

Katherine Ritchie

University of California, Irvine
Department of Philosophy
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EMPLOYMENT

University of California, Irvine, Associate Professor (with tenure), 2022-present
University of California, Irvine, Assistant Professor, 2020-2022
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, Cognitive Science
Competence — Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind

PUBLICATIONS

- [24] **Ritchie, K.** (forth.). Labeling Unlabeled Identities. In *New Perspectives on Conceptual Engineering Vol. 3: "Applied Conceptual Engineering"* (M.G. Isaac & K. Scharp, (Eds.), Springer).
- [23] Noyes, A., Keil, F.C., Dunham, Y., & **Ritchie, K.** (2023). Same People, Different Group: Social structures are a Central Component of Group Concepts. *Cognition*.
- [22] Flocke, V. & **Ritchie, K.** (2022). No ‘Easy’ Answers to Ontological Category Questions. *Philosophical Perspectives*.
- [21] 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*.
- [20] **Ritchie, K.** (2021). Essentializing Inferences. *Mind & Language*.
- [19] **Ritchie, K.** (2021). Essentializing Language and the Prospects for Ameliorative Projects. *Ethics*.
- [18] **Ritchie, K.** (2021). Does Identity Politics Reinforce Oppression? *Philosophers’ Imprint*.

- [17] **Ritchie, K.** & Knobe, J. (2020). Kindhood & Essentialism: Evidence from Language. In *Advances in Child Development and Behavior* (M. Rhodes (Ed.), Elsevier)
- [16] **Ritchie, K.** (2020). Social Structures and the Ontology of Social Groups. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.
- [15] **Ritchie, K.** (2020). What *We* Can Do. *Philosophical Studies*.
- [14] **Ritchie, K.** (2020). Minimal Cooperation and Group Roles. In *Minimal Cooperation and Shared Agency* (A. Fiebich (Ed.), Springer).
- [13] **Ritchie, K.** (2019). Should We Use Racial and Gender Generics? *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*.
- [12] **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).
- [11] **Ritchie, K.** (2017). Social Identity, Indexicality, and the Appropriation of Slurs. *Croatian Journal of Philosophy*.
- [10] **Ritchie, K.** (2016). Can Semantics Guide Ontology? *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- [9] **Ritchie, K.** (2015). The Metaphysics of Social Groups. *Philosophy Compass*.
- [8] **Ritchie, K.** (2013). What are Groups? *Philosophical Studies*.

HANDBOOK ARTICLES

- [7] **Ritchie, K.** (forth.). Social Groups. In *The Oxford Handbook of Social Ontology* (Eds. S. Collins, B. Epstein, S. Haslanger, and H.B. Schmid)
- [6] **Ritchie, K.** (forth.). Language of Essence. In *Routledge Handbook of Essence* (Eds. K. Koslicki and M. Raven)
- [5] Mason, R. & **Ritchie, K.** (2020). Social Ontology. In *Routledge Handbook of Metametaphysics* (R. Bliss and J. Miller (Eds.), Routledge).
- [4] **Ritchie, K.** (2017). Plural and Collective Noun Phrases. In *Routledge Handbook of Collective Intentionality*, (M. Jankovic and K. Ludwig (Eds.), Routledge).

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 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

Explaining Systematic Polysemy: Kinds & Individuation (with S. Prasada & A. Wellwood)

New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, 09/2023

WashU Mind & Perception Group, 03/2023

Same People, Different Group: Social structures are a central component of group concepts (with A. Noyes, F.C. Keil, & Y. Dunham)

Social Ontology 2023, 08/2023

Stability & Generics (with N. Vasil)

Social Identities and Cognition in the Desert Workshop, 02/2023

One Recipe for Two Flavors of Generics: How Contextual Restrictions and Stability give Rise to Essentialist and Structural Generics (with N. Vasil)

