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JENNIFER MCDONALD

EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer, Philosophy Department 2024 – 2027 Columbia University
Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Philosophy Department 2022 – 2024 Columbia University

EDUCATION

PhD Philosophy 2015 – 2022 The Graduate Center CUNY

Dissertation: *Actual Causation: Apt Causal Models and Causal Relativism*
Committee: David Papineau (supervisor), Stephen Neale, Graham Priest,
Jonathan Schaffer (Rutgers), Michael Strevens (NYU)

MA Philosophy 2015 – 2018 The Graduate Center CUNY

BA Philosophy, *cum laude* 2005 – 2009 New York University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AOS – Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science

AOC – Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Logic

PUBLICATIONS

- “How All Roads Lead to Relativism” Forthcoming, *Australasian Philosophical Review*
- “Norms in Actual Causation” Forthcoming, *Erkenntnis*
- “Causal Models and Causal Relativism” 2025, *Synthese*
- “Essential Structure for Causal Models” 2025, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- “Causal Models & the Metaphysics of Causation, Part 1: Using Models” 2024, *Phil Compass*
- “Causal Models & the Metaphysics of Causation, Part 2: Interpreting Models” 2024, *Phil Compass*

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

- “Deriving Naturalness from Causal Structures” (*under review*)
- “What Causal Models Bring to Metaphysics”
- “Interventionist Semantics and the Problem of Aptness”
- “Causal Distinctness from Presupposition”

COLLOQUIA & CONFERENCE TALKS (*invited*)

“Identifying Distinct Relata by Variable Presupposition”

Workshop on Interventionism and Non-Causal Dependence, Paris; March 12-13, 2026

“Causal Distinctness from Presupposition”

Duke Causation Group, Duke University; February 5, 2026

“What a Variables Presupposes & What Makes for Distinctness”

Multi-Level Causal Models and the Proportionality Constraint Workshop, Bern University;
November 6-7, 2025

“Deriving Naturalness from Causal Structure”

Caltech Philosophy of Science Reading Group; November 26, 2024

“Deriving Naturalness from Causal Structure”

Society for the Philosophy of Causation 2nd Annual Conference; July 19-21, 2024

“What Causal Models Bring to the Table”

Kyosation: Workshop on the Phil, Psych, and Computer Science of Causation; June 24-26, 2023

“The Relativity of Actual Causation”

Johns Hopkins University Philosophy Colloquia; June 12, 2021

“Probabilistic Causation: De Facto Probability-Raising”

Philosophy of Logic Series w/Prof. Rohit Parikh, The Graduate Center CUNY; Jul 29, 2021

“Causal Models as Relative to Modal Profiles”

Philosophy of Logic Series w/Prof. Rohit Parikh, The Graduate Center CUNY; Feb 25, 2021

“Structural Counterfactuals and the Importation Problem”

New York Philosophy of Language Workshop; March 9, 2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(blind refereed)

“Deriving Naturalness from Causal Structure”

American Philosophical Association Eastern Division; January 8-11, 2025

“Deriving Naturalness from Causal Structure”

Society for the Metaphysics of Science 9th Annual Conference; August 28-30, 2024

“Norms in Actual Causation (or Not)”

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Conference; Mar 21-23, 2024

“What Causal Models Bring to the Table”

European Philosophy of Science Association 9th Biennial Conference; Sept 20-23, 2023

“What Causal Models Bring to the Table”

Society for the Metaphysics of Science 8th Annual Conference; August 10-12, 2023

“Apt Causal Models and the Relativity of Actual Causation”

Philosophy of Science Association 28th Biennial Conference; November 10-13, 2022

“Essential Structure for Causal Models”

Society for the Metaphysics of Science 7th Annual Conference; September 6-8, 2022

“The Relativity of Causal Models”

Society for the Metaphysics of Science 6th Annual Conference; September 1-4, 2021

“The Relativity of Causal Models”

42nd Annual Grad Phil Conference, U of Illinois-Urbana Champaign; April 30 – May 1, 2021

“The Importation Problem for Structural Counterfactuals”

