

# Erica Shumener

## *curriculum vitae*

Syracuse University  
Department of Philosophy  
541 Hall of Languages  
Syracuse, NY 15260 U.S.A.

Phone: 323-244-9912  
Email: [eshumene@syr.edu](mailto:eshumene@syr.edu)  
url: [www.ericashumener.net](http://www.ericashumener.net)

### Areas of specialization

Metaphysics

### Areas of competence

Philosophy of Science (general)

### Appointments

- 2022– Assistant Professor, Syracuse University  
2015–2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh  
2015–2022 Resident Fellow, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh  
2018–2022 Associate Director, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh  
2018–2022 Secondary Appointment, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Philosophy of Science  
Sp 2019 Visiting Faculty Member, Rutgers University  
2019–20 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

### Education

- 2016 Ph.D. in Philosophy, New York University. Dissertation Title: *Identity, Intrinsicity, and Laws of Nature*. Dissertation Committee: David Chalmers, Kit Fine (chair), Ted Sider.  
Fall 2011 Visiting Student, Cornell University  
Win 2011 & Sum 2009 Visiting Student, Australian National University.  
2008 B.A. *Summa Cum Laude* in Philosophy (with highest honors) and History, New York University

### Papers

- 2022 “The Power to Govern”, *Philosophical Perspectives*  
2022 “Intrinsicity and Determinacy”, *Philosophical Studies*  
2021 “Humeans are out of this World”, *Synthese*  
2021 “Do Identity and Distinctness Facts Threaten the PSR?”, *Philosophical Studies*  
2020 “Identity” in the *Routledge Handbook on Ground*  
2020 “Explaining Identity and Distinctness” *Philosophical Studies*  
2019 “Building and Surveying: Relative Fundamentality in Bennett’s *Making Things Up*,” *Analysis*  
2017 “Laws of Nature, Explanation, and Semantic Circularity,” *The British Journal for Philosophy of Science* (Editor’s Choice)  
2017 “The Metaphysics of Identity,” *Philosophy Compass*

### (Short) Book

- 2022 *Identity* a volume for the *Cambridge Elements Series*, Cambridge University Press

Fellowships, grants, honors, etc.

- 2023-4 Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship, Syracuse University  
 2019–20 Beca Postdoctoral, IIFs UNAM  
 2014-15 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship  
 2012-13 Graduate Student Fellow, New York Institute of Philosophy: Foundations of Epistemology  
 2010 New York University Travel Grant  
 2008-13 MacCracken Dissertation Fellowship, New York University  
 2008 elected *Phi Beta Kappa*  
 2007 Salomonowitz Memorial Prize, awarded by the New York University Philosophy Department (one recipient per year)  
 2007 John W. Wilkes Memorial Prize, awarded by the New York University History Department

Presentations

- 2023 “Comments on LeBrun’s ‘No Science without Composites.’” Pacific APA  
 2023 “The Governing Conception of Physicalism”, Princeton University Metaphysics Conference  
 2023 “Distinctness Near and Far”, Syracuse University Graduate Conference  
 2022 “Physicalism as a Nomic Thesis”, Cape Cod Workshop  
 2022 “Physicalism as a Nomic Thesis”, Umea University (Research Seminar Series)  
 2022 “Powerful Explanations”, Central APA Symposium on Laws and Dispositions  
 2021 “Physicalism as a Nomic Thesis”, University of Geneva (Reading Group)  
 2021 “Physicalism as a Nomic Thesis”, University of Massachusetts-Amherst (Colloquium)  
 2021 “Qua-Relations”, Central APA Symposium on Relations  
 2021 “The Power to Govern”, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh  
 2020 “The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far”, University of Indiana-Bloomington, (Metaphysics Meetup)  
 2020 “Are the Laws of Nature Intrinsic to the Universe?”, Simon Fraser University (Workshop on Causation, Modality, and Explanation )  
 2020 “A Problem with Identity” Syracuse University (Colloquium)  
 2020 “The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far”, Texas Tech (Colloquium)  
 2020 “The Distinctness of Objects Near and Far”, Speaker Series at UNAM  
 2019 Commentary on Oscar Monroy’s “Truth is not Enough”, UNAM  
 2019 “Governance and Necessitation”, FRAMEphys Workshop on Laws of Nature and Grounding, University of Birmingham  
 2019 Commentary on Harjit Bhogal’s “Induction and the Glue of the World”, Humean Laws Workshop, Harvard University  
 2019 “A Problem with Identity”, University of Maryland, College Park (colloquium)  
 2019 “Governance with only Necessitation”, Pacific APA Metaphysics of Science Group  
 2019 “A Problem with Identity”, Diaphora Conference on Philosophical Methodology, University of Barcelona
- 2018 Commentary on Trenton Merricks’ “Identity and What Matters”, 2018 New England Workshop on Metaphysics  
 2018 Commentary on Agustín Rayo’s “The Open-Endedness of Logical Space”, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Colloquium  
 2018 “Properties, Facts, and Object-Identity”, Objects and Properties: Generating Dialogue, University of Cambridge  
 2018 “Grounding and Identity”, Hamburg Workshop on Ground, PHLOX
- 2018 “Explaining Identity and Distinctness”.  
 April 2018 Conference on the Principle of Sufficient Reason, Simon Fraser University  
 March 2018 Philosophy Mountain Workshop, Telluride, Colorado
- 2017 “Against Fundamental Identity and Distinctness”, Conference on Personal Identity, Paros, Greece
- 2017 Commentary on Chris Dorst’s “Why are the Laws so Useful?” CU Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Colorado Boulder.

