

THOMAS BLANCHARD

Curriculum Vitae

Universität zu Köln
Philosophisches Seminar
Albertus-Magnus-Platz 1
Köln 50923 (Germany)

✉ tblancha@uni-koeln.de
🌐 www.thomasblanchard.net

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020-26 Assistant Professor (*Akademischer Rat a. Z.*), University of Cologne, Department of Philosophy
- 2014-20 Assistant Professor, Illinois Wesleyan University, Department of Philosophy
- 2015-16 Postdoctoral researcher in philosophy and psychology, UC-Berkeley, Concepts and Cognition Lab

EDUCATION AND DEGREES

- 2014 Ph.D. in Philosophy, Rutgers University
- 2014 Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science, Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (RUCCS)
- 2008 Master in Philosophy and Social Sciences, EHESS – Institut Jean Nicod (Paris)
- 2006 *Agrégation* in Philosophy (ranked first nationally)
- 2005 *Maîtrise* (one-year postgraduate degree) in Philosophy, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- 2004 B.A. in Philosophy, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- 2003-08 Non-degree student, Ecole Normale Supérieure

VISITING POSITIONS AND SHORT-TERM STAYS

- 07/2013 Summer School “Philosophy and Cosmology”, UC-Santa Cruz
- Spring 08 Visiting Graduate Student, New York University, Department of Philosophy
- 2006-07 Visiting Graduate Student, Rutgers University, Department of Philosophy

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTEREST

Areas of research: Philosophy of science (esp. causation and explanation), epistemology

Areas of teaching interest: Philosophy of mind and cognitive science, philosophy of biology and medicine, metaphysics, decision theory, logic, philosophy of language

PUBLICATIONS

(**anonymously peer-reviewed)

ARTICLES

- [1] Blanchard, T., & Hüttemann, A. (2024). [Causal Modeling in Multi-Level Settings: A New Proposal](#). *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*, Early View. (**)
- [2] Blanchard, T. (2023). [Causation and the Time-Asymmetry of Knowledge](#). *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming. (**)
- [3] Blanchard, T. (2023). [The Causal Efficacy of Composites: A Dilemma for Interventionism](#). *Philosophical Studies*, 180, 2685-2706. (**)
- [4] Blanchard, T. (2022). [Host Specificity in Biological Control](#). *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, forthcoming. (**)
- [5] Blanchard, T. (2022). [Specificity of Association in Epidemiology](#). *Synthese*, 200, 482. (**)
- [6] Blanchard, T., Murray, D., & Lombrozo, T. (2022). [Experiments on Causal Exclusion](#). *Mind & Language*, 37(5), 1067-1089. (**)
- [7] Blanchard, T. (2020). [Explanatory Abstraction and the Goldilocks Problem: Interventionism Gets Things Just Right](#). *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 71(2), 633-663. (**)
- [8] Blanchard, T. (2018). [Bayesianism and Explanatory Unification: A Compatibilist Account](#). *Philosophy of Science*, 85(4), 682-703. (**)
- [9] Blanchard, T., Vasilyeva, N., & Lombrozo, T. (2018). [Stability, Breadth and Guidance](#). *Philosophical Studies*, 175(9), 2263-83. (**)
- [10] Vasilyeva, N. (†), Blanchard, T. (†), & Lombrozo, T. (2018). [Stable Causal Relationships Are Better Causal Relationships](#). *Cognitive Science*, 42(4), 1265-98. (**) († = equal contributions)
- [11] Blanchard, T., Lombrozo, T., & Nichols, S. (2018). [Bayesian Occam's Razor is a Razor of the People](#). *Cognitive Science*, 42(4), 1345-59. (**)
- [12] Blanchard, T. (2016). [Physics and Causation](#). *Philosophy Compass*, 11, 256-266. (**)

BOOK CHAPTERS

[13] Blanchard, T. (2023). [Best-System Laws, Explanation and Unification](#). In Hicks, M., Jaag, S., & Loew, C. (ed.), *Humean Laws for Human Agents*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 215-236.

[14] *Blanchard, T. & Schaffer, J.* (2017). [Cause without Default](#). In Beebe, H., Hitchcock, C. & Price, H. (ed.), *Making a Difference: Essays on the Philosophy of Causation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 175-214.

