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Dr. Insa Lawler
née Röpke

Areas

Specialization	Epistemology, General Philosophy of Science
Competence	Philosophy of Language, Formal Semantics, Logic

Academic employment and visiting positions

since 2019	Assistant Professor of Philosophy (tenure-track); UNC Greensboro Fall 2021: Parental leave
2019 – 2022	Co-Investigator of the research project "Understanding progress, in science and beyond"; University of Iceland
2018 – 2019	Postdoctoral Researcher in the Emmy Noether Research Group "From perception to belief and back again"; Ruhr University Bochum
2017 – 2018	Predoctoral Ernst Mach Visiting Research Fellow; University of Salzburg
2014 – 2018	Predoctoral Researcher on the Volkswagen Foundation project "A study in explanatory power"; University of Duisburg-Essen
2011 – 2015	Predoctoral Researcher on the project "Speech-gesture alignment" of the CRC 673 "Alignment in Communication"; Bielefeld University

Education

2018	Dr. phil. in Philosophy (*summa cum laude*); University of Duisburg-Essen Doctoral thesis "Knowing why – an investigation of explanatory knowledge" Committee: R. van Riel (advisor), Th. Spitzley, Ch. Nimtz
2017	Visiting doctoral student at the University of Edinburgh; Advisor: D. Pritchard
2015 – 2016	Visiting doctoral student at NYU; Advisors: M. Strevens (NYU) & C. Elgin (Harvard)
2014	Master of Arts in Philosophy; Bielefeld University
2011	Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy & Linguistics; Bielefeld University

Publications

Journal articles

9. Dellsén, F., Lawler, I., Norton, J. (accepted). Would disagreement undermine progress? *Journal of Philosophy*.
8. Dellsén, F., Lawler, I., Norton, J. (2022). Thinking about progress: From science to philosophy. *Noûs*, 56(4), 814-840.
7. Lawler, I., Sullivan, E. (2021). Model explanation vs. model-induced explanation. *Foundations of Science*, 26(4), 1049-1074.
6. Lawler, I. (2021). Scientific understanding and felicitous legitimate falsehoods. *Synthese*, 198(7), 6859-6887.
5. Lawler, I., Zimmermann, G. (2021). Misalignment between research hypotheses and statistical hypotheses: A threat to evidence-based medicine? *Topoi*, 40(2), 307-318.
4. Rieser, H., Lawler, I. (2020). Multi-modal meaning: An empirically-founded process algebra approach. *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 13(8), 1-48.
3. Lawler, I. (2019b). Understanding why, knowing why, and cognitive achievements. *Synthese* 196(11), 4583-4603.
2. Lawler, I. (2019a). Levels of reasons why and answers to why questions. *Philosophy of Science* 86(1), 168-177.

Journal articles (cont'd)	1. Lawler, I. (2016). Reductionism about understanding why. *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 116(2), 229-236.
Book chapters	1. Lawler, I. (2022). Scientific progress and idealisation. In: Shan, Y. (2022). *New Philosophical Perspectives on Scientific Progress* (pp. 332-354). Routledge.
Edited books or special issues	2. Lawler, I., Khalifa, K., Shech, E. (editors, 2022). *Scientific Understanding and Representation: Modeling in the Physical Sciences.* Routledge.

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   ○ Khalifa, K., Lawler, I. R., Shech, E. (2022). Introduction. In: Lawler, I., Khalifa, K., Shech, E. (ed.). *Scientific Understanding and Representation: Modeling in the Physical Sciences* (pp. 1-13). Routledge.

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1. Eder, A.-M., Lawler, I., van Riel, R. (editors, 2020). Special issue *Philosophical methods* for *Synthese*, 197(3).

   ○ Eder, A.-M., Lawler, I., van Riel, R. (2020). Philosophical methods under scrutiny: Introduction to the special issue *Philosophical methods*. *Synthese*, 197(3), 915-923.

