

# THOMAS BLANCHARD

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## EMPLOYMENT

- 2020- ***Akademischer Rat auf Zeit (Assistant Professor)***  
University of Cologne
- 2014-2020 **Assistant Professor of Philosophy**  
Illinois Wesleyan University
- 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
- 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**  
Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

- AOS Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Metaphysics
- AOC Decision Theory, Cognitive Science

## PUBLICATIONS

### ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2020 *Blanchard, T., Murray, D. & Lombrozo, T. "Experiments on Causal Exclusion." Mind & Language, forthcoming.*
- 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*.
- 2015 Goldman, A. & *Blanchard, T. "Social Epistemology." In Zalta, N. (Ed.), Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.*
- 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*. (\*, 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)

- 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 the 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”  
 32<sup>nd</sup> 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”  
 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 1<sup>st</sup> Ernst Mach Colloquium, Prague

## COMMENTS

- 2019 *Comments on “Mentaculus Counterfactuals” by Heather Demarest (University of Colorado Boulder) and Elizabeth Miller (Brown University)*  
 Conference “Humean Approaches to Laws of Nature”, Harvard University (\*)

- 2018 *Comments 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 *Comments on “Arrow’s Theorem in Individual and Social Epistemology” by Christian List (London School of Economics)*  
 Alvin Goldman Retirement Conference, Rutgers University (\*)
- 2015 *Comments 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 *Comments on “The Role of Distributions in Scientific Explanation” by Marco Nathan (Columbia University)*  
 Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference, New Brunswick (\*)

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2019 IWU Scholarly Development Grant (\$2,000)
- Fall 2017 IWU Junior Faculty Leave
- 2014 IWU Curriculum Development Grant for PHIL 106 *God and Science*  
 (\$2,000)
- 2015-16 UC-Berkeley Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2013-14 Emily B. Sellon Graduate Fellowship
- 2013-14 Rutgers Bevier Fellowship
- 2012 Summer Mellon Grant

## TEACHING

### AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

- Spring 20 PHIL 307: Philosophy of Natural Science
- Spring 20 PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
- Spring 19 PHIL 107: Introduction to the Philosophy of Natural Science
- Spring 19 PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
- Fall 18 PHIL 350: Knowledge, Belief and Society
- Fall 18 PHIL 103: Mind and World (2 sections)
- Spring 18 PHIL 307: Philosophy of Natural Science
- Spring 18 PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
- Spring 17 PHIL 355: Philosophy of Time
- Spring 17 PHIL 106: God and Science (2 sections)
- Fall 16 PHIL 350: Epistemology

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

### AT 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

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

#### 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

#### 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