ARTICLE IN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

[15] Vasilyeva, N., *Blanchard, T.*, & Lombrozo, T. (2016). Stable Causal Relationships are Better Causal Relationships. In Papafragou, A., Grodner, D., Mirman, D., & Trueswell, J.C. (ed.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, pages 2263-2268. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. (**)

COMMENTARY ON TARGET ARTICLE

[16] Blanchard, T. (2010). [Default Knowledge, Time-Pressure and the Theory-Theory of Concepts](#) (Commentary on *Doing without Concepts* by E. Machery). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33(2-3), 206-7. (**)

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

[17] Blanchard, Thomas. (2018). [La causalité](#) (Causation). In Kristanek, M. (ed.), *L'Encyclopédie philosophique*. URL : <http://encyclo-phil.fr/causalite-a/> (**)

[18] Goldman, A., & Blanchard, T. (2015). [Social Epistemology](#). In Zalta, E. (Ed.), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2015 Edition).

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

[19] Goldman, A., & *Blanchard, T.* (2012). [Bibliography on Social Epistemology](#). *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.

BOOK REVIEWS

[20] Blanchard, T. (2017). [Review of Jenann Ismael, *How Physics Makes Us Free*](#). *Journal of Philosophy*, 114(3), 160-164. (**)

[21] Blanchard, T. (2015). [Review of Mathias Frisch, *Causal Reasoning in Physics*](#). *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.

[22] Blanchard, T. (2014). [Review of Douglas Kutach, *Causation and Its Basis in Fundamental Physics*](#). *Philosophy of Science*, 82(2), 330-333.

PRESENTATIONS**INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2023 “Causal Structure and the Time-Asymmetry of Inference”
- Conference *The Future of Inference*, Yale University.

- 2022 “Bird on Science as Social Knowing”
- Workshop on Alexander Bird’s *Knowing Science* (Oxford University Press), University of Cologne, June 2022.
- 2022 “Causal Modeling, Causal Exclusion, and Symmetric Dependence” (joint work with Andreas Hüttemann)
- Research seminar of Prof. Thomas Kroedel, University of Hamburg, June 2022.
 - Workshop *(Non)-Reductionism in Philosophy of Mind*, University of Salzburg, September 2022.
- 2021 “A New Interventionist Exclusion Argument”
- Jewett Society, Oxford University, May 2021.
- 2020 “The Significance of Specificity (and Related Notions) for Experimental Causal Inference”
- Workshop *Causal Distinctions: Specificity and Beyond*, University of Cologne, October 2020.
- 2020 “Agency Theories of Causation”
- Graduate Seminar “Causation” of David Papineau, CUNY (New York), March 2020.
- 2019 “Variable Choice and Level of Explanation”
- Seminar of the research group *Sciences, Normes et Décisions*, Université Paris-Sorbonne, December 2019.
- 2019 “Experiments on Causal Exclusion”
- Workshop *Experimental Philosophy of Science*, University of Aarhus, October 2019.
- 2018 “Interventionist Decision Theory and Determinism”
- Conference *Causes, Norms and Decisions*, Leibniz Universität Hannover, August 2018.
- 2018 “Causation: The (Neo-)Reichenbachian Way”
- Conference *The Future of the Foundations of Physics*, Columbia University, March 2018.
- 2017 “Is Causation a Matter of Perspective?”
- Workshop *Where is there Causation?*, University of Umeå, November 2017.
- 2016 “Physics and the Causal Asymmetry”
- Conference *Causation in a Physical World*, University of Cologne, June 2016.
- 2016 “A Unificationist Best System Account of Laws”
- Workshop on Philosophy of Physics, University of Arizona, February 2016.
- 2015 “Interventionism and Causal Decision Theory”
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Philosophy Colloquium, April 2015.
- 2014 “Why do Causes Explain their Effects? A Unificationist Answer”
- Illinois State University, Department of Philosophy Colloquium, October 2014.

