

EMMA ROSE HARDY

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University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AOS: Philosophy of Food & Agriculture, Social Metaphysics, Ethics

AOC: Environmental Ethics, Free Will & Moral Responsibility, Philosophy of Religion

EDUCATION

PhD	University of Michigan – Ann Arbor Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy (ABD)	expected August 2026
MA	University of Michigan – Ann Arbor M.A. in Philosophy	2018 – 2022
BA	Loyola Marymount University B.A. in Philosophy (Honors) and Psychology (Honors)	2014 – 2017
	Fordham University	2013 – 2014

DISSERTATION

Dissertation Title: “Cultivating a Fruitful Metaphysics of Food”

Committee Members: Maegan Fairchild (chair), Andrea Borghini (University of Milan), David Baker, Kyle Whyte

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2025 — Rackham Doctoral Internship Fellowship, University of Michigan
Policy Intern for Growing Hope Urban Farm
- 2024 — Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan
Field research on local food systems in Milan, Parma, and Bologna, Italy
- 2018 – 2023 — Weinberg Cognitive Science Grant, University of Michigan

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

“We Are What We Eat: Alice Waters, Slow Food, and Moral Agency” Culinary Mind / *Gastronomica* Lecture in the Philosophy of Food, online, March 2026.

“What is local food?” Michigan Farmers Market Association Annual Conference, East Lansing, MI, February 2024.

“Philosophy, Food, and Making Things Better,” Culinary Mind Quarter-Baked Forum, online, October 2023.

“Are we what we eat? Personal Ontology and the Philosophy of Food,” Hamilton College Food Justice, Aesthetics, and Morality Workshop, Hamilton College, September 2023.

Conference & Workshop Presentations

“Accidental Ethnography at the Farmers Market,” Ethnographphilosophy Workshop, Freie Universität Berlin, June 2026.

“Cultivating Attention: Food Practices and Spiritual Formation,” Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Association / Association for the Study of Food and Society Annual Conference, University of Vermont, June 2026.

“Competing Food Values,” Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Association / Association for the Study of Food and Society Annual Conference, Oregon State University, June 2025.

“Local Food and Producer-Only Farmers Markets,” Philosophy of Food Graduate and Early Career Workshop, University of Milan, March 2025.

“Local Food and Producer-Only Farmers Markets,” 14th Braga Political Philosophy Meetings, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, June 2024.

“Huitlacoche & Corn Smut: A Case Study of Which Things Get to be Food,” Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Association / Association for the Study of Food and Society Annual Conference, Falk College, University of Syracuse, June 2024.

“Huitlacoche, Corn Smut, and Being Food,” Philosophy of Food Graduate and Early Career Workshop, University of Milan, March 2024.

“Desiderata for a Social Ontology of Food,” Social Ontology Conference, Stockholm University, August 2023.

“Working Towards a Fruitful Metaphysics of Food,” in the *New Trends in the Philosophy of Food: Food Ontologies and the Materialities of Eating* panel session with Megan Dean and Nicola Piras, Association for the Study of Food and Society Conference: “Knowing Food: Insights from Around the Table,” Boston University’s Metropolitan College, June 2023.

“Desiderata for a Social Ontology of Food: Working Towards a Helpful and Livable Metaphysics of Food,” 44th Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, April 2023. (*Award for best paper submission.*)

“We Need Food, Food Needs Us,” Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Western Michigan University, January 2023. [Paper accepted; conference missed due to illness.]

“Bringing More Food into the World,” Food, Consumption, and Climate Change Graduate Conference, the University of North Texas, October 2022.

“Becoming, and Remaining, Food,” Social Ontology & Collective Intentionality Conference, the University of Vienna, August 2022.

“Leaning into a Social and Process-Constituted Account of Food,” UM-MIT Social Philosophy Conference, MIT, April 2022.

“Making Sense of a Mysterious Metaphysical Move,” Social Ontology 2020, Neuchatel, Switzerland, August 2020. [Paper accepted; conference moved online due to COVID and unable to attend due to time zone differences.]

“Ameliorative Moves in the Free Will Debate,” FSU Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference, Florida State University, February 2020.

