

# Paul D. Thorn

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## Areas of Specialization

Epistemology, Logic, Philosophy of Science.

## Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mind, Cognitive Science, Decision Theory, Game Theory, Social Choice Theory, Metaphysics, History of Philosophy (Early Modern & Analytic).

## Appointments

- 2009-present Research Fellow, Philosophy Department, Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf.
- 2016-2020 Research Fellow, Collaborative Research Center *The Structure of Representations in Language, Cognition, and Science* (DFG SFP 991).
- 2015-2017 Assistant Director, Duesseldorf Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science (DCLPS).
- 2011-2018 Research Fellow, Priority Programme *New Frameworks of Rationality* (DFG SPP 1516).
- 2009-2011 Research Fellow, ESF research network *The Logic of Causal and Probabilistic Reasoning in Uncertain Environments*.
- 2008-2009 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, New College of Florida.
- 2002-2003 Research Fellow, *Philosophy, Probability, and Modeling*, Philosophy Department, University of Konstanz.

## Education

- 2007 Ph.D, Philosophy and Cognitive Science, University of Arizona (Supervisor: John L. Pollock).
- 1998 M.A., Philosophy, Simon Fraser University.
- 1996 B.A. (1<sup>st</sup> class honors), Philosophy, Simon Fraser University.

## Publications & Talks

### ARTICLES

- forthcoming The Joint Aggregation of Beliefs and Degree of Belief. *Synthese*.
- The Stimulus-Perception Connection: An Investigation in the Epistemology of Perception. *Synthese*.
- The Material Theory of Object-Induction and the Universal Optimality of Meta-Induction: Two Complementary Accounts. (w/ G. Schurz) *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A*.
- 2019 A Formal Solution to Reichenbach's Reference Class Problem. *dialectica* 73/3, 349–366.
- Meta-Inductive Prediction based on Attractivity Weighting: An Empirical Performance Evaluation. (w/ G. Schurz) *Journal of Mathematical Psychology* 89, 13–30.
- 2018 Induction by Direct Inference Meets the Goodman Problem. *Kriterion - Journal of Philosophy* 32/2, 1–24.
- 2017 On the Preference for More Specific Reference Classes. *Synthese* 194/6, 2025–2051.
- Against Deductive Closure. *Theoria* 83/2, 103–119.
- A Note Concerning Infinite Regresses of Deferred Justification. *Philosophia* 45/1, 349–357.
- A Priori Advantages of Meta-Induction and the No Free Lunch Theorem: a Contradiction? (w/ G. Schurz) *KI 2017: Advances in Artificial Intelligence*, in series *Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence*, 236–248 .
- Direct Inference from Imprecise Frequencies. In Massimi, Romeijn, & Schurz (eds.). *EPSA15 Selected Papers - The 5th conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association in Düsseldorf*. Springer, 347–358.
- 2016 The Revenge of Ecological Rationality: Strategy-Selection by Meta-Induction Within Changing Environments. (w/ G. Schurz) *Minds and Machines* 26/1-2, 31–59.
- Qualitative Probabilistic Inference Under Varied Entropy Levels. (w/ G. Schurz) *Journal of Applied Logic* 19/2, 87–101.
- Attractivity Weighting: Take-the-Best's Foolproof Sibling. (w/ G. Schurz) In Papafragou, Grodner, Mirman, & Trueswell (eds.). *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Cognitive Science Society, 456–461.
- 2015 The Inheritance of Defaults in the Case of Exceptional Subclasses. *The Reasoner* 9/1, 93.

