

# Alin Christoph Cucu

University of Lausanne  
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## Professional experience

Since 03/2023

**Postdoctoral research fellow (“Premier assista**  
University of Lausanne  
Tasks: Research, undergraduate teaching, administration

08/2020 – 02/2023

**Research fellow (“Assistant diplômé“)**  
University of Lausanne  
Tasks: Research (PhD thesis), undergraduate teaching,  
administration

08/2017 – 09/2019

**PhD fellow**  
International Academy of Philosophy (IAP), Mauren,  
Liechtenstein  
As part of the project “The Openness of the Universe for Divine  
Interaction and Human Free Will” funded by the Templeton  
foundation (grant ID: 59226)

09/2014 – 07/2017

**High school teacher for biology, chemistry and integrated  
sciences**  
European School of Munich

09/2010 – 08/2014

**High school (Gymnasium) teacher for biology, chemistry  
and integrated sciences**  
Gymnasium Kirchseeon (near Munich)

09/2008 – 08/2010

**Teacher-in-training (“Studienreferendar“)** for biology,  
chemistry and philosophy/ethics  
Asam-Gymnasium München

## Teaching Experience

09/2023

**Instructor at the Summer School “Minds, Persons and  
Cosmos”** in Arbanija, Croatia (organized by the Humane  
Philosophy Project at the University of Oxford).

Since 09/2021

**« Philosophical Perspectives on the Exact Sciences » for  
Master students from MINT disciplines. Supervision of  
essay production (2 semesters).**

University of Lausanne/École Polytechnique Fédérale de  
Lausanne (EPFL)

Topics:

- Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence
- Philosophy of consciousness
- Philosophy of neuroscience and free will

- Since 02/2021      **« Introduction à la logique » („Introduction to Logic“) for BA students in philosophy (2 hrs/week)**  
University of Lausanne
- 03/2019              **Adjunct Instructor, Philosophical Training for Students of Philosophy and Theology**  
International Academy of Philosophy Liechtenstein
- 01/2018 – 02/2018      **Adjunct Instructor, Philosophical Training for Theology Students**  
State Independent Theological College (Staatsunabhängige Theologische Hochschule), Basel
- 09/2008 – 07/2017      **High school/Gymnasium teacher for biology, chemistry and integrated sciences**  
European School of Munich  
Gymnasium Kirchseeon (near Munich)  
Asam-Gymnasium Munich  
Einstein-Gymnasium Munich  
Karls gymnasium Pasing

## **Education**

- 11/2022              **PhD in philosophy**  
University of Lausanne  
Supervisor: Prof. Michael Esfeld  
Title of PhD thesis: *“Interacting Minds in the Physical World”*
- 08/2020 – 10/2022      **PhD candidate/researcher**  
University of Lausanne
- 08/2017 – 07/2020      **PhD student**  
International Academy of Philosophy (IAP), Mauren, Liechtenstein
- 09/2010              **2<sup>nd</sup> state examination for a high school teaching position in biology and chemistry (Zweites Staatsexamen)**  
Ministry of Education and Science, Free State of Bavaria  
Grade: 1,90 (“good”)
- 06/2008              **1<sup>st</sup> state examination in biology and chemistry (Erstes Staatsexamen)**  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich  
Grade: 2,05 (“good”)
- 07/2006              **1<sup>st</sup> state examination in educational sciences (Erstes Staatsexamen in Erziehungswissenschaften)**  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich
- 10/2003-02/2008      **Studies of biology, chemistry and philosophy (10 semesters)**  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich

## Peer-reviewed publications

1. Cucu, Alin C. (2024) "Turning the Tables: How Neuroscience Supports Interactive Dualism". [\*Mind and Matter\* 21:2, 219-240](#)
2. Cucu, Alin C. (2023) "More Substance, Please: A Reply to Michael Esfeld's Minimalist Ontology of Persons". [\*Eidos\* 7:3, 48-66](#)
3. Cucu, Alin C. (2023) "Trup și suflet separabile, dar unificate – antropologia biblica justificabilă". In : *Ipoteze religioase în studiul naturii umane - O explorare științifică, filosofică și teologică* (ed. Clim M-R, Cucu AC, Frenț S-M, Hanc O, Popovici A-F). Iași: Institutul European
4. Cucu, Alin C. (2020) "Does Consciousness-Collapse Quantum Mechanics Facilitate Dualistic Mental Causation?". [\*Journal of Cognitive Science\* 21:3, 429-474](#)
5. Cucu, Alin C. and Pitts, Brian J. (2019): "How Dualists Should (Not) Respond to the Objection from Energy Conservation". [\*Mind and Matter\* 17:1, 95-121](#)
6. Cucu, Alin C. (forthcoming): "The Problematic Contacts Between Religious and Physicalist Metaphysics". [\*Introduction to Philosophy\*](#), Metaphysics Volume, Chapter 9. Rebus Community Press

## PhD thesis

1. Cucu, Alin C. (2022): *Interacting Minds in the Physical World*. University of Lausanne

## Peer-reviewed interactions with my work

1. Graham, Liam (2025): "Strong Emergence". In *Physics Fixes All the Facts*, The Frontiers Collection. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-69288-8\\_11](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-69288-8_11)
2. Rickabaugh, Brandon and Moreland, J.P. (2024): *The Substance of Consciousness*. Wiley Blackwell
3. Raleigh, Thomas. "The emptiness of naturalism." (2024)
4. Peluffo, Lucas. "Crucial Philosophical Implications of Neuroplasticity." *Journal of NeuroPhilosophy* 3, no. 1 (2024)
5. Singh, Ajit Pal, Rahul Saxena, Suyash Saxena, and Neelesh Kumar Maurya. "Mind Unveiled: Cutting-Edge Neuroscience and Precision Brain Mapping." *Asian Journal of Current Research* 9, no. 3 (2024): 181-195
6. Barnden, John (2024): "Causal-Pattern Theories Of Consciousness: A Challenge And A Meta-Causal Response". *Manuscrito* 47(1)
7. Tschacher W, Tröndle M, Weining C (2024): "Music Synchronizes the Bodies of Its Audience". *Mind and Matter* 22(2):203-226
8. Dimitrijevic, Dejan (2024): "On the probabilistic character of irreducible mental causation". *Synthese* 203, 186
9. Brenner, Andrew (2024): [\*Personal Ontology – Mystery and Its Consequences\*](#). Cambridge University Press
10. Weir, Ralph Stefan (2023): *The Mind-Body Problem and Metaphysics: An Argument from Consciousness to Mental Substances*. Routledge
11. Schon, Michael P. *Neutral Monism Beyond Russell*. The University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023

