

# RYAN YOUNG

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## CURRENT POSITIONS

- Visiting Fellow** Philosophy Program, College of Arts and Social Sciences, The Australian National University.
- Assistant Director** Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, Canberra.

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION: FORMAL LOGIC, PHILOSOPHICAL LOGIC, PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC, PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: EPISTEMOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS, PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (INCL. PHYSICS), 20TH CENTURY ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Philosophy**, Philosophy Graduate Program, The Australian National University 2004-2011  
Thesis Complete and Marked Supervisor: Dr Peter Roeper
- Visiting Graduate Student, Institute for Logic & Philosophy of Science, 2006-2008  
University of Leipzig Supervisor: Prof. Ingolf Max
- B.A. (Hons)**, 1st Class Honours in Philosophy, The Australian National University. 1999-2003  
Sub-Thesis Title: *Gödel's Theorem: Consistency, Compositionality and Presupposition*  
Supervisor: Dr Peter Roeper
- B.Sc.**, The Australian National University. 1999-2002  
Pure Mathematics (Major) & Theoretical Physics (Sub-Major) (1<sup>st</sup> Class average)

## DISSERTATION

**A Semantically Closed Solution to the Liar Paradox** *Supervisor: Dr Peter Roeper*

I develop and defend a revolutionary new approach to the formal definition of the Truth Predicate. This approach allows a consistent and semantically closed formal truth definition for any formal system of logic. This remarkable property is made possible by the key result that standard assumptions about the semantic structure of formal languages, such as Recursivity and Model Theory, prevent a semantically closed solution to the Liar Paradox. In response to this negative result, I motivate the intuitive alteration to the orthodox semantic structure of formal languages that predicates cannot always be interpreted within a model, since they assert properties whose truth cannot be judged purely against the model. To implement this, I argue for a criterion of Semantic Evaluability which identifies when predicates are interpretable. I use this criterion to strengthen the T-Schema, which results in a formal approach to the definition of truth that is consistent, not restricted to any type of logic and avoids the Revenge Problem. I demonstrate these claims by constructing formal truth definitions within Classical Sentential Logic and Classical Predicate Logic with Basic Arithmetic.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

<b>DAAD Stipendium for Foreign Young Researchers</b> Awarded to conduct a Research Project into the relationship between Compositionality and Presuppositions at the University of Leipzig.	Oct 2006- July 2008
<b>Australian Postgraduate Award</b> doctoral scholarship, The Australian National University	2004-2008
<b>Research Training Scheme</b> fees scholarship, The Australian National University	2004-2008
<b>National Undergraduate Scholarship</b> , The Australian National University Generous maintenance allowance, awarded to the top 15 students per year commencing their degree in any discipline.	1999-2003
<b>Chancellor's Commendation for Excellence</b> , The Australian National University Awarded to students with consistently high marks. Received in all eligible years.	2000, 2001, 2002
<b>DAAD German Language Course Grant</b> , The Herder Institute, Leipzig	Jun-Sept 2006
<b>Student Travel Award</b> , The Association of Symbolic Logic	Mar-Apr 2005
<b>Research Travel Grant</b> , The Australian National University	Mar-Apr 2005

## PUBLICATIONS / WORKS IN PROGRESS

### **What is a Truth Value?**

Develops a new, and intuitively appealing, philosophical account of what a truth value is.

### Abstract, " 'Asymmetric' Systems of Natural Deduction"

Published as part of the Proceedings of the 2007 European Summer Meeting of the Association of Symbolic Logic, Logic Colloquium 07, in The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic, Vol 14, March 2008.

### **The Liar Paradox and Model-Theoretic Semantics**

In Progress

Motivates and presents a formal proof that any formal truth definition which assumes a model theoretic semantic framework cannot provide a semantically closed solution to the Liar Paradox. Hence it is necessary to either regard a semantically closed solution as impossible, or explore alternative semantic approaches.

### **Presuppositions and Compositionality**

In Progress

The acceptance of the existence of Semantic Presuppositions poses a potential counterexample to the compositional semantic structure commonly assumed by formal approaches to semantics. This idea is made precise, and then evaluated against different accounts of compositionality.

This paper contains the results of my DAAD funded Research Project.

## PRESENTATIONS

### REFEREED/INVITED

“A Short Guide to Solving the Liar Paradox”

University of Leipzig Logic Seminar Series, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

“A New Perspective on the Liar Paradox”

TU Dresden Philosophy Seminar Series, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008.

“Towards a Semantically Complete and Consistent Formal Definition of the Truth Predicate”

University of Leipzig Logic Seminar Series, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

“The Liar Paradox and Model-Theoretic Semantics”

University of Leipzig Logic Seminar Series, 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2007.

“ ‘Asymmetric’ Systems of Natural Deduction”

ASL European Logic Colloquium, Wroclaw, Poland, July 2007.

“Formal Theories of Truth and Compositionality”

Guest Lecture, Humboldt University, Berlin, June 2007

“A Presidential Liar: Consistency versus Compositionality”

University of Leipzig Logic Seminar Series, 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2006.

“Non-Compositionality in Logic and Language”

Talk given to a Final Year Undergraduate Logic Seminar, University of Leipzig, February 2006.

“Compositionality and the Truth Predicate”

The First World Congress on Universal Logic, Montreux, Switzerland, 2nd April 2005.

