

Teresa Robertson Ishii

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Academic Positions

University of California, Santa Barbara; Professor; Philosophy; [2016] 2021-present
University of California, Santa Barbara; Associate Professor; Philosophy; 2011-[2016] 2021
University of Kansas, Associate Professor, Philosophy, 2004-2011
University of Kansas, Assistant Professor, Philosophy, 1999-2004
Reed College, Visiting Scholar, 1998-1999
Reed College, Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy and Humanities, 1995-1998

Education

Princeton University, Ph.D. in Philosophy, 1999
Princeton University, M.A. in Philosophy, 1993
University of Washington (Seattle), B.A. in Philosophy *summa cum laude*, 1987

Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics and Philosophy of Language

Areas of Competence

History of Analytic Philosophy and Logic

Papers

23. “Should a Kripkean Conception of Metaphysics be Given Up?” (with Nathan Salmón) in *Themes from Kripke* (Scott Soames, editor). (The paper has been accepted for inclusion in this volume, which is under contract with Routledge as of 1/9/26.)
22. “‘Essence’ and ‘Nature’ in *Naming and Necessity*”, *Theoria* (2025), <<https://doi.org/10.1111/theo.70048>>
21. “Mind the Gap: On Negative and Positive Origin Essentialism”, *Asian Journal of Philosophy* (2025) 4:12, pp. 1-21.
20. “Two Senses of ‘Essence’ and a Straw Man”, *Crítica: Revista Hispanoamericana de Filosofía* 56.168 (2024): 3-27.
19. “Origin Essentialism” in the *Routledge Handbook of Essence* (Kathrin Koslicki and Michael Raven, editors), (2024), pp. 169-180.
18. “Everything but the Kitchen Sink: How (Not) to Give a Plenitudinarian Solution to the Paradox of Flexible Origin Essentialism” *Philosophical Studies* 179 (2022): 133-161. <doi: 10.1007/s11098-021-01654-9>
17. “Is Chandler’s Paradox a Sorites Paradox?” in *On the Sorites Paradox* (Otávio Bueno and Ali Abasnezhad, editors), *Logic, Epistemology, and the Unity of Science* series, *Synthese* Library, Springer (forthcoming).

16. “Some Highs and Lows of Hylomorphism: On a Paradox about Property Abstraction” (with Nathan Salmón), *Philosophical Studies* 177 (2020): 1549-1563. <doi: 10.1007/s11098-019-01274-4>
15. “A Puzzle about Kinds”, *Philosophical Perspectives* 32 (2018): 352-364. <doi: 10.1111/phpe.12117>
14. “Modal Paradox” in *Naming, Necessity, and More: Proceedings of the University of Haifa International Conference on the Work of Saul Kripke* (Jonathan Berg, editor), Palgrave Macmillan (2014): 54-80.
13. “Essentialism and Reference to Kinds”, *Philosophical Books* 50.3 (July 2009): 125-141.
12. “Does the New Route Reach its Destination?” (with Graeme Forbes), *Mind* 115 (April 2006): 367-373.
11. “Internalism, (Super)Fragile Reasons, and the Conditional Fallacy”, *Philosophical Papers* 32.2 (July 2003): 171-184.
10. “(In the Fiction/Myth) the Number Seventeen Crosses the Rubicon”, *Southwest Philosophy Review* 19:1 (January 2003): 125-134.
9. “Are Modal Contexts Opaque?”, *Southwest Philosophy Review* 18.1 (January 2002): 79-88.
8. “On Soames’s Solution to the Sorites Paradox”, *Analysis* 60.4 (October 2000): 328-334.
7. “Essentialism: Origin and Order”, *Mind* 109 (April 2000): 299-307.
6. “Possibilities and the Arguments for Origin Essentialism”, *Mind* 107 (October 1998): 729-749.