12. Bailey, Andrew (2022): "You could be immaterial (or not)". *Religious Studies*, 1-18.
13. Seager, William (2022): "Panpsychism and Energy Conservation". Seager, William. "Panpsychism and Energy Conservation." *Mind and Matter* 20.1: 17-34.
14. Pitts, J.B. (2022). "On Two Slightings to Noether's First Theorem: Mental Causation and General Relativity". In: Ben-Menahem, Y. (eds) *Rethinking the Concept of Law of Nature*. Jerusalem Studies in Philosophy and History of Science. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-96775-8\\_10](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-96775-8_10)
15. Koperski, Jeffrey (2022): "Does Physics Forbid Libertarian Freedom?". *Filozoficzne Aspekty Genezy* 19 (1). DOI: [10.53763/fag.2022.19.1.193](https://doi.org/10.53763/fag.2022.19.1.193)
16. Atmanspacher, Harald, and Dean Rickles. *Dual-aspect monism and the deep structure of meaning*. Routledge, 2022.
17. Bailey, Andrew M. (2021): *Monotheism and Human Nature*. Cambridge University Press.
18. Augustyn, Kenneth A. (2021): "Life Transcends Computing". *Journal of Cognitive Science* 22.1: 1-40.
19. Robinson, Howard (2020) „[Dualism](#)“. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (section 3.1).
20. Augustyn, Ken (2020) „[Consciousness as a factor in evolution](#)“. *Journal of Cognitive Science* 21:3, 489-506.
21. Barnden, John A. (2020): "The meta-dynamic nature of consciousness." *Entropy* 22.12: 1433.
22. Weir, Ralph Stefan (2020): "Does idealism solve the problem of consciousness?." *The Routledge Handbook of Idealism and Immaterialism*. Routledge 614-630.
23. Pitts, J. Brian. (2020): "Conservation laws and the philosophy of mind: Opening the black box, finding a mirror." *Philosophia* 48.2: 673-707. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-019-00102-7>
24. Pitts, J. Brian (2020): "General relativity, mental causation, and energy conservation." *Erkenntnis*: 1-43.
25. Pitts, J. Brian. (2020) : "Conservation of Energy: Missing Features in Its Nature and Justification and Why They Matter." *Foundations of Science*: 1-26.
26. Atmanspacher, Harald, "Quantum Approaches to Consciousness", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.). <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2020/entries/qt-consciousness/>
27. Pitts, J. Brian. (2019) : "The Mind-Body Problem and Conservation Laws: The Growth of Physical Understanding?."
28. Weir, Ralph S. (2019): "Anti-Physicalism and the Metaphysics of Substances and Properties". PhD thesis, University of Cambridge.
29. Robinson, William S. "Dualism." In *The Routledge Handbook of Consciousness*, pp. 51-63. Routledge, 2018.

Complete and up-to-date lists of citations of my work:

- [Cucu & Pitts 2019](#)
- [Cucu 2020](#)
- [Cucu 2022 \(PhD thesis\)](#)
- [Cucu 2024](#)

**Papers currently under peer review**

1. Cucu, Alin C. "There Is No Interaction Problem". Submitted to *Philosophical Studies*

### Book reviews

1. Cucu, Alin C. (2024): "The Mind-Body Problem and Metaphysics". *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, <https://ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/the-mind-body-problem-and-metaphysics/>
2. Cucu, Alin C. (2020): "Henry P. Stapp. Quantum Theory and Free Will: How Mental Intentions Translate into Bodily Actions". *Philosophia Christi* 22(1): 173-177

### Fellowships

1. Templeton PhD fellowship, International Academy of Philosophy, Liechtenstein, 08/2017-09/2019.

### Prizes

1. Mind-matter prize for the best paper 2020 of the Society for Mind Matter Research (winning paper: Cucu, Alin C. and Pitts, Brian J. (2019): "How Dualists Should (Not) Respond to the Objection from Energy Conservation"). [\*Mind and Matter\* 17:1, 95-121](#)

### Activity as a journal reviewer

1. *Erkenntnis* (since 05/2022)
2. *Eidos* (since 09/2023)

### Awarded research grants

1. *The Meaning of Creation*. Subproject as part of the project "New Horizons for Science and Religion in Central and Eastern Europe" (auspices: Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford). Duration: March 2023 – August 2024. Total volume: USD 40,000. Funding: John Templeton Foundation.
2. *Religious Hypotheses and the Study of Human Nature*. Subproject as part of the project "New Horizons for Science and Religion in Central and Eastern Europe" (auspices: Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford). Duration: 2021-22. Total volume: USD 65,000. Funding: John Templeton Foundation.
3. Extension to *Religious Hypotheses and the Study of Human Nature*. Duration: 07/21-12/22. Total volume: USD 30,000. Funding: John Templeton Foundation.

