# Michael J Raven

Department of Philosophy | University of Victoria

✉ P.O. BOX 1700 STN CSC | Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2 | CANADA

✉ mike@raven.site

🖥 raven.site

🗎 orcid.org/0000-0003-0177-1782

## RESEARCH AREAS

SPECIALIZATION  Metaphysics (ground, essence, fundamentality, modality, social metaphysics)

COMPETENCE  Philosophy of Logic; Philosophy of Language; Philosophy of Mind; Epistemology

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Professor** | **Philosophy**, **University of Victoria** 2021—

**Affiliate Professor** | **Philosophy**, **University of Washington** 2018—

**Visiting Affiliate Professor** | **Philosophy**, **New York University** 2025-2026

Associate Professor | Philosophy, University of Victoria 2013—2021

Visiting Scholar | Philosophy, University of Washington 2016-2017, 2012-2013

Assistant Professor | Philosophy, University of Victoria 2009-2013

Instructor | Philosophy, New York University 2008-2009

## EDUCATION

**PHD,** Philosophy, New York University 2009 | Kit Fine (chair), Ted Sider, Crispin Wright

**MA,** Philosophy, New York University 2007 | Ned Block (adviser)

**BA,** Philosophy, Reed College 2002 | Mark Hinchliff (adviser)

## GRANTS

Project Grant (1,111,617 CHF) | Swiss National Science Foundation 2023-2027
[**project partner**; principal investigators: Olivier Massin and Kathrin Koslicki 2021-2025]

Insight Grant ($152,589) | Social Science & Humanities Research Council 2018-2025
[**principal investigator**: 2021-2025, collaborator: 2018-2020; co-applicant with Kathrin Koslicki]

Connection Grant ($15,640) | Social Science & Humanities Research Council 2020

Connection Grant ($15,965) | Social Science & Humanities Research Council 2018

Internal Research Grants ($29,428 total) | University of Victoria 2010-2014,2016,2020

Conference Grant ($2000 - declined) | Canadian Journal of Philosophy 2014

Scholarly Travel Grants ($16,850 total) | University of Victoria 2011-2024

Learning & Teaching Development Grant ($7500) | University of Victoria 2010

Standard Research Grant ($52,039) | Social Science & Humanities Research Council 2011
[**collaborator**; principal investigator: James Young]

## Awards & Honors

Humanities Faculty Fellowship | University of Victoria 2020

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award | New York University 2009

Graduate Forum Fellow | New York University 2007-2008

Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship (tuition/stipend) | New York University 2003-2008

Dean's Supplementary Fellowship ($1000) | New York University 2003

Humanistic Studies Fellowship ($17,500) | Mellon Foundation 2003

Phi Beta Kappa Society 2002

Edwin N. Garlan Memorial Prize in Philosophy | Reed College 2002

Commendation for Academic Excellence | Reed College 1998-2002

Chase Youth Award for Entrepreneurship 1998

Xerox Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences 1998

Spokane Scholars Award: 1st Excellence in Social Sciences 1998

Phi Delta Kappa Grant for Prospective Educators 1998

Elks National Foundation "Most Valuable Student" Award 1998

Washington State Honors Award 1998

Washington State Principal's Scholars Award 1998

National Merit Scholarship Finalist 1998

## Scholarly Impact

philpeople.org | publication volume = **78th pctl** (92nd pctl ≤ 5 years); citations = **top 5%** (top 3% ≤ 5 years)
Google Scholar | citations = **1040**, h-index = **12**, i10-index = **14**
**Erdös number = 3** (Erdös→Pomerance→Crandall→Raven)

## Book

44 • ***In Light of the Circumstances***. Oxford: Oxford University Press (under contract).

## Text Book

43 • ***Form: Introducing Formal Logic***. Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license (2025).

## Edited Volumes

42 • *The Routledge Handbook of Essence in Philosophy*, w/K. Koslicki. New York: Routledge (2024).

41 • *The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding*. New York: Routledge (2020).

## Articles

40 • **"Dynamics of Artifacts"**, *Mind* (forthcoming).

39 • **"Physicalism and its Challenges in Social Ontology"** in S. Collins, B. Epstein, S. Haslanger & H. B. Schmid (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Social Ontology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

38 • **"What Physicalism Could Be"**, *Analytic Philosophy* (forthcoming).

