

RICHARD LAUER



St. Lawrence University, 23 Romoda Dr, Piskor Hall 103, Canton, NY 13617

Phone

(314)-304-2419

Email

rlauer@stlawu.edu

Website

Richardlauer.weebly.com

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Philosophy of Social Science (inc., Sociology, Economics, Race)
- General Philosophy of Science

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

- Ethics, Political Philosophy
 - Logic
 - Philosophy of Biology
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

- Lecturer (continuing, non-tenure track appointment) 2021 - present
- Visiting Assistant Professor 2017 - 2021
- Adjunct Assistant Professor 2016 - 2017

SUNY POTSDAM

- Adjunct Instructor Spring 2017, Fall 2021
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EDUCATION

PHD PHILOSOPHY

University of Missouri – Columbia (2011-2016)

- Dissertation: Explanation for the Cognitively Bounded: Psychology and the Pragmatics of Explanation
- Advisor: Andre Ariew

MA PHILOSOPHY

University of Missouri – St. Louis (2009-2011)

- Thesis: Unfree and Equal: On the compatibility between Freedom of Occupational Choice and Equality
- Advisor: Anna Alexandrova

BA POLITICAL SCIENCE

Columbus State University (2003-2008)

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED

- “Should Ordinary Race Talk be Ontologically Privileged? Moving Social Science into the Philosophical Mainstream” (with Kareem Khalifa) Forthcoming in Synthese
- “Motivating a Pragmatic Approach to Naturalized Social Ontology” Journal for General Philosophy of Science Vol. 53, June 2022
- “Do the Social Sciences Vindicate Race’s Reality?” (with Kareem Khalifa). Philosopher’s Imprint Vol. 21, August 2021
- “Instrumentalizing and Naturalizing Social Ontology: Replies to Simon Lohse and Daniel Little” Philosophy of the Social Sciences Vol. 51 Issue 1, 2021 **Article for Symposium about “Is Social Ontology Prior to Social Scientific Methodology”**
- “Is Social Ontology Prior to Social Scientific Methodology?” Philosophy of the Social Sciences Vol. 49 issue 3, June 2019
- “Predictive Success and Non-Individualist Models in Social Science” Philosophy of the Social Sciences Vol. 47 Issue 2, March 2017

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Healthcare Rights” in The Rowman and Littlefield Handbook of Bioethics. November 2022. Rowman and Littlefield

BOOK REVIEWS

- “Adam Tamas Tuboly: The History of Understanding in Analytic Philosophy: Around Logical Empiricism” (Forthcoming in HOPOS)
- “Quentin Ruyant: Modal Empiricism: Interpreting Science Without Scientific Realism” (Forthcoming in Journal for General Philosophy of Science)

IN PREPARATION

- “Do Social Scientists Need to Visit the Ontology Room?” **Under review at Journal of Social Ontology (revise and resubmit)**
- Social Ontology as a Means to Greater Empirical Success: Some Dim Prospects [**Volume to follow Social Ontology Meets Cultural Evolution workshop in Hannover, Germany**]
- “Social Structural Explanations as Statistical Explanations.”
- “Thin Realism: An Ontology of Race for the Working Social Scientist.” (With Kareem Khalifa)

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED

(* = *not the presenting author*)

