

Louis deRosset

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Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles, June 2005
M.A. in Philosophy, University of Virginia, 1998
B.A. in Philosophy, with Highest Honors, University of Virginia, 1995

Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics
Philosophy of Language
Philosophical Logic

Areas of Competence

Logic
Philosophy of Mind

Academic Employment

07/2016-present	Professor at the University of Vermont
07/2012-6/2018	Department Chair at the University of Vermont
07/2011-06/2016	Associate Professor at the University of Vermont
08/2005-07/2011	Assistant Professor at the University of Vermont
09/99-04/2003	Teaching Assistant/Associate at the University of California, Los Angeles
01/98-05/98	Course Instructor at the University of Virginia
01/95-12/97	Teaching Assistant at the University of Virginia

Awards

2022	<i>Philosopher's Annual</i> selected "Hollow Truth" as one of the ten best articles in philosophy published in 2021.
2020	Fulbright Scholar. The grant was awarded to support a visiting appointment at the University of Oslo, Norway to pursue the project <i>Fundamental Things: Theory and Applications of Grounding</i> , Feb-May 2020
2013	Winner, Marc Sanders Prize in Metaphysics: The prize, an annual essay competition open to scholars who are within fifteen years of receiving a Ph.D. and students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program, was awarded for "Analyticity and Ontology".
2004	UCLA Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Assistant Dissertation Year Fellowship
2003	UCLA Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award
2002	UCLA Philosophy Department Yost Prize, for excellence in teaching
1995	University of Virginia Lewis B. Hammond Prize, for most outstanding graduating philosophy major

Book

Fundamental Things: Theory and Applications of Grounding, Oxford University Press, 2023.

Papers

- “Legal Grounds”, forthcoming in *Noûs*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nous.12553>.
- “Truthmaker Semantics, Ground, and Generality” (with Kit Fine). *Topoi*. 44(2): 297-304. May 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11245-024-10056-5>.
- “Approaches to the Impure Logic of Ground” (with Kit Fine). *Topoi*. 44(2):287-95. May 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11245-024-10064-5>
- “Abstraction and Grounding” (with Øystein Linnebo), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 109(1):357-90. July 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phpr.13036>.
- “A Semantic Framework for the Impure Logic of Ground.” *Journal of Philosophical Logic*. 53(2):463-91. April 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10992-023-09738-z>.
- “A Semantics for the Impure Logic of Ground” (with Kit Fine), *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 52(2):415-93. April 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10992-022-09676-2>.
- “Hollow Truth.” *Philosophical Review* 130(4):533-81. October 2021. Reprinted in Patrick Grim, Abdulwausay Ansari, Margot Witt, and Lianghua (Glenn) Zhou, eds., *Philosophers Annual*, vol. 41.
- “Anti-Skeptical Rejoinders” In Michael J. Raven, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Ground*. (Routledge) 180-93. 2020.
- “Grounding the Unreal.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* XCV(3):535-63. November 2017.
- “Stipulations and Requirements: Reply to Horden.” *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* 10:74-84. 2016.
- “Better Semantics for the Pure Logic of Ground.” *Analytic Philosophy*, 56(3): 229-52. September 2015.
- “Analyticity and Ontology.” *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* 9: 129-70. 2015.
- “On Weak Ground.” *Review of Symbolic Logic* 7(4): 713-44. December 2014.
- “Possible Worlds for Modal Primitivists.” *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 43(1):109-31. February 2014.
- “Grounding Explanations.” *Philosophers’ Imprint* 13(7):1-26. April 2013
- “No Free Lunch.” In Miguel Hoeltje, Benjamin Schnieder, and Alexander Steinberg, eds., *Varieties of Dependence: Ontological Dependence, Grounding, Supervenience, Response-Dependence*. (Munich: Philosophia Verlag) 243-70. 2013.
- “What is Weak Ground?” *Essays in Philosophy* 14(1):7-18. January 2013.
- “What is the Grounding Problem?” *Philosophical Studies* 156(2):173-197. November 2011.
- “Reference and Response.” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 89(1):19-36. March 2011.
- “Getting Priority Straight.” *Philosophical Studies* 149(1): 73-97. May 2010.
- “Production and Necessity.” *Philosophical Review* 118(2):153-81. April 2009.

“Prevention, Independence, and Origin.” with Guy Rohrbaugh, *Mind* 115(458):375-86. April 2006.

“A New Route to the Necessity of Origin.” with Guy Rohrbaugh. *Mind* 113(452): 705-25. October 2004.

Surveys and Reviews

“The Fruits of Phenomenalism: A Comment on Michael Pelczar’s *Phenomenalism*.” *Philosophia* 53(2):451-65. April 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-025-00843-8>

“What is Conservatism?” *Analysis*, 80(3):514-33. July 2020.