- Wise Crowds, Clever Meta-inductivists. In Mäki, Ruphy, Schurz, & Votsis (eds.). *Recent Developments in the Philosophy of Science: EPSA13 Helsinki*. Springer, 71–86.
- Qualitative Probabilistic Inference with Default Inheritance. (w/ Eichhorn, Kern-Isberner, & Schurz) In Beierle, Kern-Isberner, Ragni, & Stolzenburg (eds.). *Proceedings of the KI2015 Workshop on Formal and Cognitive Reasoning*. CEUR Workshop Proceedings, 16–28.
- 2014 Defeasible Conditionalization. *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 43/2, 283–302.
- A Utility Based Evaluation of Logico-Probabilistic Systems. (w/ G. Schurz) *Studia Logica* 102/4, 867–890.
- Minimality Criteria in Spatial Belief Revision. (w/ L. Bucher) In Bello, Guarini, McShane, & Scassellati (eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Cognitive Science Society, 1952–1958.
- Construction and Revision of Spatial Mental Models Under High Task Demand. (w/ Nejasmic, Bucher, & Knauff) In Bello, Guarini, McShane, & Scassellati (eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Cognitive Science Society, 1066–1072.
- 2013 Cognitivist Probabilism. In Vit Punochar & Petr Svarny (eds.), *The Logica Yearbook 2012*. College Publications, 201–213.
- Ampliative Inference Under Varied Entropy Levels. (w/ G. Schurz) In Beierle & Kern-Isberner (eds.), *Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Dynamics of Knowledge and Belief*. Fakultät für Mathematik und Informatik, FernUniversität Hagen, 77–88.
- 2012 Reward Versus Risk in Uncertain Inference: Theorems and Simulations. (w/ G. Schurz) *Review of Symbolic Logic* 5/4, 574–612.
- Two Problems of Direct Inference. *Erkenntnis* 76/3, 299–318.
- Meta-Induction and the Wisdom of Crowds. (w/ G. Schurz) *Analyse & Kritik* 34/2, 339–366.
- 2011 Undercutting Defeat Via Reference Properties of Differing Arity: A Reply to Pust. *Analysis* 71/4, 662–667.
- 2007 An Objectivist Argument for Thirdism. (w/ The Oscar Seminar) *Analysis* 68/2, 149–155.
- The Trouble with Pollock’s Principle of Agreement. *The Reasoner* 1/8, 9–10.
- 2001 Paraconsistency and the Image of Science. In John Woods & Bryson Brown (eds.), *Logical Consequence: Rival Approaches*. Hermes Science Publishing, 285–295.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 Review of Bostrom's *Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies*. *Minds and Machines* 25/3, 285–89.
- 2014 TTB vs. Franklin's Rule in Environments of Different Redundancy. (w/ G. Schurz) *Frontiers in Psychology*, 15–16.
- 2007 Three Problems of Direct Inference. *Dissertation*, Archived at: <http://arizona.openrepository.com/>
- 1998 The Normative Character of Interpretation and Mental Explanation. *Master's Thesis*, Archived at: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>

## PAPERS UNDER REVIEW OR UNDER REVISION

- Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective.
- The Multiple Partitions Problem for Direct Inference.
- The No Free Lunch Theorem and Regret-Based Meta-Induction. (w/ G. Schurz)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS (*SELECTED*)

- 2020 "Direct Inference and Inductive Logic." Kick-off Workshop FAT IL , Schliersee.
- 2019 "Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective." EPSA2019, Geneva.
- "Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective." EuroCogsci 2019, Bochum.
- "Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective." Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver.
- 2018 "Inheritance and Exceptional Subclasses." Annual Meeting for New Frameworks of Rationality Research Program, Etelson.
- "Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective." Cognitive Structures 2018, Düsseldorf.
- "Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective." 13th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA 2018), Novara.
- "Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective." National Meeting in Analytic Philosophy (ENFA 7), Lisbon.
- 2017 "The Simultaneous Aggregation of Beliefs and Degrees of Belief." Job Talk, Philosophy Department, University of Bayreuth.
- 2016 "Attractivity Weighting: Take-the-Best's Foolproof Sibling." Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia.

- “The Stimulus-Perception Connection.” Conference of the German Society for Philosophy of Science, Duesseldorf.
- 2015 “On the Preference for More Specific Reference Classes.” Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA 2015), Duesseldorf.
- “Qualitative Probabilistic Inference.” PROGIC 2015, University of Kent, Canterbury.
- “Meta-induction in Natural Environments.” Annual Meeting for New Frameworks of Rationality Research Program, Etelson.
- 2014 “Another Problem with Deductive Closure.” Workshop on Full and Partial Belief, Tilburg.
- “Logico-probabilistic reasoning in uncertain environments.” Meeting of European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Noto.
- “Meta-Induction and the Wise Crowd.” Workshop: Social Epistemology and Joint Action in Science, Salzburg.
- “Minimality Criteria in Spatial Belief Revision.” Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Quebec City.
- “Construction and Revision of Spatial Mental Models Under High Task Demand.” Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Quebec City.
- 2013 “Meta-Induction and the Wise Crowd.” Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA 2013), Helsinki.
- “Minimality Criteria in Spatial Belief Revision.” Annual Meeting of the German Society for Experimental Psychology (TeaP), Vienna.
- “Induction by Direct Inference Meets the Goodman Problem.” First International Conference of the German Society for Philosophy of Science, Hannover.
- “Logico-Probabilistic Inference.” Annual Meeting for New Frameworks of Rationality Research Program, Etelson.
- 2012 “Reward versus Risk in Uncertain Inference.” Workshop: Rationality Frameworks for Conditionals, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy.
- “Induction with or without uniformity.” Annual Meeting of the British Society for Philosophy of Science, Sterling.
- “Varieties of Meta-Induction.” Annual Meeting for New Frameworks of Rationality Research Program, Evangelische Akademie, Tutzing.
- 2011 “A Simulation Based Analysis of Logico-Probabilistic Reasoning Systems.” *Plenary Session*, LogICCC Final Conference, Berlin.
- “A Simulation Based Analysis of Logico-Probabilistic Reasoning Systems.” 14th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, Nancy.
- “Defeasible Conditionalization.” European Epistemology Network Meeting, Lund University.