37 • **"Etic Theorizing Unanchored"**, *Journal of Social Ontology,* 10.1 (2024): 87-99.

36 • **"Universals are Not Immanent and Constructors"**, *Disputatio*, XV.70 (2023): 322-327.

35 • **"The Bases of Truths"**, *Philosophical Studies* 180 (2023): 2153-2174.

34 • **"A Problem for Immanent Universals in States of Affairs"**, *American Philosophical Quarterly* 59.1 (2022): 1-9.

33 • **"A Puzzle for Social Essences"**, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 8.1 (2022): 128-148.

32 • **"Explaining Essences"**, *Philosophical Studies* 178 (2021): 1043-1064.

31 • **"Is Logic Out of this World?"**, *The Journal of Philosophy* 117.10 (2020): 557-577.

30 • **"Introduction"** in M. Raven (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding*. New York: Routledge (2020).

29 • **"Hylomorphism without Forms? A Critical Notice of Simon Evnine's *Making Objects and Events*"**, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 49.5 (2019): 652-669.

28 • **"(Re)discovering Ground"** in K. Becker & I.D. Thomson (eds.), *Cambridge History of Philosophy, 1945 to 2015*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2019).

27 • **"New Work for a Theory of Ground"**, *Inquiry* 60.6 (2017): 625-655.

26 • **"Against the Semantic Orientation towards Aesthetic Judgements"** in J. Young (ed.), *Semantics of Aesthetic Judgement*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2017).

25 • **"Fundamentality without Foundations"**, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93.3 (2016): 607-626.

24 • **"Ground"**, *Philosophy Compass* 10.5 (2015): 322-333.

23 • **"Is Ground a Strict Partial Order?"**, *American Philosophical Quarterly* 50.2 (2013): 191-199.

22 • **"Subjectivism is Pointless"**, *Logos & Episteme* 4.1 (2013): 733-748.

21 • **"Is Lewis's Mixed Theory Mixed Up?"**, *Theoria* 79.1 (2013): 57-75.

20 • **"In Defence of Ground"**, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 90.4 (2012): 687-701.

19 • **"Attesting the Aristotelian Future"**, *Philosophia* 39.4 (2011): 751-757.

18 • **"Can Time Pass at the Rate of 1 Second per Second?"**, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 89.3 (2011): 459-465.

17 • **"There is a Problem of Change"**, *Philosophical Studies* 155.1 (2011): 23-35.

16 • **"Cryptographic Hash Functions Based on Artificial Life"**, w/M.A. Bedau & R. Crandall. PSIᴘʀᴇss (2010).

15 • **"Problems for Testimonial Acquaintance"**, *Noûs* 42.4 (2008): 727-745.

14 • **"A General Framework for Evolutionary Activity Statistics"**, w/M.A. Bedau, in W. Banzhaf, et al. (eds.), *Advances in Artificial Life – ECAL 2003*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag (2003).

13 • **"Collective Intelligence of the Artificial Life Community on its Own Successes, Failures, and the Future"**, w/S. Rasmussen, G.N. Keating & M.A. Bedau, *Artificial Life* 9 (2003)*:* 207-235.

12 • **"Visualizing Adaptive Evolutionary Activity of Allele Types and of Phenotypic Equivalence Classes of Alleles"**, w/M.A. Bedau, in E. Bilotta, et al. (eds.), *ALife VIII Workshops*. Sydney (2002).

## REVIEWS

11 • **T. Sattig,** *The Double Lives of Objects*, *Philosophical Review* 127.1 (2018): 140-144.

10 • **F. Correia & B. Schnieder (eds.)** *Metaphysical Grounding: Understanding the Structure of Reality*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2013).

9 • **D. Chalmers, D. Manley & R. Wasserman (eds.),** *Metametaphysics: New Essays on the Foundations of Ontology*, *Philosophy in Review* 30.3 (2010).

## OTHER (ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, LAB REPORTS)

8 • **"Kit Fine"**, *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2020).

7 • **"The Essential Glossary of Ground",** w/K. Fine, in M. Raven (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding*. New York: Routledge (2020).

6 • **"Metaphysical Grounding"**, in D. Pritchard (ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press (2019).

5 • **"Ontology"** and **"Substance"** in J. Lachs & R. Talisse (eds.), *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge (2007).

