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Reader in Philosophy, Birkbeck College, University of London

AOS: Philosophy of science

Publications

Research articles

‘Beyond experiments’

forthcoming in *Perspectives on Psychological Science*
(co-authored with Ed Diener, Mike Zyphur, and Steve West)

‘Back to the big picture’

forthcoming in *Journal of Economic Methodology*
(co-authored with Anna Alexandrova and Jack Wright)

‘Prediction, history, and political science’

forthcoming in Harold Kincaid and Jeroen van Bouwel (eds), *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Political Science*

‘Economic theory and empirical science’

forthcoming in Conrad Heilmann and Julian Reiss (eds), *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Economics*

‘Pre-emption cases may support, not undermine, the counterfactual theory of causation’

Synthese 198.1, January 2021, pp537-555

‘Big data and prediction: four case studies’

Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science 86, June 2020, pp96-104

‘Free will is not a testable hypothesis’

Erkenntnis 84.3, June 2019, pp617-631

‘Prediction versus accommodation in economics’

Journal of Economic Methodology 26.1, January 2019, pp59-69

‘The efficiency question in economics’

Philosophy of Science 85.5, December 2018, pp1140-1151

‘Conceived this way: Innateness defended’

Philosophers’ Imprint 18.18, September 2018, pp1-16
(co-authored with Gualtiero Piccinini)

‘When are purely predictive models best?’

Disputatio 9.47, December 2017, pp631-656

‘A dilemma for the Doomsday Argument’

Ratio 29.3, September 2016, pp268-282

‘Opinion polling and election predictions’

Philosophy of Science 82, December 2015, pp1260-1271

‘Prisoner’s Dilemma doesn’t explain much’

- chapter 4 in Martin Peterson (ed) *The Prisoner's Dilemma* (Cambridge 2015), pp64-84
(co-authored with Anna Alexandrova)
- 'Harm and causation'
Utilitas 27.2, June 2015, pp147-164
- 'Degree of explanation'
Synthese 190.15, October 2013, pp3087-3105
- 'It's just a feeling: why economic models do not explain'
Journal of Economic Methodology 20.3, September 2013, pp262-267
(co-authored with Anna Alexandrova)
- 'Verisimilitude: a causal approach'
Synthese 190.9, June 2013, pp1471-1488
- 'Partial explanations in social science'
chapter 7 in Harold Kincaid (ed) *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Social Science* (Oxford 2012), pp130-153
- 'Genetic traits and causal explanation'
chapter 4 in Kathryn Plaisance and Thomas Reydon (eds) *Philosophy of Behavioral Biology* (Springer: Boston Studies in Philosophy of Science 282, 2012), pp65-82
- 'How necessary are randomized controlled trials?'
in Ronald Munson, *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics* (9th edition, Thomson Wadsworth 2012), pp187-191
- 'Natural-born determinists: a new defense of causation as probability-raising'
Philosophical Studies 150.1, August 2010, pp1-20
- 'Walsh on causes and evolution'
Philosophy of Science 77.3, July 2010, pp457-467
- 'On Lewis, Schaffer and the non-reductive evaluation of counterfactuals'
Theoria 75.4, December 2009, pp336-343
- 'Is actual difference making actually different?'
Journal of Philosophy 106.11, November 2009, pp629-634
- 'Progress in economics'
chapter 11 in Don Ross and Harold Kincaid (eds) *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Economics* (Oxford 2009), pp306-337
(co-authored with Anna Alexandrova)
- 'Causation and contrast classes'
Philosophical Studies 139.1, May 2008, pp111-123
- 'Weighted explanations in history'
Philosophy of the Social Sciences 38.1, March 2008, pp76-96
- 'Can ANOVA measure causal strength?'
Quarterly Review of Biology 83.1, March 2008, pp47-55
- 'Causal efficacy and the analysis of variance'
Biology and Philosophy 21.2, March 2006, pp253-276
- 'Pearson's wrong turning: against statistical measures of causal efficacy'
Philosophy of Science 72.5, December 2005, pp900-912
- 'Comparing apples with oranges'
Analysis 65.1, January 2005, pp12-18

