

THOMAS BLANCHARD

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Illinois Wesleyan University
205 Beecher Street
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EMPLOYMENT

- 2014-present **Assistant Professor of Philosophy**
Illinois Wesleyan University
- 2015-16 **Postdoctoral Researcher**
University of California, Berkeley
Concepts and Cognition Lab (PI: Tania Lombrozo)
John Templeton Foundation *Varieties of Understanding* Project

EDUCATION

- 2014 **PhD in Philosophy**
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Dissertation: Causation in a Physical World
Advisor: Barry Loewer
Committee: Branden Fitelson (Rutgers University), Jenann Ismael (University of Arizona), Jonathan Schaffer (Rutgers University)
- 2014 **Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science**
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- 2008 **Visiting Graduate Student in Philosophy**
New York University
- 2008 **Master's in Philosophy and Social Sciences**
Institut Jean Nicod – EHESS, Paris, *Summa Cum Laude*
- 2006-07 **Visiting Graduate Student in Philosophy**
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- 2006 ***Agrégation de philosophie*** (Ranked first nationally)
The *agrégation* is a national competitive exam required to teach in France.
- 2005 ***Maîtrise (One-year postgraduate degree) in Philosophy***
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, *Summa Cum Laude*
- 2004 ***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 Decision Theory, Cognitive Science, Metaphysics

PUBLICATIONS

(* = invited; all publications anonymously peer-reviewed unless otherwise noted)

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 Blanchard, T. "Explanatory Abstraction and the Goldilocks Problem: Interventionism Gets Things Just Right." *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, forthcoming. doi: 10.1093/bjps/axy030
- 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.
- 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.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2016 Vasilyeva, N. **Blanchard, T.** & Lombrozo, T. "Stable Causal Relationships Are Better Causal Relationships." In Papafragou A., Grodner D., Mirman D., & Trueswell J.C. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, pp. 2263-8. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- 2018 Blanchard, T. "La causalité [Causation]." In Kristanek M. (Ed.), *L'Encyclopédie Philosophique*. URL = <http://encyclo-phil.fr/causalite-a/> (*)

- 2015 Goldman, A. & **Blanchard, T.** “Social Epistemology” In Zalta N. (Ed.), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/epistemology-social/> (*)
- 2012 Goldman, A., & **Blanchard, T.** “Bibliography on Social Epistemology.” *Oxford Bibliographies Online*. URL = <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396577/obo-9780195396577-0088.xml>(*)

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*. (*, not peer-reviewed)
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)

- 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 in a Physical World*, University of Cologne (*)
- 2015 “Soft Interventionism”
Conference *New Trends in Metaphysics of Science*, Paris
- 2015 “Why Do Causes Explain their Effects? A Unificationist Answer”
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
- 2012 1st Ernst Mach Colloquium, Prague

PANELS

2018 Participant on “Physics and Agency” Panel, Conference on the Future of the Foundations of Physics, Columbia University (*).

COMMENTS

2018 *Comment on “Lamarck’s Giraffe and the Problem of Agency” by Jessica Riskin (Stanford University)*
Conference on the History and Metaphysics of Laws of Nature, CEU Budapest (*)

2018 *Comment on “Arrow’s Theorem in Individual and Social Epistemology” by Christian List (London School of Economics)*
Alvin Goldman Retirement Conference, Rutgers University (*)

2015 *Comment on “A Scientific Realist’s Guide to Objective Probability” by Nina Emery (Brown University)*
1st Annual Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Newark (*)

2010 *Comment on “The Role of Distributions in Scientific Explanation” by Marco Nathan (Columbia University)*
Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference, New Brunswick (*)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Fall 2017 IWU Junior Faculty Leave

2014 IWU Curriculum Development Grant for PHIL 106 (God and Science)

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

AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Spring 19 introduction to the Philosophy of Natural Science (PHIL 107)

Spring 19 God and Science (PHIL 106; 2 sections)

Fall 18 Knowledge, Belief and Society (PHIL 350)

Fall 18 Mind and World (PHIL 103; 2 sections)

Spring 18 Philosophy of Natural Science (PHIL 307)

Spring 18 God and Science (PHIL 106; 2 sections)

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

AT RUTGERS

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

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

2014-present Referee for *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Ergo*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Logique et Analyse*, *Mind*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Thought*

2016-present *Philpapers* Editor for the Category “Causation”

2012-14 Editorial Assistant for *A Companion to David Lewis* edited by Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer (Wiley-Blackwell)

AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

2018-19 Member of the Nominating Committee
2017-19 Member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
2017-19 Member of the Faculty-Staff Recognition Committee
2016-19 Member of the Institutional Review Board
2016-19 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