

Michael J Raven

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RESEARCH AREAS

SPECIALIZATION Metaphysics (ground, essence, fundamentality, modality, social metaphysics)

COMPETENCE Philosophy of Logic; Philosophy of Language; Philosophy of Mind; Epistemology

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor | [Philosophy, University of Victoria](#) 2021—

Affiliate Professor | [Philosophy, University of Washington](#) 2018—

Visiting Affiliate Professor | [Philosophy, New York University](#) 2025-2026

Associate Professor | [Philosophy, University of Victoria](#) 2013—2021

Visiting Scholar | [Philosophy, University of Washington](#) 2016-2017, 2012-2013

Assistant Professor | [Philosophy, University of Victoria](#) 2009-2013

Instructor | [Philosophy, New York University](#) 2008-2009

EDUCATION

PHD, [Philosophy, New York University](#) 2009 | Kit Fine (chair), Ted Sider, Crispin Wright

MA, [Philosophy, New York University](#) 2007 | Ned Block (adviser)

BA, [Philosophy, Reed College](#) 2002 | Mark Hinchliff (adviser)

GRANTS

Project Grant (1,111,617 CHF) | Swiss National Science Foundation 2023-2027

[**project partner**; principal investigators: Olivier Massin and Kathrin Koslicki 2021-2025]

Insight Grant (\$152,589) | Social Science & Humanities Research Council 2018-2025

[**principal investigator**: 2021-2025, collaborator: 2018-2020; co-applicant with Kathrin Koslicki]

Connection Grant (\$15,640) | Social Science & Humanities Research Council 2020

Connection Grant (\$15,965) | Social Science & Humanities Research Council 2018

Internal Research Grants (\$29,428 total) | University of Victoria 2010-2014, 2016, 2020

Conference Grant (\$2000 - declined) | Canadian Journal of Philosophy 2014

Scholarly Travel Grants (\$16,850 total) | University of Victoria 2011-2024

Learning & Teaching Development Grant (\$7500) | University of Victoria 2010

Standard Research Grant (\$52,039) | Social Science & Humanities Research Council 2011

[**collaborator**; principal investigator: James Young]

AWARDS & HONORS

Humanities Faculty Fellowship | University of Victoria 2020
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award | New York University 2009
Graduate Forum Fellow | New York University 2007-2008
Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship (tuition/stipend) | New York University 2003-2008
Dean's Supplementary Fellowship (\$1000) | New York University 2003
Humanistic Studies Fellowship (\$17,500) | Mellon Foundation 2003
Phi Beta Kappa Society 2002
Edwin N. Garlan Memorial Prize in Philosophy | Reed College 2002
Commendation for Academic Excellence | Reed College 1998-2002
Chase Youth Award for Entrepreneurship 1998
Xerox Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences 1998
Spokane Scholars Award: 1st Excellence in Social Sciences 1998
Phi Delta Kappa Grant for Prospective Educators 1998
Elks National Foundation "Most Valuable Student" Award 1998
Washington State Honors Award 1998
Washington State Principal's Scholars Award 1998
National Merit Scholarship Finalist 1998

SCHOLARLY IMPACT

philpeople.org | publication volume = **78th pctl** (92nd pctl $\leq$ 5 years); citations = **top 4%** (top 2% $\leq$ 5 years)
[Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com) | citations = **1074**, h-index = **12**, i10-index = **14**
Erdős number = 3 (Erdős→Pomerance→Crandall→Raven)

BOOK

45 • ***In Light of the Circumstances***. Oxford: Oxford University Press (under contract).

TEXT BOOK

44 • ***Form: Introducing Formal Logic***. Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license (2025).

EDITED VOLUMES

- 43 • ***The Routledge Handbook of Essence in Philosophy***, w/K. Koslicki. New York: Routledge (2024).
42 • ***The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding***. New York: Routledge (2020).

ARTICLES

- 41 • **"Dynamics of Artefacts"**, *Mind* (forthcoming).
40 • **"Physicalism and its Challenges in Social Ontology"** in S. Collins, B. Epstein, S. Haslanger & H. B. Schmid (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Social Ontology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).
39 • **"What Physicalism Could Be"**, *Analytic Philosophy* (forthcoming).

