
Lane DesAutels

Curriculum Vitae

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<http://lanedesautels.com/>

Areas of Specialization

- Philosophy of Science
- Philosophy of Biology
- Philosophy of AI

Areas of Competence

- Logic
- Metaethics
- Bioethics

Academic Employment

- Professor of Philosophy
 - Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Missouri Western State University (August, 2026 – Present)
- Associate Professor of Philosophy
 - Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Missouri Western State University (August, 2021 – June, 2026)
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy
 - Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Missouri Western State University (August, 2016 – May 2021)
- Postdoctoral Fellow
 - Program for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Notre Dame (August, 2014 – May, 2016)

Education

- Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD (2014)
 - Dissertation: *Mechanism and Chance: Toward an Account of Stochastic Mechanism for the Life Sciences*
 - Dissertation Committee: Lindley Darden (director), Aidan Lyon, Mathias Frisch, Peter Carruthers, Jessica Pfeifer
- M.A. Philosophy, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI (2008)
- B.A. Philosophy, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA (2004)

Peer Reviewed Publications

- “Is AI a Moral Expert” (2026) *AI and Ethics*, 6: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-026-01406-7>
- “Vindicating Metaethical Naturalism: A Case for Final Causes in the Life Sciences” (2023) *Southwest Philosophy Review*, 39 (1): 175-182.
- “Causal Inference from Noise” with Nevin Climenhaga and Grant Ramsey (2021) *Noûs* 55 (1): 152-170.
- “Mechanisms in Evolutionary Biology” (2018) *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Mechanisms*, Eds. Stuart Glenman and Phyllis Illari. 296-307.
- “Natural Selection and Mechanistic Regularity” (2016) *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 57: 13-23.
- “Toward a Propensity Interpretation of Stochastic Mechanism for the Life Sciences” (2015) *Synthese*. 192: 2921–2953.
- “Against Regular and Irregular Characterizations of Mechanisms” (2011) *Philosophy of Science* 78 (5): 914-925.
- “Sober and Elgin on Laws of Biology: A Critique” (2010) *Biology and Philosophy* 25:249-256.

Articles in Preparation

- “A New Problem for the Epistemology of AI-based Science: the Best of No-lot Objection”

Selected Presentations

- “Is AI a Moral Expert?” *Illinois Philosophical Association Conference*, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston Illinois (November 2025)
- “Final Cause Explanations are Indispensable in Biology, but are they Causal?” *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting*, New Orleans (February 2024)
- “Vindicating Metaethical Naturalism: A Case for Final Causes in the Life Sciences” *Southwestern Philosophical Society Annual Meeting* (November 2022)
- “Final Cause Explanations in Life Science” *Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science Meeting*, University of Alberta, Canada (May 2021)
- “The Case for Final Causes in the Life Sciences” *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting*, Oslo, Norway (July 2019)
- “Dismantling the Holobiont Problem for Evolutionary Individuality” *Philosophy of Science Association Biannual Meeting: Poster Session*, Seattle, Washington (Nov 2018)
- “Extended Evolutionary Individuality: an Appeal to Multi-dimensional Heredity” *Generalized Theory of Evolution Conference*, University of Düsseldorf, Germany (Feb 2018)

- “Extending Biological Individuality” *Invited Lecture*, Park University, Parkville, MO (Nov 2017)
- “The Problem of Biological Individuality: Lessons from the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis” *Invited | Lewis Gordon Lecture*, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville (Oct 2017)
- “Noise Inference Methods” *Perspectives on Scientific Error*, Tilburg Center for Logic, Ethics, and Philosophy of Science, Tilburg, Netherlands (June 2017)
- “Ethics of Data Tagging for Big Data Science: A Case-Study on Racial Identifiers” *SciDataCon*, Denver, CO (September 2016)
- “Natural Selection as a Mechanism: Process vs Product Regularity” *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting*, Chicago (March 2016)
- “Causal-Possibility Explanations” (with Grant Ramsey) *European Philosophy of Science Association Meeting*, Düsseldorf, Germany (September 2015)
- “On the Role of Unactualized Possibilities in Biological Explanation” *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting*, Montreal, Canada (July 2015)
- “Toward a Propensity Interpretation of Stochastic Mechanism for the Life Sciences” *European Philosophy of Science Association Meeting*, Helsinki, Finland (August 2013)
- “Grounding Probabilistic Generalizations in the Life Sciences” *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting*, Montpellier, France (July 2013)
- “Mechanism and Chance” *University of Pittsburg/Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Conference* (April 2013)
- “Mechanisms, Regularity, and Stochasticity”, Invited Distinguished Alumni Speaker, *Western Michigan University Graduate Conference*, (Winter 2011)
- “Relocating Objectivity in Environment Ethics”, *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting*, Salt Lake City, Utah (Summer 2011)
- “Against Regular and Irregular Characterizations of Mechanisms”; *Philosophy of Science Association Biannual Meeting*, Montreal, Canada (Fall 2010)

