

Paul D. Thorn

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Degrees

2007 - Ph.D, Philosophy and Cognitive Science, University of Arizona (Supervisor: John L. Pollock).

1998 - M.A., Philosophy, Simon Fraser University.

1996 - B.A. first class honors, Philosophy, Simon Fraser University.

Academic Positions

2009-present: Research Fellow, Philosophy Department, Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf.

2022-present: Principal Investigator, "Frequency Information as an Evidential Basis for Knowledge, Suspicion, and the Attribution of Guilt" (DFG project, €301,030).

2021-2022: Research Fellow, "Parameterised frames and conceptual spaces" (DFG project).

2018-2020: Research Fellow, Collaborative Research Center "The Structure of Representations in Language, Cognition, and Science" (DFG SFP 991).

2011-2018: Research Fellow, Priority Programme "New Frameworks of Rationality" (DFG SPP 1516).

2009-2011: Research Fellow, ESF research network "The Logic of Causal and Probabilistic Reasoning in Uncertain Environments".

2008-2009: Assistant Professor of Philosophy, New College of Florida.

2002-2003: Research Fellow, Research Group "Philosophy, Probability, and Modelling", Philosophy Department, University of Konstanz.

Peer Reviewed Articles

P.D. Thorn, G. Schurz (2024), Induction with and without natural properties: A new approach to the new riddle of induction. *Philosophia*, 52 (4), 935-958.

G. Schurz, P. Thorn (2024), Escaping the no free lunch theorem: a priori advantages of regret-based meta-induction. *Journal of Experimental & Theoretical Artificial Intelligence*, 36 (1), 87-119.

- P.D. Thorn, G. Schurz (2021), How Category Selection Impacts Inference Reliability: Inheritance Inference From an Ecological Perspective. *Cognitive Science*, 45 (4), e12971.
- P.D. Thorn (2021), The stimulus-to-perception connection: a simulation study in the epistemology of perception. *Synthese*, 199 (1), 551-578.
- P.D. Thorn (2020): The joint aggregation of beliefs and degrees of belief. *Synthese*, 197 (12), 5389-5409.
- G. Schurz, P.D. Thorn (2020), The material theory of object-induction and the universal optimality of meta-induction: Two complementary accounts. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A*, 82, 88-93.
- P.D. Thorn (2019), A Formal Solution to Reichenbach's Reference Class Problem. *dialectica*, 73 (3), 349-366.
- P.D. Thorn, G. Schurz (2019), Meta-inductive prediction based on Attractivity Weighting: Mathematical and empirical performance evaluation. *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*, 89, 13-30.
- P.D. Thorn (2018), Induction by Direct Inference Meets the Goodman Problem. *Kriterion*, 32 (2), 1-24.
- P.D. Thorn (2017), On the preference for more specific reference classes. *Synthese*, 194 (6), 2025-2051.
- P.D. Thorn (2017), Against deductive closure. *Theoria*, 83 (2), 103-119.
- P.D. Thorn (2017), A Note Concerning Infinite Regresses of Deferred Justification. *Philosophia*, 45 (1), 349-357.
- P.D. Thorn, G. Schurz (2016), Qualitative probabilistic inference under varied entropy levels. *Journal of Applied Logic*, 19, 87-101.
- G. Schurz, P.D. Thorn (2016), The revenge of ecological rationality: Strategy-selection by meta-induction within changing environments. *Minds and Machines*, 26 (1), 31-59.
- P.D. Thorn (2015), The inheritance of defaults in the case of exceptional subclasses. *The Reasoner*, 9 (11), 93.
- P.D. Thorn, G. Schurz (2014), A utility based evaluation of logico-probabilistic systems. *Studia Logica*, 102 (4), 867-890.
- P.D. Thorn (2014), Defeasible conditionalization. *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 43 (2), 283-302.
- G. Schurz, P.D. Thorn (2012), Reward versus risk in uncertain inference: Theorems and simulations. *The Review of Symbolic Logic*, 5 (4), 574-612.
- P.D. Thorn, G. Schurz (2012), Meta-induction and the wisdom of crowds. *Analyse & Kritik*, 34 (2), 339-366.
- P.D. Thorn (2012), Two problems of direct inference. *Erkenntnis*, 76 (3), 299-318.
- P.D. Thorn (2011), Undercutting defeat via reference properties of differing arity: a reply to Pust. *Analysis*, 71 (4), 662-667.

Oscar Seminar (2008), An objectivist argument for thirdism. *Analysis*, 68 (2), 149-155.

P.D. Thorn (2007), The Trouble with Pollock's Principle of Agreement. *The Reasoner*, 1 (8), 9-10.

Peer Reviewed Conference Proceedings

P.D. Thorn (2017), Direct Inference from Imprecise Frequencies. *EPSA15 Selected Papers*, 347-358.

G. Schurz, P. Thorn (2017), A priori advantages of meta-induction and the no free lunch theorem: A contradiction? *KI 2017: Advances in Artificial Intelligence*, 236-248.

