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Areas of Specialization

Epistemology (including Formal Epistemology)
Logic
Philosophy of Science

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Religion
Metaphysics
Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Appointments

University of Utah

Associate Professor (*tenure granted 2017*), Department of Philosophy, 2017–present.

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, 2011–2017.

Tilburg University

Visiting Fellow, Tilburg Center for Logic & Philosophy of Science (TiLPS), September 2008–June 2009.

Education

Ph.D. History & Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, 2011.

Dissertation: *Studies in the Logic of Explanatory Power* (defended June 14, 2011).

Co-directors: John Earman (Pittsburgh, HPS), Edouard Machery (Pittsburgh, HPS).

M.A. Philosophy, Western Michigan University, 2006.

M.A. Philosophy of Religion, Denver Seminary, 2004.

B.S.E. Industrial Engineering, University of Iowa, 2001.

Publications

Book Chapters

"William Paley," in Stewart Goetz and Charles Taliaferro (eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*. Malden, MA: Wiley (forthcoming).

"Inference to the Best Explanation, Cleaned Up and Made Respectable," in Kevin McCain and Ted Poston (eds.), *Best Explanations: New Essays on Inference to the Best Explanation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (2017): 39-61.

"Formal Epistemology," in *Oxford Handbooks Online*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2017): www.oxfordhandbooks.com/ (with Igor Douven).

"Experimental Philosophy Meets Formal Epistemology," in Justin Sytsma and Wesley Buckwalter (eds.), *A Companion to Experimental Philosophy*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell (2016): 535-544.

"Robustness, Diversity of Evidence, and Probabilistic Independence," in Uskali Mäki, Ioannis Votsis, Stéphanie Ruphy, and Gerhard Schurz (eds.), *Recent Developments in the Philosophy of Science: EPSA13 Helsinki*. Dordrecht: Springer (2015): 305-16.

Journal Articles

"Robustness Analysis as Explanatory Reasoning," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, forthcoming.

"Troubles for Bayesian Formal Epistemology? A Response to Horgan," *Res Philosophica*, 95, 1 (2018).

"Hypothesis Competition Beyond Mutual Exclusivity," *Philosophy of Science*, 84, 5 (December 2017): 810-24.

"Experimental Explication," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 94, 3 (2017): 672-710.

"Competing Explanations and Explaining-Away Arguments," *Theology and Science*, 14, 3 (2016): 256-67. Published as part of a special issue on "Explaining and Explaining Away in Science and Religion."

"The Role of Explanatory Considerations in Updating," *Cognition*, 142 (2015): 299-311 (with Igor Douven).

"Probabilistic Alternatives to Bayesianism: The Case of Explanationism," *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6, 459 (2015): journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00459/pdf (with Igor Douven).

"The Possibility of Coherentism and the Stringency of Ceteris Paribus Conditions," *Theoria. An International Journal for Theory, History and Foundations of Science*, 30, 1 (March 2015): 43-52. Published as part of a special issue on "Unification and Coherence."

"Is the Bad Lot Objection Just Misguided?" *Erkenntnis*, 79, 1 (February 2014): 55-64.

"Is the Conjunction Fallacy tied to Probabilistic Confirmation?" *Synthese* 184, 1 (2012): 13-27. Published as part of a special issue on "Probability, Confirmation, and Reasoning Fallacies."

"Comparing Probabilistic Measures of Explanatory Power," *Philosophy of Science* 78, 5 (December 2011): 813-829.

"New Hope for Shogenji's Coherence Measure," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 62, 1 (March 2011): 125-142.

"The Logic of Explanatory Power," *Philosophy of Science* 78, 1 (January 2011): 105-127 (with Jan Sprenger).

"On the Alleged Impossibility of Bayesian Coherentism," *Philosophical Studies* 141, 3 (December 2008): 323-31.

"Must the Scientific Realist Be a Rationalist?" *Synthese* 154, 2 (January 2007): 329-34.

