

SOSSEH ASSATURIAN

Department of Philosophy
The University of Texas at Austin
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EMPLOYMENT

2020 - 2021 University of Texas at Austin
Postdoctoral Researcher

EDUCATION

2014 - 2020 University of Texas at Austin
Ph.D. Philosophy (Joint Program in Ancient Philosophy)
Chair: R.J. Hankinson
Committee: Victor Caston (Michigan), Matt Evans, Vanessa de Harven (UMass-Amherst), Rob Koons
Dissertation: *The Stoics on Language and Reality*

Spring 2019 University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
Visiting Graduate Student

2009 - 2014 University of Toronto
B.A. (Hons) Philosophy (Specialist), Classical Civilizations (Major)
Awarded with High Distinction

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION Ancient Greek & Roman Philosophy
AREAS OF COMPETENCE Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, Epistemology

PUBLICATIONS

(Forthcoming) "Why Children, Parrots, and Actors Cannot Speak: The Stoics on Genuine and Superficial Speech," *Apeiron*

(Forthcoming) "What's Eleatic About the Eleatic Principle?" Eds. Stefania Giombini and Massimo Pulpito, *Archai* [Special Issue on Melissus]

2020 "What the Forms are Not: Plato on Conceptualism in Parmenides 132b-c," *Philosophical Studies* 177(2), 353-368

BOOK REVIEWS:

2019 "Melissus and Eleatic Monism by Benjamin Harriman," *The Classical Review* 69(2), 365-366

2015 "Parmenides' Grand Deduction: A Logical Reconstruction of the Way of Truth by Michael Wedin" (with Matt Evans), *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 53(4), 775-776

 AWARDS AND HONOURS (Selected)

- 2020 Summer Fellowship (6,000 USD)
University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School
- 2019 Spring Dissertation Scholarship (8,000 USD)
University of Texas at Austin, Department of Philosophy
- 2019 Graduate Continuing Fellowship (25,000 USD)
University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School
- 2018-19 Doctoral Fellowship (20,000 CAD)
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- 2016 Cogburn Foundation Philosophical Essay Prize
University of Texas at Austin, Department of Philosophy
- 2015 Ethel Treble and F Louis Barber Travelling Postgraduate Scholarship (5,000 CAD)
Victoria College, University of Toronto
- 2014 Graduate Recruiting Fellowship (8,000 USD)
University of Texas at Austin, Department of Philosophy

Undergraduate Awards (at University of Toronto): Faculty of Arts & Science Dean's List, 2009-2010, 2013-2014; Kathleen Cowan Prize, 2013; Regents Scholarship, 2010

PRESENTATIONS

- Jan 2020 How to Do Things with Complete Lektas: The Stoics on Illocutionary Acts
APA Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- May 2019 The Priority of Stoic Definite Assertibles
Ancient and Early Modern Stoic (Meta)physics Workshop, Utrecht University
- Apr 2019 What the Forms are Not: on Conceptualism in Parmenides 132b-c
APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, BC
- Apr 2019 19th Annual NYU-Columbia Graduate Philosophy Conference
- Oct 2017 Aristotle and the Stoics on Signification
Forms: New Perspectives on Ancient Metaphysics and Epistemology Conference,
Università degli Studi di Milano
- Sept 2017 A Discussion of Jaap Mansfeld et al. 'Melissus Between Miletus and Elea' (Invited)
10th Biennial Eleatica Symposium, Fondazione Alario per Elea-Velia Onlus
- Jan 2017 Knowing and Feeling: An Epistemic Model of the Stoic View of Emotions
148th Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies, Toronto, Ontario
- June 2016 Parmenidean Ontology and Verbs of Cognition: A Solution to the *Alētheia-Doxa* Problem
5th Conference of the International Association for Presocratic Studies, Austin, TX
- Dec 2015 2nd Ancient Philosophy Workshop for Female Graduate Students and Early Career
Researchers, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