P.D. Thorn, G. Schurz (2016), Attractivity weighting: take-the-best's foolproof sibling. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* 38, 456-461

P.D. Thorn (2015), Wise crowds, clever meta-inductivists. Recent developments in the philosophy of science: *EPSA13 Helsinki*, 71-86.

P.D. Thorn, C Eichhorn, G Kern-Isberner, G Schurz (2015), Qualitative probabilistic inference with default inheritance for exceptional subclasses. *Proceedings of the 5th Workshop on Dynamics of Knowledge and Belief*, 16-28.

L. Bucher, P.D. Thorn (2014), Minimality Criteria in Spatial Belief Revision. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* 36, 1952-1958.

J. Nejasmic, L. Bucher, P.D. Thorn, M. Knauff (2014), Construction and revision of spatial mental models under high task demand. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* 36, 1066-1072.

Other Academic Publications

P. Thorn, S. Psillos (Guest Eds.) (2023), The Meta-Inductive Approach to Hume's Problem. *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 54 (3), 375-552.

P. Thorn, S. Psillos (2023), Introduction to the Special Issue. *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 54 (3), 375-378.

P.D. Thorn (2015), Review of Bostrom's Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies. *Minds and Machines*, 25 (3), 285-289.

G. Schurz, P. Thorn (2014), TTB vs. Franklin's Rule in Environments of Different Redundancy. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5, 15-16

P.D. Thorn (2013), Cognitivist Probabilism. In Vit Punochar & Petr Svarny (eds.), *The Logica Yearbook 2012*. College Publications, 201-213.

P. Thorn (2001), Paraconsistency and the Image of Science. In John Woods & Bryson Brown (eds.), *Logical Consequence: Rival Approaches*. Hermes Science Publishing, 285-295.

P.D. Thorn (2007), Three Problems of Direct Inference. Dissertation, archived at:
<http://arizona.openrepository.com/>

P.D. Thorn (1999), The Normative Character of Interpretation and Mental Explanation. Master's Thesis, archived at: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective. Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Toronto, 2025.

Cognitive Processing of Probability Information in Attributions of Justification and Knowledge. KogWis 2025, Bochum, 2025.

Induction with and without Natural Predicates. Workshop: The Cognitive and Ontological Dimensions of Naturalness, Düsseldorf, 2023.

How Category Selection Impacts Inference Reliability. Epistemology Seminar, Bochum (online), 2021

Probabilism without Priors: an Internalist Foundationalist Approach to Justification. First Rhine-Ruhr Epistemology Meeting, Köln (online), 2021.

The Dependence of Inference Reliability on Environment Entropy. PROGIC 10, Munich (online), 2021.

Direct Inference and Inductive Logic. Kick-off Workshop FAT IL, Schliersee, 2020.

Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective. EPSA2019, Geneva, 2019.

Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective. EuroCogsci 2019, Bochum, 2019.

Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective. Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver, 2019.

Inheritance and Exceptional Subclasses. Annual Meeting for New Frameworks of Rationality Research Program, Etelson, 2018.

Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective. Cognitive Structures 2018, Düsseldorf, 2018.

Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective. 13th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA 2018), Novara, 2018.

Inheritance Inference from an Ecological Perspective. National Meeting in Analytic Philosophy (ENFA 7), Lisbon, 2018.

The Simultaneous Aggregation of Beliefs and Degrees of Belief. Job Talk, Philosophy Department, University of Bayreuth, 2017.

Attractivity Weighting: Take-the-Best's Foolproof Sibling. Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, 2016.

The Stimulus-Perception Connection. Conference of the German Society for Philosophy of Science, Duesseldorf, 2016.

On the Preference for More Specific Reference Classes. Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA 2015), Duesseldorf, 2015.

Qualitative Probabilistic Inference. PROGIC 2015, Canterbury, 2015.

Meta-induction in Natural Environments. Annual Meeting for New Frameworks of Rationality Research Program, Etelson, 2015.

Another Problem with Deductive Closure. Workshop on Full and Partial Belief, Tilburg, 2014.

Logico-probabilistic reasoning in uncertain environments. Meeting of European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Noto, 2014.

Meta-Induction and the Wise Crowd. Workshop: Social Epistemology and Joint Action in Science, Salzburg, 2014.

Minimality Criteria in Spatial Belief Revision. Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Quebec City, 2014.

Construction and Revision of Spatial Mental Models Under High Task Demand. Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Quebec City, 2014.

Meta-Induction and the Wise Crowd. Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA 2013), Helsinki, 2013.

Minimality Criteria in Spatial Belief Revision. Annual Meeting of the German Society for Experimental Psychology (TeaP), Vienna, 2013.

Induction by Direct Inference Meets the Goodman Problem. First International Conference of the German Society for Philosophy of Science, Hannover, 2013.

Logico-Probabilistic Inference. Annual Meeting for New Frameworks of Rationality Research Program, Etelson, 2013.

Reward versus Risk in Uncertain Inference. Workshop: Rationality Frameworks for Conditionals, Munich, 2012.

Induction with or without uniformity. Annual Meeting of the British Society for Philosophy of Science, Sterling, 2012.

