

# SOSSEH ASSATURIAN

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## EMPLOYMENT

- 2023 - **University of Washington - Seattle**, Department of Philosophy  
Assistant Professor
- 2022 - 2023 **University of Toronto**, Department of Philosophy  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2020 - 2022 **University of Texas at Austin**, Department of Philosophy  
Postdoctoral Researcher
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## EDUCATION

- 2014 - 2020 **University of Texas at Austin**, Ph.D. in Philosophy  
Joint Program in Ancient Philosophy  
Dissertation: *The Stoics on Language and Reality*  
Committee: R.J. Hankinson (chair), Victor Caston (University of Michigan), Matt Evans,  
Vanessa de Harven (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), Rob Koons
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**, Visiting Student (Spring 2019)
- 2009 - 2014 **University of Toronto**, B.A. (Hons) in Philosophy and Classical Civilizations  
Awarded with High Distinction
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AREA OF SPECIALIZATION Ancient Greek & Roman Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Feminist  
Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming “Parmenides’ *Doxa* and the Norms of Inquiry: A Case Study of the Fragments on Astronomy” in *Inquiring into Being: Essays on Parmenides*, edited by Colin Smith
- 2022 “Why Children, Parrots, and Actors Cannot Speak: The Stoics on Genuine and Superficial Speech” *Apeiron* 55(1), 1-34
- 2021 “What’s Eleatic About the Eleatic Principle?” *Archai* 31(3), 1-37 (Special Issue on Melissus, edited by Stefania Giombini and Massimo Pulpito)

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” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 53(4), 775-776 (with Matt  
Evans)

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AWARDS AND HONOURS (Selected)

2022 OVPR Tri-Council Postdoctoral Fellowship Top-up Award  
University of Toronto - Mississauga, Office of the Vice-Principal Research

2020 Summer Fellowship  
University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School

2019 Spring Dissertation Scholarship  
University of Texas at Austin, Department of Philosophy

2019 Graduate Continuing Fellowship  
University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School

2018 - 19 Doctoral Fellowship  
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  
University of Toronto, Victoria College

2014 Graduate Recruiting Fellowship  
University of Texas at Austin, Department of Philosophy

2013 Kathleen Cowan Prize  
University of Toronto, Victoria College

2010 Regents Scholarship  
University of Toronto, Victoria College

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PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

\* = invited

June 2022 Author Meets Critics Symposium: Susanne Bobzien’s “Did Frege Plagiarize the Stoics?”\*  
*Durham-Chicago Colloquium on Logic and Language (DCCLL)*

[Title redacted for blind review]  
Mar 2022 *Now, Exaiphnēs, and the Present Moment in Ancient Philosophy*, Ruhr Universität Bochum

Jan 2020 How to Do Things with Complete *Lekta*: 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 *19<sup>th</sup> Annual NYU-Columbia Graduate Philosophy Conference*, New York, NY
- Oct 2017 Aristotle and the Stoics on Signification  
*Forms: New Perspectives on Ancient Metaphysics and Epistemology*, University of Milan
- Sept 2017 A Discussion of Jaap Mansfeld et al. ‘*Melissus Between Miletus and Elea*’ \*  
*10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Eleatica Symposium*, Fondazione Alario per Elea-Velia Onlus (Italy)
- Jan 2017 Knowing and Feeling: An Epistemic Model of the Stoic View of Emotions  
*148<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies*, Toronto, Ontario
- June 2016 Parmenidean Ontology and Verbs of Cognition  
*5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Association for Presocratic Studies*, Austin, TX
- Dec 2015 *2<sup>nd</sup> Ancient Philosophy Workshop for Female Graduate Students and Early Career Researchers*,  
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
- Mar 2015 Are Stoic Limits Incorporeals?  
*Delimiting Limits*, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- Oct 2015 A Cosmological Assessment of Parmenidean Monisms  
*33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy*, Fordham University

## 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”  
*38<sup>th</sup> 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 INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD (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

Spring 2017 Inclusive Classrooms Seminar and Certificate (2-week program)  
 University of Texas at Austin, Division of Diversity  
 Fall 2016 Teaching Philosophy (10-week seminar)  
 University of Texas at Austin, Department of Philosophy  
 Fall 2014 Teaching Fundamentals Seminar and Certificate (10-week program)  
 University of Texas at Austin, Center for Teaching and Learning

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LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

CLASSICAL: Ancient Greek, Latin

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

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SERVICE

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

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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  
 Associate Professor of Philosophy  
 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)  
 Professor of Philosophy

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THE STOICS ON LANGUAGE AND REALITY (Dissertation Abstract)

My project reconstructs the early Greek 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 puzzles in contemporary philosophy, such as the status of the content-force distinction and the problem of the unity of propositions.