Jeff Speaks

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
University of Notre Dame
100 Malloy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-4619

telephone (office): 574.631.6468
fax (department): 574.631.0588
e-mail: jspeaks@nd.edu
www.nd.edu/∼jspeaks

EMPLOYMENT

Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame (2015-)
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame (2010-2015)
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame (2006-2010)
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, McGill University (2003-2006)

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Philosophy, Princeton University (2003)
B.A. in the Program of Liberal Studies & Philosophy, University of Notre Dame (1997)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of mind, philosophy of language.

OTHER RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

History of analytic philosophy, metaphysics, philosophy of action, philosophy of religion, the philosophy of Wittgenstein.

BOOKS

- *New Thinking About Propositions*, co-authored with Jeffrey King and Scott Soames (Oxford University Press: 2014).
- *The Phenomenal and the Representational* (Oxford University Press: 2015).
- *The Greatest Possible Being* (Oxford University Press: 2018).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- "Is there a problem about nonconceptual content?", *Philosophical Review* 114:3 (2005), 359-398.
- "Is mental content prior to linguistic meaning?" *Noûs* 40:3 (2006), 428-467.
- "Truth theories, translation manuals, and theories of meaning," *Linguistics & Philosophy* 29:4 (2006), 487-505.
- "Conversational implicature, thought, and communication," *Mind & Language* 23:1 (2008), 107-122.
- "Transparency, intentionalism, and the nature of perceptual content," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 79:3 (2009), 539-573.
- "The normativity of content and 'the Frege point'," *European Journal of Philosophy* 17:3 (2009), 405-415.
- "Epistemic two-dimensionalism and the epistemic argument," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 88:1 (2010), 59-78.
- "Attention and intentionalism," *Philosophical Quarterly* 60:239 (2010), 325-342.

- "Explaining the disquotational principle," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 40:2 (2010), 211-238.
- "Millian descriptivism defended," *Philosophical Studies* 149:2 (2010), 201-208.
- "Spectrum inversion without a difference in representation is impossible," *Philosophical Studies* 156:3 (2011), 339-361.
- "Frege's puzzle and descriptive enrichment," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 83:2 (2011), 267-282.
- "Foreknowledge, evil, and compatibility arguments," *Faith & Philosophy* 28:3 (2011), 269-293.
- "On possibly nonexistent propositions," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 85:3 (2012), 528-562.
- "Individuating Fregean sense," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 43:5-6 (2013), 634-654.
- "What are debates about qualia really about?" *Philosophical Studies* 170:1 (2014), 59-84.
- "No easy argument for two-dimensionalism," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92:4 (2014), 775-781.
- "The method of perfect being theology," *Faith & Philosophy* 31:3 (2014), 256-266.
- "Is phenomenal character out there in the world?" *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 91:2 (2015), 465-482.
- "The roles of speaker and hearer in the character of demonstratives," *Mind* 125:498 (2016), 301-339.
- "Merricks *vs.* the Russellian orthodoxy," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93:2 (2016), 469-477 (invited for book symposium on Merricks' *Propositions*).
- "Perfect being theology and modal truth," *Faith & Philosophy* 33:4 (2016), 465-473.
- "A puzzle about demonstratives and semantic competence," *Philosophical Studies* 174:3 (2017), 709-734.
- "Permissible tinkering with the concept of God," *Topoi* 36:4 (2017), 587-597 (special issue on the divine attributes).
- "Précis of *The Phenomenal and the Representational*" and "Reply to commentators," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 95:2 (2017), 465-469 and 492-506.
- "Act theories and the attitudes," *Synthese* 196:4 (2019), 1453-1473.
- "Cognitive acts and the unity of the proposition," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 98:4 (2020), 646-660.
- "Galacticism, thought-relativism, quasi-internalism," *Philosophical Studies* 178:9 (2020) 3037-3047 (invited for book symposium on J. Hawthorne & J. Yli-Vakkuri, *Narrow Content*).
- "The schmidentity strategy," *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Language* v. 3 (2023), 182-204 (invited).
- "Pautz on the laws of appearance, internalism, and color realism," *Inquiry* 67:8 (2024), 2271-2282.
- "Is there such a thing as felicitous underspecification?" *Philosophical Studies* 181 (2024), 3169–3179. (invited for a book symposium on J. King, *Felicitous Underspecification*).
- "What propositions need not be," *Synthese* 205:4 (2025), 1-19.
- "Verbal disputes about the content of experience," *Philosophical Quarterly* 75:3 (2025), 1164-1188.
- "Memory, idealization, and Frege's puzzle," forthcoming in *Philosophical Studies*.

