

CURRICULUM VITAE

James DiFrisco

Hans Przibram Postdoctoral Fellow

Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research

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PERSONAL DATA

Birthdate: 28 March 1987 (age 30)

Nationality: USA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization: Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science

Areas of Competence: Metaphysics, Theoretical Biology, Phenomenology, Philosophy of Mind

EDUCATION

INSTITUTION	DEGREE	HONORS
University of Leuven	Ph.D., Philosophy (2015)	<i>summa cum laude</i> (87.5%)
University of Leuven	MPhil, Philosophy (2011)	<i>summa cum laude</i> (86.7%)
University of Leuven	M.A., Philosophy (2010)	<i>magna cum laude</i> (82.7%)
Wheaton College (IL)	B.A., Philosophy (2009)	<i>summa cum laude</i> (3.91/4)

PUBLICATIONS

- DiFrisco, James. (2018) "Kinds of Biological Individuals: Sortals, Projectibility and Selection." *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*
- DiFrisco, James. (forthcoming) "Biological Processes: Criteria of Identity and Persistence" In: *Everything Flows: Towards a Process Philosophy of Biology*, eds. Dan Nicholson and John Dupré. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- DiFrisco, James. (2017) "Token Physicalism and Functional Individuation." *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*. DOI: 10.1007/s13194-017-0188-y
- DiFrisco, James. 2017. "Functional Explanation and the Problem of Functional Equivalence." *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part C* 65: 1-8.
- DiFrisco, James. 2017. "Time Scales and Levels of Organization." *Erkenntnis* 82(4): 795-818.
- DiFrisco, James, G  elle Pontarotti, Federico Boem, Guillaume Schlaepfer, Ewelina Sokolowska, Eva Fern  andez-Labandera. 2015. "Ontological Issues in the Life Sciences" *Biological Theory* 10(2): (conference report and discussion)

- DiFrisco, James. 2015. "Nature Rendered 'Intelligible': On Thomas Nagel's *Mind and Cosmos*." *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology* 46(1): 79-86.
- DiFrisco, James. 2015. "Élan Vital Revisited: Bergson and the Thermodynamic Paradigm." *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 53(1): 54-73.
- DiFrisco, James. 2014. "Hylomorphism and the Metabolic Closure Conception of Life." *Acta Biotheoretica* 62(4): 499-525.
- DiFrisco, James. 2012. "Merleau-Ponty's Ontology of Life." *Pli: The Warwick Journal of Philosophy*, 23, 50-71.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (available upon request)

* = invited

"Levels of Developmental Evolution: From Composition to Process and Back," *Hierarchy and Levels of Organization in the Biological Sciences*, 36th Altenberg Workshop in Theoretical Biology, organized by Daniel S. Brooks, James DiFrisco, and William C. Wimsatt. Konrad Lorenz Institute, Klosterneuburg, Austria. 10 March 2018.

*"Process Thinking for Evo-Devo" *Summer School in Evolutionary Developmental Biology*, Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti, Venice, Italy, 18-21 September 2017. (Instructor)

*"Process Ontology of Biological Individuals," Colloquium presented to University of Vienna *DK Program, The Sciences in Historical, Philosophical, and Cultural Contexts*. 7 June 2017. Invited by: Martin Kusch.

"Introduction to Process Philosophy of Biology." Colloquium, Konrad Lorenz Institute, Klosterneuburg, Austria. 30 March 2017.

*"Individuals and Biological Kinds: Countability, Projectibility, and Selection." Colloquium on Theoretical Analytical Philosophy, Aarhus University, Denmark. 24 March 2017. Invited by: Johanna Seibt.

*"Individuals, Characters, and Biological Kinds," Visiting Speaker Series, Immunoconcept Lab, University of Bordeaux, France. 7 March 2017. Invited by: Thomas Pradeu.

"Functional Explanation and Functional Equivalents," *Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)*. Atlanta, USA. 3 November 2016.

"Token Physicalism and Functional Individuation," *Society for Metaphysics of Science*, Geneva, Switzerland. 17 September 2016,

"Functional Explanation and Functional Equivalence," *European Advanced Seminar in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences (EASPLS)*. Konrad Lorenz Institute, Klosterneuburg, Austria. 7 September 2016.

*"Explanatory Idealization and Developmental Processes," *European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology (EuroEvoDevo)*. Contributor to the symposium "Process Thinking for EvoDevo." Uppsala, Sweden. 28 July 2016. Invited by: Johannes Jaeger.

"Kinds of Biological Individuals: Selection and Projectibility," Internal Colloquium, Konrad Lorenz Institute, Klosterneuburg Austria. 14 June 2016.