Society for the Metaphysics of Science 5th Annual Conference; November 7-9, 2019

“The Proportionality of Common Sense Causal Claims”

Philosophy of Science Association 26th Biennial Conference; November 1-4, 2018

“Proportionality, Exhaustivity, and Exclusivity: Constraints on Variable Selection”

Society for the Metaphysics of Science 4th Annual Conference; August 22-24, 2018

“Patterns and Abstracta: on Dennett’s Mild Realism”

CUNY-Milan Conference on Belief; February 15-16, 2018

WORKSHOPS & SPEAKER SERIES

(departmental / local)

“What Causes Presuppose”

Method, Theory, & Reality 3rd Annual Workshop; May 2-4, 2025

“Deriving Naturalness from Causal Structure”

Method, Theory, & Reality 2nd Annual Workshop; April 26-28, 2024

“A Distinct Puzzle for Causation”

Method, Theory, & Reality 1st Annual Workshop; May 5-6, 2023

“Exploring Causal Relativism”

Method, Theory, & Reality Speaker Series, UMass Amherst; Apr 27, 2022

“The Relativity of Actual Causation”

Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, The Graduate Center CUNY; April 4, 2022

“Essential Structure and Apt Causal Models”

Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, The Graduate Center CUNY; Dec 7, 2020

“Structural Counterfactuals and the Importation Problem”

Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, The Graduate Center CUNY; April 15, 2019

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Contemporary Western Civilization	Columbia University	2024 – 25 / 2025 - 26
Senior Seminar: Scientific Theorizing	Columbia University	S2024
Methods and Problems of Phil Thought	Columbia University	F2023
Topics in Cog Sci/Phil: Causation	Barnard College	S2023
Knowledge and Reality	Hunter College, CUNY	F2021/ S2022
Intro to Philosophy	Hunter College, CUNY	F2021
Major Issues in Philosophy	Baruch College, CUNY	S2019

Logic and Moral Reasoning	Baruch College, CUNY	F2017/ F2018
Global Ethics	Baruch College, CUNY	F2016/ S2017/ S2018

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS *(external)*

Humanities and Social Sciences Research Project Grant, *w/ Bram Vaassen & Tom Wysocki*
 “Natural Properties – a Causation-First Approach” (Swedish Research Council, 2026 – 29)
\$489,300 across the three years; 8% acceptance rate

Graduate Student Cross-Training Fellowship (Society for Christian Philosophers, 2020 – 21)
\$30,000 one-year fellowship to train in developmental psychology

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS *(internal)*

Presidential Award for Outstanding Faculty Teaching, Finalist (Columbia University, 2025)
1 of 9 finalists for faculty teaching award; nominated for Contemporary Western Civilization 2024 – 2025

Graduate Assistant Teaching Fellowship (Hunter College CUNY, 2021 - 22)
Fellowship to support graduate studies, w/ teaching requirement of two courses per semester

Dean Harrison Dissertation Fellowship (The Graduate Center CUNY, 2020 – 21)
Fellowship to support completion of dissertation

McGraw Dissertation Award (The Graduate Center CUNY, 2020 – 21)
Financial award to support completion of dissertation + tuition relief

Doctoral Students Research Grant (The Graduate Center CUNY, 2020 – 21 / 2018 – 19)
Research grant awarded to support research-related expenses

Graduate Center Doctoral Fellowship (The Graduate Center CUNY, 2015 - 2020)
Five-year fellowship providing yearly stipend and tuition relief

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE @ Graduate Center CUNY, unless otherwise specified

Writing Tutor, Writing Across the Curriculum Fellow, 2019 – 20 (*Hunter College*)

Graduate Student Mentor, 2016 – 20

Committee Member, Placement Committee, 2019 – 20; Philosophy Library Committee, 2016 – 19

Coordinator, Informal Dissertation Seminar, Fall 2019; Qualifying Paper Working Group, Fall 2016; Colloquium Series Reception, Fall 2015

