

# THEODORE SIDER

October 3, 2023

## Education

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Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1993  
B.S., Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Gordon College, 1988

## Appointments

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University of Rochester, Assistant Professor, 1992–97; Associate Professor, 1997–98  
Syracuse University, Associate Professor, 1998–2002  
Rutgers University, Associate Professor, 2002–04; Professor, 2004–07  
University of Leeds, Visiting Research Professor, Fall 2003  
Australian National University, Visiting Fellow, Summer 2005  
New York University, Professor, 2007–11  
Cornell University, Frederick J. Whiton Professor, 2011–15  
Rutgers University, Andrew W. Mellon Chair, 2015–  
All Souls College, Oxford University, Visiting Fellow, Trinity Term  
2016

## Interests

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Research: Metaphysics; also: philosophical logic, philosophy of language, philosophy of physics  
Teaching: Logic, philosophy of mathematics

## Honors

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1998 University of Rochester Student Association's Professor of the Year  
2000 Ruth Evelyn Parcells Memorial Lecture, University of Connecticut

2003 APA Book Prize for *Four-Dimensionalism*  
2009 Gail Stine Memorial Lecture, Wayne State University  
2009 Boswell Distinguished Lecture, Hobart and William Smith  
College  
2010 Dewey Lecture, University of Vermont  
2011 Class of 1970 Lecture, Rutgers University  
2015 World Philosophy Day Lecture, University of Toronto  
2016 John Locke Lectures, Oxford University  
2019 Bergmann Lecture, University of Iowa  
2022 Creighton Club Centennial conference, keynote speaker

#### Books

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*Four-Dimensionalism: An Ontology of Persistence and Time* (Oxford, 2001; Japanese: Shunjusha, 2007). Section on argument from vagueness reprinted in Jaegwon Kim, Daniel Z. Korman, and Ernest Sosa, eds., *Metaphysics: An Anthology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Wiley, Blackwell, 2011). French translation of section on time travel in Jiri Benovsky, ed., *Philosophy of Time* (La Baconnière, 2018)

*Riddles of Existence: A Guided Tour of Metaphysics*, with Earl Conee (Oxford, 2005; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2014; Japanese: Shunjusha, 2009; Portuguese: Bizâncio, 2010; Spanish: Alianza, 2013). Chapter on “Time” reprinted in Tamar Szabó Gendler, Susanna Siegel, and Steven M. Cahn, eds., *The Elements of Philosophy* (Oxford, 2007), in Susan Schneider, ed., *Science Fiction and Philosophy: From Time Travel to Superintelligence*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Wiley, Blackwell, 2016), and in Future Affairs Administration, ed., *Time Non-exist* (Chinese translation, Writer’s Publishing house, 2018). Chapter on “Personal Identity” reprinted in Joel Feinberg and Russ Shafer-Landau, eds., *Reason and Responsibility*, 15<sup>th</sup> edition (Wadsworth, 2013)

*Logic for Philosophy* (Oxford, 2010)

*Writing the Book of the World* (Oxford, 2011)

*The Tools of Metaphysics and the Metaphysics of Science* (Oxford, 2020)

#### Edited book

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*Contemporary Debates in Metaphysics* (Basil Blackwell, 2007).  
Co-editors: John Hawthorne, Dean W. Zimmerman

- “Might Theory X Be a Theory of Diminishing Marginal Value?”, *Analysis* 51 (1991): 265–71
- “Tooley’s Solution to the Inference Problem”, *Philosophical Studies* 67 (1992): 261–75
- “In Defense of Global Supervenience”, with R. Cranston Paull, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 52 (1992): 833–54
- “Asymmetry and Self-Sacrifice”, *Philosophical Studies* 70 (1993): 117–32
- “Van Inwagen and the Possibility of Gunk”, *Analysis* 53 (1993): 285–89
- “Sorensen on Unknowable Obligations”, *Utilitas* 7 (1995): 273–79
- “Three Problems for Richard’s Theory of Belief Ascription”, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 25 (1995): 487–514
- “Sparseness, Immanence, and Naturalness”, *Noûs* 29 (1995): 360–77
- “Naturalness and Arbitrariness”, *Philosophical Studies* 81 (1996): 283–301
- “Intrinsic Properties”, *Philosophical Studies* 83 (1996): 1–27
- “All the World’s a Stage”, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 74 (1996): 433–53. Reprinted in Sally Haslanger and Roxanne Marie Kurtz, eds., *Persistence: Contemporary Readings* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006), 91–117, and in Kim, Korman, and Sosa, 511–26, and in Benovsky (in French)
- “A New Grandfather Paradox?”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 57 (1997): 139–44
- “On the Paradox of the Question”, *Analysis* 57 (1997): 97–101
- “Four-Dimensionalism”, *Philosophical Review* 106 (1997): 197–231. Reprinted in Haslanger and Kurtz, 55–87
- Critical Study of Michael Jubien’s *Ontology, Modality, and the Fallacy of Reference*, *Noûs* 33 (1999): 284–94
- “Presentism and Ontological Commitment”, *Journal of Philosophy* 96 (1999): 325–47. Reprinted in Haslanger and Kurtz, 367–91, and in Benovsky (in French)
- “Global Supervenience and Identity across Times and Worlds”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 59 (1999): 913–37
- “The Stage View and Temporary Intrinsic”, *Analysis* 60 (2000): 84–88. Reprinted in Haslanger and Kurtz, 443–48, and in