- 38 • **"Introduction"** in K. Koslicki and M. Raven (ed.), [*The Routledge Handbook of Essence in Philosophy*](#). New York: Routledge (2024).
- 37 • **"Etic Theorizing Unanchored"**, *Journal of Social Ontology*, 10.1 (2024): 87-99.
- 36 • **"Universals are Not Immanent and Constructors"**, *Disputatio*, XV.70 (2023): 322-327.
- 35 • **"The Bases of Truths"**, *Philosophical Studies* 180 (2023): 2153-2174.
- 34 • **"A Problem for Immanent Universals in States of Affairs"**, *American Philosophical Quarterly* 59.1 (2022): 1-9.
- 33 • **"A Puzzle for Social Essences"**, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 8.1 (2022): 128-148.
- 32 • **"Explaining Essences"**, *Philosophical Studies* 178 (2021): 1043-1064.
- 31 • **"Is Logic Out of this World?"**, *The Journal of Philosophy* 117.10 (2020): 557-577.
- 30 • **"Introduction"** in M. Raven (ed.), [*The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding*](#). New York: Routledge (2020).
- 29 • **"Hylomorphism without Forms? A Critical Notice of Simon Evnine's *Making Objects and Events*"**, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 49.5 (2019): 652-669.
- 28 • **"(Re)discovering Ground"** in K. Becker & I.D. Thomson (eds.), [*Cambridge History of Philosophy, 1945 to 2015*](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2019).
- 27 • **"New Work for a Theory of Ground"**, *Inquiry* 60.6 (2017): 625-655.
- 26 • **"Against the Semantic Orientation towards Aesthetic Judgements"** in J. Young (ed.), [*Semantics of Aesthetic Judgement*](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press (2017).
- 25 • **"Fundamentality without Foundations"**, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93.3 (2016): 607-626.
- 24 • **"Ground"**, *Philosophy Compass* 10.5 (2015): 322-333.
- 23 • **"Is Ground a Strict Partial Order?"**, *American Philosophical Quarterly* 50.2 (2013): 191-199.
- 22 • **"Subjectivism is Pointless"**, *Logos & Episteme* 4.1 (2013): 733-748.
- 21 • **"Is Lewis's Mixed Theory Mixed Up?"**, *Theoria* 79.1 (2013): 57-75.
- 20 • **"In Defence of Ground"**, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 90.4 (2012): 687-701.
- 19 • **"Attesting the Aristotelian Future"**, *Philosophia* 39.4 (2011): 751-757.
- 18 • **"Can Time Pass at the Rate of 1 Second per Second?"**, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 89.3 (2011): 459-465.
- 17 • **"There is a Problem of Change"**, *Philosophical Studies* 155.1 (2011): 23-35.
- 16 • **"Cryptographic Hash Functions Based on Artificial Life"**, w/M.A. Bedau & R. Crandall. PSIPRESS (2010).
- 15 • **"Problems for Testimonial Acquaintance"**, *Noûs* 42.4 (2008): 727-745.
- 14 • **"A General Framework for Evolutionary Activity Statistics"**, w/M.A. Bedau, in W. Banzhaf, et al. (eds.), *Advances in Artificial Life – ECAL 2003*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag (2003).
- 13 • **"Collective Intelligence of the Artificial Life Community on its Own Successes, Failures, and the Future"**, w/S. Rasmussen, G.N. Keating & M.A. Bedau, *Artificial Life* 9 (2003): 207-235.
- 12 • **"Visualizing Adaptive Evolutionary Activity of Allele Types and of Phenotypic Equivalence Classes of Alleles"**, w/M.A. Bedau, in E. Bilotta, et al. (eds.), *ALife VIII Workshops*. Sydney (2002).

REVIEWS

- 11 • [T. Sattig](#), [The Double Lives of Objects](#), *Philosophical Review* 127.1 (2018): 140-144.
- 10 • [F. Correia & B. Schnieder](#) (eds.), [Metaphysical Grounding: Understanding the Structure of Reality](#), *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2013).
- 9 • [D. Chalmers, D. Manley & R. Wasserman](#) (eds.), [Metametaphysics: New Essays on the Foundations of Ontology](#), *Philosophy in Review* 30.3 (2010).