Varieties of Meta-Induction. Annual Meeting for New Frameworks of Rationality Research Program, Tutzing, 2012.

A Simulation Based Analysis of Logico-Probabilistic Reasoning Systems. Plenary Session, LogICCC Final Conference, Berlin, 2011.

A Simulation Based Analysis of Logico-Probabilistic Reasoning Systems. 14th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, Nancy, 2011.

Defeasible Conditionalization. European Epistemology Network Meeting, Lund, 2011.

Logico-Probabilistic Reasoning Systems: Logical Investigation and Simulation Based Analysis. Workshop: Conditionals, Counterfactuals and Causes in Uncertain Environments, Duesseldorf, 2011.

Cognitivist Probabilism. 7th Annual Formal Epistemology Workshop, Konstanz, 2010.

Cognitivist Probabilism.' Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, St. Louis, 2010.

Defeasible Conditionalization. ProbNet10, Salzburg, 2010.

Two Problems of Direct Inference. Job Talk, Philosophy Department, Singapore, 2008.

Probability Judgment and Uninformative Statistics. Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver, 2008.

Comments on 'Perplexities in Williamson's Anti-Luminosity Argument'. Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver, 2008.

Two Problems of Direct Inference. Colloquium of the Philosophy Department, University of Arizona, Tucson, 2007.

Rationality and Inconsistency. Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Toronto, 2006.

Rationality and Inconsistency. Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, San Diego, 2006.

Projectability and the Problem of the Reference Class. Plenary Session, Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, College Park, 2004.

Projectability and the Problem of the Reference Class. Conference on Degrees of Belief, Konstanz, 2004.

A Theory of Competing Reasons. Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Vancouver, 2003.

Reasoning from Conflicting Information. International Summer School on Philosophy and Probability, Konstanz, 2002.

Epistemic Applications for Paraconsistent Consequence Relations. Meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, Lethbridge, 1999.

Preserving Dilution of Incoherence. Informal Logic Conference, Victoria, 1997.

Teaching

At HHU Duesseldorf: Metaphysics (the Philosophy of David Lewis), Metaphysics (Quine), History of Analytic Philosophy, Social Choice Theory, Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence, Philosophy of Social Science, Probability and Induction.

At New College of Florida: Metaphysics, Game and Decision Theory, Philosophy of Mind, Early Modern Philosophy.

At University of Arizona: Logic and Critical Thinking (x3), Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Introduction to Philosophy

At University of Arizona, as teaching assistant: Early Modern Philosophy (x2), Introduction to Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy, Logic and Critical Thinking, History and Philosophy of Science, Ethics.

At Simon Fraser University, as teaching assistant: Introduction to Logic and Reasoning (x2), Introduction to Philosophy.

Refereeing and Reviewing

Abstracta, Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence, Analysis, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science (x2), Dialectica (x2), Entropy, Episteme (x2), Erkenntnis (x9), European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Journal for General Philosophy of Science (x4), Journal of Philosophy, Logique et Analyse, Minds and Machines (x2), Oxford University Press, Philosophical Frontiers (x3), Philosophy of Science, Review of Symbolic Logic, Studia Logica (x3), Synthese (x17), Theoria.

Program committee membership: DKB 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, KI 2017, 2018, 2019.

Organization of Conferences and Workshops

Organizer, Symposium: Schurz' Meta-Inductive Approach to Hume's Problem, Geneva, 2019.

Local Organization Committee Member, Conference of the German Society for Philosophy of Science (GWP2016), Duesseldorf, 2016.

Co-organizer, Symposium: Formal Approaches to the Problem of Induction, Hannover, 2013.

Co-organizer, Workshop: Conditionals, Counterfactuals and Causes in Uncertain Environments, Duesseldorf, 2011.

Principal Organizer, Third Arizona Summer Workshop in Philosophy, University of Arizona, 2004.

University Governance

President, Graduate & Professional Student Council, University of Arizona, 2006-07.

Faculty Senate, University of Arizona, 2006-07.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee, University of Arizona, 2006-07.

IT Student Advisory Board, University of Arizona, 2006-07.

Enrolment Management Committee, University of Arizona, 2006-07.

President, Graduate & Professional Student Council, University of Arizona, 2005-06.

Student Union Advisory Council, University of Arizona, 2005-06.

Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee, University of Arizona, 2005-06.

Secretary/Treasurer, Graduate & Professional Student Council, University of Arizona, 2004-05.

Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University, 1997-98.

Academic Awards

Graduate College Travel Grant, University of Arizona, 2004.

Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Arizona, 1999.

Graduate Student Fellowship, Simon Fraser University, 1997.

Service Awards

Advocate of the Year, University of Arizona Graduate & Professional Student Council, 2007.

Advocate of the Year, University of Arizona Graduate & Professional Student Council, 2006.

Outstanding Graduate Student Leader, University of Arizona, 2006.

Representative of the Year, University of Arizona Graduate & Professional Student Council, 2005.

Other

2015-2017 Assistant Director, Duesseldorf Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science (DCLPS).

Category editor for PhilPapers, 2012 to present.