"On a Bayesian Analysis of the Virtue of Unification," *Philosophy of Science* 72, 4 (October 2005): 594-607.

"Paley's Inductive Inference to Design: A Response to Graham Oppy," *Philosophia Christi* 7, 2 (2005): 491-502.

Book Reviews

Review of *Depth: An Account of Scientific Explanation*, by Michael Strevens (Harvard University Press), *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (June 2010), online: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/24400/?id=20248>, (with Stephan Hartmann).

Review of *Reflective Knowledge: Apt Belief and Reflective Knowledge, Volume II*, by Ernest Sosa (Oxford University Press), *The Review of Metaphysics* 63, 3 (March 2010): 722-724.

Conference Reports

3rd Sydney-Tilburg Conference: *The Future of Philosophy of Science* (Tilburg, the Netherlands; April 14-16, 2010), *The Reasoner* 4, 5 (May 2010): 77-78.

Workshop on Scientific Philosophy: *Past and Present* (Tilburg, the Netherlands; April 13, 2010), *The Reasoner* 4, 5 (May 2010): 77.

Bayesianism, Fundamentally (University of Pittsburgh, Center for Philosophy of Science; October 13-14, 2006), *PhilSci Archive*, online: <http://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/3163/>.

Presentations

Refereed or Invited Presentations

“Logical Pluralism, Inference to the Best Explanation, and Bayesianism.”

Logic and Philosophy of Science Department Colloquium; University of California, Irvine; Irvine, California; November 3, 2017 (Invited).

School of Computing & Mathematics Seminar; Ulster University; Belfast, Northern Ireland; June, 2017 (Invited).

International Conference on Thinking 2016; Brown University; Providence, Rhode Island; August 4-6, 2016 (Invited).

“When do Hypotheses Compete?” (with David Glass).

Philosophy Department Colloquium; Western Michigan University; Kalamazoo, Michigan; October 13, 2017 (Invited; Alumni Achievement Award Speaker).

Northwest Philosophy Conference; North Idaho College; Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; October 9-10, 2015.

“Isolating the Effects of Coherence.”

6th Conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association; University of Exeter; Exeter, England; September 8, 2017.

Workshop on Unification and Coherence; Düsseldorf Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science; Düsseldorf, Germany; January 16, 2014 (Invited).

“Hypothesis Competition Beyond Mutual Exclusivity” (with David Glass)

Society for Exact Philosophy Conference; University of Calgary; Calgary, Alberta; May 5-7, 2017.

Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association; Atlanta, Georgia; November 3-5, 2016.

“Inference to the Best Explanation, Cleaned Up and Made Respectable.”

7th Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop; University of South Alabama; Orange Beach, Alabama; May 19-20, 2015.

5th Formal Epistemology Festival; University of Toronto; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; June 3-5, 2013.

Philosophy Department Colloquium; Colorado State University; Fort Collins, Colorado; February 15, 2013 (Invited).

Philosophy Department Colloquium; Fordham University; New York, New York; January 24, 2011 (Invited).

Philosophy Department Colloquium; University of Utah; Salt Lake City, Utah; January 14, 2011 (Invited).

“Evolution, Theism, and Explaining-Away Arguments.”

Conference on Explaining and Explaining Away in Science and Religion; Ulster University; Belfast, Northern Ireland; January 8-9, 2015.

“Robustness Analysis as Explanatory Reasoning.”

Working Seminar on Robustness Analysis; University of Helsinki; Helsinki, Finland; September 25-26, 2014.

Colloquium; Düsseldorf Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science; Düsseldorf, Germany; January 22, 2014 (Invited).

1st Workshop on Inductive Logic and Confirmation in Science; University of Kent (Paris Campus); Paris, France; October 17-18, 2013.

4th Conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association; University of Helsinki; Helsinki, Finland; August 28-31, 2013.

“Best Explanations, Bayes’s Rule, and Bonus Points” (with Igor Douven).