### Conference papers and presentations

1. „Philosophische und biblische Argumente für die Existenz der Seele“ (invited talk at the annual Munich conference of the Wort und Wissen association, Munich, 23 Nov 2024)
2. "Wie die Neurowissenschaft auf die Existenz der Seele hinweist" (invited talk at the annual Munich conference of the Wort und Wissen association, Munich, 23 Nov 2024)
3. "Funding Without Bending – How to increase your chances to win a Templeton grant" (invited talk at the annual meeting of the Romanian Christian Academic Network, Păltiniș, Romania, 2 Feb 2024)

4. "Platons Kritik der unreinen Vernunft" (invited talk at the annual philosophy symposium of the Wort und Wissen association, Neustadt a.W., 20 Jan 2024)
5. "Plato Was No Totalitarian" (presentation at the University of Lausanne, philosophy of science research seminar, Prof. Michael Esfeld, Dec 4, 2023)
6. "On the Significance of Matter: C.S. Lewis' Philosophical Argument in *The Problem of Pain*" (talk at the conference "C.S. Lewis – The Re-Enchanted Academic", Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași, Romania)
7. "More Substance, Please: A Reply to Michael Esfeld's Minimalist Ontology of Persons" (invited talk at the Mind & Cosmos conference of the Humane Philosophy Project, Arbanija, Croatia, Sep 4, 2023)
8. "No Interaction Problem: Why Elisabeth's Worry Was Unfounded" (invited class at the Mind & Cosmos summer school of the Humane Philosophy Project, Arbanija, Croatia, Sep 2, 2023)
9. "A Brief History of the Concept of Laws of Nature" (invited class at the Mind & Cosmos summer school of the Humane Philosophy Project, Arbanija, Croatia, Sep 1, 2023)
10. "Does neuroscience show the falsity of dualism?" (invited talk at the Biological Mentality Online Workshop, Feb 13, 2023)
11. "Körper und Seele getrennt, aber vereint" (invited talk at the philosophy congress of the Wort und Wissen association, Neustadt, Germany, September 11, 2022)
12. "Body and Soul Unified But Separable" (invited talk at the workshop "Naturalism and the Religious Worldview, Arbanija, Croatia, September 6, 2022)
13. "The soul in non-Cartesian dualism from Aquinas to the early moderns" (invited talk at the CUSO workshop, Ligerz, Switzerland, June 20, 2022)
14. "Interacting Minds in the Physical World" (Presentation at the University of Lausanne, philosophy of science research seminar, Prof. Michael Esfeld, May 9 & 16, 2022)
15. „Ohne Weltanschauung keine Apologetik: Fallstudien zu den Themen Rationalität und Seele" (invited talk at the annual apologetics workshop of the Institut für Glaube und Wissenschaft, Marburg, November 13, 2021)
16. "Warum die kausale Geschlossenheit der Welt den Verstand ausschließt – und was es braucht, um ihn zu retten" (invited presentation at the philosophy congress of the Wort und Wissen association, Wildberg, Germany, October 9, 2021)
17. "Le dualisme des substances: théorie ancienne négligée à tort" (Presentation at the University of Lausanne, philosophy of science research seminar, Prof. Michael Esfeld, Nov 17, 2020)
18. "Normativité irréductible et l'ontologie de personnes humaines » (Presentation at the University of Lausanne, philosophy of science research seminar, Prof. Michael Esfeld, Nov 10, 2020)
19. "Irreducible Normativity and the Ontology of Human Persons" (Presentation at the Biological Mentality Online Workshop, Nov 2, 2020)
20. "Interacting Minds in the Physical World" (Presentation at the University of Lausanne, philosophy of science group of Prof. Michael Esfeld, Dec 10, 2019)
21. "Does QM help model dualistic mental interaction?" (Presentation at Biological Mentality Online Workshop, Dec 09, 2019)

