

# Rachel Etta Rudolph

Department of Philosophy ◊ University of California, Berkeley  
rachelrudolph@berkeley.edu ◊ sites.google.com/view/rachelettardolph

*Updated:* September 2018

## Education

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- 2019      **University of California, Berkeley**  
(expected)    Ph.D., Philosophy
- 2017      **University of Chicago**  
(spring)      Visiting Scholar (Supervised by Chris Kennedy)
- 2011      **McGill University**  
B.A. (First Class Honours), Philosophy, with minor in German

## Areas of Research

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- AOS      Philosophy of Language, Value Theory
- AOC      Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind

## Dissertation

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*Talking about Appearances: Experience, Evaluation, and Evidence in Discourse*

In talking about appearances — for instance, saying that a stick in water ‘looks bent’, or that a drink ‘tastes sweet’ — we seem to communicate both about the objective world and about our subjective experience. In this respect, appearance language is like the language of personal tastes (‘tasty’) and aesthetics (‘beautiful’). These are all cases of *experiential language*, and I argue that experientiality, and *not* anything special about *evaluation*, is the source of two distinctive features of claims in these domains: first, they can be involved in *faultless disagreement* and second, they give rise to the *acquaintance inference*. I develop an *expressivist* analysis of experiential language that accounts for these features in a unified way. Furthermore, this analysis integrates well with the recognition that we often communicate about our *evidence* through talk about appearances.

*Committee:* John MacFarlane (co-chair), Seth Yalcin (co-chair), Line Mikkelsen (linguistics)

## Papers

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### Refereed journal articles

- 2018      Talking about Appearances: The Roles of Experience and Evaluation in Disagreement. *Philosophical Studies* (forthcoming).

### Conference proceedings papers

- 2018      A Closer Look at the Perceptual Source in Copy Raising Constructions. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 23* (forthcoming).

- 2018 The Acquaintance Inference with *Seem*-Reports. *Proceedings of the 54th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society* (forthcoming).

## Presentations

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### Refereed

- 2019 “The Relevance of Moral Language to the Metaphysics of Morals”  
Central APA, Denver, CO (upcoming)
- 2019 “Appearance Reports and the Acquaintance Inference”  
Eastern APA Poster Session, New York, NY (upcoming)
- 2018 Society for Exact Philosophy, University of Connecticut
- 2018 Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference, Stanford University
- 2018 Berkeley-London Graduate Conference, University of London
- 2018 “A Closer Look at the Perceptual Source in Copy Raising Constructions”  
Sinn und Bedeutung 23, Universitat Autònoma, Barcelona
- 2018 “The Acquaintance Inference with *Seems*”  
Society for Philosophy and Psychology, University of Michigan
- 2018 54th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society, Poster Session, University of Chicago
- 2017 “Subjective Language without Evaluation”  
Subjectivity in Language and Thought Conference, University of Chicago
- 2017 “Talking about Appearances”  
Pacific APA, Seattle, WA
- 2017 “Differences of Taste”  
Central APA, Kansas City, MO
- 2016 Faces of Disagreement Conference, McGill University & Université de Montréal
- 2016 Berkeley-London Graduate Conference, University of London
- 2016 “The Language of Appearance”  
NASSLLI Poster Session, Rutgers University

### Invited

- 2017 “Searching for the Perceptual Source”  
PhLing Workshop, Northwestern University
- 2016 “Appearance Language & Relative Truth”  
New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, NYU
- 2016 “Moral Language and Moral Metaphysics”  
UC Berkeley Undergraduate Philosophy Forum

### Other presentations

- 2018 “Is there a practical/theoretical problem in ethics?”  
Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley
- “Appearance Reports and the Acquaintance Inference”

- 2017 California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP), UC Irvine  
 “Searching for the Perceptual Source”
- 2017 Philosophy and Linguistics Workshop, University of Chicago  
 “Talking about Appearances”
- 2016 California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP), UC Santa Cruz  
 “The Language of Appearance”
- 2016 Syntax and Semantics Circle, UC Berkeley  
 “The Language of Appearance and Evaluation”
- 2016 New Directions Fellowship Talk, UC Berkeley  
 “How to be a Moral Antirealist”
- 2015 Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

### Comments

- 2017 “Presupposing Counterfactuality”, Julia Zakkou  
 Philosophy Meets Linguistics Workshop, University of Zurich  
 “Non-Realism in Metanormativity, Disagreement, and Commitments to Universal Principles of Action”, Carlos Núñez
- 2016 Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference, UC Berkeley  
 “Thought Experiments, Misjudgments and Sufficiency”, Alex Geddes
- 2015 Berkeley-London Graduate Conference, UC Berkeley