4 • **"Consensus-building Tools for Post-wildfire Geographical Information System (GIS) Design"**, w/G. N. Keating & S. Rasmussen. LANL License No. LA-13894-MS (2002).

3 • **"Use of Web-based Consensus Building and Conflict Clarification Process for the Navajo Nation Governmental Efficiency Evaluation"**, w/G. N. Keating, S. Rasmussen, E. Tso, J. Cocq & P. Dotson. *Appendix to ETD Environmental Consulting, Report of the Navajo Nation Council Evaluation*. LANL Report LA-UR-01-6207 (2001).

2 • **"Web-based Consensus Building and Conflict Clarification Tool for EES Division's Strategic Planning Process",** w/G. N. Keating & S. Rasmussen. LANL License No. LA-UR-02-3830 (2001).

1 • **"Kit Fine"**, *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2020).

## PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTARIES, AND PANELS

**"Grounding Explanations: Worldly, Unworldly, and Both?"**, 2025: Grounding and Truthmaking Workshop

*comments:* **Emilie Pagano's "Being Social, Being Socially Constructed, and Being Fundamental Relative to Social Reality"**, 2025: Knowledge in Crisis Social Metaphysics Workshop

6 talks on *In Light of the Circumstances* (**"Introduction", "Ground", "Essence", "Modality", "Artifacts", "Social Metaphysics"**), 2025: Keynote Speaker at the Neuchâtel Workshop on Contemporary Metaphysics: Truth, Worlds, and Circumstances.

**"The Dynamics of Artifacts"**, 2025: University of Parma; Mind-Dependence Workshop; 2024: National University of Singapore, Pomona College; 2022: Keynote Address of the Northwest Philosophy Conference, The IXth Triennial Conference of the Society for Analytic Philosophy

*comments:* **Louis deRosset's "Legal Grounds"**, 2024: Social Metaphysics Workshop

*comments:* **Samuele Chilovi's "Anchoring, Grounding, and Explanatory Laws"**, 2023: Social Metaphysics Workshop

**"Is Physicalism Possible?"**, 2023: The National Autonomous University of Mexico; 2021: University of Manitoba, Northwest Philosophy Conference

**"The Social Basis"**, 2023: Eastern APA; 2022: Social Ontology/Collective Intentionality

**"Social Kind Essences and Amelioration: Comments on Mason and Passinsky",** 2023: Eastern APA

*comments:* **Aaron Griffith's "A Truthmaking Account of Social Construction",** 2022: Social Metaphysics Workshop

*comments:* **Deke Gould's "Possibilities and Propositions: Concrete Modal Realism, Platonism, and Similarity",** 2021: Northwest Philosophy Conference

*comments:* **Mark Hinchliff's "Truth in Fiction—A Sequel",** 2021: Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference

*Panelist:* **Kit Fine's "What is Truthmaker Semantics?",** 2020: Peking University Mathematical Philosophy

**"Re-evaluating Social Essences",** 2020: Humanities Faculty Fellowship Lecture

**"A Puzzle for Social Essences",** 2020: Social Metaphysics Workshop, Union College; 2018: Social Ontology

*comments:* **Justin Clarke-Doane's *Mathematics and Morality*,** 2019: Canadian Philosophical Association Conference

*comments:* **Wes Simcoe's "Grounding and A Priori Epistemology",** 2019: Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference

**"A Problem for Immanent Universals in States of Affairs",** 2018: Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)Possible VI

*comments:* **Moritz Baron's "Can Williamson's Counterfactual-based Epistemology of Modality Explain our Knowledge of Mathematical Necessity?",** 2018: Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)Possible VI

*comments:* **Martin Glazier's "The Standpoint Challenge to the PSR",** 2018: Principle of Sufficient Reason: Then and Now

**"Hylomorphism without Forms? On Simon Evnine's *Making Objects and Events*",** 2018: Author-Meets-Critic, Eastern APA

*comments:* **Justin Zylstra's "Essence and Grounding Connections",** 2017: Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference

*comments:* **Bob Beddor's & Simon Goldstein's "Believing Epistemic Contradictions",** 2017: Formal Epistemology Workshop

*comments:* **Dana Goswick's "Hylomorphism Without Primitive Modality",** 2017: Canadian Metaphysics Collaborative 1st Annual Conference

*comments:* **Jessica Wilson's "Grounding-based Formulations of Physicalism",** 2017: 21st SOFIA Conference

