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# NOËL B. SAENZ

## APPOINTMENTS

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy (2016 - Present)

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Illinois Distinguished Postdoctoral Research Associate (2015 - 2016)

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Lecturer in Philosophy (2014 - 2015)

## EDUCATION

University of Colorado, Boulder  
Ph.D., Philosophy (2014)

Western Michigan University  
M.A., Philosophy (2009)

Biola University  
B.A., Philosophy (2006)

## INTERESTS

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion, Value Theory

## ARTICLES

"Properties and a Grounding Principle", *Inquiry* (forthcoming)

"On a Causal Principle in an Argument for a Necessary Being", *Analysis* 82/2: 272-277 (2022)

"Still Against Divine Truthmaker Simplicity", *Faith and Philosophy* 38/3: 359-74 (2021)

"Ontology", *Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding*, ed. Raven, M. J., 361-374 (2020)

"An Account of Truthmaking", *Synthese* 197/8: 3413-3435 (2020)

"Sums and Grounding", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 96/1: 102-117 (2018)

"A Grounding Solution to the Grounding Problem", *Philosophical Studies* 172/8: 2193-2214 (2015)

"Against Divine Truthmaker Simplicity", *Faith and Philosophy* 31/4: 460-474 (2014)

"The World and Truth About What Is Not", *The Philosophical Quarterly* 64: 82-98 (2014)

## ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

A paper on ontological simplicity  
A paper on grounding  
A paper on necessary existence

## TALKS

"Necessity and Perfection", Pacific APA (2022)  
"Necessity and Perfection", University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Philosophy Club Brown-Bag Talk (2021)  
"Necessity and Perfection", Society for Christian Philosophers, Baylor Texas (2021)  
"Necessity and Perfection", Society for Exact Philosophy - read only (2021)  
"A New Approach to Ontological Economy", Eastern APA (2020)  
"Measuring Ontological Simplicity", The Illinois Philosophical Association, Illinois State University (2019)  
"Measuring Ontological Simplicity", Central States Philosophical Association, St. Louis (2019)  
"The Disciplining of Grounding", The 3rd Latinx Philosophy Conference, Rutgers University (2018)  
"The Disciplining of Grounding", Early Career Metaphysics Workshop, William & Mary (2018)  
"The Disciplining of Grounding", Central States Philosophical Association, St. Louis (2017)  
"The Disciplining of Grounding", Central APA (2017)  
"Sets and Grounding", Center Talk, CU Boulder (2017)  
"The Disciplining of Grounding", The Illinois Philosophical Association, Illinois Central College (2016)  
"The Disciplining of Grounding", American Association of Mexican Philosophers, Syracuse University (2016)  
"Constraining Grounding", Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College (2016)  
"A Defense of Facts", University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Colloquium (2015)  
"Dualism: Property to Substance", University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Philosophy Club Brown-Bag Talk (2015)  
"So Much for Sums", Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, Washington (2015)  
"So Much for Sums", Pacific APA (2015)  
"Groundmaking", University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (2015)  
"So Much for Sums", Northern Illinois University (2015)  
"So Much for Sums", University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Colloquium (2014)

"Against an Account of Groundmaking", Pacific APA (2014)  
 "Against an Account of Groundmaking", University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Graduate Philosophy Conference (2014)  
 "Against an Account of Groundmaking", North Carolina Philosophy Society (2014)  
 "Against an Account of Groundmaking", Georgia State University Graduate Philosophy Conference (2014)  
 "On What Grounds Grounding", Work in Progress Talk, CU Boulder (2013)  
 "Composition and Facts", Pacific APA (2013)  
 "Composition and Facts", Gonzaga University Graduate Philosophy Conference (2013)  
 "Composition and Facts", University of Iowa Graduate Philosophy Conference (2013)  
 "Composition and Facts", University of Utah Graduate Philosophy Conference (2013)  
 "Against Browerian Simplicity", Society for Christian Philosophers, Boulder Colorado (2013)  
 "A Non-Revisionary Solution to the Grounding Problem", CU Boulder Jentzsch Prize Talk (2013)  
 "Why There are Truthmakers", Society for Exact Philosophy - Columbus Ohio (2012)  
 "Whether, not How: An Argument for Truthmakers", CU Boulder Colloquium (2011)  
 "Facts with Tropes as Parts", University of Leeds, England Graduate Philosophy Conference (2011)  
 "Truthmaker Theorists need not be Truthmaker Maximalists", Society for Exact Philosophy - Winnipeg (2011)  
 "Truthmaker Theorists need not be Truthmaker Maximalists", Western Washington Philosophy Conference (2011)  
 "Truthmaker Theorists need not be Truthmaker Maximalists", CU Boulder Graduate Work-in-Progress Talk (2011)  
 "Modal Fictionalism is a Fiction", CU Boulder Jentzsch Prize Talk (2010)  
 "Modal Fictionalism is a Fiction", Princeton/Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference (2009)