Proceedings publications	6. Lawler, I., Hahn, F., Rieser, H. (2017). Gesture meaning needs speech meaning to denote. *ESSLLI-Workshop "Formal approaches to the dynamics of linguistic interaction"*, 42-46.

5. Hahn, F., Lawler, I., Rieser, H. (2014). First observations on a corpus of multi-modal trialogues. In: *18th Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue (SemDial)*, 185-187.

4. Klein, U., Rieser H., Hahn, F., Lawler, I. (2013). Abduction and parameterised semantic composition in speech-gesture integration. *17th SemDial-Workshop*, 207-209.

3. Pfeiffer, T., Hofmann, F., Hahn, F., Rieser, H., Röpke, I. (2013). Gesture semantics reconstruction based on motion capturing and complex event processing. *14th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue*, 270-279.

2. Bergmann, K., Hahn, F., Kopp, S., Rieser, H., Röpke, I. (2013). Integrating gesture meaning and verbal meaning for German verbs of motion. *Tilburg Gesture Research Meeting*.

1. Röpke, I. (2011). Watching the growth point grow. *Gesture and Speech in Interaction 2011*.

Other publications	6. Lawler, I. (2019). Understanding, explanation, and intelligibility. Review of H. de Regt: Understanding Scientific Understanding. *Metascience* 28(1), 57-60.

5. Bratu, Chr., Herzog, L., Jonas, S., Lawler, I., Wehofsits, A., Werner, Ch. (2018) Förderung von Postdoktorand*innen und Geschlechtergerechtigkeit. *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Philosophie*, 41, 9-10.

4. Lawler, I. (2018). Synopsis article on conceptual analysis. *Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft* (de Gruyter).

3. Lawler, I. (2016). Review of D. Koppelberg and St. Tolksdorf (eds.): Erkenntnistheorie - Wie und wozu? *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 47(2), 411-415.

2. Eder, A.-M., Lawler, I., van Riel, R. (2016). Philosophical Methods. *Reasoner*, 10(8), 69.

1. Lawler, I. (2014). Topics in Explanation, Dependence & Understanding. *Reasoner*, 8(7), 79.

Teaching (instructor with full responsibility)

UNCG	Bachelor seminar "Introduction to formal logic" (online, in person)
	Bachelor seminar "Critical thinking" (online, in person)
	Bachelor seminar "Introduction to modal logic" (online)
	Bachelor seminar "Philosophy of mind" (online, synchronous)
Ruhr University Bochum	Master seminar "Bence Nanay on perception" with P. Brössel
	Master seminar "Knowledge and concealed questions"

University of Duisburg-Essen	Bachelor seminar "John Stuart Mill's theoretical philosophy: Language, knowledge, inference" (translated title (trans.))
	Master seminar "Scientific explanations" (trans.)
	Bachelor seminar "Knowledge and justification" (trans.)
Bielefeld University	Seminar (optional studies) "Introduction to argumentation theory" (trans.) with D. Milne
	Bachelor seminar "Introduction to modal logic" (trans.) with D. Milne
	Seminar (opt. studies) "Introduction to inductive logic" (trans.) with D. Milne
	Seminar (opt. studies) "Introduction to logic" (trans.) with D. Milne

Teaching (guest lectures)

UNCG	Lectures on *Research hypotheses and statistical hypotheses* and *Statistical hypothesis testing and the p-value* for the course "Professional Development" (Spring 2020); Nanoscience Department

Teaching (teaching assistant)

Bielefeld University	Teaching assistant for the course "Formal methods in linguistics" (trans.)
	Teaching assistant for the course "Introduction to logic I" (trans.)
	Teaching assistant for the course "Introduction to logic II" (trans.)

Qualifications in pedagogical training

2022	ACUE's microcredential for Promoting Active Learning Online
2021	ADAPT 2021 Virtual Conference for Online Education at UNCG
2020	ADAPT 2020 Virtual Conference for Online Education at UNCG
2019	Online Learning Level One Seminar at UNCG
	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Institute at UNCG
2015 – 2019	Teaching certificate for higher education teaching, Hochschuldidaktik NRW
2012 – 2014	Development of a course template for teaching critical thinking with D. Milne (funded by the project "Philosophical skills" (trans.))

Acquired external funding & awards (selection)

2020	Funding for the co-applied project "Understanding Progress, in Science and Beyond" (2019-2022): ca. 400.000€ (ca. $73,000 for UNCG); funding source: Iceland Research Fund
2019	Funding for co-organized workshop "Measurement in Cognitive Science": 685€; funding source: German Society for Philosophy of Science
2018	Funding for co-organized workshop "Epistemology Seminar": 500€; funding source: German Society for Analytic Philosophy
2017	Ernst Mach scholarship for research stay at the University of Salzburg: 9.400€; funding source: Austrian Academic Exchange Service
	Funding for co-organized workshop "The varieties of knowing how": 400€; funding source: German Society for Analytic Philosophy
	Scholarship for research stay at the University of Edinburgh: 1.400€; funding source: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
2016	Travel grant for 25th biennial meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association: 1.400€; funding source: DAAD
	Funding for co-organized graduate conference "Collaborative and shared knowledge in science and technology": 3.000€; funding source: Munich Center for Technology in Society
	Funding for co-organized workshop "Philosophical methods": 5.000€; funding source: German Research Foundation

2016 (cont'd)	Funding for event "Gender bias in academia": 500€; funding sources: SWIP Germany; Institute for Philosophy II, Ruhr University Bochum
2015	Scholarship for research stay at NYU: 13.500€; funding source: DAAD
2014	Claudia-Huerkamp-prize for best Master's thesis: 500€; awarded by the Faculty of History, Philosophy, Theology; Bielefeld University
	Funding for co-organized graduate conference "In search of facts": 2.600€; funding sources: WZB; Gesellschaft für Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung; Bergische Universität Wuppertal
2012	Scholarship: 1.200€; funding resource: Cognitive Interaction Technology Center of Excellence
2010 – 2013	Scholarship: 10.800€; funding source: Studienfonds OWL

Invited talks

2022
30. *The gradability of explanatory understanding.* Philosophy Colloquium. Duke University.
29. *Would disagreement undermine progress?* (online). Philosophy Colloquium. University of Duisburg-Essen. Conference "What is Metaphilosophy?" EBS University.
28. *Scientific progress and idealization* (online). Seminar "Scientific progress – Individual and collective" Amsterdam.
27. *Would disagreement undermine progress?* (online). Philosophy Colloquium. University of Duisburg-Essen.
26. *The gradability of explanatory understanding* (online). Understanding III conference. University of Bucharest.

2021
25. *Would disagreement undermine progress?* (online) (with F. Dellsén and J. Norton). Philosophy Colloquium. Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences.
24. *Explananda of model-based explanations* (online). Online seminar on surrogative reasoning. University of Salzburg.
23. *Progress, understanding, and gradability* (online). University of Salzburg.

2020
22. *Scientific understanding and felicitous legitimate falsehoods* (online). London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) Reading Group.
21. *Knowledge-wh and context-sensitivity* (online). Research colloquium for theoretical philosophy. Bielefeld University.

2019
20. *A shotgun wedding? Non-declarative sentences and truth-conditional theories of meaning.* Agnes Scott College.
19. *Scientific understanding and felicitous falsehoods.* University of North Carolina, Greensboro.
18. *Understanding based on distorted models and toy models – Towards a unified account.* Workshop on scientific understanding and representation. University of Bordeaux-Montaigne.

2018
17. *Co-speech iconic gestures and the cognitive penetrability of perception.* Workshop on the cognitive penetrability of perception. University of Turin.
16. *Knowing why and gradability.* University of Hamburg.
15. *Knowing why and gradability.* Karlsruher Institute of Technology.
14. *Understanding why and answers to why-questions.* Workshop on the varieties of relevance. University of Hamburg.
13. *Is knowledge-wh context-sensitive?* Research colloquium "Philosophy and cognitive science". Ruhr University Bochum.
12. *Felicitous falsehoods from a factivist point of view.* Symposium on C. Elgin's monograph "True enough". University of Innsbruck.
11. *What precisely is the epistemic issue regarding null hypothesis significance testing?* Work in progress seminar. University of Salzburg.

2017 10. *Reduktionismus bezüglich Verstehen-warum im Lichte der Mehrstufigkeit von Gründen.* Workshop on knowing, understanding, and explaining. TU Dresden.

9. *How to semantically interpret co-speech iconic gestures – A process algebra approach.* Research colloquium "Philosophy and cognitive science". Ruhr University Bochum.

8. *Lässt sich Verstehen-warum auf Wissen-warum reduzieren?* TU Dresden.

2016 7. *Explanatory knowledge and the idealization challenge from model-based explanations.* Research colloquium "Logic and epistemology". Ruhr University Bochum.

6. *A formal semantics for iconic gestures.* Graduate class "Meaning in speech, sign & gestures". NYU, Department of Linguistics.

5. *Wissen und explanatorisches Verstehen.* TU Darmstadt.

2015 4. *Knowledge and understanding-why.* University of Osnabrück.

3. *Non-declarative sentences in intensional semantics – Re-evaluating the Lewisian solution.* Graduate workshop "Language and world". University of Hamburg.

2013 2. *Das Bielefelder Speech and Gesture Alignment Korpus: SaGA.* U. Stuttgart (with F. Hahn).

1. *The Bielefeld Speech and Gesture Alignment Corpus.* ZAS Berlin (with F. Hahn & H. Rieser).

Talks at co-organized workshops or panels

2022 4. *Would disagreement undermine progress?* (with F. Dellsén, & J. Norton). Conference "Understanding Progress and Progress in Understanding". University of Iceland.

2020 3. *Progress, understanding, and gradability.* Panel "Understanding and progress" at second workshop on scientific understanding and representation (SURe 2020). Emory University.

2019 2. *Measurement in Neurolinguistics: The Case of the N400 effect.* Workshop "Measurement in cognitive science". Ruhr University Bochum.

2017 1. *Knowing why and explanatory knowing how.* Workshop "The varieties of knowing how". University of Duisburg-Essen.

Peer-reviewed talks

2021 30. *Would disagreement undermine progress?* (online) (with F. Dellsén and J. Norton). Conference "Agreement and Disagreement Beyond Ethics and Epistemology"; University of Kent.

2019 29. *Misalignment between research hypotheses and statistical hypotheses* (with G. Zimmermann). Conference "Statistical Reasoning and Scientific Error"; Munich.

28. *Misalignment between research hypotheses and statistical hypotheses* (with G. Zimmermann). 8th International Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable; Paris.

27. *David Lewis on non-declarative sentences: Setting the record straight.* Conference "David Lewis and his Place in the History of Analytic Philosophy"; Manchester.

26. *Misalignment between research hypotheses and statistical hypotheses* (with G. Zimmermann). Workshop "Philosophical Perspectives on Medical Knowledge"; Genoa.

2018 25. *Is knowledge-wh context-sensitive?* GAP 10; Cologne.

24. *Knowing why and gradability.* European Epistemology Network Meeting 2018; Amsterdam.

23. *Understanding why and answers to why-questions.* Models of Explanation; Turin.

22. *Understanding in the case of holistically distorted models and how-possibly models – A unified account.* Workshop "Explanation and Understanding"; Ghent.

2017 21. *Ist Wissen-warum gradierbar?* 24th Congress of the German Society for Philosophy; Berlin.

20. *How do model-based explanations depend on their respective models?* EPSA 2017; Exeter.

19. *Gesture meaning needs speech meaning to denote* (with F. Hahn & H. Rieser). ESSLLI 2017-Workshop "Formal approaches to the dynamics of linguistic interaction"; Toulouse.

2016 18. *How do idealizing models provide understanding-why?* PSA 2016; Atlanta.

17. *Knowing-why.* European Epistemology Network Meeting 2016; Paris.

16. *How do model-based explanations provide understanding-why?* Workshop "Explanation and understanding"; Aarhus.

15. *(How) Do models provide understanding-why?* Models and Simulations 7; Barcelona.

14. *How do idealizing models provide understanding-why?* 4th meeting of the Nordic Network for Philosophy of Science; Pärnu.

13. *The epistemic value of scientific idealizations for understanding-why.* University of Washington graduate student conference "Values in science"; Seattle.

2015 12. *Knowledge-why revisited.* GAP 9; Osnabrück.

11. *Does statistical null hypothesis significance testing provide knowledge?* 3rd Meeting of the Nordic Network for Philosophy of Science; Helsinki.

2014 10. *Putting the notion of context-free gesture meaning to test* (with F. Hahn & H. Rieser). Workshop "Embodied meaning goes public"; Stuttgart.

9. *Non-declarative sentences in intensional semantics – A defense of a Lewisian solution.* Venice Graduate Conference in Philosophy; Venice.

8. *Putting David Lewis' analysis of non-declarative sentences back in the game.* 8th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy; Bucharest.

7. *Speech-gesture-interface constructions for gestures accompanying German verb phrases* (with F. Hahn & H. Rieser). 6th Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies; San Diego.

6. *The role of perspective in thinking about mechanisms.* Open Minds IX; Manchester.

2013 5. *Using parameterised semantics for speech-gesture integration* (with U. Klein, H. Rieser & F. Hahn). Investigating semantics. Empirical and philosophical approaches; Bochum.

4. *Mechanistic descriptions and perspectival knowledge.* Graduate conference in theoretical philosophy; Groningen.

3. *Interface constructions for gestures accompanying verb phrases* (with F. Hahn & H. Rieser). 35th annual conference of the German Linguistic Society; Potsdam.

2012 2. *The role of perspective in thinking about mechanisms.* SOPhiA 2012; Salzburg.

2011 1. *Watching the growth point grow.* Gesture and speech in interaction; Bielefeld.

Peer-reviewed poster presentations

2016 5. *Multi-modal context-dependency* (with F. Hahn & H. Rieser). Workshop "Situations, information, and semantic content"; Munich.

2014 4. *First observations on a corpus of multi-modal trialogues* (with F. Hahn & H. Rieser). 18th Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue (SemDial); Edinburgh.

2013 3. *Abduction and parameterised semantic composition in speech-gesture integration* (with U. Klein, H. Rieser & F. Hahn). 17th SemDial Workshop; Amsterdam.

2. *Gesture semantics reconstruction based on motion capturing and complex event processing: a circular shape example* (with Th. Pfeiffer, F. Hofmann, F. Hahn & H. Rieser). 14th SigDial; Metz.

1. *Integrating gesture meaning and verbal meaning for German verbs of motion* (with K. Bergmann, F. Hahn, St. Kopp & H. Rieser). Tilburg Gesture Research Meeting; Tilburg.

Commentary on other talks

2016 3. Commentary on H. Sova's talk "The Dialectics of H. Putnam's model-theoretic arguments." 4th meeting of the Nordic Network for Philosophy of Science; Pärnu.

2015 2. Commentary on A. Reutlinger and H. Andersen's talk "Are explanations non-causal by virtue of being abstract?" 3rd meeting of the Nordic Network for Philosophy of Science; Helsinki.

1. Commentary on C. Picazo's talk "Underdeterminacy and the Role of Context." XVII Taller d'Investigació en Filosofia; Barcelona.

Co-organized workshops & conferences

2022   17. Co-organizer of the workshop "Understanding progress and progress in understanding"; Reykjavik

2020   16. Co-organizer of the online workshop "Understanding & scientific progress"
        15. Co-organizer of the online workshop "Progress, in science & beyond"
        14. Co-organizer of the online workshop "Understanding & progress, in science and beyond"
        13. Co-organizer of the online workshop "Understanding, in science and beyond"
        12. Co-organizer of symposium "Understanding and progress" at SURe workshop 2020; Atlanta

2019   11. Co-organizer of workshop "Epistemology seminar 2019"; Bochum
        10. Co-organizer of workshop "Measurement in cognitive science"; Bochum

2018   9. Co-organizer of graduate conference "On humans and machines" (translated title); Karlsruhe
         8. Co-organizer of workshop "Rationality: Epistemic & practical perspectives"; Bochum
         7. Co-organizer of workshop "Epistemology seminar 2018"; Bochum

2017   6. Co-organizer of workshop "The varieties of knowing how"; Essen

2016   5. Co-organizer of graduate conference "Collaborative and shared knowledge in science and technology"; Munich
         4. Co-organizer of workshop "Philosophical methods"; Essen

2014   3. Co-organizer of graduate conference "In search of facts" (trans.); Berlin
         2. Co-organizer of workshop "Topics in explanation, dependence, and understanding"; Essen

2012   1. Member of organizing committee for workshop "Alignment in communication"; Bielefeld

Service at universities (selected)

UNCG   since 2022: Member of CAS Curriculum & Teaching Committee

since 2022: Member of CAS Appeal Committee

since 2021: Phi Sigma Tau Faculty Advisor

since 2019: Honors Liaison for Philosophy

since 2019: Co-webmaster & Twitter Administrator, Philosophy Department

2020: Facilitator of the Assistant Professor interviews with the Provost candidates

2019: Judge for UNCG's Ethics Bowls

Bielefeld   2013: Deputy Equal Opportunity Officer; Faculty of History, Philosophy, Theology

University   2010 – 2013: Chair of the Student Council for Philosophy

Refereeing

2022   Referee for the journals *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* (2x), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, *Noûs*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, for the conference "4th Scientific Understanding and Representation annual workshop"

2021   Referee for the journals *Acta Analytica*, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese* (2x), for the conference "3rd Scientific Understanding and Representation annual workshop"

2020   Referee for the journals *Erkenntnis*, *Foundations of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, and *Synthese*

2019   Referee for the journals *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Foundations of Science*, and *Synthese*, for the workshop "Epistemic conflicts", for the conference "EuroCogSci 2019", for the International Postdoc Initiative at TU Berlin

2018   Referee for the journals *Analysis*, *Ergo*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese* (3x), for the conference "Analogical reasoning in science and mathematics"

2017   Referee for the journal *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*

2016   Referee for the journal *Philosophy of Science*

Work for the Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP) Germany

since 2019	Co-organizer of SWIP Germany's mentoring program
since 2018	Co-webmaster for SWIP Germany
since 2018	Member of the executive committee of SWIP Germany
2017	Co-organizer of SWIP-Colloquium "The fair scale – A constructive attempt" (trans.); Berlin
	Co-organizer of workshop "Negotiations at work" for female researchers; Bochum
2016	Co-organizer of event "Gender bias in academia"; Bochum
since 2016	Collecting biographical portraits of contemporary female philosophers for SWIP's blog
2015 – 2019	Volunteer ambassador for SWIP Germany responsible for the Ruhr area & organizer of meetings for female philosophers working in the Ruhr area in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Other service to the profession (selected)

2022	Member of the PSA-Women's Caucus Steering Committee
since 2019	Member of the Steering Committee of the Scientific Understanding and Representation (SURe) Workshop Series
2016 – 2019	Co-webmaster for co-founded young scholars' network INSIST (science & technology studies)
2015 – 2017	Mentor for two students in the mentoring program of Studienfonds OWL
2014 – 2016	Spokeswoman of INSIST

References

Dr. Raphael van Riel, University of Duisburg-Essen; raphael.vanriel@uni-due.de

Prof. Dr. Christian Nimtz; Bielefeld University; cnimtz@uni-bielefeld.de

Prof. Dr. Catherine Elgin, Harvard University; catherine_elgin@harvard.edu

Junior-Prof. Dr. Peter Brössel, Ruhr University Bochum; peter.broessel@rub.de

Prof. Dr. Hannes Rieser; Bielefeld University; hannes.rieser@uni-bielefeld.de