8th London Reasoning Workshop; Birkbeck, University of London; London, England; July 9-10, 2014 (presented by Igor Douven).

Institute of Cognitive and Brain Sciences seminar; University of California Berkeley; Berkeley, California; May 2, 2014 (Invited).

“Competing Explanations and Explaining-Away Arguments.”

Tanner Humanities Center; University of Utah; Salt Lake City, Utah; February 4, 2014 (Invited).

7th Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference; Baylor University; Waco, Texas; January 27-28, 2012 (Invited).

“Experimental Explication.”

1st Pittsburgh-Tilburg Workshop: Formal Epistemology Meets Experimental Philosophy; Tilburg University; Tilburg, the Netherlands; September 29-30, 2011.

“Comparing Probabilistic Measures of Explanatory Power.”

Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; November 4-6, 2010.

3rd Sydney-Tilburg Conference: The Future of Philosophy of Science; Tilburg University; Tilburg, the Netherlands; April 14-16, 2010.

“The Logic of Explanatory Power” (with Jan Sprenger).

7th Annual Formal Epistemology Workshop; Universität Konstanz; Konstanz, Germany; September 2-4, 2010.

European Science Foundation Workshop on "Physical and Philosophical Perspectives on Probability, Explanation and Time"; Woudschouten; October, 2009 (presented by Jan Sprenger).

Prolog 2009: 4th Workshop on Combining Probability and Logic; University of Groningen; Groningen, The Netherlands; September 17-19, 2009 (presented by Jan Sprenger).

"Coherence: Philosophical Issues, Psychological Implications" (with Adam Harris and Ulrike Hahn).

4th London Reasoning Workshop; Birkbeck, University of London; London, England; July 27-28, 2009 (presented by Adam Harris).

"Confirming the Disconfirmed and Conjunction Fallacies."

Vereniging voor Analytische Filosofie 2009 (Conference for the Dutch-Flemish Society for Analytic Philosophy); Tilburg University; Tilburg, the Netherlands; January 23, 2009.

Seminar on Probability, Decision, and Uncertainty; Institut d'Histoire et de Philosophie des Sciences et des Techniques; Paris, France; January 16, 2009 (Invited).

Workshop on the Psychology of Argumentation and Inductive Reasoning; Tilburg University; Tilburg, The Netherlands; November 17-21, 2008.

"How to Be (and How not to Be) a Bayesian Explanationist."

Formal Philosophy Group; Katholieke Universiteit; Leuven, Belgium; November 28, 2008 (Invited).

2nd London-Paris-Tilburg Workshop in Logic and Philosophy of Science; Tilburg University; Tilburg, The Netherlands; October 24, 2008.

"Is the Conjunction Fallacy Tied to Probabilistic Confirmation?"

Workshop on Probability, Confirmation and Fallacies; Katholieke Universiteit; Leuven, Belgium; April 3-7, 2008 (Invited).

1st Western Michigan University Graduate Philosophy Conference; Kalamazoo, Michigan; November 30 - December 2, 2007 (Invited; Distinguished Alumnus Speaker).

"On the Alleged Impossibility of Bayesian Coherentism."

4th Annual Formal Epistemology Workshop; Carnegie Mellon University; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; May 31 - June 3, 2007.

Foundations of the Formal Sciences VI: Reasoning about Probabilities and Probabilistic Reasoning; Universiteit van Amsterdam; Amsterdam, The Netherlands; May 2-5, 2007.

Comments Delivered

"Commentator at large"

8th Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop; University of South Alabama; Orange Beach, Alabama; May 23-24, 2016.

Comments on Terry Horgan's "Troubles for Formal Epistemology"

2016 Res Philosophica Conference: Bridges Between Formal and Traditional Epistemology; St. Louis University; St. Louis, Missouri; April 8, 2016.

Honors and Awards

Nominated for the Early Career Teaching Award; University of Utah; January 2018.

