

THOMAS BLANCHARD

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Philosophisches Seminar
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EMPLOYMENT

- Since 2020 **Akademischer Rat auf Zeit** (Assistant professor)
University of Cologne
- 2014-2020 **Assistant Professor of Philosophy**
Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, IL, USA)
- 2015-16 **Postdoctoral Researcher in Philosophy and Psychology**
University of California, Berkeley
Concepts and Cognition Lab (PI: Tania Lombrozo)
John Templeton Foundation *Varieties of Understanding* Project

EDUCATION

- 2008-14 **PhD in Philosophy**
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Dissertation: *Causation in a Physical World*
Adviser: Barry Loewer
Committee: Branden Fitelson (Rutgers University), Jenann Ismael (University of Arizona), Jonathan Schaffer (Rutgers University)
- 2008-14 **Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science**
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- 2007-08 **Master's in Philosophy and Social Sciences**
Institut Jean Nicod – EHESS, Paris, *Summa Cum Laude*
- 2005-06 **Agrégation de philosophie** (ranked first nationally)
- 2004-05 **Maîtrise (One-year postgraduate degree) in Philosophy**
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, *Summa Cum Laude*
- 2003-04 **Licence (B.A.) in Philosophy**
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, *Magna Cum Laude*
- 2003-08 **French Government Fellow** (ranked 3d on entrance exam)
Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

- AOS Philosophy of Science · Epistemology
AOC Philosophy of Mind · Decision Theory · Philosophy of Biology and Medicine

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

(* = invited)

- Forthcoming Blanchard, T. "Causation and the Time-Asymmetry of Knowledge." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- Forthcoming Blanchard, T. "Host Specificity in Biological Control." *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. doi: 10.1086/721088
- Forthcoming Blanchard, T. "Best-System Laws, Explanation, and Unification." In Hicks, M., Jaag, S. & Loew, C. (Eds.), *Humean Laws for Human Agents*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (*)
- 2023 The Causal Efficacy of Composites: A Dilemma for Interventionism. *Philosophical Studies*, 180: 2685-2706.
- 2022 Blanchard, T. "Specificity of Association in Epidemiology." *Synthese*, 200: 482.
- 2022 *Blanchard, T., Murray, D. & Lombrozo, T. "Experiments on Causal Exclusion." Mind & Language*, 37(5): 1067-89.
- 2020 Blanchard, T. "Explanatory Abstraction and the Goldilocks Problem: Interventionism Gets Things Just Right." *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 71(2), 633-63.
- 2018 Blanchard, T. "Bayesianism and Explanatory Unification: A Compatibilist Account." *Philosophy of Science*, 85(4): 682-703.
- 2018 *Blanchard, T., Vasilyeva, N. & Lombrozo, T. "Stability, Breadth and Guidance." Philosophical Studies*, 175(9): 2263-83.
- 2018 Vasilyeva, N. [†], *Blanchard, T. [†] & Lombrozo, T. "Stable Causal Relationships Are Better Causal Relationships." Cognitive Science*, 42(4): 1265-98. [† = equal contribution]
- 2018 *Blanchard, T., Lombrozo, T. & Nichols, S. "Bayesian Occam's Razor Is a Razor of the People." Cognitive Science*, 42(4): 1345-59.
- 2017 *Blanchard, T. & Schaffer, J. "Cause without Default." In Beebe H., Hitchcock, C. & Price, H. (Eds.), Making a Difference: Essays on the Philosophy of Causation*, Oxford University Press, pp. 175-214. (*)
- 2016 Blanchard, T. "Physics and Causation." *Philosophy Compass*, 11: 256-66.
- 2010 Blanchard, T. "Default Knowledge, Time-Pressure, and the Theory-Theory of Concepts (Commentary on Machery's *Doing without Concepts*)." *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33(2-3), 206-7.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- 2018 Blanchard, T. "[La causalité](#) [Causation]." In Kristanek M. (Ed.), *L'Encyclopédie Philosophique*.
- 2012 Goldman, A., & Blanchard, T. "[Bibliography on Social Epistemology](#)." *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2017 Review of J. Ismael, *How Physics Makes Us Free*. (*) *Journal of Philosophy*, **114**(3): 60-4.
- 2015 Review of M. Frisch, *Causal Reasoning in Physics*. (*) *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- 2015 Review of D. Kutach, *Causation and its Basis in Fundamental Physics*. (*) *Philosophy of Science*, **82**(2): 330-3.

PRESENTATIONS

(*=invited)

- 2022 "Causal Modeling, Exclusion, and Mutual Dependence" (with Prof. Andreas Hüttemann)
Tri-annual conference of the Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsphilosophie, Technische Universität Berlin
Workshop on (Non-)Reductionism in the Philosophy of Mind, University of Salzburg (*)
- 2022 "Papineau on Causal Inference"
British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, Symposium "Understanding Causal Inference", University of Exeter
- 2021 "Specificity of Association in Epidemiology"
2021 Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association, Turin
2021 Meeting of the Société de Philosophie des Sciences, Mons (Belgium)
- 2021 "A New Exclusion Problem for Interventionism"
Jowett Society, Oxford University (*)
2021 Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science (online)
- 2020 "The Significance of Specificity (and Related Notions) for Experimental Causal Inference"
Conference *Specificity and Beyond*, University of Cologne (*)
- 2019 "Variable Choice and Levels of Explanation"
Seminar *Sciences, Norms and Democracy*, Université Paris-Sorbonne (*)
- 2019 "Experiments on Causal Exclusion"
Workshop *Experimental Philosophy of Science*, Aarhus University (*)