OTHER (ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, LAB REPORTS)

- 8 • [“Kit Fine”](#), *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2020).
- 7 • [“The Essential Glossary of Ground”](#), w/K. Fine, in M. Raven (ed.), [The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding](#), New York: Routledge (2020).
- 6 • [“Metaphysical Grounding”](#), in D. Pritchard (ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Philosophy*, New York: Oxford University Press (2019).
- 5 • [“Ontology”](#) and [“Substance”](#) in J. Lachs & R. Talisse (eds.), [American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia](#), New York: Routledge (2007).
- 4 • [“Consensus-building Tools for Post-wildfire Geographical Information System \(GIS\) Design”](#), w/G. N. Keating & S. Rasmussen. LANL License No. LA-13894-MS (2002).
- 3 • [“Use of Web-based Consensus Building and Conflict Clarification Process for the Navajo Nation Governmental Efficiency Evaluation”](#), w/G. N. Keating, S. Rasmussen, E. Tso, J. Cocq & P. Dotson. *Appendix to ETD Environmental Consulting, Report of the Navajo Nation Council Evaluation*. LANL Report LA-UR-01-6207 (2001).
- 2 • [“Web-based Consensus Building and Conflict Clarification Tool for EES Division’s Strategic Planning Process”](#), w/G. N. Keating & S. Rasmussen. LANL License No. LA-UR-02-3830 (2001).
- 1 • [“Kit Fine”](#), *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2020).

PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTARIES, AND PANELS (78)

- [“Grounding Explanations: Worldly, Unworldly, and Both?”](#), 2025: University of Manitoba, Grounding and Truthmaking Workshop
- comments:* [Emilie Pagano’s “Being Social, Being Socially Constructed, and Being Fundamental Relative to Social Reality”](#), 2025: Knowledge in Crisis Social Metaphysics Workshop
- 6 talks on *In Light of the Circumstances* ([“Introduction”](#), [“Ground”](#), [“Essence”](#), [“Modality”](#), [“Artifacts”](#), [“Social Metaphysics”](#)), 2025: Keynote Speaker at the [Neuchâtel Workshop on Contemporary Metaphysics: Truth, Worlds, and Circumstances](#)
- [“The Dynamics of Artifacts”](#), 2025: University of Parma, Mind-Dependence Workshop; 2024: National University of Singapore, Pomona College; 2022: Keynote Address of the Northwest Philosophy Conference, The IXth Triennial Conference of the Society for Analytic Philosophy
- comments:* [Louis deRosset’s “Legal Grounds”](#), 2024: Social Metaphysics Workshop
- comments:* [Samuele Chilovi’s “Anchoring, Grounding, and Explanatory Laws”](#), 2023: Social Metaphysics Workshop
- [“Is Physicalism Possible?”](#), 2023: The National Autonomous University of Mexico; 2021: University of Manitoba, Northwest Philosophy Conference
- [“The Social Basis”](#), 2023: Eastern APA; 2022: Social Ontology/Collective Intentionality
- [“Social Kind Essences and Amelioration: Comments on Mason and Passinsky”](#), 2023: Eastern APA

comments: Aaron Griffith's "A Truthmaking Account of Social Construction", 2022: Social Metaphysics Workshop

comments: Deke Gould's "Possibilities and Propositions: Concrete Modal Realism, Platonism, and Similarity", 2021: Northwest Philosophy Conference

comments: Mark Hinchliff's "Truth in Fiction—A Sequel", 2021: Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference

Panelist: Kit Fine's "What is Truthmaker Semantics?", 2020: Peking University Mathematical Philosophy

"Re-evaluating Social Essences", 2020: Humanities Faculty Fellowship Lecture

"A Puzzle for Social Essences", 2020: Social Metaphysics Workshop, Union College; 2018: Social Ontology

comments: Justin Clarke-Doane's Mathematics and Morality, 2019: Canadian Philosophical Association Conference

comments: Wes Simcoe's "Grounding and A Priori Epistemology", 2019: Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference

"A Problem for Immanent Universals in States of Affairs", 2018: Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)Possible VI

comments: Moritz Baron's "Can Williamson's Counterfactual-based Epistemology of Modality Explain our Knowledge of Mathematical Necessity?", 2018: Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)Possible VI

comments: Martin Glazier's "The Standpoint Challenge to the PSR", 2018: Principle of Sufficient Reason: Then and Now

