

William C. Bausman
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin–Madison
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Madison, WI 53706
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Metaphysics, Epistemology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Symbolic Logic and Critical Reasoning, History of Modern Philosophy

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D. in Philosophy. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Dissertation: *Neutral Theory, Biased World*
Adviser: C. Kenneth Waters
Committee: William Wimsatt, Jozef Uffink, Alan C. Love, Stephen P. Hubbell
- 2007 B.A. in Philosophy, Minor in Physics. University of California, Santa Barbara

POSITIONS

- 2019-2021 Honorary Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Sponsor: Elliott Sober
- 2019 Postdoctoral Fellow, Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition
Research, Klosterneuburg, Austria. (*Declined for family reasons.*)
- 2018-2019 Postdoctoral Fellow, Geneva Center for Philosophy of Science
Department of Philosophy, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2016-2018 Postdoc for “From Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics” Project
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland. Supervisor: Marcel Weber
- 2014 Visiting Instructor
Carleton College, Northfield, MN

PUBLICATIONS

- Accepted *From Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics*, Minnesota Studies in
Philosophy of Science, Volume 23. Coedited with Janella Baxter, Oliver Lean,
Alan Love and C. Kenneth Waters
- Accepted “Introduction” to *From Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics*,
co-authored with Janella Baxter and Oliver Lean
- Accepted “How to Infer from Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics as a Biologist
Might” *Minnesota Studies in Philosophy of Science, Volume 23*

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- 2019 “The Aims and Structures of Ecological Research Programs” *Philosophical Topics* 47(1): 1-20. (Special issue on the Philosophy of Ecology.)
- 2018 “Modeling: Neutral, Null, and Baseline” *Philosophy of Science* 85(4): 594-616
- 2018 “Not Null Enough: Pseudo-Null Hypothesis Testing in Community Ecology and Comparative Psychology”, *Biology & Philosophy* 33(3), with Marta Halina

Articles under Review

- “The Role of Starting Points to Order Investigation: Why and How to Enrich the Logic of Research Questions” (*Invited to Revise and Resubmit.*)
- “Why Do Biologists Investigate Like They Do?”

Articles under Preparation

- “Telling the Origins of the Neutral Theory in Ecology”
- “The Logic of Scientific Proxies”

PRESENTATIONS * invited, all others refereed

- 2020 “Why Do Biologists Use the Methodologies That They Do?”
Philosophy Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- “The Logic of Scientific Proxies” – *Canceled due to COVID-19*
Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice Conference. East Lansing, MI.
- 2019 “Why Do Biologists Use the Methodologies That They Do?”
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology.
Oslo, Norway
- *“Why Do Biologists Use the Methodologies That They Do?”
Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research. Klosterneuburg,
Austria
- 2018 “The Neutralist-Selectionist Divide Across Biology and Beyond”
History of Science Society. Seattle, WA
- *“Distinguishing Three Senses of “Null Hypothesis Testing” In Ecology”
Research Synthesis based on the Hierarchy-of-Hypothesis Approach.
Hannover, Germany
- “Why Do Biologists Use the Methodologies That They Do?”
Fifth European Advanced School in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences.
Interdisciplinarity in the Life Sciences and Their Philosophy.
Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research. Klosterneuburg,
- *“How to Infer from Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics?”
From Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics Workshop. Taipei, Taiwan
- “False Models for Fecund Research Programs”
Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Conference.
Regina, Saskatchewan

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- 2018 “Methodologies Order Factors”
Philosophy of Biology in the Mountains. Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2017 *
*“Against Lloyd’s Logic of Research Questions: The View from Community Ecology”
Bordeaux-Geneva Colloquium in Philosophy of Biology.
Geneva, Switzerland.
- *“On Inferring to Metaphysical Claims from Scientific Practice”
Society for the Metaphysics of Science.
Central American Philosophical Association. Kansas City, MI.
- 2016 “Modeling: Neutral, Null, and Baseline”
Philosophy of Science Association. Atlanta, GA.
- “The Use of Karl Popper in Ecology”
The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science Congress.
Minneapolis, MN.
- “On the Privilege of a Neutral Theory”
Eastern American Philosophical Association. Washington, DC.
- 2015 “Telling the Origins of the Neutral Theory of Ecology”
History of Science Society. San Francisco, CA.
- “Telling the Origins of the Neutral Theory of Ecology”
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology.
Montreal, Canada.
- “Not Null Enough: Non-Statistical Null Hypothesis Testing in Community
Ecology and Comparative Psychology” (Co-written with Marta Halina.)
Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice. Aarhus, Denmark.
- “On the Privilege of a Neutral Theory”
Philosophy Graduate Student Conference. University of Calgary Philosophy
Department. Calgary, Canada.
- 2014 “Not Null Enough: Non-Statistical Null Hypothesis Testing in Community
Ecology and Comparative Psychology” (Co-written with Marta Halina.)
Philosophy of Biology at Madison Workshop. Madison, WI.
- 2013 “But Isn’t the Neutral Theory of Ecology a Null Model?”
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology.
Montpellier, France.
- 2012 *
*Commentary on Jay Odenbaugh’s “Neutrality, Niche, and Nulls: Causal
Relevance in Ecology”
Workshop on Philosophical Perspectives on Causal Reasoning in Biology.
Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science, Minneapolis, MN.