Encyclopedia and Handbook Articles

5. “Origin Essentialism” in the *Routledge Handbook of Essence* (Kathrin Koslicki and Michael Raven, editors), (2024), pp. 169-180.
4. “Reference” in the *Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Language* (Delia Graff Fara and Gillian Russell, editors), Routledge (2012): 189-198.
3. “Supplement to ‘Essential vs. Accidental Properties’: Arguments for Origin Essentialism” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Edward N. Zalta, editor), (first published 4/29/2008 with subsequent minor corrections). <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2008/entries/essential-accidental/origin-essentialism.html>>
2. “Essential vs. Accidental Properties”, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Edward N. Zalta, editor), (first published 4/29/2008, substantive revisions with Philip Atkins in 2013, 2016, and 2020). <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2020/entries/essential-accidental/>> <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2018/entries/essential-accidental/>> <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2013/entries/essential-accidental/>> <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2008/entries/essential-accidental/>>

Book Review

1. “Review of Laurence Bonjour’s *In Defense of Pure Reason: A Rationalist Account of A Priori Justification*”, *European Journal of Philosophy* 8 (April 2000): 130-133.

Presentations

51. “Kripkean Origin Essentialism”, *The Philosophical Legacy of Saul Kripke*, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), 12 March 2026.
50. “Modal Essence and Whatness Essence, Parts 1 and 2” with Nathan Salmón, *The Place of Saul Kripke in Philosophy*, University of Southern California, 7-9 December 2024.
49. “Modality and Whatness” with Nathan Salmón, Kyiv Seminar by Zoom, 27 November 2024.
48. “Salmón’s Argument for Origin Essentialism Revisted”, *Meaning, Reference and Modality: Celebrating Nathan Salmon’s Work*, UCSB, 9 November 2024.
47. “Two Senses of ‘Essence’ and a Straw Man”, Workshop in Philosophy of Language and Metaphysics, University of Vienna, 28 June 2026.
46. “Modal Essence and Whatness Essence” with Nathan Salmón, the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, invited symposium “(Mis)Interpreting Kripke”, San Francisco, 7 April 2023.
45. “Modal Essence and Whatness Essence” with Nathan Salmón at the *50 Years of Naming and Necessity at 50* Conference in New York, 12-13 December 2022.
44. “Remembrances of Saul Kripke” panel discussion at the Mexican Academy of Logic, by Zoom, 29 November 2022.
43. “Misconceptions about Essence”, Mexican Academy of Logic, by Zoom, 29 November 2022.
42. “Fear and Loathing in Modal Space”, Keynote Talk for the 2020 Steven Humphrey Undergraduate Student Philosophy Colloquium (postponed until 11 November 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
41. “Modal Essence and Whatness Essence I” and “Modal Essence and Whatness Essence II” with Nathan Salmón at the VII Conference of the Sociedade Brasileira de Filosofia Analítica in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-28 October 2022.
40. Lead presenter for session on “Essentialism: Kinds and Individuals” at “*Naming and Necessity at 50*” conference in Hudson, NY, 19-22 July 2022
39. “Origin Essentialism” presented virtually at the Workshop for the *Routledge Handbook of Essence*, 9-12 July 2021
38. “Is it Turtles All the Way Down?: Comments on Taylor-Grey Miller’s ‘Trobule for Reducing Essence’” presented virtually at the Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, 7 April 2021
37. “Everything But the Kitchen Sink: How (Not) to Give a Plenitudist Solution to a Modal Paradox” presented at
 37. New York University Mind and Language Seminar (by Zoom), 14 April 2020
 36. the Department of Cognitive Science of the University of Messina, July 2019
 35. the Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 18 April 2019
34. “Panel 15: Chandler’s Paradox and Modality” with Nathan Salmon and Timothy Williamson at the Latin American Analytic Philosophy Conference and the Conference of the Brazilian Society for Analytic Philosophy, Fortaleza, Brazil, 27-31 May 2014
33. “Things Undreamt of: Chandler’s Paradox, Modal Properties, and Plenitude” presented at
 33. the Philosophy of Language and Metaphysics Conference of the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) in Campinas, Brazil, 3-5 June 2014