- “Logico-Probabilistic Reasoning Systems: Logical Investigation and Simulation Based Analysis.” Workshop: Conditionals, Counterfactuals and Causes in Uncertain Environments, Duesseldorf.
- 2010 “Cognitivist Probabilism.” 7th Annual Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Konstanz.
- “Cognitivist Probabilism.” Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Kansas State University.
- “Defeasible Conditionalization.” ProbNet10, University of Salzburg.
- 2008 “Two Problems of Direct Inference.” Job Talk, Philosophy Department, National University of Singapore.
- “Probability Judgment and Uninformative Statistics.” Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, University of British Columbia.
- “Comments on ‘Perplexities in Williamson’s Anti-Luminosity Argument’.” Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, University of British Columbia.
- 2007 “Two Problems of Direct Inference.” Colloquium of the Philosophy Department, University of Arizona.
- 2006 “Rationality and Inconsistency.” Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, York University.
- “Rationality and Inconsistency.” Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, University of California San Diego.
- 2004 “Projectability and the Problem of the Reference Class.” *Plenary Session*, Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, University of Maryland.
- “Projectability and the Problem of the Reference Class.” Conference on Degrees of Belief, University of Konstanz.
- 2003 “A Theory of Competing Reasons.” Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Simon Fraser University.
- 2002 “Reasoning from Conflicting Information.” International Summer School on Philosophy and Probability, University of Konstanz.
- 1999 “Epistemic Applications for Paraconsistent Consequence Relations.” Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, University of Lethbridge.
- 1997 “Preserving Dilution of Incoherence.” Informal Logic Conference, University of Victoria.

# Teaching

## AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

HHU  
Duesseldorf

- Metaphysics (the Philosophy of David Lewis)
- History of Analytic Philosophy
- Metaphysics (the Philosophy of Nelson Goodman)
- Science, Democracy, and Truth
- Social Choice Theory
- Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence
- Philosophy of Social Science
- Theoretical Philosophy Research Seminar
- Probability and Induction

New College  
of Florida

- Metaphysics
- Game and Decision Theory
- Philosophy of Mind
- Early Modern Philosophy

University of  
Arizona

- Logic and Critical Thinking (x3)
- Philosophy of Science
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science
- Introduction to Philosophy

## AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

University of  
Arizona

- Early Modern Philosophy (x2)
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Social and Political Philosophy
- Logic and Critical Thinking
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Ethics

Simon Fraser  
University

- Introduction to Logic and Reasoning (x2)
- Introduction to Philosophy

# Professional and University Service

## REFEREEING AND REVIEWING

Abstracta, Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence, Analysis, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Dialectica, Entropy, Episteme, Erkenntnis, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, Journal of Philosophy, Logique et Analyse, Minds and Machines, Oxford University Press, Philosophical Frontiers, Philosophy of Science, Review of Symbolic Logic, Studia Logica, Synthese, Theoria. Also: Member of program committee of DKB 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, KI 2017, 2018, 2019; category editor for *PhilPapers*.

## ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Organizer, Symposium: Schurz' Meta-Inductive Approach to Hume's Problem, Geneva, 2019.

Local Organization Committee Member, Conference of the German Society for Philosophy of Science (GWP2016), Duesseldorf, 2016.

Co-organizer, Symposium: Formal Approaches to the Problem of Induction, Hannover, 2013.

Co-organizer, Workshop: Conditionals, Counterfactuals and Causes in Uncertain Environments, Duesseldorf, 2011.

Principal Organizer, Workshop on Medical Liability, University of Arizona, 2006.

Principal Organizer, Third Arizona Summer Workshop in Philosophy, University of Arizona, 2004.

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE (*SELECTED*)

- 2006-07 President, Graduate & Professional Student Council, University of Arizona.  
Faculty Senate Executive Committee, University of Arizona.  
IT Student Advisory Board, University of Arizona.  
Enrollment Management Committee, University of Arizona.
- 2005-07 Faculty Senate, University of Arizona.
- 2005-06 Vice President, Graduate & Professional Student Council, University of Arizona.  
Student Union Advisory Council, University of Arizona.  
Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee, University of Arizona.
- 2004-05 Secretary/Treasurer, Graduate & Professional Student Council, University of Arizona.
- 1997-98 Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University.



## Honors & Awards

Advocate of the Year, University of Arizona Graduate & Professional Student Council, 2007. (awarded by peers)

Advocate of the Year, University of Arizona Graduate & Professional Student Council, 2006. (awarded by peers)

Outstanding Graduate Student Leader, University of Arizona, 2006. (awarded by faculty committee)

Representative of the Year, University of Arizona Graduate & Professional Student Council, 2005. (awarded by peers)

Graduate College Travel Grant, University of Arizona, 2004.

Junior Research Fellowship, University of Konstanz, 2002.

Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Arizona, 1999.

Graduate Student Fellowship, Simon Fraser University, 1997.

## Other Experience

Spring 2007 Judicial Officer, Dean of Students Office, University of Arizona (responsible for adjudicating and sanctioning academic and non-academic Code of Conduct violations).

## References

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Professor of Theoretical Philosophy  
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