

# Heather Demarest

Email: [heather.demarest@colorado.edu](mailto:heather.demarest@colorado.edu)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/heatherdemarest/>

University of Colorado

UCB 232

Boulder, CO 80309-0232

---

## Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Physics

## Areas of Competence

Logic, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Language

## Employment

### University of Colorado, Boulder

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

2017-present

### University of Oklahoma

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

2013-2017

## Education

### Rutgers University

2013

PhD in Philosophy

Dissertation: *A Theory of Laws, Dispositions, and Chances*

Advisor: Barry Loewer

Committee: Jonathan Schaffer, Branden Fitelson, and Jenann Ismael

### Oxford University

2007

BPhil in Philosophy

Advisors: Timothy Williamson and John Hawthorne

### University of Colorado, Boulder

2004

BA in Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*

BA in Physics, *summa cum laude*

Physics education research with Carl Wieman, Nobel laureate in physics

2004

Lab assistant for Eric Cornell, Nobel laureate in physics

2001

Minor in mathematics

## Publications

- “Similarity and Enjoyment Predict Continuation for Women in Philosophy” 2017  
*Analysis*, **77**(3): 525-541.
- “Powerful Properties, Powerless Laws” 2017  
 In *Causal Powers*, Oxford University Press, ed., Jonathan Jacobs.
- “Fission May Kill You (But Not for the Reasons You Thought)” 2016  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, **93**(3): 565–582.
- “The Universe Had One Chance” 2016  
*Philosophy of Science*, **83**(2): 248-264.
- “Fundamental Properties and the Laws of Nature” 2015  
*Philosophy Compass*, **10**(5): 334–344.
- “Do Counterfactuals Ground the Laws? A Critique of Lange” 2012  
*Philosophy of Science*, **79**(3): 333-344.

## Presentations

- “Flowing Alone” 2018  
*Workshop on Time and Explanation*, CPT and FraMEPhys, Milan
- Comments on Casey McCoy’s, “The Universe Never Had a Chance: A Critique of Demarest” 2018  
*Fourth Annual Conference*, Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Milan
- “Nonlocal Science” with Michael Townsend Hicks 2018  
*Conference on History and Metaphysics of Laws*, Central European University, Budapest
- “Relativistic Persons: What special and general relativity can tell us about who we are” 2018  
*Morris Colloquium: The Self and Its Realizations*, University of Colorado, Boulder
- “Women in Philosophy” 2018  
*Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy*, University of Colorado
- “In Defense of a Modal Best System” 2018  
*International Workshop: Properties and Laws*, University of Dusseldorf
- “Consequences of Relativistic Frame-Dependence” 2018  
*Pacific APA*  
*Colloquium*, Center for Philosophy of Time, Milan  
*Metro Area Philosophers of Science*, New York University
- “Special Relativity and Consciousness”

- Undergraduate Philosophy Club*, University of Colorado, Boulder 2017
- “What we can do about the Underrepresentation of Women in Philosophy”  
*Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy*, University of Colorado 2017
- “It Matters how You Slice it: Special Relativity and Causation”  
*1st New England Workshop on Philosophy of Time*, Rhode Island College 2017  
*Mentoring Workshop for Pre-tenure Women Faculty in Philosophy*, University of Utah 2017
- Panel on Time and Causation  
*International Association for the Philosophy of Time*, Wake Forest University, NC 2016
- “What is Bad About the Lack of Diversity in Philosophy? Implicit Bias and Efforts  
to Recruit and Retain Philosophers from Underrepresented Groups”  
Western Washington, *13<sup>th</sup> Northwest Student Philosophy Conference* (Special Lecture) 2015
- Comments on “A Scientific Realist’s Guide to Objective Chance” by Nina Emery  
Whistler, British Columbia, *The Philosophy Mountain Workshop* 2015
- “Fission May Kill You (But Not for the Reasons You Thought)”  
Western Washington, *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Student Philosophy Conference* (Keynote) 2015  
*Back at the Ranch* Metaphysics Conference, Tucson, AZ (Invited Speaker) 2015  
University of Colorado, Boulder (Colloquium) 2015  
*Midwest Annual Workshop on Metaphysics* (Invited Speaker) 2014
- Comments on “Against Simplicity” by Mary Beth Willard  
Western Washington University, *Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference* 2013
- “Fundamental Chance”  
The University of Oklahoma, *Mathematics Department, Analysis and Convexity Seminar* 2016  
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, *Necessity Conference* 2013  
The University of Georgia (Colloquium Speaker) 2013  
The University of Oklahoma (Colloquium Speaker) 2013  
Purdue University (Colloquium Speaker) 2013
- “Fundamental Chance and the Mentaculus”  
Prague, *Ernst Mach Workshop: Issues in Physicalism* 2012
- “Dispositional Best System Accounts of Laws”  
St. Louis University, *Putting Powers to Work* 2011
- “Justifying the Lebesgue Measure”  
SUNY, Buffalo, Graduate Conference, *Nature and Structure* 2007