IN COLLECTIONS

- "Introduction, transmission, and the foundations of meaning", in *New Waves in the Philosophy of Language*, ed. Sarah Sawyer (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), 226-249.
- "Some thoughts about hallucination, self-representation, and 'There it is"', in *Consciousness Inside and Out: Phenomenology, Neuroscience, and the Nature of Experience*, ed. R. Brown (Springer, 2013), 147-154.
- "Predication", in *A Companion to Davidson* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), Kirk Ludwig & Ernie LePore, eds., 328-338.
- "Content and the explanatory role of experience", *Singular Thought and Mental Files* (Oxford University Press, 2020), James Genone, Rachel Goodman, & Nick Kroll, eds., 52-71.
- "Propositions as Cambridge properties," *Routledge Handbook of Propositions* (Routledge, 2022), ed. Chris Tillman, 291-303.

DICTIONARY & ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- "Intentionality," in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Language Sciences* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) (3000 words).
- "Theories of meaning," in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (original version 2010; substantive revisions 2014, 2018, 2024) (27,000 words).

BOOK REVIEWS

- "Review of Donald Davidson, *Truth and Predication*," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2006.08.06.
- "Review of Stewart Candlish, *The Russell/Bradley Dispute and its Significance for Twentieth Century Philosophy*," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 86:3 (2008), 509-512.
- "Review of David Chalmers, *The Character of Consciousness*," *Philosophical Review* 121:1 (2012), 125-131.
- "Review of Robert Stalnaker, *Propositions: Ontology and Logic*," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2025.04.01.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Research grant, John Templeton Foundation (2014-2016)
- Excellence in Philosophy of Religion Prize for 'Foreknowleddge, Evil, and Compatibility Arguments' (2011)
- Best Paper Prize, Australasian Journal of Philosophy (2010)
- Thomas P. Madden Award for Outstanding Teaching of Freshmen (2008-9)
- Standard Research Grant (individual), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (awarded April, 2006)

  (2002-2003)

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Associate Dean of the Humanities (2026-)
- Mission Hiring Task Force (2025-26)
- Chair, College of Arts & Letters Decanal Review Committee (2021-22)
- NDIAS Advisory Board (2019-22)
- University Committee on Women Faculty and Students (2018-19)
- Chair, Philosophy Core Curriculum Subcommittee (2017-22)

- Core Curriculum Committee (2015-22)
- Catholicism Across the Disciplines Core Curriculum Subcommittee (2017-22)
- Inspired Leadership Initiative Faculty Advisor (2018-22)
- Department Chairs Advisory Group (2017-20)
- Chair, Core Curriculum Learning Goals Drafting Committee for Philosophy (2017)
- Core Curriculum Transition Committee (2016-17)
- Catholic Mission Focus Group of the Core Curriculum Review Committee (2014-15)
- Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the Core Curriculum (2013-2014)
- NDIAS Philosophy Review Committee (2013-18); Chair (2016-18)
- University Committee for the First Year of Studies (2011-15)
- College of Arts & Letters Honesty Committee (2011-2014)
- College of Arts & Letters Advisory Board (2001-2004)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

- Department Chair (2016-22)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies (2012-15)
- Committee on Appointments & Promotions (2012-15, 2016-19)
- Climate Committee (2012-15, 2016-22)
- External Review Committee (2012-13)
- Graduate Committee (2007-10; 2011-12)
- Graduate Admissions (2012, 2015)
- Undergraduate Committee (2011-15)
- Colloquium Committee (2007-10)
- Teaching mentor for Sorin Society Fellows (2007-11)
- Honesty Committee (2006-7)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, American Philosophical Association (2003-).
- Member, Canadian Philosophical Association (2003-2005).
- Co-editor for Philosophy of Mind, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2015-).
- Journal submissions reviewed for *Analysis, Analytic Philosophy, Asian Journal of Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dialogue, Erkenntnis, Ergo, European Journal of Philosophy, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Grazer Philosophische Studien, Inquiry, Journal of Analytic Theology, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Journal of Philosophical Logic, Journal of Philosophical Research, Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Pragmatics, Journal of Religion, Linguistics & Philosophy, Mind, Noûs, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosopher's Imprint, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Review, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophy Compass, Philosophy of Science, Ratio, Religious Studies, Res Philosophica, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Sophia, Southern Journal of Philosophy, Synthese, TheoLogica, Theoria, Thought*, and *Yale Law Journal*.
- Book manuscripts reviewed for Princeton, Oxford, Blackwell's, Routledge, M.I.T., and McGill-Queens University Press.
- Conference papers reviewed for meetings of the Canadian Philosophical Association and the American Philosophical Association.