- “Is Race like Phlogiston?” (with Kareem Khalifa) 28th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association; Pittsburgh, PA; November 10th – 13th
- “Social Structural Explanations as Causal Statistical Explanations” 2022 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science; April 1st – 2nd, Lincoln, Nebraska
- “Placeholder Realism about Race” (with Kareem Khalifa) Social Ontology 2021; August 9th-21st; San Diego, California (online due to COVID-19 Pandemic)
- “Is Collective Responsibility a Useful Fiction?” (with Kareem Khalifa and Sahar Heydari Fard) Social Ontology 2021; August 9th-21st; San Diego, California (Online due to COVID-19 Pandemic)*
- “Placeholder Realism about Race” (with Kareem Khalifa) 27th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association; November 11th – 14th 2021 (delayed due to COVID-19 Pandemic); Baltimore, Maryland
- “Do the Social Sciences Vindicate Race’s Reality?” (with Kareem Khalifa) 2020 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science; Atlanta, Georgia: March 13-15th*
- “Naturalized Economic Ontology and the Interpretation of Infinite Idealizations in Econophysics” 2020 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science; Atlanta, Georgia: March 13th-15th
- “Collective Mental States: An Empirical Critique” (with Kareem Khalifa) 5th Meeting of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science; Toronto, Ontario; November 7th-9th, 2019
- “Econophysics and the Heuristic Role of Social Ontology” 2019 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science; Burlington, Vermont; April 12-14, 2019
- “Construct Validity and the Possibility of Scientific Social Ontology” 26th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association; Seattle, Washington; November 1st-4th 2018
- “Is Social Ontology Prior to Social Scientific Methodology?” The 3rd Joint Meeting of the European Network for the Philosophy of Social Sciences and Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science; Hannover, Germany; August 29th-September 1st, 2018
- “Scientific Social Ontology? Objecting to Kincaid on the Existence of Social Classes” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting; San Diego, California; March 28th- April 1st, 2018
- “Is Understanding Factive? Responding to the Objection from Scientific Idealizations” American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting; Baltimore, Maryland January 4-7th 2017
- “Microfoundations in Strategy and Explanatory Reductionism” (with André Ariew and Randy Westgren) 5th Annual Meeting of the European Network for the Philosophy of Social Science; Helsinki, Finland August 24-26th 2016
- “Predictive Success and Non-Individualist Models in Social Science” 2016 Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science; Tampa, Florida March 11-13th 2016
- “Explanation for the Cognitively Bounded: Psychology and the Pragmatics of Explanation” 40th Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference; Memphis, Tennessee February 19-20, 2016
- “Acceptance, Belief, and the Factivity of Understanding” 35th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Philosophical Society; Pittsburg, Kansas February 13th, 2016

INVITED

- Social Ontology as a Means to Greater Empirical Success: Some Dim Prospects [**Tentative Title**] Social Ontology Meets Cultural Evolution Workshop; Hannover, Germany (Leibniz University) December 2023
- “Is Race Like Phlogiston? Pyrrhic Realism in the Social Sciences. Philosophy of Race Reading Group at the University of Pennsylvania (facilitated by Alexander Tolbert and Danny Underwood), February 23rd, 2023
- “Scientific Social Ontology? Objecting to Kincaid on the Existence of Social Classes” SUNY Potsdam Philosophy Forum; Potsdam, New York October 26th, 2017

COMMENTS

- On David Spewak’s “Varieties of Silencing” 40th Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference; Memphis, Tennessee February 19-20, 2016
- On Christopher McCammon’s “Republican Political Justification and Unreasonable Citizens” Central States Philosophical Association Conference; St. Louis, Missouri September 15-17, 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

(courses in order developed)

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

- Philosophy of the Health and Social Sciences. **Upper Division**. (Spring 2024)
- Explaining and Changing the Social World. **First year course**. (Fall 2023)
- Health, Disease, and Death: Medicine and Epidemiology in Philosophical Context. **First Year Research Seminar**. (Spring 2022)
- Philosophy Tutorial (instruction in pedagogy, offers participating students TA experience)
- Philosophy of Science. **Upper division**. (Fall 2020)
- Modern Philosophy (Spring 2020)
- Symbolic Logic. **Upper division**. (Fall 2019)
- Markets, Rationality, and Morality. **Upper division, senior business major capstone course**. (Spring 2019, 2020, 2021)
- Philosophy of the Social Sciences. **Upper Division**. (Spring 2019)
- Markets and Morality: The Philosophical Dimensions of Business and Economics. **First Year course**. Every Fall 2017-2022)
- Markets, Values, and Morality: Philosophy and Economics. **First Year research seminar**. (Spring 2018)
- Philosophy of Economics. **Upper division**. (Spring 2018)
- Organizing for Change: Power, Agency, and Resistance (**taught in the First Year Program**) [**co-taught, incorporates community-based learning**] (Fall 2017)
- Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023)
- Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2017, 2020 and Summer 2018, 2019, Spring 2021 (online) Spring 2022)
- Reasoning (taught every semester)

SUNY-POTSDAM

- Logic and Critical Thinking, Fall 2021, Fall 2022
- Introduction to Philosophy (x2), Spring 2017

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – COLUMBIA (PHD PROGRAM)