32. the Latin American Analytic Philosophy Conference and the Conference of the Brazilian Society for Analytic Philosophy, Fortaleza, Brazil, 27-31 May 2014
31. the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference “Metaphysics on the Mountain” workshop, Sun Valley, Idaho, 17-21 March 2014
30. the University of California, Irvine, 11 January 2013
29. “A Puzzle about Kinds” presented at
 29. the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, 11 November 2011
 28. the Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil, 8 November 2011
 27. Society for Exact Philosophy, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, May 2011
 26. the University of Texas at Austin, 27 August 2010
 25. the University of California, Santa Barbara, 15 October 2010
 24. the “Celebration of Philosophy 1: Identity and Modality” conference at the Instituto Tecnológico de la Costa Grande Zihuatanejo (in conjunction with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), 4-6 November 2010
23. “Essentialism and Reference to Kinds” presented at the University of Kansas Departmental Faculty Colloquium, 10 February 2010
22. “Three Questions concerning Essentialism about Kinds” presented at
 22. the “Lisbon-Curitiba Thought, Object, Language Philosophy Colloquium” in Curitiba, Brazil, December 2009
 21. the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, December 2009
20. “Some Remarks on Essentialism about Kinds” presented at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 21 May 2009
19. Critic for Author-Meets-Critics Session on Penelope Mackie’s *How Things Might Have Been: Individuals, Kinds, and Essential Properties* at the Central Division Meeting of the APA, 20 February 2009
18. “Essential and Accidental Properties” presented at the University of Kansas Departmental Faculty Colloquium, 2 May 2007
17. Comments on Michael McGlone’s “The Inadequacy of Lewis’s Response to the Humphrey Objection” for the Pacific Division Meeting of the APA, 18 March 2008 (due to flight cancellation, my comments were read by David Braun)
16. Comments on Timothy Williamson’s “Indicative versus Subjunctive Conditionals, Congruential versus Non-Hyperintensional” for the Third Steven Humphrey Excellence in Philosophy Conference, 16-20 February 2006
15. “Quantifying In and Essentialist Claims” presented at the University of Kansas Departmental Faculty Colloquium, 14 April 2004
14. “Internalism, (Super)Fragile Reasons, and the Conditional Fallacy” presented at the 2003 Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy at Simon Fraser University, 15-18 May 2003
13. “(Super)Fragile Reasons, Internalism, and the Conditional Fallacy” presented at the 22nd Annual Kansas Philosophical Society Meeting, 15 February 2003
12. “(Super)Fragile Reasons for Action and the Modal Structure of Internalism” presented at the University of Kansas Departmental Faculty Colloquium, 18 December 2002
11. “(In the Fiction/Myth) the Number Seventeen Crosses the Rubicon” presented at
 11. the 64th Annual Southwestern Philosophical Society Meetings, 8-10 November 2002
 10. the 54th Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, 25-26 October 2002

9. Commentator on Jan Thomas's "Fiction, Morality, and Relativity" at the 54th Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, 25-26 October 2002
8. "Are Modal Contexts Opaque?" presented at the 63rd Annual Southwestern Philosophical Society Meetings, 2-4 November 2001
7. "Are Modal Contexts Opaque?" presented at
 7. the University of Kansas Departmental Faculty Colloquium, October 2001
 6. the University of Kansas Departmental Faculty Colloquium, April 2000
5. Commentator on Nathan Salmon's "Mythical Objects" at the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, March 2000
4. "Modal Paradox" presented at the University of Haifa International Conference on the Work of Saul Kripke, 21-24 June 1999
3. "Possibilities and the Arguments for Origin Essentialism" presented at the University of Sheffield, May 1997
2. "Worlds and Possible Worlds" presented at the University of Washington, May 1996
1. "Comments on Stich's *Fragmentation of Reason*" presented at the Discipuli Conference at the University of Southern California, March 1992

Refereeing

Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, the Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, Erkenntnis, the European Journal of Philosophy, Inquiry, the Journal of Philosophy, Manuscripta, Mind, Noûs, Oxford University Press, Pearson-Longman, Philosophy, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Ratio, the Review of Metaphysics, Springer Press, Synthese, and Thought.