Philosophy, 2020-present);

Emilie Pagano (UT-Austin, Philosophy, 2020-present);

Dee Payton (Rutgers, Philosophy, 2021; Ph.D. awarded 04/2021)

Jules Salomone-Sehr (CUNY & Ecole Normale Supérieure, Philosophy, 2020; Ph.D. awarded 12/2020);

Nicolas Porot (CUNY, Philosophy, 2019; Ph.D. awarded 09/2019);

Sonia Kasyanenko (NYU, Linguistics, 2015-2018; Ph.D. awarded 12/2018)

### **PhD Evaluation Committee Member**

Mirela Fus (University of St Andrews/University of Oslo, 2021; passed 08/2021)

### **Prospectus Committee Member**

David Neely (CUNY, Philosophy, 2019-2020; Passed 03/2020)

### **Candidacy Exam Committee Member**

Giulia Napolitano (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2021)

Joost Ziff (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2021)

Stella Moon (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2021; Passed 05/2021)

Rachel Cooper (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2020; Passed 09/2020)

### **Qualifying Paper Supervisor**

Michael Greer (CUNY, Philosophy, 2019-2020; Passed 02/2020)

### **Qualifying Paper Committee Member**

Ivana Durovic (CUNY, Linguistics, 2019-2020; Passed 02/2020)

### **Humanities Honors Thesis Supervisor**

Sara Moradi (UC Irvine, 2021-present)

### **City College Fellowship Pre-PhD Program Mentor**

Anton Pavlov (2017-2018);

Gage Williams (2015-2017);

Rebecca Wellington (2015-2016)

### **City College Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor**

Olivia Calamia (CCNY, 2018-2019);

Caley Pigliucci (CCNY, 2018-2019)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of California, Irvine**

Introduction to Philosophy—Spring 2021

Social Ontology—Winter 2021

Seminar: The Nature of (Representations of) Social Kinds—Winter 2021

### **CUNY Graduate Center**

Seminar: Essentializing Language—Fall 2019

Seminar: Logic—Fall 2017

### **City College of New York, CUNY**

Philosophy of Language—Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2019

Feminist Philosophy—Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2018

Social Ontology—Spring 2018, Spring 2020

Honors Introduction to Philosophy—Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Introduction to Philosophy—Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer 2016, Fall 2016,  
Spring 2017

Metaphysics and Epistemology—Fall 2016

Independent Study: Intersectionality—Fall 2015

Independent Study: History of Analytic—Fall 2015

Philosophy of Mind—Spring 2015

Independent Study: Social Metaphysics—Spring 2015

Introduction to Logic—Summer 2016, Spring 2018

### **Duke University**

Seminar: Collections and Collectivity—Spring 2014

Philosophy of Language—Spring 2014

Appearance and Reality—Fall 2013

Introduction to Logic—Fall 2013

### **University of Texas**

Introduction to Logic—Summer 2012