**"Deriving Ought from Is",** 2016: University of Washington PhilLunch Series

**"Challenges of Teaching Metaphysics",** 2016: Situating Core Analytic Philosophy within the Liberal Arts Curriculum Workshop

*comments:* **Nina Emery's "Against Radical Quantum Ontologies",** 2016: Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference

*comments:* **David Kovacs's "Priority Monism and the Notion of Dependence",** 2016: Central APA

**"Taking to be as Making to be",** 2015: LOGOS, University of Barcelona, Artifacts and Metaphysical Explanation

**"Expressing the Truth, Describing the World",** 2015: Truth and Grounds Conference (eidos), Simon Fraser University; 2014: University of Alberta

**"Fundamentality without Foundations",** 2015: Institut Jean Nicod, Northwest Philosophy

Conference; 2013: Reed College, eidos Workshop in Metaphysics and Mathematics, Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney

*comments:* **Tom Donaldson's "The Grounding of Arithmetic"**, 2015: Pacific APA

*comments:* **Sean Crawford's "Propositions and the Multiple Relation Theory of Belief: Wittgenstein and Russell Reconciled"**, 2014: Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference

"**Vindicating Testimonial Acquaintance**", 2013: Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Pacific APA; 2011: Northwest Philosophy Conference

"**Is Ground a Strict Partial Order?**", 2013: Pacific APA

"**Aesthetic Relativisms and Realities**", 2012: Aesthetic Judgment Workshop

"**Reintroducing Fundamental and Derivative**", 2012: University of St. Andrews, University of Edinburgh

"**Science Cannot Disprove (or Prove) Free Will**", 2012: Philosophy vs. Psychology Debate, University of Victoria

*comments:* **Kenneth Vernon's "The Normativity of Truth"**, 2011: Northwest Philosophy Conference

"**Avoiding Incoherence in Ontology**", 2011: Vienna Forum for Analytic Philosophy, Beijing Normal University

*comments:* **Michael Hick's "Know-who and Testimony Mediated Acquaintance"**, 2011: Pacific APA

"**There is a Problem of Change**", 2010: Keynote Address, Western Canadian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

"**Ontology, from a Fundamentalist Point of View**", 2009: Vancouver Island University, University of Victoria; 2008: New York University Graduate Forum

"**Is Quantifier Variance Metaphysically Relevant?**", 2009: Rhodes College, Arché/CSMN Graduate Conference; 2008: UC Davis Graduate Conference

## ADVISING

| | |
|---|---|
| POSTDOCTORAL SUPERVISOR | Emilie Pagano, "Essence of Anti-Essentialism" Postdoctoral Fellow 2023—2024 |
| PHD CO-SUPERVISOR | Kyle O'Dwyer, PhD, University of Washington 2022— |
| | Thomas Oberle, PhD, University of Alberta 2020—2024 |
| MA SUPERVISOR | William Arrett, MA, University of Victoria 2020 |
| | Pat Reilly, MA, University of Victoria 2019 |
| | Carolyn Garland, MA, University of Victoria 2014 |
| COMMITTEE (NON-SUPERVISOR) | Britney Hugh, PhD, University of Washington 2023— |
| | Devon Sowden, MA, University of Victoria 2024 |
| | Andrew Park, MA, University of Victoria 2014 |
| | Adrienne Canning, MA, University of Victoria 2013 |
| | Soroush Moghaddam, MA, University of Victoria 2013 |
| EXTERNAL EXAMINER | Julio Brotero de Rizzo, PhD, University of Hamburg 2019 |
| | James Norton, PhD, University of Sydney 2017 |
| | Justin Zylstra, PhD, University of Alberta 2016 |
| MENTOR | Ryan Miller, International Social Ontology Society Mentor 2023 |
| | Alec Oakley, Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award 2019-2020 |

## Teaching

| | |
|---|---|
| GRADUATE COURSES | Nonfundamental Metaphysics; Based & Baseless Truths; Language & Attitude Problems; Definition & Essence; Naïve Metaphysics; Modality & Essence; Metaphysical Explanation; Reference & Existence; Metametaphysics; Meaning; Pro-seminar; Time, Tense, Change & Persistence; Directed Studies |
| UNDERGRADUATE COURSES | Introduction to Philosophy; Metaphysics, History of Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Language; Logic; Philosophy of Mathematics; Belief, Truth & Knowledge; Philosophy of Mind; History of Ancient Philosophy |
| ASSISTANCE | Central Problems of Philosophy; Ethics; History of Modern Philosophy; Metaphysics |