SELECTED TALKS

- Frege's puzzles
  - Colloquium talk, University of Minnesota, March 2026
- Impossible worlds semantics
  - NOTA: The Nature of the Objects of Thought and Assertion, December 2025
- The mystery of consciousness
  - Moreau College, Westville Prison, February 2025
- Do propositions represent? If so, how?
  - Colloquium talk, Purdue University, January 2024
- Representationalism, the laws of appearance, and color realism
  - Book symposium on Adam Pautz's *Perception*, Eastern Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Baltimore, January 2022
- Representationalism and religious experience
  - Religious Experience and Perception: a Cross-Disciplinary Workshop, Rutgers University, October 2021
- Verbal disputes about the content of experience
  - Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, March 2019.
- Propositions, representational properties, and the attitudes
  - The Role of Content in Mind, Language, and Metaphysics, University of London, May 2018.
- *The Phenomenal and the Representational*: Author meets critics
  - Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Kansas City, March 2017.
- Reply to Frank Jackson & Susanna Schellenberg
  - Colloquium on Generalism vs. Particularism in the Philosophy of Perception, Eastern Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Baltimore, 2017
- What follows from the claim that God is the greatest possible being?
  - Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion, March 2016.
  - Center for the Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame, February 2016.
- Complex acts and the unity of the proposition
  - University of California at San Diego, January 2016.
  - Graduate seminar, Princeton University, October 2015.
  - University of Southern California Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, April 2015.
- Experience, thought, and the scope of perceptual representation
  - Workshop on the Contents of Consciousness, University of Manchester, July 2015.
- A puzzle about demonstratives and semantic competence
  - University of Missouri Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, January 2015.
  - University of Notre Dame Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, November 2014.
- *New Thinking About Propositions*: Authors meet critics
  - Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2015.
- Distinct but representationally identical propositions
  - Workshop on propositions, University of Leeds, May 2014.
- Perceptual content and the explanatory role of experience

  - Workshop on 'How perception makes things available for thought', Rice University, November 2013.

- Is phenomenal character out there in the world?
  - Ohio State University Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, March 2014.
  - McGill University Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, October 2013.

- Speaker and hearer in the character of demonstratives
  - Conference on Internalist Semantics, Montreal, October 2013.
  - Conference on Reference and Frege Puzzles, Umea, Sweden, June 2013.
  - 4th Workshop on Semantic Content, Barcelona, November 2012.

- The greatest possible being
  - BGND Philosophy of religion conference, Notre Dame, October 2013.
  - Philosophy of religion workshop, Notre Dame, September 6 & 13, 2013.

- What are debates about qualia really about?
  - Workshop on perception, Rutgers, May 2012.
  - Oberlin Philosophy Colloquium, May 2012.

- The reduction of phenomenal character
  - University of Oklahoma Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, March 2011.
  - University of Western Michigan Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, April 2012.

- Reply to Michael Tye's "Transparency, qualia realism, and representationalism," Oberlin Philosophy Colloquium, May 2012.

- Can linguistic representation be explained in terms of perceptual representation?
  - Mind & Language Seminar, NYU, December 2010.
  - Colloquium on Thought and Language, University of Cincinnati, May 2010

- Comments on Benj Hellie's "There it is," Third Annual Online Consciousness Conference, February 2011.
- An argument against phenomenism, Fregeanism, appearance property-ism, and some kinds of functionalism about perceptual content
  - Jowett Society, Oxford University, March 2011.
  - Rutgers University Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, December 2010.
  - Rice University Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, November 2010.
  - Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Great Lakes Mind & Science Consortium (Chicago), February 2010

- Reply to Michael McGlone's "Propositional structure and truth conditions," Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Chicago, IL), 2010.

