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Richard Lauer

Areas of Specialization

- Philosophy of Social Science (inc. Economics)
- Philosophy of Biology
- General Philosophy of Science

Areas of Competence

- Ethics (inc. Business Ethics)
- Logic
- Political Philosophy
- Early Modern, Ancient Philosophy

Academic Appointments

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Lecturer, 2021 - Present

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2017 - 2021

Adjunct Assistant Professor, 2016 – 2017

SUNY POTSDAM

Adjunct Instructor, Spring 2017, Fall 2021

Education

AWARDED AUGUST 2016

PhD Philosophy/ University of Missouri – Columbia (2011-2016)

Dissertation: Explanation for the Cognitively Bounded: Psychology and the Pragmatics of Explanation

Advisor: Andre Ariew

AWARDED MAY 2011

MA Philosophy/ University of Missouri – St. Louis (2009-2011)

Thesis: Unfree and Equal: On the compatibility between Freedom of Occupational Choice and Equality

Advisor: Anna Alexandrova

AWARDED DECEMBER 2008

BA Political Science/ Columbus State University (2003-2008)

Graduated Magna Cum Laude

Publications

1. “Motivating a Pragmatic Approach to Naturalized Social Ontology” *Forthcoming Journal for General Philosophy of Science*
2. “Do the Social Sciences Vindicate Race’s Reality?” (with Kareem Khalifa). *Forthcoming in Philosopher’s Imprint*
3. “Instrumentalizing and Naturalizing Social Ontology: Replies to Simon Lohse and Daniel Little” (part of a discussion of my 2019 article) *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* Vol. 51 Issue 1, 2021
4. “Is Social Ontology Prior to Social Scientific Methodology?” *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* Vol. 49 issue 3, June 2019
5. “Predictive Success and Non-Individualist Models in Social Science” *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* Vol. 47 Issue 2, March 2017

In Preparation

6. “Is Collective Responsibility a Useful Fiction?” (with Kareem Khalifa and Sahar Heydari Fard)
7. “Placeholder Realism about Race” (with Kareem Khalifa)
8. “Healthcare Rights” in *The Roman and Littlefield Handbook of Bioethics* (invited chapter)

Presentations

Refereed

* not the presenting author

1. “Placeholder Realism about Race” (with Kareem Khalifa) *Social Ontology 2021*; August 9th-21st; San Diego, California (Online due to COVID-19 Pandemic)
2. “Is Collective Responsibility a Useful Fiction?” (with Kareem Khalifa and Sahar Heydari Fard) *Social Ontology 2021*; August 9th-21st; San Diego, California (Online due to COVID-19 Pandemic)
3. “Placeholder Realism about Race” (with Kareem Khalifa) *Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable Panel at 2020 Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*; November 11th – 14th 2021; Baltimore, Maryland
4. “Do the Social Sciences Vindicate Race’s Reality?” (with Kareem Khalifa) *2020 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science*; Atlanta, Georgia: March 13-15th*

5. "Naturalized Economic Ontology and the Interpretation of Infinite Idealizations in Econophysics" *2020 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science*; Atlanta, Georgia: March 13th-15th
6. "Collective Mental States: An Empirical Critique" (with Kareem Khalifa) *5th Meeting of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science*; Toronto, Ontario; November 7th-9th, 2019
7. "Econophysics and the Heuristic Role of Social Ontology" *2019 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science*; Burlington, Vermont; April 12-14, 2019
8. "Construct Validity and the Possibility of Scientific Social Ontology" *26th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*; Seattle, Washington; November 1st-4th 2018
9. "Is Social Ontology Prior to Social Scientific Methodology?" *The 3rd Joint Meeting of the European Network for the Philosophy of Social Sciences and Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science*; Hannover, Germany; August 29th-September 1st, 2018
10. "Scientific Social Ontology? Objecting to Kincaid on the Existence of Social Classes" *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*; San Diego, California; March 28th- April 1st, 2018
11. "Is Understanding Factive? Responding to the Objection from Scientific Idealizations" *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting*; Baltimore, Maryland January 4-7th 2017
12. "Microfoundations in Strategy and Explanatory Reductionism" (with André Ariew and Randy Westgren) *5th Annual Meeting of the European Network for the Philosophy of Social Science*; Helsinki, Finland August 24-26th 2016
13. "Predictive Success and Non-Individualist Models in Social Science" *2016 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science*; Tampa, Florida March 11-13th 2016
14. "Explanation for the Cognitively Bounded: Psychology and the Pragmatics of Explanation" *40th Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference*; Memphis, Tennessee February 19-20 2016
15. "Acceptance, Belief, and the Factivity of Understanding" *35th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Philosophical Society*; Pittsburg, Kansas February 13th 2016

Invited

16. "Scientific Social Ontology? Objecting to Kincaid on the Existence of Social Classes" *SUNY Potsdam Philosophy Forum*; Potsdam, New York October 26th, 2017

Comments

17. On David Spewak's "Varieties of Silencing" *40th Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference*; Memphis, Tennessee February 19-20 2016