‘Defining causal strength’

CPNSS Discussion Paper CTR 14/03, September 2003

Other

‘Bad luck or the ref’s fault?’

in Ted Richards (ed), *Soccer and Philosophy* (Open Court, 2010), pp319-326

‘The Irrational Game: why there’s no perfect system’

in Eric Bronson (ed), *Poker and Philosophy* (Open Court, 2006), pp105-115

Review of ‘The Scientific Study of Society’ by Max Steuer

Economics and Philosophy 20.2, October 2004, pp375-381

(co-authored with Anna Alexandrova)

Employment

-- Reader, Birkbeck College, University of London, October 2018-

-- Senior Lecturer, Birkbeck College, University of London, October 2013-September 2018

-- Lecturer, Birkbeck College, University of London, May 2011-September 2013

-- Associate Professor, University of Missouri-St Louis, October 2011–May 2012 (on leave)

-- Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-St Louis, August 2005–September 2011

-- Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics, April–July 2005

-- Visiting Scholar, UC San Diego philosophy department, September 2003–June 2004 and September 2004–April 2005

-- Research Associate, Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics, August 2000–September 2005

Education

PhD Philosophy, London School of Economics, defended July 2004

Adviser: Colin Howson

Thesis title: ‘Approximate truth and causal strength in science’

MSc Economics, London School of Economics

Average grade: 67 (in top six of year, from about 125 students in total)

Diploma in Economics, King’s College, University of Cambridge

Grade: 1* distinction (in top three of whole year of economics undergraduates)

BA Mathematics and History, King’s College, University of Cambridge

Part II History, Grade: 2.1 Part IA Mathematics, Grade: 2.1

S-levels, Hampstead Comprehensive School

Subjects and grades: Chemistry 1, Physics 1, Further Mathematics 2

A-levels, Hampstead Comprehensive School
Ancient History A, Chemistry A, Further Mathematics A, Mathematics A, Physics A

Service

Head of Department, Birkbeck Philosophy, September 2017-August 2020
Assistant Dean, School of Social Sciences History and Philosophy, Birkbeck, September 2017-August 2020
Honorary Secretary, British Society for the Philosophy of Science, since August 2019
Founding co-editor, Cambridge University Press *Elements* series on Philosophy of Science, June 2018-May 2020
Advisory Board, Centre for the Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences, London School of Economics, from June 2018
Member of QAA working group that drafted the subject benchmark statement for Philosophy, June 2014

Reviewer for:

Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Critica Revista Hispanoamericana de Filosofía, Economics and Philosophy, Erkenntnis, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, History and Theory, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, Journal of Applied Philosophy, Journal of Philosophical Logic, Manuscripto, Mind, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophy and Technology, Philosophy and Theory in Biology, Philosophy of Science, Revista Portuguesa Filosofia, Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science, Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Synthese, Topoi

National Science Foundation, Oxford University Press, Routledge Press, University of Missouri Research Board, Flanders Research Foundation, Cognitive Science Society, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Central States Philosophy Association, Society for the Metaphysics of Science

Chapters from: *Causality and Probability in the Sciences* (Russo and Williamson eds, College Publications 2007), *Causality in the Sciences* (Illari, Russo and Williamson eds, Oxford UP 2011), *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Social Science* (Kincaid and Ross eds, Oxford UP 2012), *The Prisoner's Dilemma* (Peterson ed, Cambridge UP 2015), *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Political Science* (Kincaid and Bouwen eds, Oxford UP 2020).

Professional Memberships:

- Philosophy of Science Association
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science
- European Philosophy of Science Association
- British Philosophical Association
- fellow of the Higher Education Academy