- Against the new Fregeanism
  - University of Michigan at Ann Arbor Colloquium Series, January 2010
  - University of Texas at Austin Colloquium Series, December 2009
  - University of Northern Illinois Colloquium Series, September 2009
  - University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, November 2008

- Epistemic two-dimensionalism and the epistemic argument
  - Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Los Angeles), April 2008

- Spectrum inversion without misrepresentation is impossible
  - McGill University Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series (Montreal), October 2007

- Transparency and its consequences
  - Philosophical Society, Oxford University, June 2006
  - Auburn University Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, April 2006
  - Colloque Référénce et Attitude, Université Québec à Montréal, April 2006
- Nonconceptual content and the content of thought
  - University of Notre Dame Colloquium Series, February 2006
- Is there a problem about nonconceptual content?
  - Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference (Winnipeg), 2005
  - FCAR Group for the Study of Concepts (Montreal), 2003
- Explaining the disquotational principle
  - University of Maryland Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series (College Park, MD), September 2004
  - University of Southern California School of Philosophy Colloquium Series (Los Angeles), February 2005

TEACHING & ADVISING

Courses taught at Notre Dame (2006-)

PHIL 10100	Introduction to philosophy. (Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017)
PHIL 10106	Introduction to metaphysics & epistemology. (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023)
PHIL 13185	University seminar in philosophy. (Spring 2007)
PHIL 13195	Honors seminar in philosophy. (Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2011, Fall 2013)
PHIL 20208	Minds, brains, and persons. (Fall 2006)
PHIL 20229	Paradoxes. (Spring 2008, Spring 2010, Spring 2012, Spring 2014; also available on Notre Dame's Open Courseware site)
PHIL 20810	Philosophical theology. (Spring 2013, Spring 2017)
PHIL 30304	Gateway seminar: Consciousness (Fall 2018)
PHIL 43503	Philosophy of action. (Spring 2009)
PHIL 43904	Origins of analytic philosophy. (Fall 2007)
PHIL 43916	Natural language semantics. (Fall 2012, Fall 2014)
PHIL 46497	Directed readings in semantics and epistemology. (Fall 2013)
PHIL 83104	Proseminar: 20th century analytic philosophy. (Fall 2011)
PHIL 93503	Properties, relations, and propositions (with Daniel Nolan, Fall 2023)
PHIL 93507	Topics in the philosophy of mind: Perception. (Fall 2009, Spring 2012)
PHIL 93515	Language and mind. (Spring 2007)
PHIL 93914	Philosophy of language. (Spring 2008)
PHIL 96997	Directed readings in semantics. (Spring 2010)
PHIL 96997	Directed readings in the metaphysics of propositions. (Fall 2014)

Courses taught at McGill (2003-2006)

PHIL 201	Introduction to philosophy. (Winter 2005, Winter 2006)
PHIL 370	Problems in analytic philosophy. (Winter 2004, Fall 2004)
PHIL 415	Philosophy of language. (Fall 2003, Winter 2005)
PHIL 515	Perception & intentionality. (Winter 2006)
PHIL 519	Epistemology: Self-knowledge. (Winter 2004)
PHIL 519	Action. (Fall 2004)
PHIL 682	Proseminar on meaning. (Fall 2005)
PHIL 780	The metaphysics of consciousness. (independent study, Fall 2004)
PHIL 780	Universals and particulars. (independent study, Fall 2005)
PHIL 780	Religious perception, religious language, and religious belief. (independent study, Fall 2005)

Dissertations directed

- Daniel Shin (current)
- Kevin Jia (current)
- John Walrop (current)
- Geoffrey Hall, *The Algebraic Structure of Propositions* (co-directed with Daniel Nolan, 2020)
- Louise Williams, *Exploring the Self: A Metaphysical, Practical, and Linguistic Perspectives* (2020)
- Justin Christy, *Aspects of Visual Awareness* (co-directed with Fritz Warfield, 2017)
- Meg Schmitt, *On the Activity of Theoretical and Practical Reason* (2017)

Dissertation committees (internal)