Nominated for the Ramona W. Cannon Award for Faculty Teaching Excellence in the Humanities; College of Humanities, University of Utah; December 2017.

Alumni Achievement Award; College of Arts and Sciences, Western Michigan University; October 2017.

Nominated for the Early Career Teaching Award; University of Utah; January 2017.

Nominated for the Ramona W. Cannon Award for Faculty Teaching Excellence in the Humanities; College of Humanities, University of Utah; December 2016.

International Travel and Research Grant Recipient; College of Humanities, University of Utah; October 2016.

National Science Foundation Travel Grant Recipient; 25th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association; September 2016.

Participant; St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology; University of St. Thomas; June 2016.

Nominated for the Early Career Teaching Award; University of Utah; January 2016.

International Travel and Research Grant Recipient; College of Humanities, University of Utah; October 2014.

Faculty Fellowship; University Research Committee, University of Utah; August – December 2014.

Great Ideas in the Humanities Grant Recipient (with Jacob Stegenga), "Confirmation, Logic, and Induction in Medicine and Science (CLAIMS)"; College of Humanities, University of Utah; December 2013 – November 2014 (\$12,000).

Virgil C. Aldrich Fellowship in the Humanities; Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah; January – April 2014.

International Travel and Research Grant Recipient; College of Humanities, University of Utah; October 2013.

Travel Grant Recipient; Philosophy of Science Association; September 2010.

Wesley Salmon Fund Grant Recipient; Department of History & Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh; April 2010.

GPSA Travel Grant Recipient; University of Pittsburgh; April 2010.

Nominated and Chosen for Honors for Academic Excellence; 34th Annual Honors Convocation, University of Pittsburgh; February 2010.

Visiting Fellowship; Tilburg Center for Logic & Philosophy of Science (TiLPS), Tilburg University; September 2008 – June 2009.

Letter of Commendation for Teaching Evaluations; Department of History & Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh; February 2008.

Invited as “Distinguished Alumnus Speaker”; *1st Western Michigan University Graduate Philosophy Conference*; December 2007.

Wesley Salmon Fund Grant Recipient; Department of History & Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh; November 2007.

GPSA Travel Grant Recipient; University of Pittsburgh; May 2007.

Heraclitean Essay Contest Winner (Best Paper by a Graduate Student); Department of Philosophy, Western Michigan University; February 2005.

Inducted into National Honor Society; Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, University of Iowa; April 1998.

Service

University & College Service

Faculty Awards Committee; College of Humanities, University of Utah; 2016 – 2017.

Educational Technology Committee; College of Humanities, University of Utah; 2013 – 2015.

Faculty Reviewer, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program; Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Utah; 2014.

Convocation Speaker Selection Committee; College of Humanities, University of Utah; Spring 2013.

Departmental Service

Graduate Committee; Department of Philosophy, University of Utah; 2017 – 2018.

Undergraduate Committee; Department of Philosophy, University of Utah; 2015.

Colloquium Series Organizer; Department of Philosophy, University of Utah; 2014 – 2015.

Director, Job Placement; Department of Philosophy, University of Utah; 2012 – 2014.

Hiring Committee; Department of Philosophy, University of Utah; 2011 – 2012, 2013 – 2014.

Graduate Committee; Department of Philosophy, University of Utah; 2011 – 2013.

Dissertation Committees:

Kenneth Blake Vernon, Philosophy, University of Utah; 2013 – present.

Landon McBrayer, Philosophy, University of Utah; 2012 – 2015.

Jason Chris Jenson, Philosophy, University of Utah; 2011 – 2013.

Comprehensive Exam Committees:

Kyle Barrett, Philosophy, University of Utah; 2016.

Kenneth Blake Vernon, Philosophy, University of Utah; 2012 – 2013.

Lucas Matthews, Philosophy, University of Utah; 2012 – 2013.

Presenter, Logic Club, University of Utah; April 2013.

Presenter, Philosophy Club, University of Utah; December 2012.

Webmaster; Department of History & Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh; 2006 – 2009.

