

Thomas J. McKay
Professor Emeritus
Department of Philosophy
Syracuse University

Education:

Ph.D. University of Massachusetts, 1974
Dissertation - "Essentialism and Quantified Modal Logic: Quine's
Argument and Kripke's Semantics" Advisor: Terence Parsons
M.A. University of Massachusetts, 1972
B.A. Swarthmore College, 1969

Academic Positions:

Syracuse University:

Professor Emeritus, 2014-
Interim Department Chair, 2011-2012
Professor, 1996-2014
Department Chair, 1995-2002
Director of Syracuse Semester in Italy Program, 1980-81
Associate Professor, 1979-1996
Assistant Professor, 1973-1979

Areas of Specialization:

Logic, philosophy of language, and metaphysics

Books:

Plural predication, Oxford University Press, 2006. (viii + 263 pages). (Online at
<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/content/philosophy/9780199278145/toc.html>)

Textbooks:

Modern Formal Logic

First edition, Macmillan, 1989.
Second edition, Thomson-Cengage, 2006.

Reasons, Explanations and Decisions (Wadsworth), 2000.

Journal Articles:

"Stuff and Coincidence," *Philosophical Studies* 172 (2015), 3081–3100.

Review of *New Essays on Singular Thought*, Robin Jeshion, ed. (Oxford University Press). *Analysis Reviews*, January, 2012.

Critical study of Henry Laycock's *Words without objects*, for *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 38 (June, 2008), 301-323.

"A reconsideration of an argument against compatibilism," *Philosophical Topics*, 24 (1996), 113-121. (Actually published in late 1997.)

"Analogy and Argument," *Teaching Philosophy*, 20 (1997), 49-60.

"Representing *de re* Beliefs," *Linguistics and Philosophy* 14 (1991), 711-739.

"*he himself*: Undiscovering an Anaphor," *Linguistic Inquiry* 22 (1991), 368-373.

"Lowe and Baldwin on Modalities," *Mind* 95 (1986), 499-505.

"His Burning Pants," *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic* 27 (1986), 393-400.

"On Critical Thinking," *American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy*, Spring-Summer 1985, 19-20.

"Actions and *De Re* Beliefs," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 14 (1984), 631-635.

"On Showing Invalidity," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 14 (1984), 97-100.

Critical Review of Michael Devitt's *Designation*, *Noûs* 18 (1984), 357-367.

"On Proper Names in Belief Ascriptions," *Philosophical Studies* 39 (1981), 287-303.

"Natural Kind Terms and Standards of Membership," with Cindy Stern, *Linguistics and Philosophy* 3 (1979), 27-34.

"The Principle of Predication," *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 7 (1978), 19-26.

"Counterfactuals with Disjunctive Antecedents," with Peter van Inwagen, *Philosophical Studies* 31 (1977), 353-356.

"Essentialism in Quantified Modal Logic," *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 4 (1975), 423-438.

Book chapters:

"Mass and Plural," in *Plurality and Unity*, edited by Massimiliano Carrara, Friederike Moltmann and Alexandra Arapinis, Oxford University Press, 2016.

"Plural Reference and Unbound Pronouns," in *Logic and Philosophy of Science in Uppsala*, edited by Dag Prawitz and Dag Westerstahl, 1994.

"Names, Causal Chains, and *De Re* Beliefs," *Philosophical Perspectives* 8 (1994), James E. Tomberlin, editor .

"*De Re* and *De Se* Belief," in *Philosophical Analysis: A Defense by Example*, edited by David Austin, Reidel (Dordrecht), 1988.

"Against Constitutional Sufficiency Principles," *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 11 (1986).

"Singular Terms in Modal Logic," *Views on Language*, edited by Reza Ordoubadian and Wallburga Von-Raffler Engle, Inter-University Publishing (Tennessee), 1975, 32-52.

Encyclopedia articles:

"Propositional Attitude Reports," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2000, 2005, 2010. (This is an online encyclopedia.) I was the sole author of the first version (2000). The 2005 and 2010 versions are co-authored with Michael Nelson.

Definitions: "Opacity", "Indirect Discourse", "Connotation", "Denotation", and related material for the *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, 1995, Robert Audi, editorial supervisor.

"Modal Logic, Philosophical Issues," for the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward Craig

Presentations (1989-):

"From Mass to Plural" at Bogazici University (Istanbul) conference on mass and plural, October 2012.

"Plurals and Non-Distributive Predication" at Bogazici University (Istanbul) conference on mass and plural, October 2012.

"Stuff and coincidence." *Second Non-Annual Metaphysics Workshop*, Cornell University, April 2012.

"Stuff and coincidence." *First Annual Metaphysics Conference on Persistence*, University of Southern California, January 2012.

"The plurality of two." *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, February, 2010. (Commentator)

"Number and Identity." *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, February, 2009. (Commentator)

"Plurals, Quantifiers and Non-Distributive Predication," Syracuse University Linguistics Colloquium Series, February 2005.

"Plurals, Quantifiers and Non-Distributive Predication," Cornell University, April 2004.

