

Chris Dorst | Curriculum Vitae

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Academic Positions

Washington University in St. Louis
Lecturer in Philosophy

Aug 2018 - Present

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D. in Philosophy

May 2018

Dissertation: The Best Predictive System Account of Laws of Nature

Committee: Marc Lange (Chair), John Roberts, Matt Kotzen, Ned Hall,
and Laurie Paul

M.A. in Philosophy

May 2014

Thesis: Entrenchment and the Kripke-Wittgenstein Paradox

Committee: Marc Lange (Chair), Matt Kotzen, and John Roberts

Washington University in St. Louis

B.A. in Philosophy and Biology: Neuroscience

Aug 2008 - May 2012

Areas

Specialization: Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Physics

Competence: History of Analytic Philosophy, Logic, Metaphysics, Epistemology

Publications

Philosophy

2018. "Humean Laws, Explanatory Circularity, and the Aim of Scientific Explanation."

Philosophical Studies. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-018-1145-0>

2018. "Toward a Best Predictive System Account of Laws of Nature." *British Journal for the*

Philosophy of Science. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axy016>.

2017. "In All Probability, Quite Handy." *Metascience*. DOI: 10.1007/s11016-017-0282-y.

2017. "Bet Accepted: A Reply to Freitag." *Philosophical Quarterly*. 68: 175-83.

2016. "Evidence, Significance, and Counterfactuals: Schramm on the New Riddle of Induction."

Erkenntnis. 81.1: 143-154.

Molecular Biology

2012. (With K. Kirby, B. Marchand, et. al.) “Structural and Inhibition Studies of the RNase H Function of Xenotropic Murine Leukemia Virus-Related Virus Reverse Transcriptase.” *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. 56.4: 2048-61.
2010. (With R. C. Durk, K. Singh, et. al.) “Inhibitors of Foot and Mouth Disease Virus Targeting a Novel Pocket of the RNA-Dependent RNA Polymerase.” *PLoS ONE* 5.12: e15049. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0015049.

Presentations and Commentaries

- “Why do the Laws Support Counterfactuals?” Aug 2018
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference, Milan IT
- Comments on Siegfried Jaag and Christian Loew’s “Humean Reductionism and (Iterated) Counterfactuals” Aug 2018
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference, Milan IT
- Comments on David Kinney’s “Bayesian Networks and Multi-Level Causation” Feb 2018
Central APA, Chicago IL
- “Laws of Nature, Prediction, and Reductionism” Jan 2018
Eastern APA, Savannah GA
- “Why are the Laws so Useful?” Oct 2017
33rd Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, Boulder CO
- “A Tension in the Best System Account of Laws” Apr 2017
Pacific APA, Seattle WA
- “Contemporary Perspectives on the DN Model of Scientific Explanation” Apr 2017
Guest Lecture at Salem State University, Salem MA
- Comments on Katie Elliott’s “The Applicability Problem for Chance Explanation” Nov 2015
UNC Philosophy of Science Conference, Chapel Hill NC
- Comments on Lynn Chiu’s “An Ecological Challenge Against the Propensity Interpretation of Fitness” Apr 2015
Pacific APA, Vancouver BC
- Comments on Guy Hetzroni’s “Causation and Unification in Quantum Explanations” May 2014
Hebrew University–UNC Joint Conference in Philosophy, Chapel Hill NC
- “The Conventionality of the Brain’s Functional Topography” Mar 2014
Pitt–CMU Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Science, Pittsburgh PA

Teaching

Instructor of Record

Philosophy 233F: Biomedical Ethics	Spring 2019 (upcoming)
Philosophy 120: Problems in Philosophy	Spring 2019 (upcoming)
Philosophy 120: Problems in Philosophy	Fall 2018
Philosophy 100G: Logic and Critical Analysis	Fall 2018
Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy (Online, UNC)	Summer 2018
Philosophy 165: Bioethics (Online, UNC)	Summer 2017
Philosophy 100: Introduction to Philosophy (Salem State University)	Spring 2017
Philosophy 105: Critical Thinking (Online, UNC)	Summer 2016
Philosophy 229: 20th-Century Western Philosophy (UNC)	Spring 2016
Philosophy 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic (UNC)	Fall 2015
Philosophy 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic (UNC)	Summer 2015
Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy (UNC)	Summer 2014

Teaching Assistant

Philosophy 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic (UNC)	Spring 2015, Spring 2014
Philosophy 150: Philosophy of Science (UNC)	Fall 2014
Philosophy 112: Making Sense of Ourselves (UNC)	Fall 2013
Biology 3058: Physiological Control Systems (Washington University)	Spring 2012, Spring 2011
Biology 404: Laboratory of Neurophysiology (Washington University)	Fall 2011
Biology 2970: Genetics (Washington University)	Fall 2010

Academic Awards

UNC Dissertation Completion Fellowship	Aug 2017 - May 2018
Bertha Williams Fellowship	Aug 2016 - May 2017
UNC Graduate School Travel Award	Apr 2015
Mary Williams Fellowship	Aug 2012 - Aug 2013
Nishi Luthra Prize for Excellence in Philosophy	May 2012
Phi Beta Kappa Acceptance	May 2012

Professional Activities

Work-In-Progress Talk Coordinator for WUSTL Philosophy	Aug 2018 - present
WUSTL Undergraduate Philosophy Club Faculty Liaison	Aug 2018 - present
Harvard Fellow in Philosophy	Aug 2016 - May 2018
Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl - National Competition	Apr 2016
Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl - Regional Competition	Jan 2016
President, UNC Philosophy Graduate Student Association	Aug 2015 - Aug 2016
UNC Outreach Volunteer at Southpoint Atria Assisted Living	Sep 2015 - May 2016
Volunteer tutor and philosophy discussion group leader at LEAP for Education in Salem, MA	May 2016 - Aug 2018

Referee: *Philosophical Review*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*,
European Journal for the Philosophy of Science, *Philosophical Papers*, *Acta Analytica*

References

Marc Lange

Theda Perdue Distinguished Professor, Department Chair, UNC Chapel Hill
mlange@email.unc.edu

Edward Hall

Norman E. Vuilleumier Professor of Philosophy, Department Chair, Harvard University
ehall@fas.harvard.edu

John Roberts

Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
jtrosap@email.unc.edu

Matthew Kotzen

Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Associate Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
kotzen@email.unc.edu

Michael Mulnix (Teaching Reference)

Philosophy Department Chair, Salem State University
mmulnix@salemstate.edu