Northwestern Colloquium, 04/2023

National University of Singapore (NUS) Colloquium, 03/2023

*ESPP (European Society for Philosophy and Psychology)/SPP (Society for Philosophy and Psychology), 07/2022

Social Structures in Context (with J. Keiser)

UCLA Studies in Language, Information, Meaning and Expression (SLIME), 06/2022

Arché Feminist Philosophy and Social Theory Seminar, 04/2022
Leeds University Philosophy Seminar, 03/2022

Labeling Unlabeled Identities

Words Workshop, 10/2022
Colloquium at Cal State Long Beach, 10/2022
Conceptual Engineering Online Seminar, 06/2022
The Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 04/2022
Colloquium at University of Southern California, 04/2022
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 11th 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

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND DISTINCTIONS

National Science Foundation Grant (\$1,004,003)

“Collaborative Research: Generics in context: Examining mental biases and resources in social and science communication and learning”

Co-PI with Ny Vasil (CSUEB), 9/1/2023-8/31/2026

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Editorial Board Memberships

Inquiry (2022-present)

Journal of Social Ontology (2020-present)

Memberships

American Philosophical Association,

International Social Ontology Society,

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Referee

Analysis, Analytic Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Cambridge Elements in Semantics, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Cognition, 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, Language Sciences, Linguistics and Philosophy, Mind, Mind & Language, Oxford University Press, 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 the Profession

Co-Founder and Co-Organizer of the Philosophy of Language Association, 2022-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), 2020-2022

Chair, ISOS Membership Committee, 2020-2022

Referee for Social Ontology 2021 Conference, 2021

Referee for Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, 2020, 2022, 2023

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

Service to the University of California, Irvine

Placement Director, 2022-present

- Organize 3 informational meetings on job placement and dossiers per year
- Review and discuss graduate students' job application materials to enable each candidate to present their strongest file
- Organize practice job interviews and job talks for job candidates
- Respond to inquiries about positions, job materials, and supported students throughout the job application, interview, and negotiation process

Co-organizer of Mentoring Women and Members of Marginalized Groups in Philosophy, 2020-present

- Co-organize 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 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 AY 2021-2022 and AY 2022-2023

- 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 School of Humanities Committee on Graduate Fellowships and Awards, 2022-present (3-year term)

Member of the Department of Philosophy Curriculum Committee, 2020-2021

- 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

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

ADVISING AND MENTORING

Dissertation Committee Member

Michelle Pitassi (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2022-present)

Stella Moon (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2022-2023; Ph.D. awarded 08/2023)

Emilie Pagano (UT-Austin, Philosophy, 2020-2023; Ph.D. awarded 07/2023)

Rachel Cooper (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2020-2023; Ph.D. awarded 05/2023)

Giulia Napolitano (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2021-2022; Ph.D. awarded 05/2022)
David Neely (CUNY, Philosophy, 2020-present; Ph.D. awarded 06/2022)
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

Nikita Prokhorov (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2023-present)
Leah Fortgang (CUNY, Philosophy, 2022; Passed 06/2022)
David Neely (CUNY, Philosophy, 2019-2020; Passed 03/2020)

Candidacy Exam Committee Member

Stella Moon (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2021; Passed 05/2022)
Michelle Pitassi (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2021-2022; Passed 04/2022)
Giulia Napolitano (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2021; Passed 10/2021)
Joost Ziff (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2021)
Rachel Cooper (UC Irvine, Philosophy, 2020; Passed 09/2020)

Prospectus Exam Committee Member

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

Comprehensive Exam Examiner

Joshua Swank (UC Irvine, LPS PPE, Passed 05/2023)
Babak Salimitari (UC Irvine, LPS PPE, Passed 05/2023)

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, 2021-2022)

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**

Seminar: Structures & Stereotypes—Fall 2023

Seminar: Speech Acts and Social Location—Fall 2022

Introduction to Philosophy—Spring 2021, Winter 2023, Fall 2023

Social Ontology—Winter 2021, Winter 2023

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