### Other refereed conference participation

- Athena in Action, Session chair
- 2016 Workshop for Graduate Women in Philosophy, Princeton University

## Teaching

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### Primary instructor (UC Berkeley)

- 2018 Individual Morality and Social Justice
- 2017 Introduction to Logic

### Graduate student instructor (UC Berkeley)

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|------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2018 | Formal Semantics (current)  | Amy Rose Deal   |
| 2017 | Contemporary Ethical Issues | Tim Crockett    |
| 2016 | Theory of Meaning           | John Perry      |
| 2016 | Introduction to Logic       | Seth Yalcin     |
| 2015 | Introduction to Logic       | Paolo Mancosu   |
| 2014 | Ancient Philosophy          | Klaus Corcilius |
| 2014 | Introduction to Logic       | Michael Rieppel |
| 2014 | Knowledge and its Limits    | Wes Holliday    |
| 2013 | Ancient Philosophy          | Tim Clarke      |
| 2013 | Nature of Mind              | Umrao Sethi     |

## Tutor (Prison University Project, San Quentin, CA)

2018	Introduction to Philosophy (current)
2016–18	General College Writing
2017	Social Ethics
2016	Introduction to Philosophy

## Fellowships & Awards

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2017–18	Doctoral Completion Fellowship
2016	NASSLLI Student Scholarship
2015	New Directions Fellowship – competitive departmental funds for interdisciplinary research
2012–13	Ralph W. Church Fellowship
2007–10	Women Associates Centennial Entrance Scholarship
2009–10	James Darling McCall Scholarship
2008–09	Dow-Hickson Scholarship

## Coursework

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(\*: audited)

### Philosophy

2018	Arguments from Illusion*	Michael Martin
2018	Vagueness, Truth and Meaning*	John MacFarlane
2017	Feminist Philosophy*	Martha Nussbaum
2016	Nonfactual Thought and Discourse*	Seth Yalcin
2015	Modalities of Discourse*	Seth Yalcin
2013	Assessment Sensitivity*	John MacFarlane
2013	Recent Work on Reasons and Normativity	Jay Wallace
2013	Theory of Meaning	John MacFarlane
2013	Aristotle on Animal and Human Agency	Klaus Corcilius
2013	Descartes	Tim Crockett
2013	Conditions of Thought	Barry Stroud
2012	First-year Graduate Seminar	Hannah Ginsborg and John MacFarlane
2012	Epistemic Logic and Epistemology	Wes Holliday
2012	Uncovering Appearances	Michael Martin

### Linguistics

2018	Formal Semantics Research Group*	Amy Rose Deal
2015	Syntax and Semantics	Line Mikkelsen
2015	Semantic Variation	Amy Rose Deal
2014	Advanced Logical Semantics	Ryan Bochnak

### Pedagogy

2018	Reading Group on Inclusive Pedagogy*	
2013	Philosophy Pedagogy Seminar	Hannah Ginsborg

## Other

2017 Course in Human Research (Social and Behavioral) CITI Program

## Service & Outreach

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2018– Organizer, Departmental First-Year Mentorship Program  
2018– Project leader, Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Berkeley  
2016– Volunteer tutor, Prison University Project (see “Teaching”)  
2017–18 Organizer, Berkeley Work-In-Progress Lunch Talks  
2013–18 Referee, Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference  
2017 Referee, Subjectivity in Language and Thought Conference  
2016–17 Mentor, Departmental First-Year Mentorship Program  
2015–16 Organizer, Berkeley Metaethics Reading Group  
2012–16 Organizer, Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference  
2013–14 Organizer, Departmental Colloquium Series  
2012–13 Organizer, Richard Wollheim Graduate Presentation Society  
2008–10 Editor, *Philosophic Fragments*, McGill Undergraduate Philosophy Journal

## Languages

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English (native), French (fluent), German (intermediate)

## Citizenship

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Canada, United States

## References

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John MacFarlane  
Professor of Philosophy  
UC Berkeley  
jgm@berkeley.edu

Chris Kennedy  
William H. Colvin Professor of Linguistics  
University of Chicago  
ck@uchicago.edu

Seth Yalcin  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
UC Berkeley  
yalcin@berkeley.edu

Paolo Mancosu (teaching reference)  
Slusser Professor of Philosophy  
UC Berkeley  
mancosu@socrates.berkeley.edu