"Hylomorphism without Forms? On Simon Evnine's Making Objects and Events", 2018: Author-Meets-Critic, Eastern APA

comments: Justin Zylstra's "Essence and Grounding Connections", 2017: Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference

comments: Bob Beddor's & Simon Goldstein's "Believing Epistemic Contradictions", 2017: Formal Epistemology Workshop

comments: Dana Goswick's "Hylomorphism Without Primitive Modality", 2017: Canadian Metaphysics Collaborative 1st Annual Conference

comments: Jessica Wilson's "Grounding-based Formulations of Physicalism", 2017: 21st SOFIA Conference

"Deriving Ought from Is", 2016: University of Washington PhilLunch Series

"Challenges of Teaching Metaphysics", 2016: Situating Core Analytic Philosophy within the Liberal Arts Curriculum Workshop

comments: Nina Emery's "Against Radical Quantum Ontologies", 2016: Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference

comments: David Kovacs's "Priority Monism and the Notion of Dependence", 2016: Central APA

"Taking to be as Making to be", 2015: LOGOS, University of Barcelona, Artifacts and Metaphysical Explanation

"Expressing the Truth, Describing the World", 2015: Truth and Grounds Conference (eidos), Simon Fraser University; 2014: University of Alberta

"Fundamentality without Foundations", 2015: Institut Jean Nicod, Northwest Philosophy Conference; 2013: Reed College, eidos Workshop in Metaphysics and Mathematics, Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney

comments: Tom Donaldson's "The Grounding of Arithmetic", 2015: Pacific APA

comments: **Sean Crawford’s “Propositions and the Multiple Relation Theory of Belief: Wittgenstein and Russell Reconciled”**, 2014: Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference

“Vindicating Testimonial Acquaintance”, 2013: Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Pacific APA; 2011: Northwest Philosophy Conference

“Is Ground a Strict Partial Order?”, 2013: Pacific APA

“Aesthetic Relativisms and Realities”, 2012: Aesthetic Judgment Workshop

“Reintroducing Fundamental and Derivative”, 2012: University of St. Andrews, University of Edinburgh

“Science Cannot Disprove (or Prove) Free Will”, 2012: University of Victoria Philosophy vs. Psychology Debate

comments: **Kenneth Vernon’s “The Normativity of Truth”**, 2011: Northwest Philosophy Conference

“Avoiding Incoherence in Ontology”, 2011: Vienna Forum for Analytic Philosophy, Beijing Normal University

comments: **Michael Hick’s “Know-who and Testimony Mediated Acquaintance”**, 2011: Pacific APA

“There is a Problem of Change”, 2010: Keynote Address of the Western Canadian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

“Ontology, from a Fundamentalist Point of View”, 2009: Vancouver Island University, University of Victoria; 2008: New York University Graduate Forum

“Is Quantifier Variance Metaphysically Relevant?”, 2009: Rhodes College, Arché/CSMN Graduate Conference; 2008: UC Davis Graduate Conference

ADVISING

POSTDOCTORAL SUPERVISOR	Emilie Pagano, “Essence of Anti-Essentialism” Postdoctoral Fellow 2023—2024
PHD CO-SUPERVISOR	Britney Hugh, PhD, University of Washington 2023— Kyle O’Dwyer, PhD, University of Washington 2022—2025 Thomas Oberle, PhD, University of Alberta 2020—2024
MA SUPERVISOR	William Arrett, MA, University of Victoria 2020 Pat Reilly, MA, University of Victoria 2019 Carolyn Garland, MA, University of Victoria 2014
COMMITTEE (NON-SUPERVISOR)	Devon Sowden, MA, University of Victoria 2024 Andrew Park, MA, University of Victoria 2014 Adrienne Canning, MA, University of Victoria 2013 Soroush Moghaddam, MA, University of Victoria 2013
EXTERNAL EXAMINER	Julio Brotero de Rizzo, PhD, University of Hamburg 2019 James Norton, PhD, University of Sydney 2017 Justin Zylstra, PhD, University of Alberta 2016
MENTOR	Ryan Miller, International Social Ontology Society Mentor 2023 Alec Sault, Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award 2019-2020