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- 2011 “The Paradox Raised by the Neutral Theory of Ecology”
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology.
Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2010 “Leibniz vs. Descartes on Force and the Nature and Causes of Body”
Minnesota Philosophical Society. Bloomington, MN.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- 2019 **Environmental Forecasting: Causes and Consequences of Forecasting Cultures*
University of Freiburg, Germany.
4 day workshop with scientists
- **Repositioning Community Ecology in the 21st Century*
Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin, Germany.
3 day ecology workshop with ecologists and other biologists.
- 2018 **Research Synthesis Based on the Hierarchy-of-Hypothesis Approach: Conceptual Ecology Meets Philosophy of Science and Biostatistics*
Hannover, Germany
3 day ecology workshop with ecologists and several philosophers of science.
- Interdisciplinarity in the Life Sciences and Their Philosophy*
Fifth European Advanced School in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences..
Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research.
- From Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics*
Taipei, Taiwan.
1 week workshop investigating range of issues from biological practice to scientific metaphysics.
- 2017 *Practices of Individuation and Classification in Science*
Banff, Canada. June-July
2 week workshop investigating the scientific practices of classification and individuation, especially in biology and chemistry and the possibilities of metaphysical conclusions from these practices.
- 2016 *Reconceiving and Explaining the Success of Science*
Basel, Switzerland. August
2 week workshop on how the success of science is explained by looking to scientific practices and the possibilities for metaphysics based on practices.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Carleton College

2014 Philosophy of Science

Instructor

University of Minnesota

- 2016 Science, Technology, and Society, Spring
2015 Introduction to Philosophy, Fall
Introduction to Logic, Spring
2012 Introduction to Logic, Fall
Scientific Thought, Spring

Teaching Assistant

University of Minnesota

- 2014 Scientific Thought, Fall
2012 Introduction to Philosophy, Spring
2011 Scientific Thought, Fall
Graduate Symbolic Logic II, Spring
2010 Graduate Symbolic Logic I, Fall
Introduction to Philosophy, Spring
2008 Scientific Reasoning, Fall

FELLOWSHIPS

University Level

- 2014 Graduate Research Partnership Program, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota (UMN), Summer
2013-4 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, UMN
2013 Graduate Research Partnership Program, College of Liberal Arts, UMN, Summer
2011 Graduate Research Partnership Program, College of Liberal Arts, UMN, Summer

Departmental Level

- 2013 Swenson-Kierkegaard Semester Fellowship, Spring
2010 Department Research Partnership Program, Summer
2009 Department Research Partnership Program, Summer
2008-9 Graduate Student First Year Fellowship

SERVICE

Sessions Organized

- 2019 *Stability and Migration of Research Strategies Within and Across Different - Levels of Scientific Organization.*
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology
Oslo, Norway. July. Co-organized with Steve Elliot and Caterina Schürch

Reading Groups Co-organized

- Biology Interest Group – Works in Gestation.*
Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science. Spring 2015 – Spring 2016
Interdisciplinary writing group for graduate students interested in biology.
- Early Modern Interest Group.* Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science.
Started Spring 2011, ongoing. <http://mcps.umn.edu/groups/earlyModern.html>
The group was started to read “non-philosophical” works by “Philosophers”,
such as Leibniz’ *Protogaea* and Descartes’ *The Passions of the Soul*.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer for: *Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology*; *Philosophy of Science*; *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*; *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association
European Philosophy of Science Association
History of Science Society
International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology
Philosophy of Science Association

LANGUAGES

English (native), German (A2 level)

REFERENCES

Marcel Weber
Full Professor in Philosophy of Science
University of Geneva
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C. Kenneth Waters
Canada Research Chair in Logic and Philosophy of Science
University of Calgary
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William Wimsatt
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
University of Chicago
wwim@umn.edu
+1 773.454.1225

Stephen P. Hubbell
Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
UCLA
Senior Staff Scientist
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama
shubbell@ad.ucla.edu
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Teaching Reference

Jason Decker
Associate Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science
Carleton College
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