- *“Kinds of Biological Individuals: Projectibility, Analogy, and Selection,” Visiting Lecture. University of Rijeka, Croatia. 2 June 2016. Invited by: Zdenka Brzovic.
- “Functional Explanation and Functional Equivalents,” *Nordic Network for Philosophy of Science*. Pärnu, Estonia. 21 April 2016
- *“Physicalism and Functional Individuation,” Colloquium on Theoretical Analytical Philosophy. Aarhus University, Denmark. 23 October 2015. Invited by: Johanna Seibt.
- “Grounding Biological Individuals in Hierarchical Processes” *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology* (ISHPSSB) Montreal, Canada. 5-10 July 2015.
- *“Individuality and the Limits of Biological Functionalism” Visiting Lecture, University of the Basque Country. San Sebastián, Spain. 8 June 2015. Invited by: Kepa Ruiz-Mirazo.
- *“Time Structure in Cellular Processes” *Process Philosophy of Biology Workshop*, Egenis, Exeter University, 20-21 November 2014. Invited by: John Dupré.
- *“Dynamic Individuation across Scales” Exeter University, Egenis Seminar, 29 October 2014. Invited by: John Dupré.
- *“Levels of Processes: Dynamic Individuation in Nature” University of the West of England, Visiting Speaker Series 2014-2015, 22 October 2014. Invited by: Michael Lewis.
- “Time Scale and Levels of Organization” European Advanced Seminar for the Philosophy of the Life Sciences (EASPLS) 2014: Ontological Issues in the Life Sciences. Konrad Lorenz Institute (KLI), Klosterneuburg, Austria. September 1-5, 2014.
- “Naturalizing Duration: Nature as a Temporal Hierarchy” *Phenomenology and Naturalism Conference*, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa. April 11-13, 2014.
- “Time Scale in Biological Hierarchies” *KU Leuven Graduate Conference*, March 28, 2014.
- “Élan Vital Revisited: Bergson and the Thermodynamic Paradigm” *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology* (ISHPSSB) Montpellier, France. July 7-12, 2013.
- “Simondon on Hylomorphism and Contemporary Concepts of Self-Organization” *KU Leuven Graduate Conference*. Leuven, Belgium. March, 2013.
- “Vital Organization in Bergson and in Non-Equilibrium Thermodynamics” *KU Leuven Graduate Conference*. Leuven, Belgium. March, 2012.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* (FWO) (Research Foundation - Flanders). Individual postdoctoral fellowship for the project “Hierarchical Evolution of Dynamical Systems” (2018-2021, renewable by application for the period 2021-2024). ~108,000 EUR x 2.
- Hans Przibram Award, 2017. This is a 3rd year extension of postdoctoral fellowship at the Konrad Lorenz Institute, awarded “for exceptionally successful investigators” during the previous 2-year postdoctoral period.
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research, Klosterneuburg, Austria. (2015-2016). 39,600 EUR
- Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* (FWO) (Scientific Research Fund — Flanders). Individual Grant for the project “Process and Levels of Organization: A Dynamic Ontology for the Life Sciences” (2011-2015). 96,000 EUR.

KU Leuven MPhil Scholarship (2010-2011). 2,000 EUR.

Wheaton College Scholastic Honor Society Scholarship (2009). 2,000 USD. Awarded to top <5% of graduating class.

Wheaton College President's Award (2005-2009). 4,000 USD.

VISITING RESEARCH STAYS

Sept.–Dec. 2014, Egenis, Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences, Exeter University (UK).
Host: John Dupré.

TEACHING

Instructor, Summer School in Evolutionary Developmental Biology, “Process Thinking for Evo-Devo,” *Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*. Venice, Italy. 18-21 September 2017. (This was a summer school for doctoral students and postdocs in evolutionary developmental biology.)

Guest Seminar, “Introduction to Process Philosophy of Biology,” for the Masters Seminar *Process Ontologies and Process Metaphysics*. Instructor: Prof. Johanna Seibt. Aarhus University: Institute for Culture and Society, Section for Philosophy and the History of Ideas. 22 March 2017.

Phenomenology Texts Seminar (W0EE4a): *Self-Consciousness and the Ego in Phenomenological Perspective*. KU Leuven, spring 2014.

Philosophy of Science Seminar (W0EA4A), KU Leuven, fall 2013. General philosophy of science.

Teacher's Assistant, Wheaton College 2006-2009 (History of Philosophy—Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and Contemporary; Aesthetics Seminar; Postmodern Philosophy Senior Seminar)

REVIEWING

Reviewer for *Acta Biotheoretica*, *BioSystems*, *Biological Theory* (2), *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Erkenntnis* (2), *Leonardo*, *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*, *Phenomenologica*, *Synthese*

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Philosophy of Science Association; Society for Metaphysics of Science; European Philosophy of Science Association; Nordic Network for Philosophy of Science; European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology; International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

THESES

Doctoral Thesis, KU Leuven, defended on 1 June 2015 — *Process and Levels of Organization: Dynamic Ontology for the Life Sciences*

Committee: Roland Breeur (supervisor) ; Andreas De Block (supervisor) ; Grant Ramsey (external) ; Jan Heylen. (*Summa cum laude*)

MPhil Thesis, KU Leuven, defended on 19 August 2011 — *Organization and Inorganic Life in Bergson* ; supervisor: Roland Breeur. (*Summa cum laude*)

Master's Thesis, KU Leuven, defended on 20 August 2010 — *Merleau-Ponty's Ontology of Life* ; supervisor: Rudolf Bernet (*Summa cum laude*)

LANGUAGE

English – Native

French – B2

Dutch – B1