Review of Karen Bennett’s *Making Things Up*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, March 16, 2018.

<https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/making-things-up/>

“Modal Logic for Contingentists: A Comment on Timothy Williamson’s *Modal Logic as Metaphysics*.” *Analysis*, 76(2):155-72. April 2016.

Review of David Chalmers’s *Constructing the World*. *Philosophical Review*, 124(3):430-437. July 2015.

“Commentary on *On the Plurality of Worlds*.” *Humana.Mente* 19:137-150. December 2011.

“Possible Worlds I: Modal Realism.” *Philosophy Compass* 4(6):998-1008. 2009.

“Possible Worlds II: Nonreductive Theories of Possible Worlds.” *Philosophy Compass* 4(6):1009-1021. 2009.

Papers in Progress

“Truthmakers and Propositional Identity”

“Three Grades of Moral Involvement”

“Emergence from Ground”

“The Scrying Game”

“The Social Determinants of Reference, Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Metaphysics”

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

07/2024 “Three Grades of Moral Involvement”, presented at the International Social Ontology Conference, Durham, NC.

04/2024 “Legal Grounds”, presented at the Social Metaphysics Workshop at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

08/2023 “Legal Grounds”, presented at the International Social Ontology Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.

12/2015 “Grounding the Unreal”, presented at “The Metaphysics and Epistemology of Grounding”, at CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY.

9/2015 “Modal Logic for Contingentist Metaphysics”, presented at “Issues on the (Im)Possible III” in Bratislava, Slovakia.

- 4/2015 “The Scrying Game”, presented at the Pacific APA, Vancouver, BC.
- 3/2013 “Analyticity and Ontology”, presented at the Pacific APA, San Francisco, CA.
- 4/2011 “Grounding Explanations”, presented at the Pacific APA, San Diego, CA.
- 9/2010 “Grounding Explanations”, presented at the Because II conference, Berlin, Germany.
- 9/2009 “Overcoming Inconstancy”, presented at Phloxshop II: Modality, in Berlin, Germany
- 8/2009 “Getting Priority Straight”, presented at the Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA
- 2/2008 “What is the Grounding Problem?”, presented at the Eidos Centre for Metaphysics “Because” conference, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Selected Invited Presentations

- 07/2025 “Truthmakers and Propositional Identity”, presented to a conference on Truthmakers at Central European University in Vienna, Austria.
- 06/2025 Symposium on *Fundamental Things* at the Università degli Studi dell’Aquila, in L’Aquila, Italy.
- 05/2025 “The Social Determinants of Reference, Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Metaphysics”, presented at Metaphysical Mayhem, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 09/2024 “What Makes Strong Emergentism Strong?”, presented at “Approaches to Fundamentality”, at the University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.
- 01/2024 Author Meets Critics: *Fundamental Things* at the Eastern APA, New York, NY.
- 04/2023 “Hollow Truth,” presented to the Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research (VICTR).
- 3/2020 “The Social Determinants of Reference”, presented at the University of Oslo, Norway.
- 1/2020 Comments on Kathrin Koslicki’s *Form, Matter, Substance* at an author-meets-critics session at the Eastern APA.
- 10/2019 “Hollow Truth,” presented at NYU, New York, NY.
- 7/2019 “The Theory of Menus and the Impure Logic of Ground,” presented at a conference on truthmaker semantics, Hamburg, Germany.
- 4/2019 “Truthmaker Semantics for the Impure Logic of Ground,” presented at a workshop on truthmaker semantics at NYU, New York, NY.
- 9/2018 “The Nonreductivist’s Trouble with Metaphysical Explanation,” presented at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