- 2017 Commentary on Marianna Antonutti Marfori's "Indirect Mathematical Naturalism" Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
- 2017 Commentary on Rebecca Chan's "Ethics-First Metaphysics" Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
- 2017 "A Minimal Account of Governance" Iris Einheuser Memorial Lecture, Duke University
- 2017 "A Minimal Account of Governance" SPAWN workshop, Syracuse University
- 2017 "A Minimal Account of Governance" Junior Metaphysics Workshop, Virginia Tech
- 2017 "Physicalism without Ground" Pre-Tenure Workshop for Women in Philosophy, University of Utah
- 2017 "Physicalism without Ground" Ranch Metaphysics Workshop
- 2017 "Commentary on Jonathan Schaffer's 'The World for Explanation' " Sociedad Filos6fica Ibero Americana (SOFIA) XXI Conference
- 2016 "Physicalism without Ground" Grounding and Consciousness Conference University of Birmingham
- 2016 "Intrinsicity, Grounding, and Parthood" Workshop on the Metaphysics of Ground University of Texas at Austin
- 2016 "Commentary on Ted Sider's 'Object-Free Ontology'", American Philosophical Association Meeting, Central Division
- 2015 "Hempel, Explanation and Circularity" University of Toronto M &E Group  
Hempel and Beyond Workshop, University of Cologne
- 2015 "Commentary on Jon Litland's "Bicollective Ground" American Philosophical Association Meeting, Pacific Division
- 2015 "Silliness, Loneliness, and Intrinsicity" University of Notre Dame  
University of Pittsburgh  
Northern Illinois University  
Yale University
- 2014 "Explaining Identity and Distinctness" Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University
- 2014 "Grounding Questions" Recent Work on the Logic of Ground Workshop, University of Oslo
- 2013 "How the Laws of Nature Govern" Women in Metaphysics Retreat and Workshop (supported by the Princeton, Rutgers, and NYU philosophy departments)
- 2012 Commentary on Ryan Perkins' "Of Grounding and Explanation" 12th Annual Columbia-NYU Philosophy Conference, New York University
- 2011 "Truthmaking: Problems with the Monistic Approach" Australian National University, Kioloa Postgraduate Conference.
- 2011 "Exploring Hyperintensional Approaches to Intrinsicity" Australian National University Philosophy Society Seminar.
- 2010 Commentary on Karen Bennett's "Construction Area (No Hard Hat Required)" Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University

Teaching*Undergraduate*

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| S23          | Critical Thinking (Syracuse)                  |
| S23          | Introduction to Philosophy Honors (Syracuse)  |
| S21          | 20th Century Analytic Philosophy (Pitt)       |
| S17, S18 F18 | Freedom and Determinism (Pitt)                |
| S18, F21     | Introduction to Philosophical Problems (Pitt) |
| F16, F17     | Metaphysics (Pitt)                            |
| F15, F16     | Concepts of Human Nature (Pitt)               |
| S14          | Introductory Logic (NYU)                      |
| Sum13        | Epistemology (NYU)                            |
| Sum12        | Central Problems in Philosophy (NYU)          |