- 2014 “Causation, Evidence and Decision”
- University of Delaware, Department of Philosophy Colloquium, January 2014.
 - Rice University, Department of Philosophy Colloquium, January 2014.
 - Illinois Wesleyan University, Department of Philosophy Colloquium, January 2014.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Population-Level and Individual-Level Causes in Epidemiology”
- Conference *Causality in Epidemiology*, University of Linz, May 2024.
- 2022 “Causal Modeling, Causal Exclusion, and Symmetric Dependence” (with Andreas Hüttemann)
- Triannual Conference of the *Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsphilosophie (GWP)*, Technische Universität Berlin, August 2022.
- 2022 “Papineau on Causal Inference”
- Annual Conference of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Exeter, July 2022
- 2021 “Specificity of Association in Epidemiology”
- 8th Congress of the *Société de Philosophie des Sciences*, University of Mons, September 2021.
 - Biannual Conference of the European Society for Philosophy of Science (EPSA), University of Turin, September 2021.
- 2021 “A New Interventionist Causal Exclusion Argument”
- Annual Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science (SMS), online, September 2021.
- 2017 “A Unificationist Best System Account of Laws”
- Annual Conference in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Colorado (Boulder), October 2017.
- 2016 “Stable Causal Relationships are Better Causal Relationships” (poster)
- Congress of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Austin, June 2016.
- 2015 “Soft Interventionism”
- Conference *New Trends in Metaphysics of Science*, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, December 2015.
- 2015 “Pourquoi les causes expliquent-elles leurs effets? Une réponse unificationniste”
- Congress of the Francophone Society for Analytic Philosophy (SOPHA), Université de Montréal, June 2015.
- 2012 “General Causation and Chance”
- Annual Conference of the British Society for Philosophy of Science, University of Sterling, June 2012.
- 2012 “Causation, Chance and Decision Theory”,
- Ernst Mach Colloquium, University of Prague, June 2012.

INVITED COMMENTS

- 2018 Comments on Jessica Rifkin (Stanford University), “Leibniz and the Problem of Agency”
- Conference *The History and Metaphysics of Laws of Nature*, Central European University, Budapest, July 2018.
- 2018 Comment Christian List (LSE), “Arrow’s Theorem in Individual and Social Epistemology”
- Conference for Alvin Goldman, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, February 2018.
- 2015 Comment on Nina Emery (Brown University), “A Scientific Realist’s Guide to Objective Probability”
- Annual Conference of the Society for Metaphysics of Science, Newark (NJ), September 2015.
- 2010 Comment on Marco Nathan (Columbia University), “The Role of Distributions in Scientific Explanation”
- Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference in Philosophy, May 2010.

FURTHER SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

- 2024-26 External member, DFG-SNF Project “Beyond Exclusion: New Challenges for Multi-Level Causal Models”
PIs: Prof. Thomas Kroedel (University of Hamburg) and Prof. Vera Hoffmann-Kolss (University of Bern)
- 2022 Organizer of the conference “Agency, Time and the Physical World: A Workshop with Barry Loewer”, University of Cologne, September 2022
- 2016-
present *Philpapers* category editor for “Causation” (www.philpapers.org)
- 2014-
present Reviewer for *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Dialectica*, Cambridge University Press, *Ergo*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Logique et Analyse*, *Mind*, MIT Press, *Noûs*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy of Management*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Thought*, *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.
- 2012-14 Editorial Assistant for *A Companion to David Lewis*, edited by Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer, Wiley-Blackwell
- 2010-11 Organizer of the Rutgers graduate working group in philosophy of science
- 2010-11 Co-organizer of the Princeton-Rutgers graduate conferences in philosophy 2010 and 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES TAUGHT

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

Anfängerseminare (Introductory courses)

- S2 2023-24 **Philosophy of Technology** (18h)
- S1 2023-24 **Introduction to Philosophy of Science** (21h)
- S2 2022-23 **Introduction to Philosophy of Mind** (21h)
- S1 2022-23 **Introduction to Philosophy of Science** (21h)
- S2 2021-22 **Introduction to Philosophy of Mind** (21h)
- S1 2021-22 **Introduction to Philosophy of Science** (21h; online)
- S2 2020-21 **Introduction to Philosophy of Mind** (21h; online)
- S1 2020-21 **Introduction to Philosophy of Science** (18h; online)

Mittelseminare (Advanced B.A./Master courses)

- S2 2023-24 **Freedom of the Will** (21h)
- S1 2023-24 **Causation** (21h)
- S2 2022-23 **Philosophy of Medicine** (21h)
- S1 2022-23 **Freedom of the Will** (21h)
- S2 2021-22 **Science in Crisis? A Philosophical Look at the Reproducibility Crisis** (21h)
- S1 2021-22 **Philosophy of Medicine** (21h)
- S2 2020-21 **Scientific Explanation** (21h; online)
- S1 2020-21 **Freedom of the Will** (21h; online)

