

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 Philosophy; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE); Philosophy of Religion; Free Will & Moral Responsibility

EDUCATION

- PhD** University of Michigan–Ann Arbor August 2026
Ph.D. in Philosophy
Dissertation Title: “Cultivating a Fruitful Metaphysics of Food”
Committee Members: Maegan Fairchild (chair), Andrea Borghini (University of Milan), David Baker, Kyle Whyte
- BA** Loyola Marymount University 2014–2017
B.A. in Philosophy (Honors) and Psychology (Honors)
Fordham University 2013–2014

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Lecturer I** University of Michigan–Ann Arbor August 2026–May 2027
Department of Philosophy

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2025 Rackham Doctoral Internship Fellowship, University of Michigan
Policy & Civic Engagement 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

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

- “**Philosophy of Food in the Real World: Embedded Experience and Methodological Care,**” Global Forum on Food and Philosophy, University of Milan, Italy, January 2027.
- “**Cultivating Attention: Seasonal Food Practices and Spiritual Formation,**” symposium presentation, Global Forum on Food and Philosophy, University of Milan, Italy, January 2027.
- “**Cultivating Biophilia: Food Practices, Awe, and Reverence,**” Mississippi Philosophical Association Annual Conference: “Biophilia: The Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics of Love for the Living World,” Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, February 2027.

PAST 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.

“We Are What We Eat: Alice Waters, Slow Food, and Moral Agency” Inaugural Early-Career Culinary Mind / *Gastronomica* Lecture in the Philosophy of Food, online, March 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, Syracuse University, June 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

“Working Towards a Fruitful Metaphysics of Food,” *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.*)

“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.

“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 Commentaries

Author-Meets-Critics Symposium on 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.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Public Writing & Media

- July 2026 **“Michigan’s Cyclospora Outbreak: Why Buying Directly from the Grower Is Safer Right Now”**
Guest commentary for Bridge Michigan on food safety and buying directly from growers during Michigan’s Cyclospora outbreak.
- Aug. 2026 **“Some Small Michigan Farms Say Lettuce Sales Are Up in Wake of National Outbreak”**
Quoted expert in Kate Furby and Anna Barnes’s article, Michigan Public, August 10, 2026. Commentary on local-food safety and traceability.
- 2025 **“SNAP Stories” Series**
Growing Hope. Ten public-facing essays on SNAP and other food assistance in Washtenaw County’s local food system, drawing on interviews with SNAP recipients and representatives of food banks, farmers markets, urban farms, and SNAP-Ed programs.

Community Engagement & Service

- August 2026 **“What Makes Food Local?” Public Philosophy Exhibit**
Ann Arbor Local Food Festival, Ann Arbor, MI. Interactive public philosophy exhibit inviting attendees to consider distance, relationships, trust, seasonality, ecological fit, community support, and food-system resilience in what makes food local.

2023–present **Member, City of Ann Arbor Public Market Advisory Commission (PMAC)**
Serves on a seven-member commission advising the Mayor, City Council, Park Advisory Commission, and Market Manager; subcommittee work clarifying “producer-only” market rules, values, and inspection practices.

Professional Development in Public Scholarship

2026 **Institute for Social Change, University of Michigan**
Participated in a week-long program in public and community-engaged scholarship: workshops, field visits, structured reflection, and project development.

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

ACADEMIC 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.

Manuscripts Under Review

“‘We Are What We Eat’: Slow Food and Ethical Self-Formation.” Under review at *Gastronomica*; if accepted, it will appear as a target article with invited commentaries.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Summer 2026 Science Fiction & Philosophy
Spring 2022 Introduction to Philosophy

Lecturer I / Section Instructor

Fall 2026 Introduction to Political Economy (course instructor: Elizabeth Anderson)

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)

Pedagogical Training and Certification

2026	Lecturer Pathways to Professional Growth Program, University of Michigan (in progress)
2025	University of Michigan Graduate Teacher Certificate

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2023–present	Culinary Mind Center for the Philosophy of Food <i>University of Milan, Italy</i>
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REFERENCES

Maegan Fairchild

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University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
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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

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

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