Benovsky (in French)

- “Simply Possible”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 60 (2000): 585–90
- “Recent Work on Identity Over Time”, *Philosophical Books* 41 (2000): 81–89
- “Criteria of Personal Identity and the Limits of Conceptual Analysis”, *Philosophical Perspectives* 15, *Metaphysics* (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 2001), pp. 189–209
- “Maximality and Intrinsic Properties”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 63 (2001): 357–64
- “The Ersatz Pluriverse”, *Journal of Philosophy* 99 (2002): 279–315
- “Hell and Vagueness”, *Faith and Philosophy* 19 (2002): 58–68
- “Time Travel, Coincidences and Counterfactuals”, *Philosophical Studies* 110 (2002): 115–38
- “Locations”, with John Hawthorne, *Philosophical Topics* 30 (2002): 53–76. Reprinted in John Hawthorne, *Metaphysical Essays* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 31–52
- “Maximality and Microphysical Supervenience”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 66 (2003): 139–49
- “Against Vague Existence”, *Philosophical Studies* 114 (2003): 135–46
- “Reductive Theories of Modality”, in Michael J. Loux and Dean W. Zimmerman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Metaphysics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), pp. 180–208
- “What’s So Bad about Overdetermination?”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 67 (2003): 719–26
- “Precis of *Four-Dimensionalism*” and “Replies to Critics”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 68 (2004): 642–47, 674–87
- “Another Look at Armstrong’s Combinatorialism”, *Noûs* 39 (2005): 680–96
- “Traveling in A- and B- Time”, *The Monist* 88 (2005): 329–35. Reprinted in L. Nathan Oaklander, ed., *The Philosophy of Time, Vol. 4: Time and Physics* (Routledge: 2008)
- “Kripke’s Revenge”, with David Braun, *Philosophical Studies* 128 (2006): 669–82
- “Quantifiers and Temporal Ontology”, *Mind* 115 (2006): 75–97
- “ ‘Bare Particulars’ ”, *Philosophical Perspectives* 20 (2006): 387–97

- “Against Monism”, *Analysis* 67 (2007): 1–7
- “Vague, so Untrue” (with David Braun), *Noûs* 41 (2007): 133–56
- “Parthood”, *Philosophical Review* 116 (2007): 51–91
- “Neo-Fregeanism and Quantifier Variance”, *Aristotelian Society, Supplementary Volume* 81 (2007): 201–32
- “Temporal Parts”, in Theodore Sider, John Hawthorne, and Dean W. Zimmerman (eds.), *Contemporary Debates in Metaphysics* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007): 241–62
- “Yet another Paper on the Supervenience Argument against Coincident Entities”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 77 (2008): 613–24
- “Monism and Statespace Structure”, in Robin Le Poidevin, ed., *Being: Developments in Contemporary Metaphysics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008): pp. 129–50
- “Williamson’s Many Necessary Existents”, *Analysis* 69 (2009): 50–58
- “Ontological Realism”, in David Chalmers, David Manley, and Ryan Wasserman, eds., *Metametaphysics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009): pp. 384–423. Translation in *Tsinghua Studies in Western Philosophy* 3 (2017): 473–513
- “Against Vague and Unnatural Existence: Reply to Liebesman and Eklund”, *Noûs* 43 (2009): 557–67
- “The Evil of Death: What Can Metaphysics Contribute?”, in Ben Bradley, Fred Feldman, and Jens Johansson, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Death* (Oxford: 2012): 155–66
- “Against Parthood”, in Karen Bennett and Dean W. Zimmerman, eds., *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, volume 8 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013): 237–93
- Précis and replies to critics, symposium on *Writing the Book of the World*, *Analysis* 73 (2013): 713–15, 751–70
- Précis and replies to critics, symposium on *Writing the Book of the World*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 87 (2013): 706–8, 733–54
- “Consequences of Collapse”, in Donald Baxter and Aaron Cotnoir, eds., *Composition as Identity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014): 211–21
- “Outscoping and Discourse Threat”, *Inquiry* 57 (2014): 413–26
- “Hirsch’s Attack on Ontologese”, *Noûs* 48 (2014): 565–72

