

UMBC's Department of Philosophy presents:

THE LOGICAL FIRMAMENT

Monday May 9th, 2022 • 4:00pm • PAHB 441

How do concrete, material humans learn facts about such immaterial, abstract subjects as logic or mathematics? Most answers to this question focus on how we learn basic definitions and simple inferences. But complex logical and mathematical truths involve a further element—facts about what happens when particular operations are combined in a specific order. These "catenary facts" have gone largely unnoticed by philosophers, despite lying at the heart of such phenomena as logical non-omniscience. I will use them to articulate an epistemology of complex logical facts that needs not rely on intuition, and to offer a new solution to "Benacerraf problems" about our knowledge of abstract entities.

**Professor
Michael G.
Titelbaum**

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University of
Wisconsin-
Madison