Conference Organizer, 20th Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, Spring 2017 (*w/ Laura Gradowski, Leah Fortgang, & Vincent Peluce*)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Deputy Managing Editor, *Journal of Philosophy*, Fall 2025 – present

Secretary, Society for the Metaphysics of Science, August 2023 – August 2026

Journal Referee, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; *Cognition*; *Erkenntnis*; *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*; *Journal of Philosophy*; *Mind*; *Noûs*; *Philosophia*; *The Philosophical Forum*; *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*; *Philosophy of Science*; *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*; *Synthese*; *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*

Book Manuscript & Proposal Referee, Cambridge University Press; Bloomsbury Publishing
Co-Coordinator, Method Theory and Reality Speaker Series (*w/ Cruz Davis*) Spring 2023 – 2025

Conference Organizer, Method, Theory, & Reality Annual Workshop (*w/ Cruz Davis*)
2023/2024/2025

Program Committee Member, British Society for Philosophy of Science Conference, 2021/2022

Budget Coordinator, SWIP-Analytic, New York Division, 2017 – 2019

Graduate Assistant, Residential Summer Program for Diversity in Logic, UMass Dartmouth, 2016

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Secretary & Board Member, Susan Elizabeth Stutz-McDonald Scholarship Foundation for Women Engineers, 2013 – 2025

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association; European Philosophy of Science Association; Philosophy of Science Association; Society for the Metaphysics of Science; Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

REFERENCES

David Papineau (*Dissertation Supervisor*)
Professor of Philosophy
Kings College London
Email: david.papineau@kcl.ac.uk

Stephen Neale
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy & Linguistics
Kornblith Chair in Phil of Science and Value
The Graduate Center, CUNY
Email: sneale@gc.cuny.edu

Graham Priest
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
The Graduate Center, CUNY
Boyce Gibson Professor Emeritus
University of Melbourne
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Jonathan Schaffer
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
Rutgers University
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Michael Strevens
Professor of Philosophy
New York University
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Thomas Teufel (*Teaching Reference*)
Associate Professor
Baruch College, CUNY
Email: thomas.teufel@baruch.cuny.edu

GRADUATE COURSE WORK (* = *audited*) @ Graduate Center CUNY, unless otherwise specified

Philosophy

Causation	David Papineau
Leibniz's Metaphysics (NYU)	Anja Jauernig/Marko Malink
Linguistic Pragmatism	Michael Devitt/Stephen Neale
Intention and Acts of Meaning	Dan Harris/Stephen Neale
Mental Representation	David Papineau
Thought, Speech, and Content	David Rosenthal
Quine and Sellars	David Rosenthal
History of Mind	Peter Godfrey-Smith
Vagueness	Graham Priest
Logic for Philosophers	Joel David Hamppkins
Adv. Intro to Epistemology (NYU)	Richard Foley
Plato: Philosophy and its Rivals	Nikolas Pappas
Ancient Chinese Philosophy	Hagop Sarkissian
Philosophy of Literature	Noel Carroll
Pragmatism and Neo-Pragmatism	Peter Godfrey-Smith
Proseminar	Graham Priest/Catherine Wilson
Topics in Philosophy of Science* (NYU)	Brad Weslake
Intervention, Causation, and Decision*	David Papineau
Explanation (NYU)*	Laura Franklin-Hall/Michael Strevens
Naturalism in Phil of Science*	Alberto Cordero
Direction of Time* (Columbia)	David Albert
Nature of Necessity* (NYU)	Crispin Wright/Paul Horwich
Context* (CUNY/NYU)	Stephen Neale/Stephen Schiffer
Naming and Necessity*	Saul Kripke
Foundations of Metalogic* (Columbia)	Justin Clarke-Doane
Belief and Imagination* (NYU)	Don Garrett/Jessica Moss
Berkeley, Hume, and Shepherd on Causation and the External World* (NYU)	Don Garrett

Psychology

Infancy*	Sarah Berger
Theories of Change in Human Development (Columbia)*	Dima Amso
Core Knowledge (Columbia)*	Koleen McCrink
Child Development (NYU)*	Andrew Getzfeld