- “Nothing Over and Above”, *Grazer Philosophische Studien* 91 (2015): 191–216
- “Comments on Saul Kripke’s *Philosophical Troubles*”, *Disputatio, Philosophical Research Bulletin* 4 (2015): 67–80
- “On Williamson and Simplicity in Modal Logic”, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 46 (2016): 683–98. Also appeared in Juhani Yli-Vakkuri and Mark McCullagh (eds.), *Williamson on Modality* (Routledge, 2017)
- “Substantivity in Feminist Metaphysics”, *Philosophical Studies* 174 (2017), 2467–78
- “Ross Cameron’s *The Moving Spotlight*”, *Analysis Reviews* 77 (2017): 788–99
- “Asymmetric Personal Identity”, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* (2018): 127–46
- “Ground Grounded”, *Philosophical Studies* 177 (2020): 747–67
- “Dasgupta’s Detonation”, *Philosophical Perspectives* 36 (2022): 292–304
- “The New Collapse Argument against Quantifier Variance”, *The Monist* 106 (2023): 342–61
- “3D in High-D”, *Journal of Philosophy* (forthcoming)

#### Work in progress

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“Higher Order Metametaphysics”

#### Reviews

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- André Gallois, *Occasions of Identity*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 52 (2001): 401–5
- Charles Chihara, *The Worlds of Possibility*, *Philosophical Review* 110 (2001): 88–91
- Lynne Rudder Baker, *Persons and Bodies*, *Journal of Philosophy* 99 (2002): 45–48
- Trenton Merricks, *Objects and Persons*, *Mind* 113 (2004): 195–98

#### Talks

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- “Naturalness and Arbitrariness”, 1992: Virginia, Rochester; 1995: Pacific APA
- “All the World’s a Stage”, 1993: Rochester

“Four-Dimensionalism”, 1993: UMass reunion conference; 1994: Pacific APA; 1996: Arizona, Michigan; 1997: Rutgers  
 “Sparseness, Immanence, and Naturalness”, 1994: Rochester  
 “Sorensen on Unknowable Obligations”, 1995: UNC Greensboro Ethics conference  
 “Global Supervenience and Coincident Entities”, 1996: Pacific APA  
 “The Ersatz Pluriverse”, 1996: Rochester; 1997: Pacific APA, Metaphysical Mayhem conference, Syracuse, Princeton; 1998: Yale; 2000: Massachusetts  
 “Can there Exist Two Things at the Same Place at the Same Time?”, 1997: SUNY Geneseo  
 “Criteria of Personal Identity and the Limits of Conceptual Analysis”, 1998: Pacific APA; 2001: Pew conference on persons  
 “Presentism and Ontological Commitment”, 1998: Metaphysical Mayhem conference; 1999: Philosophy of Time Society, Central APA  
 “Time and Temporal Parts”, 1999: Metaphysical Mayhem conference, UMass reunion conference; 2000: Rochester, Pacific APA, Connecticut (Ruth Evelyn Parcells Memorial Lecture)  
 “Against Presentism”, 1999: Cornell; 2000: Texas, Eastern APA  
 “Reducing Modality”, 2000: Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference; 2002: Brown; 2003: St. Andrews, Colorado, Leeds; 2004: Manitoba; 2005: Cornell, Texas, Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, Arizona State  
 “Vague, so Untrue”, 2001: Western Washington, Calvin, UMass reunion conference, Virginia; 2002: UC Davis, MIT, Alabama; 2003: Oxford, Boise State, New Jersey Regional Philosophical Association, Princeton-Rutgers graduate student conference, Richmond, Leeds, Stockholm; 2004: Southern Illinois, Kentucky; 2005: Australian National University, Massey (NZ); 2006: Alberta, Miami  
 “Time Travel, Coincidences and Counterfactuals”, 2001: Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference  
 “Hell and Vagueness”, 2002: Union College, Alabama  
 “Time Travel”, 2002: SUNY New Paltz; 2003: Boise State, Rutgers undergraduate philosophy club  
 APA “Author meets critics” sessions on *Four-Dimensionalism*, San