- 5/2018 “Rejoinders to Skepticism about Grounding,” presented at a workshop on metaphysical ground at Hamburg University, Hamburg, Germany.
- 3/2018 “What Makes Strong Emergentism Strong?”, presented at the Pacific APA, San Diego, CA.
- 11/2017-3/2018 “Scepticism about Grounding”, presented at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON; the University of Wisconsin, Madison WI; Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA; and the University of Richmond.
- 3/2017 “The Metaphysical Transparency of Truth”, presented at a workshop on truth in Glasgow, Scotland.
- 3/2017 Comment on Andrew Bacon’s “Is Reality Fundamentally Qualitative?”, presented at “Metaphysics on the Mountain”, Sun Valley, Idaho.
- 1/2017 “The Metaphysical Transparency of Truth”, presented to the Jowett Society, Oxford University, UK.
- 1/2017 “What we talk about when we talk about grounding: A comment on Jessica Wilson’s ‘Grounding-Based Articulations of Physicalism’”, presented to the SOFIA XXI conference on grounding, Huatulco, Mexico.
- 5/2016 “The Metaphysical Transparency of Truth”, presented at a workshop on ground and normativity at the University of Texas at Austin.
- 10/2013-2/2015 “Grounding the Unreal”, presented at a workshop on fundamentality at the University of Birmingham, UK, “Metaphysics on the Mountain”, Sun Valley, Idaho, a workshop on the logic of ground at CSMN, Oslo, Norway, and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- 6/2014 “Infinite Descent and the Razor”, presented at a workshop on ground and infinite descent in Helsinki, Finland.
- 5/2013 - 8/2013 “Better Semantics for the Pure Logic of Ground”, presented at Leeds University and at a conference on the Philosophy of Kit Fine, sponsored by the Eidos Centre for Metaphysics at the University of Geneva, and held at Varano Borghi, Italy.
- 5/2013 “Reference Switch and Bad Dubbings”, presented at a King’s College London workshop entitled, “Individuating Names and Determining Reference”.
- 5/2012 “Analyticity, Art, and Ontology”, presented at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; and at the Art and Metaphysics conference, Lingnan University, Hong Kong.
- 4/2011 Comments on Kathrin Koslicki’s “Existential Dependence”, presented at the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference 2011: “Aristotelian Themes in Contemporary Metaphysics,” Boise, ID.
- 11/2009 “Getting Priority Straight”, presented at the University of Toronto
- 11/2007 “Reference and Response”, presented at Northwestern University
- 09/2007 “What is the Grounding Problem?”, presented at McGill University

03/2007

“Reference and Response”, presented at the University of Virginia and Brown University

Service

- Member**, Faculty Senate Professional Standards Committee (Sept 2024-present).
- Member**, Catamount Core Curriculum Committee (Spring 2024).
- Member at Large**, UVM Faculty Senate Executive Council (2022-2024).
- Committee Member** for Taylor-Grey Miller’s dissertation, *Topics in the Theory of Essence*, University of Texas at Austin, defended April 2022.
- External Examiner** for Adam Murray’s dissertation, *Perspectives on Modal Metaphysics*, University of Toronto, defended August 2017.
- Referee** for the Sanders Prize in Metaphysics (2015,2020), Oxford University Press, Blackwell Publishers, *Acta Analytica*, *American Journal of Philosophy*, *Analytic Philosophy*, *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, the 2017 Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Ethics*, the Fulbright Foundation (2024, 2025), the Israeli Science Foundation (2022,2024), the *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Manuscrito*, *Mind*, the National Endowment for the Humanities, *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophers’ Imprint*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission, *Review of Symbolic Logic*, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, *Topics in Contemporary Philosophy*, and *Topoi*.
- Faculty Senator** for the UVM Philosophy Department, September 2018-May 2024.
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer** for eight universities (2016,2018,2019,2020,2021,2023, 2024).
- Member**, UVM College of Arts and Sciences Academic Planning and Budget Committee, September 2014-17.
- Member**, ad hoc committee charged with revising the College mission statement. September-December 2012.
- Member**, UVM College of Arts and Sciences Nominations and Elections Committee, January 2010-January 2012.
- Chair and Member**, UVM Philosophy Department RPT Guideline Revision Committee, April – October 2011.
- Member**, UVM Philosophy Department Hiring Committee, September 2013-March 2014, September 2010-March 2011, September 2006-April 2007, September 2005-March 2006.
- Organizer**, UVM Philosophy Summer Reading Group, Summer 2011, Summer 2010, Summer 2009, Summer 2008.
- Member**, UVM Philosophy Department Chair Search Committee, November 2009-January 2010.
- Member**, UVM Faculty Senate Financial and Physical Planning Committee, September 2006-May 2009.

Grants and Fellowships

- Fulbright Scholar, visiting the University of Oslo, Norway to pursue the project *Fundamental Things: Theory and Applications of Grounding*, Feb-May 2020.
- Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Consciousness, Research School of the Social Sciences, Australian National University: a 6-week residency at the Centre. Awarded October 2011.
- Lattie F. Coor International Travel Grant: A \$500 grant to support travel expenses for presenting “The Metaphysical Transparency of Truth” to the Jowett Society at Oxford University. Awarded January 2016.
- Lattie F. Coor International Travel Grant: A \$500 grant to support travel expenses for presenting “Analyticity, Art, and Ontology” at the Art and Metaphysics conference at Lingnan University in Hong Kong. Awarded November 2011.
- Lattie F. Coor International Travel Grant: A \$500 grant to support travel expenses for presenting “Grounding Explanations” at the Because II conference at Humboldt Universität in Berlin, Germany. Awarded August 2010.