

# Josh R. Hunt

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## RESEARCH/TEACHING AREAS

- AOS History & Philosophy of Science, especially Physics and Mathematics.
- AOC Metaphysics, Epistemology, Logic, Decision theory, Applied Ethics.

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## GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

- 2023– **Assistant Professor**, *Syracuse University*, (Department of Philosophy).
- 2022-2023 **Postdoctoral Associate**, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, (Philosophy).

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## EDUCATION

- 2015-2022 **Ph.D. in Philosophy**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.  
Thesis: “Symmetry & Reformulation: On Intellectual Progress in Science & Math”  
Committee: Prof. Gordon Belot and Prof. Laura Ruetsche (co-chairs),  
Prof. David Baker, Prof. Henriette Elvang (physics)
- 2017-2018 **M.S. in Mathematics**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.
- 2015-2017 **M.A. in Philosophy**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.
- 2014-2015 **M.Phil. in History and Philosophy of Science**, *University of Cambridge*,  
First Class Distinction.  
Thesis: “Interpreting the Wigner–Eckart Theorem”; Supervisor: Dr. Jeremy Butterfield
- 2010-2014 **B.Phil. in Philosophy (Honors College)**, *University of Pittsburgh*,  
*summa cum laude*.  
Thesis: “Group Theory or No Group Theory”; Supervisor: Prof. Kenneth Manders
- 2010-2014 **B.S. in Chemical Engineering**, *University of Pittsburgh*, *summa cum laude*.

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming “On the Value of Reformulating,” *The Journal of Philosophy*.
- Forthcoming “Hamiltonian Privilege,” *Erkenntnis*, with Gabriele Carcassi and Christine Aidala.
- 2024 “Expressivism about Explanatory Relevance,” *Philosophical Studies*, 181: 2063–2089.
- 2024 “Staying On-Shell: Manifest Properties and Reformulations in Particle Physics,” *Synthese*, 204 (116): 1–25.
- 2023 “Epistemic Dependence & Understanding: Reformulating through Symmetry,” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 74 (4): 941–974.
- 2021 “Understanding and Equivalent Reformulations,” *Philosophy of Science*, 88 (5).
- 2021 “Interpreting the Wigner–Eckart Theorem,” *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 87: 28–43.
- 2016 “Indispensability and the Problem of Compatible Explanations,” *Synthese*, 193 (2): 451–467.

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## WORK IN PROGRESS OR UNDER REVIEW

- Two papers on laws of nature.
- A paper on the aims of science.

- A paper on good variable choices and manifest properties.

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020-2021 **Rackham Pre-doctoral Fellowship**, *University of Michigan*.
- 2020 **John Dewey Teaching Prize**, *University of Michigan Philosophy department*, (Annual graduate student award for excellence in teaching).
- 2015-2019 **National Science Foundation**, *Graduate Research Fellowship Program*.
- 2015 **Hanneke Janssen Memorial Prize in History and Philosophy of Physics**, (International prize administered by University of Nijmegen Netherlands, for the best Masters degree thesis in history or philosophy of physics).
- 2015 **Redhead Essay Prize**, *University of Cambridge*, (Best essay performance in the History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine MPhil course).
- 2014-2015 **Cambridge Trust Scholarship**, *University of Cambridge*.
- 2014-2015 **HPS Trust Fund Maintenance Award**, *University of Cambridge*.
- 2014 **Fulbright Student Research Grant**, *Norway*, (declined).
- 2010-2014 **Chancellor's Scholarship**, *University of Pittsburgh*, (Full tuition, room and board for four years).

## TALKS

The symbol “\*” in the date indicates that the talk was invited.

