

Josh R. Hunt

✉ joshhunt@umich.edu
🌐 www.joshhunt.org

RESEARCH/TEACHING AREAS

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

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

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

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*.

PUBLICATIONS

- (forthcoming) “Hamiltonian Privilege,” *Erkenntnis*, with Gabriele Carcassi and Christine Aidala.
- (forthcoming) “Epistemic Dependence & Understanding: Reformulating through Symmetry,”
British Journal for the Philosophy of Science.
- 2022 “Expressivism about Explanatory Relevance,” *Philosophical Studies*.
- 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.

WORK IN PROGRESS OR UNDER REVIEW

- A paper on expressivism about laws of nature.
- A paper on the aims of science.
- A paper on non-instrumental epistemic value.
- Two papers on good variable choices and manifest properties.
- A paper on the importance of reformulations in particle physics.

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.

- 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

- Fall 2023 **Introduction to the Philosophy of Science**, *PHI 373*, (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- **Reviewer**, *Philosophy of Science, Erkenntnis, Philosophical Studies, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Synthese, Journal of Value Inquiry, Foundations of Science, Critica*.
2023 **Workshop organizer**, *SPAWN*, 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

- 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**.

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 **Volunteer**, *Whipple Museum of the History of Science*.
2014-15 **A-Level Chemistry Tutor**, *Cambridge STIMULUS*.
2013-14 **Sixth-Grade Math Tutor**, *Pittsburgh Higher Achievement*.
2012-14 **Volunteer**, *Pitt Science Outreach*.
2012-14 **Volunteer**, *Scientists, Engineers, and Mathematicians for Service*.