

# BENJAMIN BRAST-MCKIE

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## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Oxford</b> D.Phil in Philosophy	<i>August 2020</i>	<b>Brandeis University</b> B.A. in Philosophy ( <i>magna cum laude</i> )	<i>May 2012</i>
<b>University of Oxford</b> B.Phil in Philosophy	<i>June 2016</i>	B.A. in Mathematics Minor in Quantum Physics	

### Thesis Titles

- D.Phil Thesis: “Towards a Logic of Essence and Ground”  
— Supervised by Timothy Williamson and James Studd
- B.Phil Thesis: “Metasemantics in the Theory of Ground” (*distinction*)  
— Supervised by Timothy Williamson

## RESEARCH

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### Areas of Expertise

- Metaphysics
- Philosophical Logic

### Areas of Competence

- Mathematical Logic
- History of Modal Logic

### Areas of Interest

- Indian Philosophy
- Social Ontology
- Medieval Metaphysics

### Papers

- (R&R) “Identity and Aboutness” in *The Journal of Philosophical Logic*  
— Included in the present application
- (R&R) “A Complete Logic of Ground” in *The Review of Symbolic Logic*  
— To be divided into two papers, as recommended by the reviewers

### In Progress

- “Analysis, Reduction, and Identity”  
— *A philosophical account of the theoretical roles of reduction (or real definition), analysis (or nominal definition), and propositional identity, together with a comparison of their logics for a general philosophical audience.*
- “Fundamentality and the Self”  
— *An application of the logic of essence and ground, regimenting three Upanishadic claims concerning the relationship between the self (ātman) and Brahman.*
- “A Modal Semantics for Essence and Ground”  
— *A state semantics for a propositional modal logic for essence and ground.*
- “Essence and Dependence”  
— *An account of a number of ontological dependence relations in terms of essence, arguing that there is no hope of defining essence in terms of any ontological dependence relation.*
- “A Predicate Logic for Essence and Ground”  
— *A predicate logic for essence and ground, establishing soundness over a trope semantics.*

## TALKS

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### Talks

- “Formal Foundations for the Logic of Essence and Ground”  
*Wollheim Society* (Berkeley: 21.9.18)
- “Philosophical Foundations for the Logic of Essence and Ground”  
*Wollheim Society* (Berkeley: 8.9.18)
- “Grounding and Dependence”  
*Philiminality* (Oxford: 4.5.18)
- “The Logic of Determination”  
*DPhil Seminar* (Oxford: 5.5.17)
- “Reductionism About Ground”  
*Theoretical Work in Progress* (Oxford: 18.11.16)
- “Reductionism About Ground”  
*Grounding Grounding* (Alghero: 29.10.16)
- “Early Interpretations of the Barcan Formula”  
*Women in Early Analytical Philosophy*  
(Ghent: 5.10.15)
- “Getting Down to the Ground”  
*Ockham Society* (Oxford: 20.11.14)

### Committees and Conferences

- Structure in Metaphysics Conference  
*Co-organised with Annina Loets*  
(Oxford 30.5.2015 - 1.6.2015)
- Jowett Society (Oxford 2015-2017)  
*Co-organiser*

### Reading Groups

- Metaphysics, Logic/Language, Epistemology  
(Oxford, 2015-2018) *Co-organiser*
- Modal Logic as Metaphysics (Oxford, 2015)  
*Co-organiser*

## TEACHING

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### Classes

- Introduction to Logic (Michaelmas, 2019)
- Philosophical Logic (Hilary, 2018)
- Introduction to Logic (Michaelmas, 2017)
- Philosophical Logic (Hilary 2017)

### Tutorials

- Knowledge and Reality (Trinity, 2018)
- Metaphysics (Hilary, 2018)
- Introduction to Logic (Michaelmas, 2017)
- Philosophical Logic (Trinity, 2017)