AT UNIVERSITY PARIS NANTERRE

(As part-time lecturer in Spring 2023)

- S2 2022-23 **The Mind-Body Problem** (24h; 3d-year B.A. course)

AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Introductory courses (for the general education curriculum)

- S2 2019-20 **God and Science** (3 sections including 1 online, 35h each)
- S2 2018-19 **Introduction to Philosophy of Science** (35h)

- God and Science** (2 sections, 35h each)
- S1 2018-19 **Mind and World** (2 sections, 35h each)
- S2 2017-18 **God and Science** (2 sections, 35h each)
- S2 2016-17 **God and Science** (2 sections, 35h each)
- S1 2016-17 **Mind and World** (2 sections, 35h each)
- S2 2014-15 **God and Science** (2 sections, 35h each)
- S1 2014-15 **Mind and World** (2 sections, 35h each)

Specialty courses (for philosophy majors)

- S2 2019-20 **Philosophy of Natural Science** (35h)
- S1 2018-19 **Knowledge, Belief and Society** (35h)
- S2 2017-18 **Philosophy of Natural Science** (35h)
- S2 2016-17 **Philosophy of Time** (35h)
- S1 2016-17 **Epistemology** (35h)
- S2 2014-15 **Philosophy of Natural Science** (35h)
- S1 2014-15 **Epistemology** (35h)

AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

- S2 2011-12 **Introduction to Modern Philosophy** (37h)
- S1 2011-12 **Introduction to Logic** (37h)
- S2 2010-11 **Introduction to Ethics** (teaching assistant for Holly Smith, 2 sections, 23h each)
- S1 2010-11 **Introduction to Philosophy** (teaching assistant for Steven Stich, 2 sections, 23h each)
- 07/2010 **Introduction to Philosophy** (37h)

OTHER PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITIES

- 07/ 2018 Lecturer for the Summer School “The History and Metaphysics of the Concept of Laws of Nature”, Central European University (Budapest).
2 sessions of 2h each (on logical empiricism and on causation and laws of nature)
- 2016-19 Member of the philosophy student club (as faculty liaison), Illinois Wesleyan University
- 2014 Teaching assistant for the course “Philosophy of Social Science” by Martin Bunzl, Rutgers University
Grading and one lecture on reduction and autonomy in social science

- 2013 Teaching assistant for the course “Social Epistemology” taught by Alvin Goldman
Grading and four lectures (on testimony, collective belief, judgment aggregation and epistemic approaches to democracy)

GRANTS

- 2023 *Kopf Frei Plus* grant from the University of Cologne for the employment of a student help
Program to support postdoctoral and Mittelbau employees with family responsibilities
- 2019 Research grant from Illinois Wesleyan University for the research project “The Temporal Asymmetry of Knowledge”
- 2017 Junior research leave from Illinois Wesleyan University (1 semester of course release)
Awarded annually to three assistant professors at Illinois Wesleyan University
- 2014 Curriculum development grant from Illinois Wesleyan University for developing a course on science and religion
- 2013-14 Grant from the Emily B. Sellon Trust to support dissertation research
Awarded annually to two philosophy graduate students at Rutgers University
- 2013 Travel grant from the John Templeton Foundation to attend a summer school on philosophy and cosmology
- 2012 Grant from the Mellon Foundation to support summer research
Awarded annually to three graduate students at Rutgers University

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2015-16 UC-Berkeley Bevier Fellowship
- 2013-14 Rutgers University Bevier Fellowship
- 2012-13 Rutgers University Excellence Fellowship
- 2008-10 Rutgers University Excellence Fellowship

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

- 2018-20 Member of the Nominating Committee
In charge of university elections and nominations at Illinois Wesleyan University
- 2018-20 Member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Ethics review board for research and teaching activities involving animals at Illinois Wesleyan University

2018-19 Member of the Faculty-Staff Recognition Committee
In charge of faculty-staff recreational events

2016-20 Member of the Institutional Review Board
Ethics review board for research involving human subjects at Illinois Wesleyan University

2016-20 Philosophy liaison to the Illinois Wesleyan University Library