- 1/2025\* “On the Constitutive Aims of Science.” UCLA HPASS series: Los Angeles.
- 3/2024\* “What are we Doing when we do Philosophy?” Syracuse University Graduate Student Conference: Syracuse.
- 2/2024 “Expressivism about Laws of Nature.” Symposium session. American Philosophical Association, Central Division: New Orleans.
- 7/2023 “Expressivism about Laws of Nature.” British Society for Philosophy of Science: Bristol.
- 7/2023 “Reformulations of Perturbative QFT.” Foundations 2023: Bristol.
- 5/2023 “Unification as an Intellectual but non-truth-tracking Virtue.” SURE 5 Workshop on Scientific Understanding and Representation: University of Toronto.
- 7/2022\* “Reformulations of Perturbative QFT.” Approximations to Second Order: Max Planck Institute of the History of Science, Berlin.
- 4/2022 “A Unified Account of Comparative Understanding.” SURE 4 Workshop on Scientific Understanding and Representation: Fordham University.
- 3/2022 “Making it Manifest.” Philosophy of High Energy Physics Workshop: University of Pittsburgh.
- 2/2022 “Norms to Explain By.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division: Chicago.
- 11/2021 “Understanding & Equivalent Reformulations.” Philosophy of Science Association: Baltimore.
- 10/2021 “Norms to Explain By.” Young Scholars Pragmatism Conference: Cambridge University.
- 7/2021 “Norms to Explain By.” Conference on Difference-Making and Explanatory Relevance: Hamburg Relevance Group (online).

- 7/2020 “Making it Manifest: the Epistemic Significance of Good Variables.” British Society for Philosophy of Science, *Canceled due to COVID-19*.
- 7/2020 “The Methodological Significance of Good Variable Choices.” Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice, *Canceled due to COVID-19*.
- 9/2019\* “Epistemic Dependence and Understanding: Reformulating through Symmetries.” Cushing Workshop: University of Notre Dame.
- 6/2019 “Modularization and Understanding through Symmetry: A Case Study from Crystal Field Theory.” Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics, and Physics Graduate Student Conference: Western University.
- 4/2019 “Staying On-shell: Modern Methods for Scattering Amplitudes.” Early Career Workshop in Philosophy and History of Physics: University of Pittsburgh.
- 11/2018\* “Modern Methods for Scattering Amplitudes.” Ken Manders’s retirement conference: University of Pittsburgh.
- 7/2018 “Symmetry and Degeneracy in the Hydrogen Atom.” Foundations 2018: Utrecht University.
- 6/2018 “Modularization and Understanding through Symmetry.” MuST Models of Explanation: University of Turin.
- 10/2017 “Symmetries in Crystal Field Theory.” Midwest Philosophy of Math Workshop: University of Notre Dame.
- 6/2017 “Symmetry and Degeneracy in the Hydrogen Atom.” Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics, and Physics Graduate Student Conference: Western University.
- 12/2015\* “Interpreting the Wigner–Eckart Theorem.” Hanneke Janssen Memorial Prize: Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands.
- 11/2014\* “Understanding Ligand Field Theory through Symmetry.” International Society for Philosophy of Chemistry Symposium. Philosophy of Science Association: Chicago.
- 6/2013 “Group Theory or No Group Theory: Understanding Atomic Spectroscopy.” Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice: Toronto.

## COMMENTS

- 5/2019 Comments on Coffey’s “Formulations of Newtonian Gravitation Theory.” 2nd Biannual Alumni Conference: University of Michigan.
- 7/2017 Comments on De Haro and Butterfield’s “A Schema for Duality.” Symmetries and Asymmetries in Physics: Leibniz Universität Hannover.
- 7/2015 “On Wedderburn’s Theorem Applied to Geometry: Response to Douglas Marshall.” Case Studies in Mathematical Practice: Paris.
- 11/2012 “Response to Busch: Compatible Explanations Underdetermine Mathematical Truth.” Indispensability and Explanation Workshop. IHPST: Paris.

## TEACHING

### AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

- Spring 2025 **Philosophy of Social Science**, PHI 575.
- Spring 2025 **Critical Thinking**, PHI 171.
- Fall 2024 **The Meaning of Life**, PHI 191.
- Fall 2024 **Introduction to the Philosophy of Science**, PHI 373.
- Fall 2024 **Meaning in Life (independent study)**, PHI 690.