- Rebecca Kates, *Emotions and the Ethics of Perception* (2026)
- Mark Puestohl, *Essays on the Explanatory Foundation of Vagueness* (2023)
- Jack Himelright, *An Austere Nominalist Strategy for Paraphrasing Away Properties and Relations* (2019)
- Sam Murray, *Vigilance: Self-Control for Planners* (2019)
- Paul Blaschko, *Believing Intentionally: An Essay on the Voluntarist Grounds of Epistemic Responsibility* (2018)
- Kate Finley, *Perception, Cognition, and Prediction* (2017)
- Michael Rauschenbach, *Spinoza's Isolationism* (2017)
- Michael Longenecker, *The Contingently Non-Concrete: Uses and Nature* (2017)
- David Pattillo, *Reference and Ontology: How Can We Refer to Abstract Objects?* (2017)
- Ryan Hammond, *Living Without Desire* (2017)
- Jeff Snapper, *Ontological Commitment, Paraphrase, and Nihilism* (2017)
- Peter Finocchiaro, *Structuring Metaphysical Disputes: A Foray Into Meta-Ideology* (2016)
- Amy Seymour, *Presentism, Propositions, and Persons* (2015)
- Naomi Fisher, *Kant, Schelling, and a New Philosophy of Nature* (2015)
- Matthew Lee, *Belief, Doubt, and Confidence: A Threshold Account* (2014)
- Kenneth Boyce, *Toward a Fictionalist Nominalism* (2013)
- Alex Skiles, *Getting Grounded: Essays in the Metaphysics of Fundamentality* (2012)
- Luke Potter, *The Word Incarnate: Philosophical Essays on the Christian Doctrine of Scripture* (2012)

- Lorraine Juliano Keller, *Whence Structured Propositions?* (2012)
- Andrew Bailey, *Person and Animal* (2011)
- John Keller, *Telling the Whole Truth: The Role of Paraphrase in Philosophical Inquiry* (2010)
- Joshua Rasmussen, *What Propositions Correspond To and How They Do It* (2010)
- Dan McKaughan, *Toward a Richer Vocabulary for Epistemic Attitudes* (2007)
- Pierre Charette, *Nature, Reasons, and Moral Meaningfulness* (2007, at McGill)
- Brian van den Broek, *What is Constant in Logic?* (2005, at McGill)
- Max Jarvie, Acceptance, *Belief, and Cognition* (2005, at McGill)
- Gerald Beaulieu, *Moral Experience and the Moral Problem* (2004, at McGill)

Dissertation committees (external)

- Ayoob Shahmoradi, *Reference, Representation-as, and Discrimination* (University of California at San Diego), 2024
- Alex Rausch, *Rethinking the Semantics of Attitude Reports* (University of Texas at Austin), 2023
- Steve Bischoff, *Semantic Pluralism* (University of Texas at Austin), 2023
- Sara Copic, *Ordinary Claims: Success Without Truth* (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), 2022
- Seishu Nishimura, *A Theory of Perceptual Entitlement* (University of Illinois at Chicago), 2010

Senior thesis supervison

2025-26	Elena Ding, 'Propositions Aren't Everything: Against the Propositional Attitude Thesis' (Dockweiler Award winner)
2018-19	Jarek Jankowski, 'Analogical predication and the problem of evil'
2018-19	Maxwell Weiskittel, 'Concept empiricism'
2018-19	Jean Llenos, 'Decisions, decisions'
2016-17	Xinhe Wu, 'The sorites paradox, context-sensitivity and knowability' (Dockweiler Award winner)
2013-14	Steven Bischoff, 'Notion provision' (Dockweiler Award winner)
2013-14	Daniel Kokotajlo, 'Borderline cases of consciousness'
2013-14	Michael Pilger, 'A Bumper Harvest of Sorrow: Mao's Great Famine and China's Enduring Dystopia' (with Lionel Jensen)
2011-12	Gabriel McDonald, 'Toward an elimination of metaphysics'
2008-9	Claire McGathey, 'Skepticism and the case for withholding', co-supervised with Fritz Warfield (Dockweiler Award winner)
2006-7	Dan Sportiello, 'Wittgenstein on rule-following' (Dockweiler Award winner)

Undergraduate research project supervision

2013	Steven Bischoff, Topics in philosophical semantics (Glynn Honors Program summer research project)
2013	Daniel Kokotajlo, Mental states and computation (Glynn Honors Program summer research project)
2015	Xinhe Wu, The semantics of demonstratives (Glynn Honors Program summer research project)