Francisco, Spring 2003; Washington, DC, December 2003  
 “Parthood”, 2003: Leeds, Central European University (Budapest);  
 2004: Queen’s (Ontario), Virginia, St. Louis, USC, Toronto,  
 Criteria of Identity conference in Leuven Belgium; 2005:  
 Arkansas, Missouri, Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference,  
 Australian National University, Canterbury (NZ), Wisconsin;  
 2006: Calgary, Nassau CC, West Virginia  
 “Quantifiers and Temporal Ontology”, 2003: Leeds; 2004: Eastern  
 APA; 2005: Cornell  
 “Kripke’s Revenge”, 2003: Leeds  
 “Another Look at Armstrong’s Combinatorialism”, 2003: Leeds  
 “Ontological Realism”, 2005: Australian National University  
 conference on Metametaphysics, Otago (NZ), Victoria (NZ),  
 Princeton, Oxford graduate student conference; 2006: Miami,  
 Northern Illinois, Leeds conference on being, Brown graduate  
 student conference, Brandeis; 2007: Utah, CUNY, Stanford,  
 Chapel Hill Colloquium; 2008: Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,  
 UCSB, Minnesota  
 “Philosophy of Time”, 2006: Metaphysical Mayhem conference;  
 2007: Arizona Ontology Conference  
 “Monism and Statespace Structure”, 2006: Yale graduate student  
 conference; 2007: UMass reunion conference; 2008: Arizona  
 Ontology Conference  
 “NeoFregeanism and Quantifier Variance”, 2006: Bellingham  
 Summer Philosophy Conference; 2007: Aristotelian Society Joint  
 Session  
 “Which Disputes are Substantive?”, 2007: Inland Northwest  
 Philosophy Conference  
 “Logical Structure”, 2007: Connecticut  
 “The State of Metaphysics”, 2008 Alabama “Philosophy Today”  
 speaker series  
 “Meta-metaphysics”, 2008: Alabama; 2009: Union College  
 “Metametaphysics and Metaontology”, 2008: Metaphysical Mayhem  
 Conference  
 “The Metaphysics of Fundamentality”, 2008: Oxford,  
 Mountain-Plains conference, Virginia Commonwealth; 2009: NC  
 State, Wayne State (Gail Stine Memorial Lecture), Colorado  
 Dependence Conference, UC Davis, CUNY UMass reunion



conference; 2010: U of Vermont, Syracuse graduate student conference, Colorado, Ohio State; 2011: SUNY Albany graduate student conference, Berkeley, Nebraska, Indiana

“Time”, 2009: Guggenheim Museum *theanyspacewhatever* exhibition, Hobart and William Smith College (Boswell Distinguished Lecture)

“Joint-carving and Meta-ethics”, 2009: Leeds workshop on Naturalism

“Metaphysics and the Real World”, 2010: NYU Philosophy Society, U of VT Dewey Lecture, Cal State Chico; 2011: Rutgers Class of 1970 Lecture

“Passage”: 2009: Philosophy of Time Society; 2010: Future of Philosophy of Time workshop.

“Against Parthood”, 2009: Pacific APA (as “Nihilism and Ideology”); 2010: Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Oxford graduate student conference; 2012: MIT, U of Texas graduate conference, Calvin College undergraduate conference, Buffalo, Notre Dame

“Structuralism”, 2010: Metaphysical Mayhem Conference

“Parts”, 2012: Metaphysical Mayhem Conference

“Modality”, 2012: NYU Mind and Language seminar

“Scientific Properties, and How Tools in Metaphysics Matter”, 2012: Mellon Metaphysics Workshop at Cornell, Leeds; 2013: Harvard, Buffalo; 2014: Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, Columbia Metaphysics Conference, Rochester Metaphysics and Philosophy of Physics Workshop

“The Value of Joint-carving Belief”, 2012: keynote address, conference on The Aims of Inquiry and Cognition at the University of Edinburgh

*Writing the Book of the World*: responses to critics (Central APA author-meets-critics session, 2013)