## COMMENTS

On Alice Huang's "Same but Different: Identity Dependence and Irreflexivity", Central APA (2022)  
 On Beau Branson's "Must God Have a Son?", Illinois Philosophical Association, Illinois State University (2019)  
 On Cruz Austin Davis's "Inclusive Nihilism", Central States Philosophical Association, St. Louis (2017)  
 On Jonathan Schaffer's "The World for Explanation", Sofia XXI (2017)  
 On Jon Burmeister's "Truth Might be Intrinsically Valuable", Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College (2016)

On Daniel Murphy's "Qualitativism, Haecceitism, and Time", Eastern APA (2016)

On Andy Yu's "The Truth about the Necessity and Existence of Williamson's Necessary Existents", Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference (2012)

On Brady Bowman's "An 'Armstrongian' Truthmaker Argument Against Nihilism", Pacific APA (2012)

On Brad Rettler's "Simple Persistence", Western Michigan University (2008)

## TEACHING

### *Undergraduate*

Introduction to Philosophy (2022)

Metaphysics (2022)

Introduction to Philosophy (2020)

Metaphysics (x2) (2020)

Introduction to Philosophy (2019)

Recent Modern Philosophers (2019)

Critical Reasoning (2017)

Introduction to Logic (2017)

Metaphysics (2017)

Value Theory (2017)

Critical Reasoning (2016)

Metaphysics (2016)

Value Theory (2016)

Introduction to Philosophy (x3) (2015)

Philosophy of Mind (2015)

Introduction to Philosophy (x3) (2014)

Critical Reasoning (2014)

Metaphysics (2014)

Philosophy and Society (x2) (2013)

Introduction to Philosophy (x2) (2012)

Introduction to Philosophy (x2) (2011)

Biomedical Ethics (2009)

Introduction to Philosophy (2009)

Biomedical Ethics (2008)

Introduction to Philosophy (2008)

### *Graduate*

Seminar on Grounding (2022)

Dissertation Seminar (2018)

Seminar on Parts and Wholes (2018)

Seminar on Grounding (2017)

## HONORS

Humanities Teaching Release Time Fellowship, Campus Research Board, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, UIUC (Fall 2021)

Co-winner of the Hutchins Prize (Best Paper) at Gonzaga's Graduate Philosophy Conference (2014)

The Center for the Philosophy of Religion Dissertation Fellow, University of Notre Dame (2012-13)

Jentzsch Prize Winner (Best Graduate Student Paper at the University of Colorado, Boulder) for "A Non-Revisionary Solution to the Grounding Problem" (2012)

Jentzsch Prize Winner (Best Graduate Student Paper at the University of Colorado, Boulder) for "Modal Fictionalism is a Fiction" (2010)

## REFEREE

*Acta Analytica, American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Faith and Philosophy, Inquiry, Journal of Analytic Theology, Manuscripta, Mind, Noûs, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Religious Studies, Synthese*

## DISSERTATIONS ADVISED

Seungil Lee (completed), Ming Li (current)

## ACTIVITIES

The Logic and Cognitive Science Initiative (LACSI) Conference: Grounding and its Applications. Invited Participant (2019)

Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference: Metaphysics on the Mountain 2. Invited Participant (2017)

Sofia XXI Philosophy Conference. Invited Participant (2017)

Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference. Invited Participant (2015)

Metaphysical Mayhem. Invited Participant (2014)

St. Thomas Aquinas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology. Invited Participant (2014)

## UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Director of Undergraduate Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2018-present)

Advisory Committee, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2018-present)

Hiring Committee, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (F2016, F2018, S2020, S2021, F2021)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Midwest Annual Workshop in Metaphysics (MAWM), committee member (2018-20)

PhilPapers, section editor: *Material Objects, Minor Entities*

American Philosophical Association, 2018 Central Division Program Committee Member

## REFERENCES

*Graham Oddie*  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
oddie@colorado.edu

*Daniel Z. Korman*  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
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Professor of Philosophy  
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*Kathrin Koslicki*  
Professor and Tier 1 Canada Research  
Chair in Epistemology and Metaphysics  
University of Alberta  
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*Michael Tooley*  
College Professor of Distinction in  
Philosophy  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
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*Kirk Sanders*  
Associate Professor, Department Head of  
Philosophy  
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