- Mar 2015 Are Stoic Limits Incorporeals?
8th Annual University of South Florida Graduate Conference: 'Delimiting Limits'
- Oct 2015 A Cosmological Assessment of Parmenidean Monisms
33rd Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Fordham University
- Apr 2013 Using Plotinus to Extract Plato's Account of Akrasia as Culpable Ignorance
Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Toronto

COMMENTARIES:

- June 2018 On Eliya Cohen, "Vibration as an Explanation for Contact and Compound Individuation in Epicurean Physics"
Athena in Action: A Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy, Princeton University
- Oct 2015 On Katherine Meadows, "The Priority in Being of Actuality to Potentiality in Metaphysics Theta 8"
APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- Apr 2013 On Susan Sauvé Meyer, "Stoic Desires: Affect and Impulse in the Stoic Doctrine of the Passions"
38th Annual Workshop in Ancient Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS:

- June 2018 Athena in Action: A Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy, Princeton University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR (at the University of Texas at Austin):

- Fall 2019 Ancient Philosophy
Spring 2018 Ancient Philosophy
Fall 2017 Knowledge & Reality

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT:

- Spring 2020 Knowledge & Valuation (Ian Proops)
Fall 2018 Ancient Philosophy (Jeff Leon)
Fall 2016 Mind & Body (Michael Tye)
Spring 2016 Ancient Philosophy (Stephen White)
Fall 2015 Ancient Philosophy (Jim Hankinson)
Fall 2014 Knowledge & Valuation (Galen Strawson)
2012-13 (AY) Introduction to Philosophy (Peter King) (at the University of Toronto)

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING AND TEACHING CERTIFICATES: Division of Diversity and Community Engagement Inclusive Classrooms Seminar and Certificate, Spring 2017; Supervisory Teaching in Philosophy (Michael Tye), Fall 2016; Center for Teaching and Learning Seminar in Teaching Fundamentals, Fall 2014; Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate and Scholarship, Fall 2014

LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

CLASSICAL: Ancient Greek, Latin

MODERN: Armenian, French (basic reading), German (basic reading)

SERVICE

2015-17 Secretary, Euthyphrones (Ancient Greek Philosophy Reading Group)
 2017 Graduate Organizer, 40th Ancient Philosophy Workshop
 2016-17 Graduate Student Representative to Faculty
 2015-16 Co-organizer, UT-Austin Graduate Conference
 2014-16 Committee Member, Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) at UT-Austin

REFERENCES

R.J. HANKINSON (CHAIR)
 Professor of Philosophy
 University of Texas at Austin
 rjhankinson@mail.utexas.edu

VICTOR CASTON
 Professor of Philosophy and Classical Studies
 University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
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MATT EVANS
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 University of Texas at Austin
 evansmatt@utexas.edu

VANESSA DE HARVEN
 Associate Professor of Philosophy
 University of Massachusetts at Amherst
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IAN PROOPS (TEACHING REFERENCE)
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 University of Texas at Austin
 iproops@utexas.edu

THE STOICS ON LANGUAGE AND REALITY - A B S T R A C T

My project reconstructs the Stoic theory of the relation between language and reality by focusing on the theory of *lekta*. I argue against the consensus view that *lekta* are primarily the meanings of speech, by showing that *lekta* are items which account primarily for the performance of speech acts. This offers novel solutions to puzzles such as the completeness of complete *lekta*, the difference between superficial and genuine speech, and the sense in which *lekta* are mind-dependent. I then argue against dominant interpretations of the structure of complete *lekta* by showing that the subject terms of *lekta* are not material qualities, nor purely abstract entities. Rather, *lekta* are partially constituted by bodies, indefinite parts, or Cases (*ptōseis*). A central contribution of the project is my novel reconstruction of Cases as particularizing events. With an account of predicates as the effects of causation between bodies, I show that all of the constituents of complete *lekta* are items that are real outside of the context of language, and become unified by a speech act. This new reading of the Stoic theory better coheres with source texts, and offers Stoic responses to problems in contemporary philosophy, such as the status of the content-force distinction and the problem of the unity of propositions.