"Plurals, Quantifiers and Non-Distributive Predication," University of Minnesota, November 2003.

"Plurals, Quantifiers and Non-Distributive Predication," University of Massachusetts, October, 2003.

"Essentialism wins," invited comments, *Metaphysical Mayhem V*, August, 2000.

"Reference and Belief," invited address, *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, May, 1998.

"A reconsideration of an argument against compatibilism" (with David Johnson), *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, April 28, 1995.

"Unbound Pronouns," *American Philosophical Association*, Eastern Division, December, 1991.

"Unbound Pronouns," *IX International Congress of Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science*, Uppsala, Sweden, August, 1991.

"Direct Reference and Reflexive Belief," *University of Rochester Conference on Belief*, May, 1991. (Commentator)

"On Social Content," *American Philosophical Association*, Pacific Division, March, 1991. (Commentator)

"Belief *de re*," *American Philosophical Association*, Pacific Division, April, 1990. (Commentator)

"Names, Causal Chains and De Re Beliefs," *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, May, 1989.

Service to the Profession:

Vice President of the Creighton Club (The New York Philosophical Association), 1976-78.

President of the Creighton Club, 1978-80.

Chairman at American Philosophical Association colloquia, December, 1983, and April, 1985.

Member of editorial board for a special issue of the American Philosophical Association *Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy* (1985).

Chairman at Syracuse University Linguistic Studies Conference Colloquia, April, 1985, and April, 1986.

Chairman at New York State Council on Linguistics Colloquium, November, 1985.

Referee for *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, *Noûs*, Princeton University Press, Canada Council, State University of New York Press, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Journal of Logic, Language, and Information*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, Oxford University Press, *The Journal of Semantics*, *Mind*.

Promotion and tenure referee for several universities. Consultant concerning a senior appointment at Cambridge.

Service (1981-):

Department:

Director of Graduate Studies (1984-89, 1992, 1994-95, 2005-2008, 2009-2011)

Ex officio: Graduate Admissions, Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee (1984-89, 1994-95, 2005-2008, 2009-2011)

Director of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment (1990-92)

Executive Committee (1991)

Teaching Mentor (1992-)

Placement Committee (1992-95, 1998, 2005-2008, 2009-2011)

Chair of Promotion Subcommittee (1993)

Academic Advisor to graduate students (1992-95, 2005-2011)

Chair (1995-2002)

Undergraduate major advisor, 2003-2005.

Departmental search committees, 1986-87, 2003-2004, 2004-2005 (chair), 2005-2006, 2009-2010 (chair), 2010-2011 (chair of junior search, member of Guttag Professor search committee). (Ex officio, 1995-2002 (every year).)

Departmental self-evaluation: chaired sub-committee. 2006-2007.

Chair of the organizing committee for SPAWN 2011.

Interim Chair, 2011-212.

Principal organizer of the first Alston Lecture (2012).

Interdisciplinary Linguistic Studies Program:

Undergraduate Program Committee (1982-89)

Logic and Language M.A. Program Committee (1982-).

Concentration advisor (1982-).

Intellectual Resources Committee (1982-89), Chairman (1984-86)

Board of concentration advisors (2009-2010)

Search Committee (2011-2012)

Special report for the Dean (2013)

College and University:

Undergraduate Academic Advising (1973-1980, 1981-84)

Syracuse Semester in Italy: Resident Director (1980-81)

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (1979-80, 1981-82)

Coordination of the cluster *On Human Nature* (1979-89)

Director of the logic concentration (1983-89, 1990- 2012)

Soling Advisory Committee (1983, 1986-87)

International Programs Committee (Arts and Sciences) (1983-87, 1990-1995)

Windfall Selection Committee (Soling Program) (1984-1985)

Graduate Awards Committee (1984-86)

Participant in Soling "Talking Education" Seminar 1985)

DIPA Admissions Committee (1985)

Chancellor's Citation Selection Committee (1985-86)

Humanities Ph.D. Review Committee (1985-86)

Assistant and consultant for a DIPA travelling program (one week) in Italy (1989)

Gateway Committee (1987- 2005)

Workshops on teaching critical thinking for Teaching Assistants' Training Program (1990 and 1991)

Dean's Committee on College Priorities (1991-92)

Assessment Task Force (1992-93)
Humanities PhD comprehensive examination evaluation (1993)
Committee on Quantitative Skills Requirement (1993-94)
Wasserstrom (Graduate Teaching) Prize Committee (1997 and 1998)
Participant in Tolley Professor's Minnowbrook retreat (1997)
Graduate School Academic Planning Committee (1999-2000)
Participant in FPP Minnowbrook retreat (1989, 2003 and probably another time
in between)
College Promotion and Tenure Committee (2000-2002, 2004-2005, 2006-2007)
University Senate (2001-2002, 2003-2007) Committee on Research.
Outstanding Teaching Assistant selection committee (Spring 2006).
Reader for Honor's thesis. 2006
Future Professoriate Program departmental liaison (1992- 2012)
A&S Dean Search committee (2007-2008)
Humanities Council (inception - 2013)

Grants Received (since 1989):

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (1989-90)
National Research Council Travel Grant (1991)