18. On Christopher McCammon's "Republican Political Justification and Unreasonable Citizens" *Central States Philosophical Association Conference*; St. Louis, Missouri September 15-17 2011

Professional Service/Affiliations

1. Reviewer: Erkenntnis
2. PSA Delegate for the Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science (organizer of Cognate Session for PSA 2020 held Nov. 2021). **Participants: Richard Lauer, Kareem Khalifa, Ron Mallon**
3. **Symposium Organizer:** 2019 Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable; Burlington VT (April 12-14, 2019), *Methodology Meets Metaphysics: Economics and Ontology*. **Organized with Brian Epstein and Jennifer Jhun**
4. **Organizer** of *Missouri Philosophy of Science Workshop* (<https://sites.google.com/site/missouriphilscience/home>), Spring 2016
5. **Organizer** for Q&A with author on Brian Epstein's *The Ant Trap: Rebuilding the Foundations of the Social Sciences*, Fall 2015
6. Member: Philosophy of Science Association, International Social Ontology Society

University/Teaching Service/Research Supervision

1. **SUNY Potsdam WAYS Workshop** (instructor for faculty on basic critical thinking to be taught in their first-year courses). (Spring 2021)
2. **Honors Thesis Supervision** (2020-2021):
 - a. **Cooper Sarafin**, "Truth or Profit? The Business of Information and How It Fails our Democracy"
 - b. **Placido Ramallo**, "Naturalizing Moral Ontology"
3. Organizer for Kathryn Fraser Mackay Lecture at St. Lawrence University (Spring 2021)
Speaker: Cailin O'Connor
4. St. Lawrence University Summer Research Fellowship Mentor:
 - a. **Ned Hallahan (2020)**, "The Ethics of Commercializing Public Land: Can We Ethically Commodify Land?"
 - b. **Frank Wotton (2020)**, "A Modal-Semantic Account of Surplus Structure"
 - c. **Tia Thompson (2019)**, "Investigating the Usefulness of Agential Thinking in Biology"
 - d. **Mark Featherston (2019)**, "On the Ethics of Human Augmentation: Genetic Engineering and Prosthetics"

5. Faculty member in **HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program)** Summer 2018 and Summer 2019 (Phil 100)
6. Faculty organizer/coordinator for *Philosophy in the Valley* undergraduate conference (a joint conference between SUNY-Potsdam and St. Lawrence University), held April 28th 2018
7. Regular faculty member in St. Lawrence University's First Year Program – **includes both teaching courses in the program and academic advising for first year students. (2017-2021)**

Awards, Grants, Etc.

1. \$1500 for SLU Summer Fellow research mentorship (x4) (Summer 2019 and summer 2020)
2. G. Ellsworth Huggins Graduate Fellowship (full funding for PhD, 2011-2016)

Teaching Experience

St. Lawrence University

1. Reasoning (taught regularly)
2. Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2017/2020 and Summer 2018/2019, Spring 2021 (online))
3. Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2017/2018/2019)
4. Organizing for Change: Power, Agency, and Resistance (taught in the First Year Program) [**co-taught, incorporates community-based learning**] (Fall 2017)
5. Philosophy of Economics (upper division) (Spring 2018)
6. Markets, Values, and Morality: Philosophy and Economics. Taught in the First-Year Program as a second semester seminar focused on development of student research skills. (Spring 2018)
7. Markets and Morality: The Philosophical Dimensions of Business and Economics. Taught in the First-Year Program as a first semester course. (Taught Regularly, 2017-2021)
8. Philosophy of the Social Sciences. Upper Division. (Spring 2019)
9. Markets, Rationality, and Morality. Upper division, senior business major capstone course. (Spring 2019/2020/2021)
10. Symbolic Logic (Fall 2019)
11. Independent Study: Agential Thinking in Evolutionary Biology/Meta-ethics. (Spring 2019/Spring 2021)
12. Modern Philosophy (upper division) (Spring 2020)
13. Philosophy of Science (Fall 2020)

SUNY-Potsdam

1. Introduction to Philosophy (x2), Spring 2017
2. Logic and Critical Thinking, Fall 2021

University of Missouri – Columbia (PhD program)

1. Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2012 (TA with Philip Robbins)
2. Introduction to Ethics, Spring 2013 (TA with Philip Robbins)
3. Introduction to Ethics, Fall 2013 (Instructor of record)
4. Logic and Reasoning, Fall 2013 (Instructor of record)
5. General Introduction to Philosophy (x2), Spring 2014 (Instructor of record)

University of Missouri - St. Louis (MA program)

1. Introduction to Ethics, Fall 2009 (TA with Irem Kurtsal Steen)
2. Business Ethics, Spring 2010 - Fall 2010 (Online, instructor of record, includes summer)
3. Logic and Language, Fall 2010 (TA, with Jon McGinnis)
4. Logic and Language, Spring 2011 (Instructor of record)
5. Business Ethics, Spring 2011 (Online, Instructor of record)

References

André Ariew (ariewa@missouri.edu)
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri – Columbia

Paul Weirich (weirichp@missouri.edu)
Curators' Professor
Department of Philosophy
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Kareem Khalifa (kkhalifa@middlebury.edu)
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