- 2018 “Causation: The (Neo-)Reichenbachian Way”
Conference *The Future of Foundations of Physics*, Columbia University (*)
- 2018 “Interventionist Decision Theory and Determinism”
Workshop *Causes, Norms and Decision*, University of Hannover (*)
- 2017 “A Unificationist Best System Account of Laws”
32nd Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, Colorado
University (Boulder)
- 2016 Workshop in Philosophy of Physics, University of Arizona (*)
- 2017 “Is Causation a Matter of Perspective?”
Workshop *Where Is There Causation?*, Umeå University (*)
- 2016 Workshop *Causation and the Physical World*, University of Cologne (*)
- 2016 “Stable Causal Relationships Are Better Causal Relationships” (poster)
Annual Congress of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Austin
- 2015 “Soft Interventionism”
Conference *New Trends in Metaphysics of Science*, Paris
- 2015 “Why Do Causes Explain their Effects? A Unificationist Answer”
Seventh Congress of the SOPHA (Francophone Society for Analytic
Philosophy), Montreal
- 2014 Illinois State University, Philosophy Colloquium (*)
- 2012 “General Causation and Chance”
British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, Stirling
1st Ernst Mach Colloquium, Prague

COMMENTS

- 2019 *Comments on “Mentaculus Counterfactuals” by Heather Demarest and
Elizabeth Miller*
Conference “Humean Approaches to Laws of Nature”, Harvard University
(*)
- 2018 *Comments on “Lamarck’s Giraffe and the Problem of Agency” by Jessica
Riskin*
Conference on the History and Metaphysics of Laws of Nature, CEU
Budapest (*)
- 2018 *Comments on “Arrow’s Theorem in Individual and Social Epistemology” by
Christian List*
Alvin Goldman Retirement Conference, Rutgers University (*)
- 2015 *Comments on “A Scientific Realist’s Guide to Objective Probability” by Nina
Emery*
2015 Meeting of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Newark (*)

- 2010 *Comments on "The Role of Distributions in Scientific Explanation" by Marco Nathan*
Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference, New Brunswick (*)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2023 Kopf Frei Plus Grant (€2,400), University of Cologne
2019 Scholarly Development Grant (\$2,000), Illinois Wesleyan University
Fall 2017 Junior Faculty Leave, Illinois Wesleyan University
2014 Curriculum Development Grant (\$2,000), Illinois Wesleyan University
2015-16 UC-Berkeley Postdoctoral Fellowship
2014 2-years Postdoctoral Fellowship in Philosophy, University of Graz
(declined)
2013-14 Emily B. Sellon Graduate Fellowship
Awarded annually to one or two philosophy graduate students at Rutgers University
2013-14 Rutgers Bevier Fellowship
Awarded annually to 12 graduate students at Rutgers University
2012 Summer Mellon Grant
Awarded annually to 5 philosophy graduate students to support summer research

TEACHING

UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

- Winter 23 Introduction to Philosophy of Science
Causation
Summer 23 Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
Philosophy of Medicine
Winter 22 Introduction to Philosophy of Science
Free Will
Summer 22 Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
Science in Crisis?
Winter 21 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science
Philosophy of Medicine
Summer 21 Introduction to Philosophy of Mind
Scientific Explanation
Winter 20 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science
Free Will

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

- Spring 20 PHIL 307: Philosophy of Natural Science
PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
Spring 19 PHIL 107: Introduction to the Philosophy of Natural Science
PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
Fall 18 PHIL 350: Knowledge, Belief and Society

- Spring 18 PHIL 103: Mind and World (2 sections)
PHIL 307: Philosophy of Natural Science
PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
- Spring 17 PHIL 355: Philosophy of Time
PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
- Fall 16 PHIL 350: Epistemology
PHIL 103: Mind and World (2 sections)
- Spring 15 PHIL 307: Philosophy of Natural Science
PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
- Fall 14 PHIL 350: Epistemology
PHIL 103: Mind and World (2 sections)

RUTGERS

- Spring 12 PHIL 205: Introduction to Modern Philosophy
Fall 11 PHIL 202: Introduction to Logic
Spring 11 PHIL 107: Introduction to Ethics – *Teaching Assistant for Holly Smith*
Fall 10 PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy – *Teaching Assistant for Steve Stich*
Summer 10 PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

OTHER TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2018 Instructor, Graduate Summer School on the History and Metaphysics of the Concept of Laws of Nature, CEU, Budapest (one session on logical empiricism and one session on causation and laws)

SERVICE

TO THE PROFESSION

- Since 2016 *Philpapers* Editor for the Category “Causation”
- Since 2014 Reviewer for *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, Cambridge University Press, *Dialectica*, *Ergo*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Kriterion*, *Logique et Analyse*, *Mind*, MIT Press, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy of Management*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Thought*

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

- 2022 Co-organizer (with Andreas Hüttemann) of the conference “Agency, Time and the Physical World: Workshop with Barry Loewer”, University of Cologne, September 29-30.

AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

- 2018-20 Member of the Nominating Committee

- 2016-20 Member of the Institutional Review Board
- 2017-19 Member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
- 2017-19 Member of the Faculty-Staff Recognition Committee
- 2016-20 Philosophy Department Library Liaison

AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

- 2010-11 Co-organizer of the Rutgers graduate reading group in philosophy of science
- 2010-11 Co-organizer of the Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference