

Matthew J. Barker

<http://www.concordia.ca/artsci/philosophy/faculty.html?fpid=matthew-barker>

Curriculum Vitae, October 2025

Biosketch

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Concordia University in Montréal, Canada. I received my PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 2010. I also hold MAs and a BA in philosophy, and a BSc in biology.

Much of my research uncovers and answers **philosophical questions about scientific categories**. Some of these focus on specific categories such as *species* and *individual* in biology, *well-being* and *humility* in psychology, and *element* in chemistry. Others zoom out to ask about how categories can vary in their objectivity, and how norms of scientific reasoning influence theories about categories. I also work on ethical issues in biotechnology and the environment, and the roles that values must and should play in science. My primary research areas are philosophy of biology and general philosophy of science; secondarily I work on the philosophy of psychology, history of the philosophy of science, and on virtue ethics and applied ethics. My teaching focuses on all those areas, while my administrative and service activities extend into several corners of Concordia and beyond.

Areas of Specialization (AOS)

Philosophy of biology, philosophy of science

Areas of Competence (AOC)

Philosophy of psychology, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, ethics of biotechnology, history of the philosophy of science

University Employment, Appointments & Affiliations

Editorial Board Member, <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> , subject editor in philosophy of biology	2023 - present
Graduate Program Director, Department of Philosophy, Concordia University	2022 - 2023
Co-investigator / regular member, Centre de Recherche en Éthique (CRÉ), environmental and animal ethics axis	2019 - present
Chair, Department of Philosophy, Concordia University	2018 - 2021
Associate Professor, with tenure, Department of Philosophy, Concordia University	2017 - present
Member, Centre for Research in Human Development (CRDH)	2016 - present
Research Fellow, Loyola Sustainability Research Centre (LSRC)	2012 - present
Fellow, Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability, Concordia University	2012 - present
Research Member, Early Modern Projects Working Group, Concordia University	2012 - 2014
Assistant Professor, tenure-track, Department of Philosophy, Concordia University	2011 - 2017

Assistant Professor, tenure-track, Department of Philosophy, Mount Allison University	2010 - 2011
Project Assistant for Elliott Sober, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin – Madison	2009
Project Assistant for Health Sciences Institutional Review Board, University of Wisconsin – Madison	2007 - 2009
Project Assistant, for Elliott Sober, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin – Madison	2007
Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland – College Park	2006
Research Assistant, for Lindley Darden, Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland – College Park	2005 - 2006
Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta	2003 - 2004

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Wisconsin – Madison Dissertation: <i>The Philosophy of Species: Conceptual, Metaphysical, and Ethical Insights Concerning Biological Species</i> . Dissertation Committee: Elliott Sober (supervisor), Daniel Hausman, Larry Shapiro, Paula Gottlieb, Charles Kalish.	2007 - 2010
M.A. Philosophy, University of Wisconsin – Madison	2007 - 2008
Graduate studies, University of Maryland – College Park (began Ph.D. in philosophy, then transferred to University of Wisconsin – Madison)	2005 - 2006
M.A. Philosophy, University of Alberta	2003 - 2005
B.A. Philosophy, Lakehead University	1999, 2000, 2003
B.Sc. Biology, Lakehead University	1994 - 1998

Research

Peer Reviewed Essays, Published or Accepted

Barker, Matthew J. and Matthew H. Slater, 2025, “The Chemical Element Category and Classificatory Norms: Better Understanding How Science Works”, <i>Foundations of Chemistry</i> , 28: 111-133.	Accepted Oct 13, 2025
Wilson, Robert A. and Matthew J. Barker, 2024, “Biological Individuals”, in Edward Zalta (ed.), <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> . (Spring 2024 Edition.) URL = https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/biology-individual/ . [This is a peer reviewed revision to the 2019 version, classed by SEP as “substantive”.]	Published Feb 4, 2024

- Barker, Matthew J. and Dylan J. Fraser, 2023, "Misrelating values and empirical matters in conservation: a problem and solutions", *Biological Conservation* 281. URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320723000666> Published May 2023
- Barker, Matthew J., 2022, "We are Nearly Ready to Begin the Species Problem" in John S. Wilkins, Frank E. Zachos, and Igor Ya. Pavlinov (eds.), *Species Problems and Beyond: Contemporary Issues in Philosophy and Practice*, Routledge, Taylor & Francis, pp.3-38. URL = <https://www.routledge.com/Species-Problems-and-Beyond-Contemporary-Issues-in-Philosophy-and-Practice/Wilkins-Zachos-Pavlinov/p/book/9781032221472> Published Jun 15, 2022
- Wilson, Robert A. and Matthew J. Barker, 2019, "Biological Individuals", in Edward Zalta (ed.), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. (Fall 2019 Edition.) URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2019/entries/biology-individual/>. [This is a new essay, replacing the 2013 essay we wrote for SEP called "The Notion of Biological Individual", listed below.] Published 2019
- Barker, Matthew J., 2019, "Species and Other Evolving Lineages as Feedback Systems", *Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology*, 11: 013, at <http://dx.doi.org/10.3998/ptpbio.16039257.0011.013> Published 2019
- Barker, Matthew J. and Robert A. Wilson, 2019, "Well-being, Disability, and Choosing Children", *Mind*, 128: 305-328. Published online first, September 17th, 2018, at <https://academic.oup.com/mind/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/mind/fzy039/5098725> Published 2019
- Barker, Matthew J., 2019, "Diverse Environments, Diverse People", in Tyler C. DesRoches, Frank Jankunis, and Byron Williston (eds.), *Canadian Environmental Philosophy*, McGill-Queen's University Press, pp.99-122. Published 2019
- Barker, Matthew J., 2019, "Eliminative Pluralism and Integrative Alternatives: The Case of SPECIES", *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 70(3): 657-681. Published online first, November 28th 2017, at <https://academic.oup.com/bjps/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/bjps/axx057/4671054?redirectedFrom=fulltext> Published 2019
- Barker, Matthew J. and Alana Friend Lettner, 2017, "Environmentally Virtuous Agriculture: How and When External Goods and Humility Ethically Constrain (or Favour) Technology Use", *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, 30: 287 – 309. Online at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10806-017-9669-4> Published 2017
- Barker, Matthew J., 2017, "Connecting Applied and Theoretical Bayesian Epistemology: Data Relevance, Pragmatics, and the Legal Case of Sally Clark", *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 34: 242 – 262. Online at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/japp.12181/abstract> Published 2017
- Barker, Matthew J., 2015, "Science and Values", in Robert A. Wilson (ed.), *Eugenics Archive*, online at <http://eugenicsarchive.ca/discover/encyclopedia/53d82bed4c879d00000000003>. Published 2015

- Barker Matthew J. and Joel D. Velasco, 2013, "Deep Conventionalism about Evolutionary Groups", *Philosophy of Science*, 80: 971-982. Online at <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/673923?journalCode=phos> Published 2013
- Barker, Matthew J., 2013, "Biological Explanations, Realism, Ontology, and Categories", *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 44: 617-622. Online at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1369848613001179> Published 2013
- Wilson, Robert A. and Matthew J. Barker, 2013, "The Biological Notion of Individual", in Edward Zalta (ed.), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2013 Edition). Online at <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/biology-individual/> Published 2013
- Barker, Matthew J., 2013, "Essentialism", in Byron Kaldis (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences*. SAGE: Los Angeles and London, pp. 270-275. Published 2013
- Barker, Matthew J., 2010, "From Cognition's Location to the Epistemology of its Nature", *Cognitive Systems Research* 11: 357-366, 2010. Online at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1389041710000367> Published 2010
- Barker, Matthew J. and Robert A. Wilson, 2010, "Cohesion, Gene Flow, and the Nature of Species", *The Journal of Philosophy* 107: 61-79. Online at https://www.jstor.org/stable/25700483?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents Published 2010
- Barker, Matthew J., 2010, "Specious Intrinsicism", *Philosophy of Science* 77: 73-91, 2010. Published 2010
- Wilson, Robert A., Matthew J. Barker and Ingo Brigandt, 2007, "When Traditional Essentialism Fails: Biological Natural Kinds", *Philosophical Topics* 35: 189-215. *A journal backlog misleadingly backdated the publication date to 2007; the paper was not actually finished and available till 2009. Online at https://www.jstor.org/stable/43154503?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents Published 2009*
- Barker, Matthew J., 2007, "The Empirical Inadequacy of Species Cohesion by Gene Flow", *Philosophy of Science* 74: 654-665. Online at http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/525611?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents Published 2007

Book Reviews Published

- "Philip Cafaro's Thoreau's Living Ethics: Walden and the Pursuit of Virtue", *Philosophy in Review* 25: 23-25, 2005. Published 2005

Works in Progress (titles withheld for blind review)

- Under review: essay on the relations between species concepts and concepts of human nature.

Under review: essay on the roles that norms played in attempts to justify theories about the nature of the chemical element category.

In review process: Book manuscript about how norms do, and how in the future they should, influence scientific classification. Co-authored.

Refereed and Invited Presentations, Commentaries, and Posters

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| "The Rationality of Norm-Driven Scientific Classification", with Matthew Slater, at the Biennial meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Science of Biology (ISHPSSB), Porto, Portugal, July. (Refereed.) | 2025 |
| "Philosophy of Scientific Classification: Farewell to Objectivity, Welcome to Rationality", at the annual meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Toronto, June. (Refereed.) | 2025 |
| "Philosophy of Scientific Classification: Farewell to Objectivity, Welcome Rationality", at a workshop for the Groupe de Recherche en Éthique Environnementale et Animale (GREEA), Montreal, April. (Invited.) | 2025 |
| "Phenetic Fracas", with Matthew Slater, at the biennial Philosophy of Biology at the Mountains (POBAM), Salt Lake City, Utah, July. (Refereed.)
https://sites.google.com/view/pobammain/home | 2024 |
| Declined (schedule conflict): Invitation from the Central American Philosophical Association (C-APA) to deliver a presentation on biological ontology, at the annual meeting of the C-APA. New Orleans, February. (Invited.) | 2024 |
| "Norm-driven Scientific Classification can be Rational without Objectivity", with Matthew Slater, at the 17th Quadrennial International Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology (CLMPS), Buenos Aires, Argentina, July. (Refereed.) | 2023 |
| "Science and Values for Sober Likelihoodists", in a double session devoted to the work of Elliott Sober, at the Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Science of Biology (ISHPSSB), Toronto, July. (Invited and Reviewed.) | 2023 |
| "Is Being Human Just a Phase You're Going Through?", with commentary by Dr. Nabeel Hamid, at Concordia Research Symposium in Philosophy (CRSP), Montreal, Quebec, February. (Invited.) | 2023 |
| "Species Problems: and their relations to race, speciesism, and environmental ethics/philosophy", presentation for a funded small research group within the Centre de Recherche en Éthique (CRÉ), Montreal, Quebec, February. (Invited.) | 2023 |
| "Diversity, Science, and Values", guest presentation and workshop for a course called "Overcoming Barriers to Science", Science College, Concordia University, September. (Invited.) | 2021 |
| Commentary on a paper by Mark Vellend, at "Do the values of biodiversity scientists bias biodiversity science", an event hosted by 4 th Space and Loyola College for | 2021 |

- Diversity and Sustainability at Concordia University, Montreal, May. (Invited.) URL = <https://www.concordia.ca/cuevents/artsci/loyola-college/2021/05/14/mark-vellend-on-bias-in-biodiversity-science.html>
- Commentary on “Values and Science” by Elliott Sober, as part of his 3-day Leblanc Lectures, Université du Québec à Montréal, April. (Invited.) URL = <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Vjt0SgzHlk> 2021
- “Are bacterial lineages feedback systems? From cynical pluralism to meta-pluralism about bacterial species”, at the Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Science of Biology (ISHPSSB), Cold Spring Harbor (virtual), New York, July. (Invited and Reviewed.) 2021
- “Classificatory norms in scientific practice: the unobjective but rational *chemical element*”, at the Biannual Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Baltimore, MD, November. (Refereed.) 2020
- “The norms, pragmatics, and rationality of biological categories”, at Philosophy of Biology at the Mountain (POBAM), biennial workshop, Salt Lake City, Utah, June. (Refereed.) 2020
- “Using norms to justify theories within definitions of scientific concepts”, with Matthew Slater, at the 16th Quadrennial International Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology (CLMPS), Prague, Czech Republic, August. (Refereed.) 2019
- “Human values do and should shape all scientific classifications”, with Matthew Slater, at the Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Science of Biology (ISHPSSB), Oslo, Norway, July. (Invited and Reviewed.) 2019
- “What is the Virtue of Humility?”, at Questions d’éthique environnementale et animale, hosted by Centre de Recherche en Éthique (CRÉ), Montréal, QC, May. (Invited.) 2019
- “Arguments, Definitions, Testing Value Claims”, at Identifying and Handling Value Judgements in HTA, Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH) workshop, Ottawa, ON, December. (Invited.) 2017
- “An Integrated Theory of Humility”, at the annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association (APA), Seattle, WA, April. (Refereed.) 2017
- “How Should We Argue about Ethics and Value? Applied Philosophy for Health Technology Assessment”, with Kenneth Bond and Katherine Duthie, at Measuring Value in Theory and the Real World, the 2017 symposium of the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH), Ottawa, ON, April. (Refereed.) 2017
- “Lineages, Species, and Positive Feedback Systems”, at the Species in the Age of Discordance Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, March. (Refereed.) 2017
- “Eliminative Pluralism: The Case of SPECIES”, at the Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Atlanta, GA, November. (Refereed.) 2016

- "A Wild Idea about Species", invited research presentation, Concordia Biology Department Retreat, Laurentians, QC, September. (Invited.) 2016
- "What's Old and What's New about CRISPR?", part of a panel discussion called *Editing Genes? The Science and Ethics of the New Biotechnology*, in the Faculty of Arts and Science series called *Beyond Disciplines*, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, February. (Invited.) 2016
- "Virtues and GMOs", with Alana Friend Lettner, Canadian Society for Environmental Philosophy conference, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, October. (Invited.) 2015
- "The Norm-Ladenness of Biological Classification", with Matthew Slater, at the Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Science of Biology (ISHPSSB), Montreal, QC, July. (Reviewed.) 2015
- "What is the Relationship of Eugenics to Bioethics?: A Canadian Perspective", with Robert A. Wilson, Canadian Philosophical Annual Congress 2015, Ottawa, ON, June. (Invited.) 2015
- "What Explanations of Behavior are Possible? The Case of Reductionism", John Molson School of Business, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, May. (Invited.) 2015
- "Philosophical Lessons From, and For, Biological Categorization", Department of Philosophy, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM), Montreal QC, April. (Invited.) 2015
- "Dissecting the Philosophical Parts of Biology", invited research presentation, Concordia Biology Department Retreat, Laurentians, QC, September. (Invited.) 2014
- "All Cause and No Effect Makes Taxa Dull Groups", annual Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference (INPC), Pullman, WA, August. (Invited.) 2014
- "Rethinking Reductionism in Robert Boyle's Time and Our Own", Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), Ghent, Belgium, July. (Refereed.) 2014
- "How to Improve Critical Thinking About Sustainability", Concordia University Teaching and Learning Festival, Montreal, QC, February. (Invited.) 2014
- "Ethics, Sustainability, and Interdisciplinarity", Concordia University Teaching and Learning Festival, Montreal, QC, February. (Invited.) 2014
- "Critical Thinking Within and Across Disciplines: New Research, New Method", keynote address for the faculty of Oregon Institute of Technology during their fall convocation events, Klamath Falls, OR, September 2013
- "The Last Race Realisms", Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Science of Biology (ISHPSSB), Montpellier, France, July. (Refereed.) 2013
- "Fixing Evolutionary Groups", Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, San Diego, CA, November. (Refereed.) 2012
- "Replacing the Consensus on Evolutionary Groups", Philosophy of Biology at Madison Workshop (POBAM, biennial conference), Madison, Wisconsin, June. (Refereed.) 2012

"Did Darwinians Really Change Our View of Life?", Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Region Philosopher's Association (ARPA), Sackville, NB, October. (Refereed.)	2011
"Saving a Revolutionary View (of the History of the Philosophy of Species in Biology)", Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Science of Biology (ISHPSSB), Salt Lake City, UT, July. (Refereed.)	2011
"Biologists' Species are the Philosopher's Dream", Department of Philosophy, University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, MB, February 2011; also at Department of Philosophy, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, February. (Invited.)	2011
"Categorizing Individuals Wholly Extrinsically", Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Region Philosopher's Association (ARPA), Halifax, NS, October. (Refereed.)	2010
"Reorienting the Debate about Extended Cognition", Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), Portland, OR, June. (Refereed.)	2010
"A Challenge and Proposal for Inclusive Environmental Virtue", Annual Meeting on Environmental Philosophy, Allenspark, CO, June. (Refereed.)	2010
"Constitution, Coincidence and Derivative Properties", Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division, Chicago, IL, February. (Refereed.)	2010
"Philosophical Insights on Biological Species", Phoenix Colloquium, Department of Philosophy, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB, February. (Invited.)	2010
"Philosophical Insights From and For Biological Species", Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies Colloquium, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, January. (Invited.)	2010
"Mechanism Range and Natural Selection", Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Science of Biology (ISHPSSB), Exeter, UK, July. (Refereed.)	2007
"Biology Expands the Modular Mind", Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Psychology and Philosophy (SSPP), Atlanta, GA, April. (Refereed.)	2007
"The Empirical Inadequacy of Species Cohesion by Gene Flow", Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Vancouver, BC, November. (Refereed.)	2006
"Flowing Genes and Cohesive Species", with Robert A. Wilson, Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Vancouver, BC, November. (Refereed.)	2006
"Flowing Genes and Cohesive Species", Annual Meeting of the Western Canadian Philosophical Association (WCPA), Vancouver, BC, November. (Refereed.)	2006
"The Good, the Bad and the Green: Fitting the Environment into Aristotle's Virtues", Annual Meeting of the Western Canadian Philosophical Association (WCPA), Victoria, BC, October. (Refereed.)	2004
"Can Aristotle Help Environmental Virtue Ethicists?", Department of Philosophy Colloquium, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, September. (Invited.)	2004

Special Invitations

- Science through the Eyes of the Humanities and Social Science 2023
One of three researchers in this 45 minute live streamed panel session in the “Research in Conversation” series hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Science at 4th Space, Concordia University, Montreal, May:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXsSkqogQ20>
- 15th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (CLMPS), Helsinki, Finland, August 2015
Invited to create and co-present Concordia University’s bid to host the 16 CLMPS in 2019. I led the creation of the bid document and planning of its presentation, with Graham Carr (VP Graduate Studies and Research), Marie-Josée Allard (Hospitality Concordia), and Lynda Cadieux (Tourism Montréal).
- Summit for Philosophers of Science, Calgary, AB, September. 2014
One of 12 invited official discussants from around the world, gathered to discuss the future of the disciplines of philosophy of science and philosophy of biology.
- Species Theory Workshop and Planning Meeting, International Institute for Species Exploration, Arizona State University, AZ, July. 2012
One of 5 experts invited to form a multi-disciplinary task force on “Species Theory”, led by Quentin Wheeler (Biology) and Andrew Hamilton (Philosophy), to determine the best aims and content for an international conference devoted to reaching consensus on the nature of species.

Grants Awarded

- CRÉ, Small Collaborative Scholarship for a project entitled “The Normative Implications of the ‘Species Problem’”, involving a series of talks and workshops and knowledge mobilization; with fellow GREEA/CRÉ members Luc Faucher, Antoine C.-Dussault, and Valéry Giroux. Total 2022 - 2023
- FRQSC, Research team support grant renewal for project “Les enjeux fondamentaux et implications pratiques de nos rapport avec les animaux et la nature”. (Co-investigator Kristin Voigt as PI.) Total of \$160,916. 2021 - 2023
- FRQSC, Research team support grant for the project “Les enjeux fondamentaux et implications pratiques de nos rapport avec les animaux et la nature”. (Co-investigator; Kristin Voigt as PI.) Total of \$77,458 (\$42,794 for Year 1 and \$34,664 for Year 2). 2019 - 2021
- FRQSC, Nouveaux Chercheurs research grant, for the project “Species and the Norms of Science”. Total of \$38,898 (\$13,196 for Year 1; \$12,681 for Year 2; \$13,021 for Year 3). 2013 - 2019*
- *Access to funds extended to 2019 due to leave.
- U.S. National Science Foundation HOPOS2014 Travel Award, \$958.72 2014
- Research Grant, for President’s Excellence in Teaching Award, Concordia University, \$2000 2013 - 2014

Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC) Working Group Award, "Early Modern Projects: Reconceiving the Natural, Reimagining the Real and Realizable" (team member), \$1500	2012 - 2013
New Faculty Start-up Grant, Concordia University, \$15,000	2011 - 2014
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, "Species: Their Nature and Place in Philosophy and Biology": \$20,000/yr. for 4 years	2005 - 2008
SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship, "Species: Their Nature and Place in Philosophy and Biology": \$35,000/yr. for 3 years. Declined	2005
Graduate Student Assistantship Award, \$11,000/yr.	2007 - 2010
Holtz Centre for Science and Technology Studies Travel Study Award, \$1000	2007
Graduate Student Scholarship, \$2000	2005
Province of Alberta Graduate Scholarship, \$9300	2004
Dr. John Macdonald Scholarship in Philosophy, \$5200	2004
J. Gordin Kaplan Graduate Scholarship, \$500	2004
Numerous competitive graduate student travel grants	2004 - 2010
Entrance Scholarship, \$3000	1994

Grants Awarded for Research Assistants

\$8270 to Tania Brand to work on my projects on species and human nature, as a Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award recipient.	2024
\$5760 to James Luong to work on my projects on scientific categories, including on conventionalism about category constitution and the nature of the category <i>humility</i> and its relevance to sustainability issues, as a Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award recipient.	2019
\$5626 to John Nenniger to work on my projects on procreative selection, values in conservation biology, and species pluralism, as a Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award recipient	2015
\$5626 to Alana Friend Lettner to work on my projects on environmental virtue ethics, as a Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award recipient	2015
\$5626 to Louis-Robert Bart to work on my project on norms and theoretical virtues in science, as a Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award recipient	2014
\$5626 to Michele Martin to work on my project on scientific categories, as a Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award recipient	2014
\$5626 to Michele Martin to work on my project on scientific categories, as a Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award recipient	2013

Teaching

Awards

President's Excellence in Teaching Award, junior faculty category, Concordia University	2013 - 2014
Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence, Concordia University	2012 - 2013

Supervision of M.A. Students in Concordia's Department of Philosophy

Supervisor for Sophie Berteau, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper TBD.	2024 - present
Supervisor for Colin Birkett, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper on theories of consciousness as a case study for scientific realism.	2024 - present
Supervisor for Michael Greenwood, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper TBD.	2024 - present
Supervisor for Michèle Martin, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper on philosophy of medicine and psychiatry.	2024 - present
Supervisor for Biyang Pan, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper on the influence of values on psychiatric classification.	2023 - present
Supervisor for Malou Sopcak, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper on the interaction of science and values in climate change research and policy, when suspension of judgments in hypotheses is an option.	2023 - present
Supervisor for Kosar Anvari, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "Testimonial Injustice in Witch Trials: A Case Against Fricker's Prejudice Hypothesis", successfully passed oral defense on March 11 th 2024.	2022 - 2024
Co-supervisor (with David Morris) for Laura Gallivan, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "An Experiential, Inclusive Approach to Hope", successfully passed oral defense on May 7 th 2018.	2015 - 2018
Supervisor for Mehdi Najafi, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "Sharon Street and Debunking of Morality", successfully passed oral defense on March 16 2018.	2015 - 2018
Supervisor for Sean Boivin, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "The Likelihood Principle: Objectivity and the Values and Science Debate", successfully passed oral defense on March 17 2018.	2014 - 2018
Supervisor for Johnson Chung, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper on well-being; he suspended his studies to work outside the university.	2015 - 2016
Supervisor for Sarah Charrouf, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper on philosophy of biological individuals; she terminated her studies to pursue other opportunities.	2015 - 2016
Supervisor for Anthony Gavin, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "Schizophrenic Bodies: Towards a Radical Biopolitical Ontology of Schizophrenia", successfully passed oral defense on December 16, 2016.	2014 - 2016
Supervisor for Edward Taylor, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "The Importance of Humility for the Teaching of Critical Thinking", successfully passed oral defense on March 15 2016.	2014 - 2016

Co-supervisor (with Justin Smith) for Sarah Azzarello, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "Race: A Plurality of Concepts", successfully passed oral defense on April 7 2014.	2014
Co-supervisor (with David Morris) for Fred Comeau, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "A Phenomenological Critique of Wheeler's Action-Oriented Representation", successfully passed oral defense on April 8 2014.	2012 - 2014
Supervisor for Dan Attack, M.A. Philosophy. Research paper, "A Vice-Oriented Approach to Environmental Virtue Ethics", successfully passed oral defense on January 23 2016.	2012 - 2016

Supervision of Concordia Students in Other Graduate Programs

Co-supervisor for Louise Sheils, M.A Hispanic Studies. Successfully completed her two research papers on philosophy of science and metaphysics in Spanish literature, in June 2017.	2014 - 2017
Minor Field Supervisor for Catalina Peralta, PhD in Humanities. Successfully completed her dissertation on truth seeking commissions, in December 2017.	2013 - 2017

Supervision of Honours Essay Students Philosophy at Concordia University

Supervisor for Michèle Martin essay on philosophy and class discrimination	2020
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Supervision of Student Research Assistants (RAs) at Concordia University

Supervisor for Tania Brand, Research Assistant	2024
Supervisor for James Luong, Research Assistant	2018 - 2019
Supervisor for Laura Gallivan, Research Assistant	2015 - 2016
Supervisor for John Nenniger, Research Assistant	2015
Supervisor for Alana Friend Lettner, Research Assistant	2015
Supervisor for Sean Boivin, Research Assistant	2015
Supervisor for Louis-Robert Bart, Research Assistant	2014
Supervisor for Michele Martin, Research Assistant	2014
Supervisor for Josine Lafontaine, Research Assistant	2013 - 2014
Supervisor for Michele Martin, Research Assistant	2013
Supervisor for Laura Boyd-Clowes, Research Assistant	2012

Student Examining Committees, Non-supervisory role

Examiner for Fahimeh Nazarian's Research Thesis paper titled , "Revising the Capability Approach: Adaptive Preferences and Avoiding Paternalism"; successful oral defense on June 20 th , 2024.	2024
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Chair for Marie-Emmanuelle Genesse's oral defense of her M.A. research paper titled "Are We Safe? On Violence Against Women Through Simone de Beauvoir's Work", April 24 th 2023.	2023
Examiner for Kenji Lota, M.A. research paper on uniqueness vs. permissivism about rationality.	2019
Examiner for James Pawson (supervisor: Gregory Lavers), M.A. research paper on a Wittgensteinian approach to semantic access in artificial intelligence.	2015
Examiner for William Renner (supervisor: David Morris), M.A. research paper in collective cognition.	2013
Examiner for Mathieu Roy, B.A. honours thesis in virtue ethics. (Mount Allison University.)	2010 - 2011

Other Supervisory or Examiner Roles for Students

Supervisor and examiner, minor comprehensive PhD research paper and oral exam, by Sebastian Jacek-Côté, McGill University; paper entitled "Empiricism and the Social Sciences", successfully defended May 8 th 2024.	2023 - 2024
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Courses Taught or Scheduled to Teach at Concordia University

Sep 2025 – Aug 2026

PHIL 441/641 & BIOL 421, Philosophical Foundations of Biology (major revisions), fall, 27 students	2025 - 2026
PHIL 495A Honours Essay course, Philosophy of Biological Categories (new, for Maximillian Guglielmi-Vitullo), fall	2025 – 2026
PHIL 672A, Philosophy of Medicine and Psychiatry (new tutorial, for Michèle Martin), fall	2025 - 2026
PHIL 220B, Introduction to Philosophy of Science (minor revisions), winter	2025 - 2026
PHIL 318A, Philosophy of Biology (minor revisions), fall	2025 - 2026

Sep 2024 – Aug 2025

PHIL 298A, Philosophy Through Film (new), fall, 80 students	2024 - 2025
PHIL 318A, Philosophy of Biology (moderate revisions), fall, 40 students	2024 - 2025
PHIL 220B, Introduction to Philosophy of Science (minor revisions), winter	2024 - 2025
PHIL 420A/644A Advanced Philosophy of Science: Categories and Classification (minor revisions), winter	2024 - 2025

Sep 2023 – Aug 2024

PHIL 298A, Philosophy Through Film (new), fall, 71 students	2023 - 2024
PHIL 318A, Philosophy of Biology (moderate revisions), fall, 30 students	2023 - 2024

PHIL 672A, Philosophy of Science & Argument (new tutorial, for Malou Sopcak), fall	2023 - 2024
PHIL 220A, Introduction to Philosophy of Science (moderate revisions), winter, 72 students	2023 - 2024
PHIL 420A/644A Advanced Philosophy of Science: Categories and Classification (new), winter, 20 students	2023 - 2024
<i>Sep 2022 – Aug 2023</i>	
PHIL 496AA, Philosophy of Science (new tutorial for Victoria Marsela), summer	2022 - 2023
PHIL 220A, PHIL 220 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (moderate revisions), fall, 65 students	2022 - 2023
PHIL 441/641 & BIOL 421, Philosophical Foundations of Biology (moderate revisions), fall, 22 students	2022 - 2023
PHIL 420A/644A Advanced Philosophy of Science: Science and Values (new), winter, 20 students	2022 - 2023
PHIL 318A Philosophy of Biology (major revisions), winter, 40 students	2022 - 2023
<i>Sep 2020 – Aug 2021</i>	
PHIL 441/641 & BIOL 421, Philosophical Foundations of Biology (moderate revisions), fall, 33 students	2020 - 2021
<i>Sep 2019 – Aug 2020</i>	
PHIL 220 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (minor revisions), fall, 60 students	2019 - 2020
PHIL 441/641 & BIOL 421, Philosophical Foundations of Biology (moderate revisions), winter, 28 students	2019 - 2020
<i>Sep 2018 – Aug 2019</i>	
PHIL 220 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (minor revisions), fall, 85 students	2018 - 2019
PHIL 441/641 & BIOL 421, Philosophical Foundations of Biology (new), winter, 28 students	2018 - 2019
<i>Sep 2016 – Aug 2017</i>	
PHIL 220A Introduction to Philosophy of Science (minor revisions), fall, 83 students	2016 - 2017
PHIL 420A/644A Advanced Philosophy of Science (major revisions), winter, 14/5 students	2016 - 2017
PHIL 318A Philosophy of Biology (minor revisions), winter, 29 students	2016 - 2017
PHIL 496A Virtue and the Environment (new tutorial, for Alana Friend Lettner), winter	2016 - 2017
PHIL 496B Advanced Philosophy of Science (prepared tutorial for Enriqueta Cortes Cisneros), winter	2016 - 2017

PHIL 496C Social Constructionism and Epistemic Injustice (new tutorial, for Valérie Simon), winter	2016 - 2017
<i>Sep 2015 – Jan 2016 (on parental leave Jan 2016 – Jul 2016)</i>	
PHIL 220 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (minor revisions)	2015 - 2016
PHIL 498/530/633 Ethics of Biotechnology (minor revisions)	2015 - 2016
PHIL 672 Epistemic and Pragmatic Virtues (new tutorial, for Laura Gallivan)	2015 - 2016
<i>Sep 2014 – Aug 2015</i>	
PHIL 220 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (minor revisions)	2014 - 2015
PHIL 318 Philosophy of Biology (minor revisions)	2014 - 2015
PHIL 672 Science and Values (new tutorial, for Anthony Gavin)	2014 - 2015
PHIL 498/530/633 Ethics of Biotechnology (moderate revisions)	2014 - 2015
PHIL 672 Rationality and Values in Science (new tutorial, for Sean Boivin)	2014 - 2015
<i>Sep 2013 – Aug 2014</i>	
PHIL 420/644 Advanced Philosophy of Science (moderate revisions)	2013 - 2014
PHIL 318 Philosophy of Biology (moderate revisions)	2013 - 2014
PHIL 220 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (minor revisions)	2013 - 2014
PHIL 498/530/633 Ethics of Biotechnology (minor revisions)	2013 - 2014
<i>Sep 2012 – Aug 2013</i>	
PHIL 496 Philosophy of Psychology and Mind (new tutorial, for Michele Martin)	2012 - 2013
PHIL 420 Advanced Philosophy of Science: Evidence and Categorization (new)	2012 - 2013
PHIL 324 Philosophy of Social Science (new)	2012 - 2013
PHIL 498/530/633 Ethics of Biotechnology (moderate revisions)	2012 - 2013
PHIL 220 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (moderate revisions)	2012 - 2013
<i>Sep 2011 – Aug 2012</i>	
PHIL 496 Philosophy of Technology and Agency (new tutorial, for Michaela Manson)	2011 - 2012
PHIL 318 Philosophy of Biology (new)	2011 - 2012
HUMA 873 Doctoral Directed Studies in Biology and Philosophy (new, for Phil Lynes)	2011 - 2012
PHIL 420/530/650 Advanced Philosophy of Science: Biotechnology (new)	2011 - 2012
SPEC 833 Doctoral Tutorial in Biotechnology (new, for Charles Ives)	2011 - 2012
PHIL 220 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (major revisions)	2011 - 2012
Courses Taught at Mount Allison University	
PHIL 3511 Philosophy of the Life Sciences (new)	2010 - 2011

PHIL 3231 Modern Philosophy – The Empiricist Tradition (new)	2010 - 2011
PHIL 1651 The Changing Images of Nature (new)	2010 - 2011
PHIL 3221 Modern Philosophy – The Rationalist Tradition (new)	2010 - 2011
PHIL 2551 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (new)	2010 - 2011

Courses TAed

PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy, University of Maryland – College Park	2006
PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society, University of Alberta	2004
PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society, University of Alberta	2003

Curriculum Development

Collaborated as Department Chair on curriculum revisions to improve time-to-completion in the MA program in Concordia University's Department of Philosophy	2019 - 2020
Collaborated, as Department Chair on a project to diversify the roots of the undergraduate programs in Concordia University's Department of Philosophy, which included adding several new courses and modifying existing ones	2018 - 2019
Led collaboration between Department of Philosophy and Department of Biology at Concordia University, to develop and add to the University's Academic Calendar a new cross-listed interdisciplinary course in philosophy of science	2014 - 2015
Collaborated with Murray Clarke and David Morris to revise curriculum as it relates to philosophy of mind and psychology	2012 - 2013

Professional Teaching Development

Panel member on a session called "Faculty Mentorship at its Most", in Concordia University's annual "Teaching and Learning Winter Festival", January.	2020
Initiated Teaching Triangles program for faculty in Concordia University's Department of Philosophy.	2019
Helped lead a session on "active learning" at Concordia's Centre for Teaching and Learning, after invitation from John Bentley, the Centre's Program Coordinator and Instructional Director.	2016
Teaching and Learning Festival, Concordia University: presenter and participant	2014
iClicker Consultations (x2), Centre for Teaching and Learning Services, Concordia University	2012
New Faculty Teaching Workshop, Centre for Teaching and Learning Services, Concordia University. Sessions:	2011
• Creative Activities • Performance as Knowledge	

- Burning Qs & As with Award-Winning Professors
- Learning Styles
- Technology Showcase: Moodle

Teaching Triangles Program, Purdy Crawford Teaching Centre, Mount Allison University	2011
Moodle Pedagogy Workshop, Purdy Crawford Teaching Centre, Mount Allison University	2010
Learning Outcomes Workshop, Purdy Crawford Teaching Centre, Mount Allison University	2010
New Faculty Teaching Workshop, Purdy Crawford Teaching Centre, Mount Allison University	2010

Service

Professional Administration Development

Participated in Provost Office training workshop for all incoming unit heads	2018
Participated in the Concordia Academic Leadership Academy (CALA), hosted by Concordia University's Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs	2017

For Department of Philosophy, Concordia University

Department Program Review Committee (DPRC)	2025 - 2026
Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC)	2025 - 2026
Department Personnel Committee (DPC)	2025 - 2026
Charis Advisory Counsel (CAC)	2025 - 2026
Department Personnel Committee (DPC)	2024 - 2025
Charis Advisory Counsel (CAC)	2024 - 2025
Advisory Search Committee for Department Chair, member	2023 - 2024
Department Personnel Committee (DPC), second of two year term	2023 - 2024
Graduate Program Director (GPD), one year term	2022 - 2023
Department Personnel Committee (DPC), first of two year term	2022 - 2023
Crisis Working Committee, ex-officio, Chair. I created this standing committee in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, to help my Department manage the unprecedented issues the pandemic was raising for us. Each year it consists of the Dept. Chair, GPD, UPD, GPA, and UPA.	2019 - 2021
Department Chair for a three-year term beginning August 20 th 2018	2018 - 2021
Department Personnel Committee, ex-officio, Chair	2018 - 2021
Graduate Studies Committee, ex-officio	2018 - 2021

Undergraduate Studies Committee, ex-officio	2018 - 2021
Part-Time Hiring Committee, ex-officio, Chair	2018 - 2021
Department Tenure Committee, ex-officio, Chair	2018 - 2021
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Member	2016 - 2017
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Member	2015 - 2016
Philosophy of Mind and Critical Thinking LTA Search Committee, Member	2015
CRC Hiring Bid Committee, Ad-hoc, Member	2014
CRC Hiring Bid Committee, Ad-hoc, Member	2014
Departmental Appraisal Committee, Member	2014 - 2015
Acting Chair, Department of Philosophy	2014 (July)
Part-Time Hiring Committee, Member	2014 - 2015
Assisted with and participated at the department's Concordia Open House table	2014
Departmental Retreat Committee, Member	2013 - 2014
Graduate Studies Committee, Member	2013 - 2014
PhD Program Planning Committee, Member	2013 - 2014
CRC Hiring Bid Committee, Ad-hoc, Member	2013 - 2014
Digitizing department job searches, assisted David Morris	2013 - 2014
Vladimir Zeman Awards in Philosophy, collaborated with David Morris to establish these new awards for students	2013 - 2014
Social and Political LTA Search Committee, Member	2012 - 2013
Chair Search Committee (for Department of Philosophy), Member	2012 - 2013
Strategic Hiring Bid Committee, Ad-hoc, Member	2012 - 2013
Department Website: Researched for and revised page on reasons for undergraduates to study philosophy	2012 - 2013
Graduate School Application Workshop, Panel Member	2012 - 2013
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Member	2012 - 2013
Library and Lectures Portfolio	2011 - 2012
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Member	2011 - 2012
PhD Program Planning Committee, Advisor	2011 - 2012
Kant LTA Search Committee, Member	2011 - 2012

For Concordia University

Senator, appointed, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science	2022 - 2024
Invited panel member, Peer Review Round Table, hosted by GradProSkills and Concordia University Library	2021

Senator, appointed, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science	2019 - 2021
Chair search committee member for Department of Theological Studies Chair position	2020
Chair search committee member for Department of Journalism Chair position	2019
DLMPS Congress Bid Academic Committee, Chair	2014 - 2015
Creator and Co-organizer, Matthew Kopec Guest Speaker Event, with Department of Philosophy, Department of Economics, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, David O'Brian Centre for Sustainable Enterprise, Loyola Sustainability Research Centre, and Loyola College of Diversity and Sustainability	2014
Consultant, planning session on the design and services to be offered in new classroom through renovations to Webster Library.	2014
Leader, roundtable discussion on syllabi and rubrics, at the New Faculty Orientation hosted by the Centre for Teaching and Learning Services (CTLS)	2013
Co-organizer, Steven Nadler Guest Speaker Events, with Department of Political Science, Department of Philosophy, Early Modern Projects Working Group, and Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture	2012 - 2013
Research Fellow of Loyola Sustainability Research Centre	2012 - present
Fellow of Loyola College of Diversity and Sustainability	2012 - present
Undergraduate Research Day Judge	2012
Creator, organizer and lead fund raiser for public lecture by Emma Marris, coordinating support from Department of Biology, Department of Philosophy, Philopolis, Faculty of Arts & Science, and President's Office	2011 - 2012

External to Concordia University

Delivered a lesson on working in philosophy for 80 grade 1 students at Children's World Academy, Lasalle, QC, January.	2016
International Advisory Committee, Member, Montreal Neuroethics Conference for Young Researchers, McGill University.	2014 - 2015
Continental Search Committee, Member, Mount Allison University, Department of Philosophy.	2011
Early Analytic Search Committee, Mount Allison University, Department of Philosophy.	2010 - 2011
Faculty Liaison to Undergraduate Philosophy Club, Mount Allison University Department of Philosophy.	2010 - 2011
Graduate Student Representative, University of Alberta.	2003 - 2004

Peer Reviewing for Journals and Book Publishers

<i>South African Journal of Philosophy</i>	2022 - present
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<i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i>	2022 - present
<i>Ergo</i>	2021 - present
<i>Analysis</i>	2021 - present
<i>History and Philosophy of the Life Science</i>	2019 - present
<i>Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology</i>	2018 - present
<i>Biology & Philosophy</i>	2017 - present
<i>The Journal of Philosophy</i>	2016 - present
<i>BioScience</i>	2014 - present
<i>Synthese</i>	2013 - present
<i>Erkenntnis</i>	2013 - present
<i>Acta Biotheoretica</i>	2013 - present
<i>Biophilosophy</i> (Cambridge University Press book proposal)	2013
<i>The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science</i>	2012 - present
<i>Logique et Analyse</i>	2012 - present
<i>The Biological Journal of the Linnean Society</i>	2012 - present
<i>International Studies in the Philosophy of Science</i>	2011 - present
<i>Biological Theory</i>	2011 - present
<i>Philosophy of Science</i>	2010 - present

Peer Reviewing of Grant Applications

For the Netherland Organization for Scientific Research	2014
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Peer Reviewing for Conferences

Annual Meeting of the Central States Philosophical Association (CSPA)	2011
Biennial Philosophy of Biology at Madison Workshop (POBAM)	2010

Peer Reviewing for Promotion or Tenure

Review of tenure and promotion candidate in philosophy of science at a Canadian university	2022
Review of a tenure and promotion candidate in philosophy of biology at a US university	2021

Conference Founding, Organizing and Chairing

Helped found the Montreal Philosophy of Science Network, a Montreal-based research network consisting of philosophers of science.	2016
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Led the planning and creation of a bid to host the 2019 congress of the International Council of Science's Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (DLMPS), securing the support of the Premiere of Quebec, the Mayor of the City of Montréal, the President of Concordia University, Canada's National Research Council, and the President of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, among others.	2013 - 2015
Session Chair, Soberfest: A Conference in Honour of Elliott Sober, Madison, WI, May.	2013
Session Chair, Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Region Philosopher's Association, (ARPA), Sackville, NB, October.	2011
Co-founder and Local Organizing Committee Member, Biennial Philosophy of Biology at Madison Workshop	2010
Session Chair, Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Psychology and Philosophy (SSPP), Atlanta, GA, April.	2007
Session Chair, Conference on Early Content: Intentionality in Visual and Linguistic Perception, College Park, MD, April.	2006

Employment History Outside Universities

Heritage Educator, Parks Canada	2003 - 2004
English Teacher, Tosayamada Board of Education, Japan	2000 - 2002
Heritage Educator, Arenaria Research & Interpretation	1999 - 2000
Systems Service Analyst, IBM Canada Ltd.	1996 - 1999

Other Interests and Skills

Family activities, athletic training, the outdoors, and playing music.