Comments on Saul Kripke’s *Philosophical Troubles*, Eastern APA 2013

Comments on Timothy Williamson’s *Modal Logic as Metaphysics*, Central APA 2014

“Nothing Over and Above”, 2014: Columbia/NYU graduate conference

“Object-Free Metaphysics”, 2014: Metaphysical Mayhem

- Conference; 2016: Central APA
- “Asymmetric Personal Identity”, 2014: Princeton; 2015: USC, Brown; 2016: Oriel College (Oxford University), Florida State, University of Connecticut graduate conference; 2017: Umass, Colorado
- “Equivalence from a Metaphysical Point of View”, 2015: Princeton conference on equivalent theories in metaphysics and physics; 2016: Leeds Metaphysics after Carnap conference, Metaphysical Mayhem workshop; 2017: Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, Yale Metaphysics and Semantics Conference, Rutgers Structural Realism and Metaphysics of Science workshop; 2018: Toronto Kant and Metaphysics conference; 2019: Michigan, Dartmouth Methodology and Metametaphysics Conference, MIT, Wisconsin, Texas Tech; 2021: Geneva Workshop on Theoretical Equivalence
- “The Metaphysics of Science”, 2015: World Philosophy Day Lecture, University of Toronto; 2019: University of Iowa Bergmann lecture
- “Nomic Essentialism, and How Metaphysical Tools Matter”, VA Tech graduate conference, 2015; 2019: Iowa
- “The Tools of Metaphysics and the Metaphysics of Science”, John Locke Lectures, Oxford University, 2016. Short version: 2017: Pacific APA. Visits to reading groups on the book: 2020: Simon Fraser & University of Birmingham; 2021: University of Athens
- “Monism, Ground, and Structuralism”, 2016: Rutgers workshop on monism
- “Determinism and the Metaphysics of Quantity”, 2018: Metaphysical Mayhem workshop; 2019: Princeton; 2020: Ranch metaphysics conference; 2021: University of Toronto Logic and Philosophy of Science Group
- “Higher-order Metametaphysics”, 2020: Alabama & Mississippi; 2021: USC
- “Dasgupta’s Detonation”, 2021: Theorema—Sociedad Peruana de Investigación Filosófica
- “3D in High-D”, 2021: New England Workshop on Metaphysics; 2022: Creighton Club Centennial conference, Umass reunion conference, Union College; 2023: Colorado
- “The New Collapse Argument against Quantifier Variance”: 2022: Rutgers conference in honor of Peter van Inwagen

## Referee

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For Kluwer Academic Publishers, Cambridge University Press, University of Toronto Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Routledge Press, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *Ethics*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, and *Synthese*

## Courses taught

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Undergraduate: philosophy of language; philosophy of mathematics; metaphysics; logic (introductory, intermediate, modal, mathematical, set theory); intro; applied ethics; science and pseudoscience; history of twentieth century philosophy; seminars on paradoxes, persistence, ontology

Graduate: survey courses in logic (modal, mathematical, set theory, logic for philosophy), metaphysics, philosophy of language; proseminar; research seminars on modality, parthood, identity, causation and laws, persistence, abstract entities, convention and modality, propositional attitudes, metaontology, fundamentality, intentionality, properties, ground, quantum mechanics, structuralism in the metaphysics of science, higher-order metaphysics, philosophy of time

## Dissertations advised

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Rochester: Bo Mou (co-chair); Rutgers: Ryan Wasserman, Maya Eddon, Jason Turner; NYU: Shieva Kleinschmidt, Jeffrey Sanford Russell, Olla Solomyak; Cornell: David Mark Kovacs, Daniel Murphy, Eric Rowe; Rutgers: Dee Payton, Verónica Gómez Sánchez (co-chair), Ezra Rubenstein (co-chair)

## University and departmental service

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University of Rochester Administrative Committee, 1993-5

University of Rochester Faculty Council, 1996-8

University of Rochester Freshman Advising, 1993-8

University of Rochester Program Reviewer, Summer 1993-7

University of Rochester Mock Interviews for Rhodes Scholarship candidates, 1994–6

Syracuse University advising (summer, freshman and sophomore, freshman forum), 1999–2000

Syracuse University Promotion and Tenure Committee, 1999

Rutgers University Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2004

Director of Graduate Studies, Cornell University, 2012–15

Chair, search committee for Mellon Postdoc, 2017/18, 2019/20

Rutgers Advisory Committee for Appointments and Promotions, 2019/20

#### Professional service

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Editorial board, *Philosophical Studies*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2002–18

Board of associate editors, *Noûs*

American Philosophical Association Executive Committee, 2009–12

American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Program Committee, 2016–18 (chair in 2018)

Nominating editor, *Philosopher's Annual*, 2012–