## Service

| | |
|---|---|
| ADMIN | **Co-Founder & Steering Committee** | Metaphysics Collaborative 2015— |
| | **Graduate Adviser** | University of Victoria 2023—2025, 2014 |
| | **Graduate Coordinator** | University of Victoria 2011-2016,2018—2023 |
| EDITORIAL | **Co-Editor-in-Chief** | *Metaphysics* 2016— |
| | **Editorial Panel** | *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy* 2020— |
| | **Co-Section Editor** | "Essence", philpapers.org 2019— |
| MENTORING | **Mentor** | International Social Ontology Society 2022— |
| COMMITTEE | **HUMS Grants Board** | University of Victoria 2020— |
| | **Committee on Committees** | University of Victoria 2015-2016 |
| | **Colloquium Committee** | University of Victoria 2013-2016,2017— |
| | **Curriculum Committee** | University of Victoria 2010-2012 |
| | **Admissions Committee** | University of Victoria 2009— |
| | **Hiring Committee** | University of Victoria 2010,2015,2017,2018,2019 |
| EVENTS | **Program Committee** | Pacific APA 2015-2018,2021-2024 |
| | **Co-organizer** | Epistemology of Essence Workshop 2021 |
| | **Organizer** | Re-evaluating Social Essences Workshop 2021 |
| | **Co-organizer** | Language and Essence Workshop 2018 |
| | **Metaphysics Coordinator** | Canadian Philosophical Association 2012-2013 |
| | **Co-organizer** | Columbia/NYU Graduate Philosophy Conference 2003-2004 |
| | **Chair** | Metaphysics on the Mountain 2020; Canadian Metaphysics Collaborative 2019; Pacific APA 2019; Vancouver Summer Philosophy 2017; Metaphysics on the Mountain 2014; Eastern APA 2013; Bellingham Summer Philosophy 2010 |
| SOCIETIES | **Regular Member** | American Philosophical Association |
| OUTREACH | **Contributor** | Wi-Phi: Open Access Philosophy |
| CONSULTING | **Masters Capital Management, L.L.C.** 2006-2007 |
| REFEREE | **Journals** | *Acta Analytica* ×2; *American Philosophical Quarterly* ×3; *Analysis* ×8; *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* ×8; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* ×7; *dialectica*; *Ergo* ×2; *Erkenntnis* ×9; *Frontiers of Philosophy in China*; *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* ×4; *Journal of Philosophical Research* ×2; *The* |

*Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Social Philosophy; Inquiry ×2; Mind ×9; NOÛS ×3; Pacific Philosophical Quarterly ×2; Philosopher's Imprint ×4; Philosophical Papers; Philosophical Quarterly ×8; Philosophical Studies ×15; Philosophy and Phenomenological Research ×3; Philosophy of Science; Ratio ×2; Synthese ×9*

**Books** | Cambridge University Press; Emond Montgomery; Oxford University Press ×7; Polity; Routledge ×4; Wiley-Blackwell

**Grants** | Swiss National Science Foundation; Israel Science Foundation; Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada

**Conferences** | Canadian Philosophical Association ×2; Metaphysics Collaborative ×3; Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference ×3; Western Canadian Philosophical Association

## REFERENCES

**Louis deRosset** | University of Vermont, ☽ (802) 656-3629   ✉ Louis.deRosset@uvm.edu

**Kit Fine** | New York University, ☽ (212) 998-3558   ✉ kit.fine@nyu.edu

**Sally Haslanger** | Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ☽ (617) 253-4458   ✉ shaslang@mit.edu

**Kathrin Koslicki** | University of Neuchâtel, ☽ +41 32 718 18 17   ✉ kathrin.koslicki@unine.ch

**Gideon Rosen** | Princeton University, ☽ (609) 258-5505   ✉ grosen@princeton.edu

**Jonathan Schaffer** | Rutgers University, ☽ (848) 932-0411   ✉ jonathan.schaffer@rutgers.edu

**Theodore Sider** | Rutgers University, ☽ (848) 932-9861   ✉ sider@rutgers.edu

**Jessica Wilson** | University of Toronto, ☽ (416) 287-7174   ✉ jessica.m.wilson@utoronto.ca