- Spring 2024 **Representationalism vs. Expressivism**, *PHI 750*.
- Spring 2024 **Symbolic Logic**, *PHI 251*.
- Spring 2024 **Philosophy of Model Theory (independent study)**, *PHI 690*.
- Fall 2023 **Introduction to the Philosophy of Science**, *PHI 373*, (at Syracuse).
- Fall 2023 **Philosophy of Model Theory (independent study)**, *PHI 690*, (at Syracuse).
- Winter 2023 **Paradox & Infinity**, *24.118*, (at MIT).
- Fall 2022 **Symbolic Logic**, *24.241*, (at MIT).
- Spring 2020 **Science Fiction & Philosophy**, *PHIL 154*, (online due to COVID-19, at UM).
- Winters 2018-2020 **Method and Logic in the Biomedical Sciences**, *PHYSIOL 555*,  
 (four guest lectures in the UM Physiology department each year).
- AS GRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANT (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN)
- Fall 2021 **Critical Reasoning**, *PHIL 183*, (for Dr. Anna Edmonds).
- Winter 2021 **Intro. to Philosophy**, *PHIL 101*, (extended substitute, for Prof. Jim Joyce).
- Winter 2019 **Symbolic Logic**, *PHIL 303*, (for Prof. Jamie Tappenden).
- Fall 2018 **Issues in Bioethics**, *PHIL 356*, (for Prof. Sarah Buss).
- Winter 2018 **Groups & Choices**, *PHIL 444*, (for Prof. Brian Weatherson).
- Fall 2017 **Law & Philosophy**, *PHIL 359*, (for Prof. Ishani Maitra).

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2017- **Journal Referee**, *Philosophy of Science (x6)*, *Erkenntnis (x3)*, *Synthese (x5)*,  
*Analysis*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Ergo*, *Theoria*, *European Journal for Phil. of Science*,  
*Foundations of Physics*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Foundations of Science (x2)*, *Critica*.
- 2023- **Book Referee**, *Springer Nature*.
- 2024- **Secretary–Treasurer**, *Creighton Club*, Annual Philosophy Conference.
- 2023 **Workshop organizer**, *SPAWN*, Syracuse Workshop on Laws of Nature.
- 2016-22 **Workshop organizer**, *UM Foundations of Modern Physics*, Workshops on  
 Cosmology, Particle Physics, and Theoretical Reformulations.
- 2017-18 **Editor**, *Philosopher’s Annual*.

## SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT

- 2024 Spring **Organizer**, *ABD graduate student workshop talks*.
- 2023- **Co-organizer**, *Philosophy Colloquia*.
- 2023- **Faculty Sponsor**, *Syracuse Debate Club*.
- 2023- **Special Paper Committee**, *Minseok Kim (FA23)*, *Chris Cho (FA24)*.
- 2023- **Teaching Mentor**, *Sanggu Lee (FA23)*, *Ian York (SP24)*, *Victor Sholl (FA24)*.
- 2022-23 **Active member of and presenter for**, *readings groups in Metaphysics & Mind*,  
*Epistemology*, and *Philosophy of Language*.
- 2020-21 **Well-being and Peer Support Mentor for graduate students**.
- 2020-21 **Graduate Student Mentor**, (Training and evaluation of teaching assistants).
- 2018-19 **Co-organizer**, *2nd Biannual Alumni Conference*.
- 2018-19 **Graduate Student Representative to Faculty**.
- 2018-19 **Admissions Committee**, (*Organizing recruitment for graduate students*).
- 2017-19 **Organizer**, *Weekly Department Tea & Annual Picnic*.

2017-18 **Graduate Student Social Chair.**

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## OUTREACH

2018-22 **Co-organizer**, *Philosophy with Kids*, (University of Michigan).

2017-21 **Volunteer philosophy mentor**, *COMPASS Workshop*, (U. Michigan).

2016-18 **Volunteer Science/Math Tutor**, *826 Michigan*.

2014-15 **A-Level Chemistry Tutor**, *Cambridge STIMULUS*.