“Lessons from the Liar Paradox”

ANU Philosophy Seminar Series, Faculty of Arts, November 2004.

### OTHER

“Truth, ‘is true’ and truth values”

ANU Philosophy Society, RISS, November 2010

“A Short Guide to Solving the Liar Paradox”

The Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, University of Melbourne, July 2009

“A Short Guide to Solving the Liar Paradox”

ANU Philosophy Society, RISS, April 2009.

“The Liar Paradox and Model-Theoretic Semantics”

ANU Philosophy Society, RISS, August 2007.

“Compositionality and Consistency: The Intriguing Case of the Truth Predicate”,

The Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, The University of Sydney, July 2005.

“The Liar Paradox and Non-Compositional Semantics”

The Australian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference, Macquarie University, Sydney, September 2004.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE / QUALIFICATIONS

<p><b>“Philosophie der Physik” (Philosophy of Physics)</b> Masters/Advanced Undergraduate Seminar (Hauptseminar), University of Leipzig. Duties involved designing the syllabus, teaching in German, coordinating external speakers, setting, supervising and marking essays and two different sorts of exam, as well as providing feedback to students where appropriate.</p>	Wintersemester 2008/9 (October-February)
<p><b>“Wahrheitstheorien” (Theories of Truth)</b> Masters/Advanced Undergraduate Seminar (Hauptseminar), University of Leipzig. Duties include choosing the topic and designing the syllabus, teaching and leading discussions in German, and supervising and marking essays and presentations.</p>	Wintersemester 2008/9 (October-February)
<p><b>“Paradoxien” (Paradoxes)</b> Masters/Advanced Undergraduate Seminar (Hauptseminar), University of Leipzig. Duties included designing the syllabus, teaching and leading discussions in German, and adapting the content to suit the interests of the Students.</p>	Sommersemester 2008 (April-August)
<p><b>“Das Lügner Paradoxon” (The Liar Paradox)</b> Masters Level Seminar Course (Hauptseminar), University of Leipzig My Duties included designing the course, and teaching it jointly with Prof. I. Max in English and German. A particular feature of this course were the outstanding student contributions that were incorporated into the course plan.</p>	Sommersemester 2007 (April-August)
<p><b>MATH1013 “Mathematics and it Applications”</b> First year Mathematics Course, The Australian National University I was a course tutor over two semesters for this mathematics courses aimed at students who needed an in-depth knowledge of university level mathematics.</p>	First and Second Semester 2009 (February-November)
<p><b>PHIL1004 “Thinking Clearly”</b> General First Year Logic Course, The Australian National University For this course I was a Class Tutor for 2 classes, and responsible for marking one of the major assignments, as well as regular marking of weekly assignments. As an Introduction to Formal Reasoning, this course involved providing timely and appropriate feedback to students about their progress.</p>	Second Semester 2004 (July-November)
<p><b>Graduate Teaching Program (Completed with Merit)</b> Graduate Research School, The Australian National University A multi-disciplinary postgraduate program designed to train graduate students in effective teaching techniques in a university environment.</p>	July-October 2004

## WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

<p><b>International Workshop on Truth Values</b> Dresden University of Technology</p>	May/June 2008
<p><b>Structuralism and Category Theory Workshop</b> Stewart Shapiro and Steve Awodey, University of Regensburg</p>	March 2008

<b>The Humanities in a Globalized World</b> Free University, Berlin	June 2007
<b>Postgraduate School on Universal Logic</b> Preceding the First World Congress on Universal Logic, Montreux, Switzerland	Mar-Apr 2005
<b>Logic Summer School</b> Automated Reasoning Group, Research School of Information Sciences and Engineering, The Australian National University	December 2004

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<b>Referee</b> , Praxis Journal of Philosophy	2008-9
<b>English Editor</b> for the Collection "The Discourse Potential of Underspecified Structures", Edited by Prof. A Steube, De Gruyter, 2008 Corrected the English texts of non-native speakers. Duties included editing, and liaising with the authors and the editor over the corrected manuscripts and submission deadlines.	Sept 2006- Jan 2008
<b>Freelance English Editing</b> , Leipzig Including an Economics Dissertation and a MBA Thesis.	2007-2008
<b>Intensive German Language School</b> Herder Institute, University of Leipzig Passed Exam (DSH) which allows one to study in German at University Level	June – Sept 2006
<b>Wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft</b> (Research Assistant) to Apl.Prof. Dr I Max Part of the DFG funded project "Mehrdimensionale Repräsentation von Sprach- und Weltwissen: Untersuchungen zu Präsuppositionen und Negationen im Diskurs"	April – Dec 2006
<b>Official DAAD Representative</b> , Official Launch of the Daad-Group of 8 Joint Research Cooperation Scheme, The Australian Embassy, Berlin	9 <sup>th</sup> July, 2007
<b>Co-Founder, Administrator, and Discussion Group Leader</b> , Quaerentes (Philosophical) Society, The Australian National University	1999-2006
<b>Delegate</b> to the <b>National Student Leadership Forum</b> , Canberra Hosted by the Members and Senators of the Australian Parliament.	August 1999

## LANGUAGES

English, native speaker  
 German, fluent  
 French, speak, read and write with basic competence  
 Latin, average reading ability

## REFEREES

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*Please notify me before contacting my referees.*