

Chris Dorst | Curriculum Vitae

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Academic Positions

University of Florida

Associate Professor
Assistant Professor

Aug 2024 - Present
Aug 2019 - Aug 2024

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Visiting Assistant Professor

Feb 2023 - May 2023

Washington University in St. Louis

Lecturer in Philosophy

Aug 2018 - June 2019

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D. in Philosophy

May 2018

Dissertation: The Best Predictive System Account of Laws of Nature

Committee: Marc Lange (Chair), Ned Hall, John Roberts, Matt Kotzen,
and Laurie Paul

M.A. in Philosophy

May 2014

Thesis: Entrenchment and the Kripke-Wittgenstein Paradox

Committee: Marc Lange (Chair), Matt Kotzen, and John Roberts

Harvard University

Visiting Fellow in Philosophy

Aug 2016 - May 2018

Washington University in St. Louis

B.A. in Philosophy and Biology: Neuroscience

Aug 2008 - May 2012

Areas

Specialization: Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Physics

Competence: History of Analytic Philosophy, Logic, Metaphysics

Publications

Philosophy

Forthcoming. (with Marc Lange) "The Necessity of Accidents." *The Journal of Philosophy*.

Forthcoming. "Productive Laws in Relativistic Spacetimes." *Philosophers' Imprint*.

<https://journals.publishing.umich.edu/phimp/article/id/3923/>

2024. "Does the Best System Need the Past Hypothesis?" *Philosophy of Science*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/psa.2023.152>
2023. "Predictive Infelicities and the Instability of Predictive Optimality." In *Humean Laws for Human Agents*, Siegfried Jaag, Christian Loew, and Michael Hicks, eds. Oxford University Press.
2022. (with Kevin Dorst) "Splitting the (In)Difference: Why Fine-Tuning Supports Design." *Thought*. 11: 14-23.
2022. "Laws, Melodies, and the Paradox of Predictability." *Synthese*. 200:1-21.
2021. "There Is No Measurement Problem for Humeans." *Noûs*. 57: 263-289.
2020. "Why do the Laws Support Counterfactuals?" *Erkenntnis*. 87: 545-566.
2019. "Humean Laws, Explanatory Circularity, and the Aim of Scientific Explanation." *Philosophical Studies*. 176: 2657-2679
2019. "Towards a Best Predictive System Account of Laws of Nature." *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 70: 877-900.
2017. "Bet Accepted: A Reply to Freitag." *Philosophical Quarterly*. 68: 175-183.
2016. "Evidence, Significance, and Counterfactuals: Schramm on the New Riddle of Induction." *Erkenntnis*. 81.1: 143-154.

Book Reviews

2020. Review of *Laws and Explanations; Theories and Modal Possibilities* by Arnold Koslow. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
2017. "In All Probability, Quite Handy." (Review of the *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Probability*, edited by Alan Hajek and Christopher Hitchcock.) *Metascience*. doi: 10.1007/s11016-017-0282-y.

Molecular Biology

2012. (With K. Kirby, B. Marchand, et. al.) "Structural and Inhibition Studies of the RNase H Function of Xenotropic Murine Leukemia Virus-Related Virus Reverse Transcriptase." *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. 56.4: 2048-61.
2010. (With R. C. Durk, K. Singh, et. al.) "Inhibitors of Foot and Mouth Disease Virus Targeting a Novel Pocket of the RNA-Dependent RNA Polymerase." *PLoS ONE* 5.12: e15049. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0015049.