Professional and External Service

Judge, Technology Student Association Software Development Competition (Salt Lake City, Utah; January 2018).

Co-founder and Administrator, *Choice & Inference* (an online news feed and discussion forum for formal epistemologists), <http://www.choiceandinference.com>; 2008-2013, 2017-present.

Conference Organizer (with Jacob Stegenga), *Inductive Logic and Confirmation in Science II* (Salt Lake City, Utah; October 24-25, 2014).

Program Committee:

11th MuST Conference in Philosophy of Science: Models of Explanation (University of Turin; Turin, Italy; June 11-13, 2018).

3rd Sydney-Tilburg Conference: The Future of Philosophy of Science (Tilburg University; Tilburg, the Netherlands; April 14-16, 2010).

Conference Referee:

11th MuST Conference in Philosophy of Science: Models of Explanation

Formal Epistemology Workshop 2017

3rd Sydney-Tilburg Conference: The Future of Philosophy of Science

13th Annual Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference

2011 Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence.

Editorial Board Member, *The Reasoner*; 2013 – present.

Article Editor: *SAGE Open*.

Book Referee: *Blackwell, Cambridge University Press, Continuum, Hackett, Princeton University Press, Routledge* (multiple times).

Journal Referee: *Acta Analytica, American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (multiple times), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (multiple times), *Cognitive Psychology* (multiple times), *Dialectica, Episteme* (multiple times), *Ergo* (multiple times), *Erkenntnis* (multiple times), *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* (multiple times), *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, The Journal of Philosophy* (multiple times), *Logique et Analyse, Mind* (multiple times), *Noûs* (multiple times), *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (multiple times), *Perspectives on Science, The Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophy Compass, Philosophy of Science* (multiple times), *The Reasoner* (multiple times), *The Review of Symbolic Logic, South African Journal of Philosophy, Southern Journal of Philosophy, Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics, Synthese* (multiple times), *Theology and Science* (multiple times), *Theoria* (multiple times).

Grant Proposal Referee:

John Templeton Foundation; 2017.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (*Insight Grants*); 2017.

Volkswagen Foundation (*Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities at Universities and Research Institutes in the U.S. and Canada*); 2016.

Teaching

(† = Graduate Course; ‡ = Independent Study)

† Advanced Topics in Deductive Logic (University of Utah), Spring 2015, Spring 2018.

Deductive Logic (University of Utah), Spring 2018.

† Advanced Topics in Inductive Logic (University of Utah), Spring 2017.

Reasoning and Rational Decision Making (University of Utah), Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017.

Inductive Logic (University of Utah), Fall 2015, Fall 2016.

† Metaphysics (University of Utah), Fall 2015 (co-taught with Anne Peterson).

‡ Scientific Explanation and Explanatory Reasoning (University of Utah), Fall 2013.

Foundations of Probability and Statistics (University of Utah), Fall 2012, Fall 2013.

† Topics in the Foundations of Logic and Mathematics (University of Utah), Spring 2013.

† Symbolic Logic (University of Utah), Spring 2012.

History and Philosophy of Science (University of Utah), Fall 2011.

Myth and Science (University of Pittsburgh), Fall 2009, Spring 2010.

Philosophy of Science (Western Michigan University), Fall 2005, Spring 2006.

Introduction to Logic (Kalamazoo Valley Community College), Fall 2005, Spring 2006.

Introduction to Philosophy (Kalamazoo Valley Community College), Fall 2005.

Deductive Logic (Western Michigan University), Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Summer 2005.

Introduction to Philosophy (Community College of Aurora), Fall 2003, Spring 2004.

Professional Memberships

American Philosophical Association (since 2002).

Philosophy of Science Association (since 2005).

European Philosophy of Science Association (since 2009).

Society for Exact Philosophy (since 2013).

References

Igor Douven

Paris-Sorbonne University
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Stephan Hartmann

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Branden Fitelson

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Edouard Machery

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