- General Introduction to Philosophy (x2), Spring 2014 (Instructor of record)
- Logic and Reasoning, Fall 2013 (Instructor of record)
- Introduction to Ethics, Fall 2013 (Instructor of record)
- Introduction to Ethics, Spring 2013 (TA with Philip Robbins)
- Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2012 (TA with Philip Robbins)

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS (MA PROGRAM)

- Business Ethics, Spring 2011 (Online, Instructor of record)
- Logic and Language, Fall 2010 (TA, with Jon McGinnis)
- Logic and Language, Spring 2011 (Instructor of record)
- Business Ethics, Spring 2010 - Fall 2010 (Online, instructor of record, includes summer)
- Introduction to Ethics, Fall 2009 (TA with Irem Kurtsal Steen)

STUDENT RESEARCH SUPERVISION

HONORS THESIS SUPERVISION (2020-2021)

- **Cooper Sarafin**, “Truth or Profit? The Business of Information and How It Fails our Democracy”
- **Placido Ramallo**, “Naturalizing Moral Ontology”

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP MENTOR

- **Ned Hallahan** (2020), “The Ethics of Commercializing Public Land: Can We Ethically Commodify Land?”
- **Frank Wotton** (2020), “A Modal-Semantic Account of Surplus Structure”
- **Tia Thompson** (2019), “Investigating the Usefulness of Agential Thinking in Biology”
- **Mark Featherston** (2019), “On the Ethics of Human Augmentation: Genetic Engineering and Prosthetics”

AWARDS, GRANTS, ETC.

- \$3000 per summer for SLU Summer Fellow research mentorship (Summer 2019 and summer 2020)
- G. Ellsworth Huggins Graduate Fellowship (full funding for PhD, 2011-2016)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Referee: Erkenntnis, Synthese, Journal for General Philosophy of Science
- PSA Delegate for the Roundtable for the Philosophy of Social Science (organizer of Cognate Session for PSA 2020 held Nov. 2021). **Participants: Richard Lauer, Kareem Khalifa, Ron Mallon, Alexander Tolbert, and Konstantin Genin**
- **Symposium Organizer:** 2019 Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable; Burlington VT (April 12-14, 2019), Methodology Meets Metaphysics: Economics and Ontology. **Organized with Brian Epstein and Jennifer Jhun**
- **Organizer** of Missouri Philosophy of Science Workshop Spring 2016
- **Organizer** for Q&A with author on Brian Epstein's The Ant Trap: Rebuilding the Foundations of the Social Sciences, Fall 2015, University of Missouri – Columbia

PEDAGOGICAL SERVICE

- **SUNY Potsdam WAYS Workshop** (instructor for faculty on basic critical thinking to be taught in their first-year courses). (Spring 2021)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- Faculty adviser to Phi Sigma Tau honor society (Fall 2023 - current)
- Organizer for 2020-2021 Kathryn Fraser Mackay Lecture at St. Lawrence University Speaker: Cailin O'Connor (Spring 2021)
- Faculty organizer/coordinator for Philosophy in the Valley undergraduate conference (a joint conference between SUNY-Potsdam and St. Lawrence University), held April 28th, 2018

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- First-Gen Initiative Core Group (group focused on planning events and other initiatives for first-generation college students)
- William O'Brien Research Award Selection Committee (research award for projects completed by first-year students)
- First-Year Program Council (advisory council to the Associate Dean of the First-Year Program), Fall 2021 – Spring 2024
- Regular faculty member in St. Lawrence University's First-Year Program – **includes both teaching courses in the program and academic advising for first year students.** (2017-2021)
- Faculty member in **HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program)**. Summer 2018, summer 2019, summer 2022, and summer 2023 (all Phil 100)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Philosophical Association
- Philosophy of Science Association
- International Social Ontology Society

REFERENCES

André Ariew (ariewa@missouri.edu)
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri – Columbia

Harold Kincaid (Harold.Kincaid@uct.ac.za)
Professor
School of Economics
University of Cape Town

Daniel Little (delittle@umich.edu)
Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Michigan Dearborn

Jennifer Thomas (jthomas@stlawu.edu)
Professor and Associate Dean of the First Year
Performance and Communication Arts
St. Lawrence University

Jeffrey Maynes (jmaynes@stlawu.edu)
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
St. Lawrence University

Kareem Khalifa (kkhalifa@humnet.ucla.edu)
Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of California, Los Angeles

Paul Weirich (weirichp@missouri.edu)
Curators' Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri – Columbia