

Alumni Profile

Hannah Rubin – Logic and Philosophy of Science PhD Program



Career

Please provide a brief overview of your career path since graduating from UCI.

I spent a year as a postdoc at University of Groningen (in the Netherlands) and am now starting as an assistant professor at the University of Notre Dame.

What made you get into the career that you are in?

What I like doing was exactly what I had been doing in graduate school – teaching and researching questions that interest me. I'm lucky enough to have found a job to be able to continue doing that.

Your Time at UCI

When did you attend UCI?

2011-2017

What program were you in?

Logic and Philosophy of Science

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

There were a lot of reasons. Irvine is well-recognized as the best place to learn evolutionary game theory, which is my primary area of research. But importantly, also, when I visited Irvine I was left with the impression that the graduate students seemed like a supportive group and the professors seemed to really respect the students and their ideas. (These impressions turned out to be true.)

Reflections

Was there one thing or one person at UCI that really helped or made a difference in your graduate/postdoctoral career? If so, tell us about whomever or what it was?

There were of course many people that helped and made a difference in my graduate career, but I have to say I picked a great advisor (Simon Huttegger). When I was choosing between graduate schools, he remembered my writing sample, asked me questions about it, and

offered suggestions of other things to think about for the paper. While that might not seem like a big deal, that didn't happen at any other university I visited and it was a large part of why I chose to come to Irvine. During my first couple of years, Simon met with me when I was nervous that I didn't understand papers I had to present in class, encouraging me that I could understand the material, and made sure I was on the right track. As I started producing my own research, it's difficult to say this more concretely, but he was the right mix of hands-off and hands-on to let me develop my own ideas but still guide me in the right direction.

Alumni Life

What book or podcast would you suggest to someone who is just getting started with their graduate career at UCI? (Examples – Podcast: *Happier with Gretchen Rubin*; Book: *Who Moved my Cheese*)

*My brother just started a podcast with two other academics from the University of Missouri, called *Surviving Academia* (<http://survivingacademiapodcast.com/>). I might be biased, but I think it's pretty good!*

How do you balance work/life?

I try to force myself to take one full day off a week – no work, no (effortful) emails – which is something that is surprisingly hard to do in academia. This doesn't always happen if there's a particularly busy week, but I manage it a lot of the time.