

THOMAS BLANCHARD

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Illinois Wesleyan University
205 Beecher Street
Bloomington, IL 61701 (USA)

EMPLOYMENT

- 2014-present **Assistant Professor of Philosophy**
Illinois Wesleyan University
- 2015-16 **Postdoctoral Researcher**
UC-Berkeley
Concepts and Cognition Lab
Varieties of Understanding Project

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Metaphysics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Decision Theory, Cognitive Science, Logic

EDUCATION

- 2014 **PhD in Philosophy**
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Dissertation: Causation in a Physical World
Advisor: Barry Loewer
Committee: Branden Fitelson, Jenann Ismael, Jonathan Schaffer
- 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)

- 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**
Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris

PUBLICATIONS

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

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2018 Bayesianism and Explanatory Unification: A Compatibilist Account
Philosophy of Science, forthcoming. doi: 10.1086/699157
- 2018 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 Stability, Breadth and Guidance (with Nadya Vasilyeva and Tania Lombrozo)
Philosophical Studies, 175(9): 2263-83
- 2018 Stable Causal Relationships Are Better Causal Relationships (with Nadya Vasilyeva and Tania Lombrozo)
Cognitive Science, 42(4): 1265-98
- 2018 Bayesian Occam's Razor Is a Razor of the People (with Tania Lombrozo and Shaun Nichols)
Cognitive Science, 42(4): 1345-59
- 2017 Cause without Default (with Jonathan Schaffer) (*)
In Beebe H., Hitchcock C. & Price H. (Eds.), *Making a Difference: Essays on the Philosophy of Causation*, Oxford University Press, pp. 175-214.
- 2016 Physics and Causation (*)
Philosophy Compass, 11: 256-66
- 2010 Default Knowledge, Time-Pressure, and the Theory-Theory of Concepts
Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 33(2-3), 206-7

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2016 Stable Causal Relationships Are Better Causal Relationships (with Nadya Vasilyeva and Tania Lombrozo)
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, 2016.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- 2018 “La causalité” (Causation) (*)
In Kristanek M. (Ed.), *L’Encyclopédie Philosophique*, forthcoming.
- 2015 Social Epistemology (with Alvin Goldman) (*)
In Zalta N. (Ed.), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
- 2012 Bibliography on Social Epistemology (with Alvin Goldman) (*)
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*. (*, 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)

- 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 (*)
General Causation and Chance
- 2012 British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, Stirling
2012 1st Ernst Mach Colloquium, Prague
- COMMENTS**
- 2018 *Comment 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 *Comment on "Arrow's Theorem in Individual and Social Epistemology" by Christian List*
Alvin Goldman Retirement Conference, Rutgers University (*)
- 2015 *Comment on "A Scientific Realist's Guide to Objective Probability" by Nina Emery*
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*
Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference, New Brunswick (*)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2017 IWU Junior Faculty Leave
2014 IWU Curriculum Development Grant
2013-14 Emily B. Sellon Graduate Fellowship
2013-14 Rutgers Bevier Fellowship
2012 Summer Mellon Grant

TEACHING

AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

- S2018 Philosophy of Natural Science (307)
S2018 God and Science (106)
S2017 Philosophy of Time (355)
S2017 God and Science (106)
F2016 Epistemology (350)
F2016 Mind and World (103)
S2015 Philosophy of Science (307)
S2015 God and Science (106)
F2014 Epistemology (350)
F2014 Mind and World (103)

AT RUTGERS

- S2012 Introduction to Modern Philosophy (205)
- F2011 Introduction to Logic (202)
- S2011 Introduction to Ethics (107) – *Teaching Assistant for Holly Smith*
- F2010 Introduction to Philosophy (101) – *Teaching Assistant for Steve Stich*
- Sum2010 Introduction to Philosophy (101)

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

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