Presentations, Commentaries, and Panels

“Superfluous Ideological Superstructure (or, What Humeans Should Say about Quantum Mechanics, and What <i>that</i> Says about Humeanism)”	
• <i>Caltech Philosophy of Physics Reading Group</i>	Mar 2024
• <i>Princeton Metaphysics Workshop</i>	Apr 2024
• <i>Method, Theory, and Reality Workshop, Amherst MA</i>	Apr 2024
“Metaphysical Presuppositions of the Quantum Measurement Problem”	Nov 2023
<i>UF Physics Colloquium, Gainesville FL</i>	
“Superfluous Ideological Superstructure (or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Textbook Quantum Mechanics)”	Jun 2023
<i>Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network, Syracuse NY</i>	
Comments on “Strong Determinism,” by Eddy Keming Chen	Feb 2023
<i>Symposium Session, Central APA, Denver CO</i>	
“How Not to Disconfirm GRW (or, Does GRW Precipitate Collapses in Time?)”	Jan 2023
<i>SMS Group Session, Eastern APA, Montreal QC</i>	
Comments on <i>The Tools of Metaphysics and the Metaphysics of Science</i> , by Ted Sider	Jan 2023
<i>Author Meets Critics Session, Eastern APA, Montreal QC</i>	
Comments on Ryan Olsen, “Time Unknown”	Jan 2023
<i>Symposium Session, Eastern APA, Montreal QC</i>	
“Science and Pseudoscience in the Age of Covid”	July 2022
<i>Institute for Learning in Retirement at Oak Hammock, University of Florida</i>	
“Fine-Tuning Divine Indifference” (with Kevin Dorst)	Apr 2022
<i>Pacific APA, Vancouver BC</i>	
“Guess Who’s Back: The Philosophy of Time Travel”	Mar 2022
<i>Food & Talk 2022, UF Philosophy, Gainesville FL</i>	
“Productive Laws in Relativistic Spacetimes”	Feb 2022
<i>Florida Philosophical Association, Miami FL</i>	
“Humeanism and the Paradox of Predictability”	Feb 2021
<i>Central APA, Virtual Conference</i>	
“Humeanism and the Paradox of Predictability”	Jun 2020
<i>Mount Holyoke Summer Philosophy Conference, Mount Holyoke MA</i> (Cancelled due to pandemic)	
“Predictive Infelicities and the Neo-Humean Conception of Laws”	Nov 2019
<i>Florida Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Gainesville FL</i>	
“Predictive Infelicities and the Neo-Humean Conception of Laws”	Jul 2019

<i>British Society for Philosophy of Science Annual Meeting, Durham UK</i>	
“Why are the Laws so Useful?”	Apr 2019
<i>St Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association Annual Meeting, St Louis MO</i>	
“Laws, Patterns, and Prediction”	Feb 2019
<i>Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville, Edwardsville IL</i>	
Panel Discussion: “The Neurological Basis of Consciousness and Free Will”	Nov 2018
<i>Synapse: Wash U Neuroscience Club, St Louis MO</i>	
“Why do the Laws Support Counterfactuals?”	Aug 2018
<i>Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference, Milan IT</i>	
Comments on Siegfried Jaag and Christian Loew’s “Humean Reductionism and (Iterated) Counterfactuals”	Aug 2018
<i>Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference, Milan IT</i>	
Comments on David Kinney’s “Bayesian Networks and Multi-Level Causation”	Feb 2018
<i>Central APA, Chicago IL</i>	
“Laws of Nature, Prediction, and Reductionism”	Jan 2018
<i>Eastern APA, Savannah GA</i>	
“Why are the Laws so Useful?”	Oct 2017
<i>33rd Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, Boulder CO</i>	
“A Tension in the Best System Account of Laws”	Apr 2017
<i>Pacific APA, Seattle WA</i>	
“Contemporary Perspectives on the DN Model of Scientific Explanation”	Apr 2017
<i>Guest Lecture at Salem State University, Salem MA</i>	
Comments on Katie Elliott’s “The Applicability Problem for Chance Explanation”	Nov 2015
<i>UNC Philosophy of Science Conference, Chapel Hill NC</i>	
Comments on Lynn Chiu’s “An Ecological Challenge Against the Propensity Interpretation of Fitness”	Apr 2015
<i>Pacific APA, Vancouver BC</i>	
Comments on Guy Hetzroni’s “Causation and Unification in Quantum Explanations”	May 2014
<i>Hebrew University–UNC Joint Conference in Philosophy, Chapel Hill NC</i>	
“The Conventionality of the Brain’s Functional Topography”	Mar 2014
<i>Pitt–CMU Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Science, Pittsburgh PA</i>	

