

# SEAN C. EBELS-DUGGAN

Department of Philosophy, Northwestern University  
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## EMPLOYMENT

Northwestern University

Lecturer in Philosophy (part-time), 2007-present

## EDUCATION

Ph.D in Philosophy (Logic and Philosophy of Science Track)

University of California, Irvine, June 2007

M.A. in Mathematics, Boston College, May 2001

M.Litt in Philosophy, University of St Andrews (Scotland), November 1998

B.A. in Philosophy, Wheaton College (Illinois), May 1997

## AREAS OF INTEREST

Logic, Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic, Early Analytic Philosophy, Kant

## PUBLICATIONS

“Relative Categoricity and Abstraction Principles” (joint with Sean Walsh, UC Irvine). *The Review of Symbolic Logic*, 8:3 (572–606), 2015.

“The Nuisance Principle in Infinite Settings”. *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*, 4:4 (263–268), December 2015.

“Abstraction Principles and the Classification of Second-order Equivalence Relations”. Forthcoming in *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*.

*Abstract:* This paper improves two existing theorems of interest to neo-logicist philosophers of mathematics. The first is a classification theorem due to Fine for equivalence relations between concepts definable in a well-behaved second-order logic. The improved theorem states that if an equivalence relation is defined without non-logical vocabulary, then the bicardinal slice of any equivalence class—those equinumerous elements of the equivalence class with equinumerous complements—can have one of only three profiles. The improvements to Fine's theorem allow for an analysis of the well-behaved models had by an abstraction principle, and this in turn leads to an improvement of Walsh and Ebels-Duggan's relative categoricity theorem.

## PROFESSIONAL AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

### Northwestern University:

Freshman Advisor to 14-16 students (2010-11, 2012-13, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015).

Philosophy Department: Logic Coordinator (2007-9)

Undergraduate Committee (2008-9, 2010-present)

Undergraduate Thesis advisor to:

Matthew Kwon (Fall/Winter 2012-13, Philosophy)

Alberto Takase (Fall/Winter 2015-6, Mathematics)

Michael Hamburger (Spring/Fall 2016, Philosophy)

Director of Undergraduate Research Summer Project for:

Erik Baker (Summer 2015, Philosophy/History).

Ph. D committee member for:

Alexander Dolnick, (Philosophy, University of Illinois-Chicago, 2012).

### Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy:

Advisory Board Member and primary website designer (2008-9).

Referee for *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, and for Acumen Publishers, Ltd.

## PRESENTATIONS

“Ordinals, Abstraction, and Cardinality Requirements in Second-Order Logic”

ASL-APA Joint Meeting, Special Session on Logicism, March 2-5, 2016.

“Relative Categoricity and Abstraction Principles”

Abstraction: Philosophy and Mathematics Workshop, University of Oslo, May 22-24, 2014.  
(Joint work with Sean Walsh, University of California, Irvine)

“On Gödel’s 1931 footnote on the ‘true source of incompleteness’”

Logic group workshop, University of Notre Dame, April 26, 2013.

“Norms and Self-consciousness”, ISSCSS, University of Latvia, Riga 2010

“Why is Arithmetic Incomplete?”, University of Chicago Formal Philosophy Workshop, 2009

“Why is Arithmetic Incomplete? Some minor results”

Midwest Philosophy of Mathematics Workshop, University of Notre Dame, 2008

“Eliminating Logical Knowledge”, Northwestern University, 2007

“The Inertness of Logical Form”, University of Illinois-Chicago, 2006

“On the Uses of Dedekind's Theorem”,

Midwest Philosophy of Mathematics Workshop, University of Notre Dame 2002

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Introductory:

First Year Seminar in Philosophy: Desire and Mind (S17)

First Year Seminar in Philosophy: Mind and Morals, Excluded Voices (F15)

First Year Seminar in Philosophy: Philosophy off the beaten path (F14)

Paradoxes in Logic and Metaphysics (W14)

Freshman Seminar in Philosophy: Morality and Objectivity (F13)

Freshman Seminar in Philosophy: What do you believe and why? (F12)

Scientific Reasoning (S12, S17)

Elementary Logic I (F07, 08, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15)

Freshman Seminar in Philosophy: Geometry and Reality (F2010)

Elementary Logic II (fulfills graduate requirement) (W08, 09)

Upper-level Undergraduate and Graduate:

Wittgenstein (F16)

The Problem of Universals in Medieval Philosophy (S16)

Set Theory (S15)

Advanced Logic (S09, W11, F14)

Philosophy of Mathematics (W13)

Logic and Anti-Realism (S12)

Classics of Analytic Philosophy (F07)

Several independent studies on various topics, including:

Set Theory (W14)

Philosophy of Geometry and Set Theory (F13)

Logic (S08)