## Honors and Awards

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Course Development Grant                              | 2016       |
| Faculty Fellow Award                                  | 2015       |
| College of Arts and Sciences Career Development Grant | 2015       |
| Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Summer Fellowships   | 2014, 2015 |
| SAS Excellence Fellowship                             | 2012-2013  |
| Mellon Summer Grants                                  | 2011, 2012 |
| Jacob K. Javits Fellowship                            | 2008-2012  |
| SAS Excellence Fellowship                             | 2007-2008  |
| Clarendon Scholarship                                 | 2005-2007  |
| Fawkes Memorial Scholarship                           | 2005-2007  |
| Overseas Research Student Award                       | 2005-2007  |
| <i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> Merit Scholarship               | 2004       |

## Teaching

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Metaphysics of Laws of Nature at CEU Summer School, Budapest | 2018             |
| Critical Thinking and Writing in Philosophy                  | 2018             |
| Metaphysics  | 2013, 2017, 2018 |
| Philosophy of Science  | 2017             |
| Philosophy of Physics and Cosmology                          | 2014, 2016, 2017 |
| Introduction to Philosophy                                   | 2014, 2015, 2016 |
| Self and Identity  | 2013, 2015, 2016 |
| Philosophy of Time Seminar                                   | 2014             |
| Ethics of Food (TA for Andy Egan)                            | 2012             |
| Philosophy of Physics  | 2012             |
| Current Moral and Social Issues                              | 2011             |
| Introduction to Logic  | 2011             |
| Introduction to Metaphysics                                  | 2010             |
| Philosophy of Literature                                     | 2009             |

## Service

Referee for:

*Philosophical Review*

*Mind*

*Philosophy of Science*

*British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*

*Philosopher's Imprint*

*Philosophical Studies*

*Analysis*

*Philosophical Quarterly*

*American Philosophical Quarterly*

*Journal of the American Philosophical Association*

*Thought*

*Synthese*

*Erkenntnis*

*Dialectica*  
*Topoi*  
*Philosophical Papers*  
*National Science Foundation (Grant Proposal)*  
*Oxford University Press*  
*Routledge/Taylor & Francis*

## Service at the University of Colorado

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Chair of Committee on the History and Philosophy of Science | 2017-2018 |
| Organizer of CHPS Conference                                | 2017-2018 |
| Climate Committee   | 2017-2018 |

## Service at the University of Oklahoma

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Evaluation of Interventions to Retain Women in Philosophy (Design and Implementation)      | 2014-2016 |
| Initiatives for Undergraduate Inclusiveness and Community-Building (Creator and Organizer) | 2014-2016 |
| UNC Workshop on Recruitment and Retention of Female Undergraduates (Participant)           | 2014      |
| Recruitment and Diversity Committee  | 2014-2017 |
| Undergraduate Studies Committee  | 2013-2017 |

## Service at Rutgers

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Rutgers-Columbia-NYU Philosophy of Cosmology Project (Organizer)             | 2012-2013 |
| Rutgers Graduate Summary Workshop (Creator and Organizer)                    | 2012      |
| Climate Committee for Underrepresented Groups (Graduate Representative)      | 2011-2012 |
| Graduate Student Climate Survey (Chief Designer and Implementer)             | 2012      |
| Departmental Colloquia (Organizer)   | 2011-2012 |
| Philosophy of Cosmology, Quantum Theory, and Time Conference (Organizer)     | 2010      |
| Foundations of Statistical Mechanics Conference (Organizer)                  | 2009      |
| Metaphysics Meets Physics on the Banks of the Raritan Conference (Organizer) | 2008      |
| Philosophy of Science Reading Group (Organizer)                              | 2007-2011 |