Teaching

Instructor of Record

PHI 5135: Graduate Logic	Spring 2024
PHI 3400: Philosophy of Natural Science	Spring 2024
PHI 3930: Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics	Fall 2023
PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy	Fall 2023
PHH 4930: Seminar in a Major Philosopher: Wittgenstein	Fall 2022
PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy	Fall 2022
PHI 6406: Graduate Seminar in Philosophy of Science: Laws and Time	Spring 2022
PHI 3930: Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics	Spring 2022
PHI 5935: Graduate Proseminar	Fall 2021
PHI 3400: Philosophy of Natural Science	Fall 2021
PHI 5135: Graduate Logic	Spring 2021
PHI 3930: Philosophy of AI	Spring 2021
PHI 5935: Graduate Proseminar	Fall 2020
PHI 4542: Philosophy of Space and Time	Fall 2020
PHI 4905: Independent Study	Fall 2020
PHI 2100: Logic	Summer 2020
PHI 3633: Bioethics	Spring 2020
PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy	Spring 2020
PHI 3400: Philosophy of Natural Science	Fall 2019
PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy	Fall 2019
PHI 233F: Biomedical Ethics (WUSTL)	Spring 2019
PHI 120: Problems in Philosophy (WUSTL)	Spring 2019
PHI 120: Problems in Philosophy (WUSTL)	Fall 2018
PHI 100G: Logic and Critical Analysis (WUSTL)	Fall 2018
PHI 101: Introduction to Philosophy (Online, UNC)	Summer 2018
PHI 165: Bioethics (Online, UNC)	Summer 2017
PHI 100: Introduction to Philosophy (Salem State University)	Spring 2017
PHI 105: Critical Thinking (Online, UNC)	Summer 2016
PHI 229: 20th-Century Western Philosophy (UNC)	Spring 2016
PHI 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic (UNC)	Fall 2015
PHI 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic (UNC)	Summer 2015
PHI 101: Introduction to Philosophy (UNC)	Summer 2014

Teaching Assistant

Philosophy 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic (UNC)	Spring 2015, Spring 2014
Philosophy 150: Philosophy of Science (UNC)	Fall 2014
Philosophy 112: Making Sense of Ourselves (UNC)	Fall 2013
Biology 3058: Physiological Control Systems (Washington University)	Spring 2012, Spring 2011
Biology 404: Laboratory of Neurophysiology (Washington University)	Fall 2011
Biology 2970: Genetics (Washington University)	Fall 2010

Academic Awards

Rothman Summer Faculty Fellowship	Summer 2024
UF Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund	Summer 2021
UNC Dissertation Completion Fellowship	Aug 2017 - May 2018
Bertha Williams Fellowship	Aug 2016 - May 2017
UNC Graduate School Travel Award	Apr 2015
Mary Williams Fellowship	Aug 2012 - Aug 2013
Nishi Luthra Prize for Excellence in Philosophy	May 2012
Phi Beta Kappa Acceptance	May 2012

Professional Activities

Graduate Coordinator	Aug 2024 - Present
Webmaster for UF Philosophy Department (phil.ufl.edu)	Aug 2019 - Present
Robert Long Essay Competition Committee (UF)	2021 - Present
Society for the Metaphysics of Science 2024 Program Committee	Summer 2024
Undergraduate Committee (UF)	2023 - 2024
Humeanism and the Pragmatic Turn Virtual Conference, Organizer	May 2021
2020 Harvard Humean Laws Workshop, Organizer	June 2020
2019 Harvard Humean Laws Workshop, Organizer	May 2019
WUSTL First-Year Reading Program Faculty Discussion Leader	Jan 2019
WUSTL History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine Group Coordinator	Dec 2018 - June 2019
WUSTL Undergraduate Philosophy Club Faculty Liaison	Aug 2018 - June 2019
WUSTL Work-In-Progress Talk Coordinator	Aug 2018 - Dec 2018
Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl - National Competition	Apr 2016
Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl - Regional Competition	Jan 2016
President, UNC Philosophy Graduate Student Association	Aug 2015 - Aug 2016
UNC Outreach Volunteer at Southpoint Atria Assisted Living	Sep 2015 - May 2016

Referee: *Philosophical Review, Mind, Noûs, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Foundations of Physics, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Philosophical Studies, Philosophers' Imprint, Analysis, Erkenntnis, Synthese, dialectica, European Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Ergo, Philosophical Papers, Acta Analytica*

References

Marc Lange

Theda Perdue Distinguished Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
mlange@email.unc.edu

Edward Hall

Norman E. Vuilleumier Professor of Philosophy, Department Chair, Harvard University
ehall@fas.harvard.edu

John Roberts

Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
jtrosap@email.unc.edu

Matthew Kotzen

Associate Professor, Department Chair, UNC Chapel Hill
kotzen@email.unc.edu

Michael Mulnix (Teaching Reference)

Professor, Salem State University
mmulnix@salemstate.edu