22. "Energy Conservation, Physicalism and the Prospects for Interactionist Dualism" (Biological Mentality Online Workshop, Sep 23, 2019)
23. "Does Energy Conservation Preclude Dualistic Agent Causality?" (Free Will and Divine Action conference organized by the IAP, Munich, August 21-23, 2019)
24. "The Ghost is Alive: How Physics and Neuroscience Support the Idea of Interacting Souls". Poster presentation at the Science of Consciousness Conference in Interlaken, Switzerland, June 25-28, 2019
25. "Steht der interaktionistische Substanzdualismus im Widerspruch zur modernen Naturwissenschaft?" ("Is Interactionist Substance Dualism at Odds With Modern Science?"). Invited presentation at the Systematic Theology and Ethics Conference of the Association for Evangelical Theology, Gießen, Germany, Feb 23, 2019
26. "Widerlegt die moderne Naturwissenschaft die Existenz von Seelen?" ("Does Modern Science Refute the Existence of Souls?"). Invited presentation at the philosophy workshop of the Wort und Wissen Institute, Neustadt/Germany, Jan 19, 2019
27. "Turning the Tables on Physicalism: The Energy Conservation Objection to Substance Dualism as a Two-Edged Sword". Paper presentation at the conference "[Substance Dualism in the 21st century](#)", Budapest, Dec 7, 2018.
28. "Does Substance Dualism Violate Energy Conservation?" Presentation at the Moscow Center for Consciousness Studies Summer School on Malta, June 30, 2018
29. "Doubting the God of the Philosophers: Why Atemporalism Is Incompatible With the Incarnation". Paper presentation at the Southwestern Conference of the Evangelical Philosophical Society, Houston, USA, Mar 3, 2018

### Public outreach activities

1. „Von Sokrates zu Christus“ (public talk at Café Maillardos, Rheineck, Switzerland, 22 June 2024)
2. „Die Präsokratiker – Urväter (nicht nur) der westlichen Philosophie“ (public talk at Café Maillardos, Rheineck, Switzerland, 16 March 2024)
3. „Qualia & Co. – Warum Gott die beste Erklärung für das Mentale ist“ ([invited podcast interview](#), July 2023)
4. „Der Fall Seele“ (4-part video lecture series, [GlaubenDenken Youtube channel](#), April 2023)
5. „Von der Seele reden“ (invited interview, [Tiefer forschen Youtube channel](#), March 2021)

### Translations

1. Beckermann, A. (2019): "Active Doings and the Principle of the Causal Closure of the Physical World". *Organon F* Vol. 26, Issue 1 (Translation from German into English)
2. Halbig, C. (2019): "Reasons and God's Discretion". Presentation at the conference "Free Will and Divine Action" organized by the IAP (Translation from German into English)

### Editing

1. Swinburne, R. (forthcoming): *Geist, Gehirn und freier Wille*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft.
2. Mele, A. (forthcoming): *Frei – Warum die Naturwissenschaft den freien Willen nicht widerlegt hat*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft.

## Voluntary work

Since 2023 Co-founder of the “Christliches Philosophie-Netzwerk”, an online lecture series seeking to bring together German-speaking Christian philosophers and interested laypeople

03/2018 – 09/2021 Simultaneous interpreter (German -> English) at a free protestant church in St. Gallen, Switzerland

## Languages

First language: German

	Understanding		Speaking		Writing
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
French	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Romanian	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1

[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - Self-assessment](#)

## References

### Prof. Dr. Michael Esfeld

Professor of Philosophy of Science  
University of Lausanne  
[michael.esfeld@unil.ch](mailto:michael.esfeld@unil.ch)

### Dr. Joshua R. Farris

Humboldt fellow, Analytic Theology  
University of Bochum  
[joshua.r.farris@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.r.farris@gmail.com)

### Prof. Dr. Dr. Daniel von Wachter

Professor of Philosophy, Director  
International Academy of Philosophy  
[daniel@von-wachter.de](mailto:daniel@von-wachter.de)

### Dr. Ralph Weir

Senior Lecture in Philosophy  
University of Lincoln  
[RWeir@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:RWeir@lincoln.ac.uk)  
[ralphsweir@gmail.com](mailto:ralphsweir@gmail.com)



Alin Cucu / Arbon, 14.03.2025