“Ameliorative Moves in the Free Will Debate,” Princeton-Michigan Normativity Workshop, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, August 2019.

“The Not-So-Bad “Bad Results” of Free Will Skepticism,” Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, the University of Colorado, Boulder, March 2019.

“Individual Differences in Will Power? An Analysis of Data from Libet et al. (1983),” Western Psychological Association Meeting, Portland, Oregon, April 2018. [with David Hardy]

“White Antiracists: Motivations, Experiences, and Level of Involvement,” Loyola Marymount Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 2017.

Book Symposia and Invited Commentaries

Response to Paul Thompson’s *What is Agriculture For?* Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Association / Association for the Study of Food and Society Annual Conference, University of Vermont, June 2026.

PUBLICATIONS

Fingerhut, A.W. and Hardy, E.R., “Applying a Model of Volunteering to Better Understand the Experiences of White Ally Activists,” *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, April 2019.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

August 2026 — “What Makes Food Local?” Public Philosophy Exhibit (Scheduled)
Ann Arbor Local Food Festival, Ann Arbor Farmers Market, Ann Arbor, MI
Designed an interactive public philosophy activity inviting festival attendees to reflect on dimensions of localness in food practice, including distance, relationship, trust, seasonality, ecological fit, community support, and food-system resilience.

2023 – 2026 — Member, City of Ann Arbor Public Market Advisory Commission (PMAC)
Served on a seven-member committee advising the Mayor, City Council, Park Advisory Commission, and Market Manager. Participated in subcommittee work to clarify “producer-only” market rules, values, and inspection practices.

2025 — Doctoral Local Food Systems Intern at Growing Hope Urban Farm
University-funded internship with Growing Hope, an Ypsilanti-based nonprofit focused on strengthening the local food system. Worked on cottage food law and SNAP policy advocacy, internal survey assessment and analysis, civic engagement programs, and farm operations.

2025 — “SNAP Stories” Public Writing
Wrote ten community-facing essays highlighting the role of SNAP and other food assistance programs in the Washtenaw County local food system. Interviewed regional food assistance stakeholders, including SNAP recipients and representatives from food banks, farmers markets, urban farms, and SNAP-Ed programs. Essays include “A Recipe for Community Health,” “Innovating for Inclusion,” and “Everyone’s Farm Stop.”

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2023 – present — Culinary Mind Center for the Philosophy of Food

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

University of Michigan Graduate Teacher Certificate: College-level teaching professional development in course design, instructional practice, mentorship, and teaching philosophy.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor

Summer 2026 — Science Fiction & Philosophy
Spring 2022 — Introduction to Philosophy

Graduate Student Instructor (TA)

Winter 2026 — Introduction to Political Economy (with Dan Lowe)
Fall 2025 — Introduction to Philosophy (with Tad Schmaltz)
Winter 2025 — Ethics (with Dan Lowe)
Fall 2024 — Ethics (with Dan Lowe)
Fall 2023 — Introduction to Ethics (with Anna Edmonds)
Fall 2022 — Introduction to Philosophy of Religion (with Tad Schmaltz)
Fall 2021 — Introduction to Philosophy (with Jim Joyce)
Winter 2021 — Critical Reasoning (with Anna Edmonds)
Fall 2020 — Contemporary Moral Problems: Rights and Races (with Daniel Herwitz)
Winter 2020 — Minds & Machines (with Wade Monroe)
Fall 2019 — Science & Objectivity (with Tad Schmaltz)

GRADUATE SCHOOL DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2020 — Organizer, University of Michigan COMPASS MAP Workshop
— Organizer, UM Mind & Moral Psychology Graduate Conference
- 2019 – 2021 — Coordinator, Mind & Moral Psychology Rackham Interdisciplinary Group
— Member, Graduate Admissions Committee
- 2018 – 2021 — Philosophy Department Social Media Presence

REFERENCES

Maegan Fairchild

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Andrea Borghini

Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Milan, Italy
Director of Culinary Mind
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Dan Lowe (*teaching*)

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David Baker

Professor of Philosophy
Undergraduate Chair; PPE Chair
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Julius Buzzard (*public-facing work*)

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