Teaching Experience

- Missouri Western State University
 - Ethics
 - Healthcare Ethics
 - Introduction to Philosophy
 - 19th and 20th Century Philosophy
 - History and Philosophy of the Natural Sciences
 - Philosophy of Biology
 - Technology and Society
 - Advanced topics in Philosophy of Evolutionary Biology
 - Honors Colloquium on Freedom, Identity, and the Self
 - Advanced topics in Ethical Theory: Metaethics

- University of Notre Dame
 - Philosophy of Biology
 - Philosophy of Science
 - Philosophy of Science Graduate Survey Course
 - Mechanisms Graduate Seminar
- University of Maryland, College Park
 - Metaphysics
 - Philosophy of the Environment
 - Philosophy of the Environment (Online Course)
- Western Michigan University
 - Introduction to Ethics
 - Critical Reasoning

Honors and Awards

Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (2025)

MoWest Award for Teaching Excellence (2025)

MoWest Student Honors Organization Award for Most Influential Professor (2023)

MoWest Academic Advisor of the Year Award (2023)

Alpha Chi Faculty Compass Award for Most Influential Impact on an Undergraduate's Studies (2019)

LAS Faculty Development Award, Missouri Western State University (2016, 2018)

Distinguished Graduate Student Teacher Award, University of Maryland, College Park (2014)

Brian Hull Award for the Best First Year Graduate Student (Co-recipient), University of Maryland, College Park (2011)

Moreland Perkins Graduate Fellowship, University of Maryland, College Park (2013)

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland, College Park (2013)

D. H. Harder Humanities Scholarship, University of Puget Sound (2000).

Dean's Scholarship for Academic Merit, University of Puget Sound (2000)

Service

MoWest Faculty Senate (Fall 2026 – Present)

MoWest Director of Bachelor of General Studies/Science & Technology Degrees (Fall 2022 – Present)

MoWest General Studies Assessment Committee Chair (Fall 2023 - Present)

MoWest General Studies Committee Chair (Fall 2020 - August 2021)

Reviewer for the conference: "Bayes By the Sea: Rationality and Strategic Interaction in the Sciences" (Jan 2020)

MoWest Ad Hoc Committee for General Studies Assessment Secretary (Fall 2019- Fall 2020)

MoWest Western Excellence Award Committee Member (Fall 2019- Present)

MoWest Academy for General Studies Assessment Participant (Fall 2018)

MoWest General Studies Committee Secretary (2018-2019)

MoWest Peer Review/Syllabi Committee Member (2016- Present)

MoWest Online Teaching Committee Member (2016- Present) Notre Dame HPS Dissertation Workshop Organizer (2016)

Notre Dame HPS Qualifying Paper Oral Examiner (2015)

Philosophy Graduate Representative on the Advisory Panel for Arts and Humanities Undergraduates Interested in Pursuing Graduate School (2012, 2013)

Graduate Student Representative on the Program Review Committee for the Department of Philosophy at the University of Maryland, College Park (2013)

Representative to the Dean's Graduate Advisory Board (2011 - 2013)

Committee Member, Referee, and Principal Organizer of the *First Annual Western Michigan Graduate Student Philosophy Conference* (2007).

Professional Development

Quality Matters Online Teaching Certificate (December 2024)

Journal Refereeing

Biology and Philosophy

British Journal for the Philosophy of Science

Erkenntnis

Journal Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Journal for General Philosophy of Science

Philosophy Compass

Philosophical Psychology

Philosophy of Science

Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology

Studies in History and Philosophy of Science

Synthese

Frontiers

References

Lindley Darden
Professor of Philosophy
University of Maryland, College Park
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Grant Ramsey
Research Professor of Philosophy
KU Leuven
grant@theramseylab.org

James Okapal
Professor of Philosophy
Missouri Western State University
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