*Graduate*

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| F22      | The Metaphysics of Material Constitution (Syracuse)        |
| F21      | Personal Identity (co-taught with Jennifer Whiting) (Pitt) |
| S21      | Metaphysics and Time-Biases (Pitt)                         |
| F20, S22 | Metaphysics and Epistemology Core Proseminar (Pitt)        |
| F17      | Laws of Nature (Pitt)                                      |
| S17      | The Metaphysics of Relations (Pitt)                        |
| S16      | Metaphysics Seminar: Explanation and Fundamentality (Pitt) |

## Miscellaneous

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sum 2018,<br>21 | “Laws of Nature”, Pittsburgh Summer Program 2: A Summer Program in Philosophy of Science for Underrepresented Groups |
|-----------------|--|

Supervising (all at Pitt)*Graduate*

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2017-?      | Prospectus/Dissertation Committee member for Annika Froese, Daniel Kaplan, Leona Mollica, Travis McKenna, Willy Penn, and Rachael Driver.                               |
| Fall 2016-? | Comprehensive examination committee member for Rachael Driver, Jason Kay, Leona Mollica, Travis McKenna, Annika Froese, Sophia Arbeiter, Beishi Hao, and Alnica Visser. |
| 2016-?      | Teaching Mentor for Jasmin Özel, Maximillion Tegtmeier, Alnica Visser, Shivam Patel, Elena Garadja  |

*Undergraduate*

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Sum 2017 | Advisor to Jennifer Liu, “Scaling from Micro to Macro: Philosophical Investigations of the Living Through Art”, Brackenridge Summer Fellowship |
|----------|--|

Department and Professional Service

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2023         | SPAWN Co-organizer, Syracuse University  |
| 2023         | ABD Workshop Coordinator, Syracuse University  |
| 2021-2       | Pitt Director of Graduate Admissions   |
| 2021         | Pitt Horowitz Award Committee  |
| 2020-1       | Pitt Placement Director  |
| 2020         | Shut Up and Write, UNAM  |
| 2019         | Workshop Organizer, MAWM ( <i>Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics</i> ) at the University of Pittsburgh |
| 18-19, 16-17 | Faculty Liaison, Pitt Graduate Student-Faculty Liaison Committee   |
| 2018-19      | Member, Pitt Faculty Search Committee  |
| 2018         | Member, Pitt Department Chair Nomination Committee   |

- 2017-18 Co-Director, Pitt Graduate Admissions Committee  
 17-19, 15-16 Member, Pitt Colloquium Committee  
 Fall 2017 Leader, *Shut Up and Write*, Pitt Philosophy  
 2016-18 Faculty Ambassador, Pitt Undergraduate Philosophy Club  
 2016-17 Scribe, Pitt Graduate Admissions Committee  
 2016-?? Planning Committee, *Midwest Annual Metaphysics Workshop*  
 2015 Co-organizer (with Zee R. Perry), Workshop on the Metaphysics of Quantity at NYU  
 2012 Assistant Organizer, *California Metaphysics Conference at USC*  
 2012-13 Member, NYU Colloquium Committee  
 2010-12 Co-organizer, *NYU Metaphysics Bootcamp Workshop*  
 2009-10 Member, NYU Committee on Women and Minority Hiring  
 2009 Co-organizer, *9th Annual NYU-Columbia University Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy*
- ongoing Referee for: *Analysis*, *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *BjPS*, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *Inquiry*, *Journal of the APA*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Metaphysics*, *Nous*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Res Philosophica*, *Synthese*, *Thought* (editorial panel member: 2015-18)

### References

David Chalmers  
 New York University  
[chalmers@nyu.edu](mailto:chalmers@nyu.edu)  
 (212) 998-8227

Ned Markosian  
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
[markosian@umass.edu](mailto:markosian@umass.edu)  
 (413) 545-2330

Katrina Elliott (teaching)  
 University of California Los Angeles  
[kelliott@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:kelliott@humnet.ucla.edu)  
 (310) 825-6383

Phillip Mitsis (teaching)  
 New York University  
[phillip.mitsis@nyu.edu](mailto:phillip.mitsis@nyu.edu)  
 (212) 998-8599

Kit Fine  
 New York University  
[kit.fine@nyu.edu](mailto:kit.fine@nyu.edu)  
 (212) 998-3558

Ted Sider  
 Rutgers University  
[sider@rutgers.edu](mailto:sider@rutgers.edu)  
 (848) 932-9861