

Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

Thank you for considering the MA in Philosophy at Toronto Metropolitan University. I'm genuinely excited that you're here, and I hope this letter gives you a sense of who my philosophical interests and how I approach graduate supervision.

OUR COMMUNITY

TMU's Philosophy department punches well above its weight. We are a collegial, intellectually active group located in the heart of one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities, with strong ties to the broader Toronto-area philosophical community. Philosophy is thriving here, and the MA program reflects that energy. Our students benefit from close relationships with faculty, meaningful teaching experience as TAs, and a vibrant culture of workshops, reading groups, and visiting speakers. Many graduates have gone on to doctoral programs at Oxford, UCLA, Ohio State, McGill, the University of Toronto and elsewhere.

MY RESEARCH

My research spans ethics, formal epistemology and decision theory, metaphysics, and the philosophy of religion. Within these areas, I am especially drawn to questions that lend themselves to rigorous investigation using the tools of mathematics and logic.

In metaphysics, I have worked on questions about time, modality, and methodology. A particular focus has been the principle of parsimony – its meaning, operationalization, and application especially to debates about time and modality. I place myself broadly in the Humean/Lewisian tradition, but am happy to consider ideas from a variety of starting points.

In decision theory and formal epistemology, I am fascinated by what happens when standard probabilistic frameworks break down—particularly in infinite or unbounded contexts. Together with Eddy Keming Chen, I developed surreal decision theory as a framework for reasoning about infinite utilities. I continue to work on related problems involving small probabilities, fine-tuning, and the structure of rational choice.

In philosophy of religion, I engage with analytic theology, debates about the existence of God, and issues that arise from applying philosophical analysis to specific doctrines within the Abrahamic traditions. Recent work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Noûs*, *Mind*, *Faith and Philosophy*, and *Religious*

Studies, among others. Robert Merrihew and Marilyn McCord Adams, who were among my teachers at Rutgers, have inspired much of my work in this area.

I am also co-editing *The Blackwell Companion to Philosophy and the Multiverse* with my colleague Klaas Kraay, which brings together cutting-edge work on the philosophical significance of scientific multiverse hypotheses.

GRADUATE SUPERVISION

I am well-suited to supervise students working in any of my areas of specialization or competence: ethics, formal epistemology, decision theory, metaphysics, philosophy of religion, philosophical logic, philosophy of language, and philosophy of science. I am also happy to supervise students whose interests intersect these areas in unexpected ways—some of the most rewarding philosophical work happens when we cross interdisciplinary lines.

I have supervised and served as a reader on a number of Major Research Papers at TMU, on topics ranging from epistemic and moral justification to cosmic axiology and the metaphysics of Aristotle. I approach supervision as a genuine intellectual partnership. I meet regularly with supervisees, offer detailed written feedback, and work collaboratively to help students find and develop a research question that is both philosophically interesting and tractable at the MA level. I encourage students to share work-in-progress at departmental events and, where appropriate, at external conferences.

Topics I would be particularly excited to supervise include (but are not limited to):

- The axiology of infinite or unbounded value: What should we think—morally and rationally—when outcomes are infinitely good or bad, or when there is no best option?
- Problems in philosophy of religion: the problem of evil (logical and evidential), divine hiddenness, Molinism, open theism, the ontological argument, or the relationship between God and value.
- Decision theory under non-standard conditions: small probabilities, infinite utilities, surreal-valued credences, or the limits of expected utility theory.
- Questions in modal metaphysics, including the nature of possible worlds, modal ontology, or the metaphysics of time.
- Topics in ethics intersecting with metaphysics or formal epistemology, such as moral luck, normative conflict, or the metaphysics and semantics of moral facts.

TEACHING

I have taught a wide range of courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, including logic, metaphysics, philosophy of religion, medieval philosophy, decision theory, and metaethics. At TMU I currently teach Logic and Metaphysics at the undergraduate level, and have taught graduate seminars on *Writing the Book of the World* and *Reasons and Persons*. In the classroom, I aim to make technically demanding material accessible without sacrificing rigor. I want students to come away not just knowing positions but understanding why the problems are hard, why they matter, and how to break them down into manageable bits.

I hope this gives you a good sense of my work and what it might look like to study philosophy with me at TMU. If any of these topics interest you, or if you'd like to discuss your own research ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm happy to talk philosophy at any stage of the application process.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Daniel Rubio

Daniel Rubio

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

Toronto Metropolitan University