TEACHING

GRADUATE COURSES	Nonfundamental Metaphysics; Based & Baseless Truths; Language & Attitude Problems; Definition & Essence; Naïve Metaphysics; Modality & Essence; Metaphysical Explanation; Reference & Existence; Metametaphysics; Meaning; Pro-seminar; Time, Tense, Change & Persistence; Directed Studies
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES	Introduction to Philosophy; Metaphysics, History of Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Language; Logic; Philosophy of Mathematics; Belief, Truth & Knowledge; Philosophy of Mind; History of Ancient Philosophy
ASSISTANCE	Central Problems of Philosophy; Ethics; History of Modern Philosophy; Metaphysics

SERVICE

ADMIN	Co-Founder & Steering Committee Metaphysics Collaborative 2015— Graduate Adviser University of Victoria 2023—2025, 2014 Graduate Coordinator University of Victoria 2011-2016, 2018—2023
EDITORIAL	Co-Editor-in-Chief Metaphysics 2016— Editorial Panel <i>Thought: A Journal of Philosophy</i> 2020— Co-Section Editor “Essence”, philpapers.org 2019—
MENTORING	Mentor International Social Ontology Society 2022—
COMMITTEE	HUMS Grants Board University of Victoria 2020— Committee on Committees University of Victoria 2015-2016 Colloquium Committee University of Victoria 2013-2016, 2017— Curriculum Committee University of Victoria 2010-2012 Admissions Committee University of Victoria 2009— Hiring Committee University of Victoria 2010, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019
EVENTS	Program Committee Pacific APA 2015-2018, 2021-2024 Co-organizer Epistemology of Essence Workshop 2021 Organizer Re-evaluating Social Essences Workshop 2021 Co-organizer Language and Essence Workshop 2018 Metaphysics Coordinator Canadian Philosophical Association 2012-2013 Co-organizer Columbia/NYU Graduate Philosophy Conference 2003-2004 Chair Metaphysics on the Mountain 2020; Canadian Metaphysics Collaborative 2019; Pacific APA 2019; Vancouver Summer Philosophy 2017; Metaphysics on the Mountain 2014; Eastern APA 2013; Bellingham Summer Philosophy 2010
SOCIETIES	Regular Member American Philosophical Association
OUTREACH	Contributor Wi-Phi: Open Access Philosophy
CONSULTING	Masters Capital Management, L.L.C. 2006-2007
REFeree	Journals (×93) <i>Acta Analytica</i> ×2; <i>American Philosophical Quarterly</i> ×3; <i>Analysis</i> ×8; <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> ×8; <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> ×7; <i>dialectica</i> ; <i>Ergo</i> ×3; <i>Erkenntnis</i> ×9; <i>Frontiers of Philosophy in China</i> ; <i>Journal of the American Philosophical Association</i> ×4; <i>Journal of Philosophical Research</i> ×2; <i>The Journal of Philosophy</i> ; <i>Journal of Social Philosophy</i> ; <i>Inquiry</i> ×2; <i>Mind</i> ×9;

Noûs ×3; *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* ×2; *Philosopher's Imprint* ×4; *Philosophical Papers*; *Philosophical Quarterly* ×8; *Philosophical Studies* ×15; *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* ×3; *Philosophy of Science*; *Ratio* ×2; *Synthese* ×9

Books (×15) | Cambridge University Press; Emond Montgomery; Oxford University Press ×7; Polity; Routledge ×4; Wiley-Blackwell

Grants (×4) | Austrian Science Foundation; Israel Science Foundation; Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada; Swiss National Science Foundation

Conferences (×9) | Canadian Philosophical Association ×2; Metaphysics Collaborative ×3; Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference ×3; Western Canadian Philosophical Association

REFERENCES

Louis deRosset | University of Vermont, 📞 (802) 656-3629 ✉ Louis.deRosset@uvm.edu

Kit Fine | New York University, 📞 (212) 998-3558 ✉ kit.fine@nyu.edu

Sally Haslanger | Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 📞 (617) 253-4458 ✉ shaslang@mit.edu

Kathrin Koslicki | University of Neuchâtel, 📞 +41 32 718 18 17 ✉ kathrin.koslicki@unine.ch

Gideon Rosen | Princeton University, 📞 (609) 258-5505 ✉ grosen@princeton.edu

Jonathan Schaffer | Rutgers University, 📞 (848) 932-0411 ✉ jonathan.schaffer@rutgers.edu

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