

Curriculum Vitae of John Thomas Roberts
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Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Philosophy
University of North Carolina
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, 1999.

M.A., Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, 1997.

B.S., Physics (with Highest Honors), Georgia Institute of Technology, 1992.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
(Fall 2011-present).

Visiting Fellow, DFG Research Group “Causation and Explanation” at the
University of Cologne (January-March 2012).

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill (Fall, 2005-Spring 2011).

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
(Spring 2005).

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill (1999-Spring, 2005).

Visiting Fellow, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
(2002-2003).

Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (1997-99).

Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (1994-
96).

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Philosophy of Science Association award for best article by a recent PhD published in the journal *Philosophy of Science*, 2003 (for “Leibniz on Force and Absolute Motion”).

Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, 2002-3 (awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies).

Jacob K. Javits Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 1995-1998 (awarded by the United States Department of Education).

Alan Ross Anderson Fellowship, 1993.

University of Pittsburgh, Provost Humanities Fellowship, 1992-1993.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

The Law-Governed Universe. Oxford University Press (2009).

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

“Laws of Nature,” forthcoming in Paul Humphreys (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Science*, Oxford University Press.

“The Range Conception of Probability and the Input Problem,” forthcoming in *The Journal for General Philosophy of Science*.

“CP-Law Statements as Vague, Self-Referential, Self-Locating, Statistical, and Perfectly in Order,” *Erkenntnis* 79(10), 1775-1786, 2014.

“Measurements, Laws, and Counterfactuals,” in S. Mumford and M. Tugby (eds.) *The Metaphysics of Science*, Oxford University Press, 29-47, 2013.

“Fine-Tuning and the Infra-Red Bull’s Eye,” *Philosophical Studies* 160(2), 287-303, 2012.

“Chance without Credence,” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 64(1), 33-59, 2012.

“Extra-Physical Structure in a Physical World; or, Is the Study of Life Provincial?” *Monist* 94(2), 221-243, 2011.

- “Some Laws of Nature are Metaphysically Contingent,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 88(3), pp. 445-457, 2010.
- “A Puzzle about Laws, Symmetries and Measurable Quantities,” *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 59(2), pp. 143-168, 2008.
- “Reply to Skow,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 75(1), 163-167, 2007.
- “Is Logical Empiricism Committed to the Ideal of Value-Free Science?” in *Value-Free Science: Ideal or Illusion?*, edited by Harold Kincaid, John Dupre, and Allison Wylie, Oxford University Press, 2007.
- “Contact with the Nomic: A Challenge for Deniers of Humean Supervenience (Part One),” (with John Earman), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 71(1), 2005.
- “Contact with the Nomic: A Challenge for Deniers of Humean Supervenience (Part Two),” (with John Earman), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 71(2), 2005.
- “Measurability and Physical Laws,” *Synthese* 144(3), 2005.
- “Determinism,” in *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Jessica Pfeifer and Sahotra Sarkar, Routledge, 2005.
- “There Are No Laws of the Social Sciences,” in *Contemporary Debates in the Philosophy of Science*, edited by Christopher Read Hitchcock, Blackwell, 2004.
- “Leibniz on Force and Absolute Motion,” *Philosophy of Science*, 70, 553-573, 2003.
- “*Ceteris Paribus* Lost,” (with John Earman and Sheldon Russell Smith), *Erkenntnis* 57(3), 281-301, 2002.
- “Undermining Undermined: Why Humean Supervenience Never Needed to be Debugged (Even if it’s a Necessary Truth),” *Philosophy of Science* **68** (3, supplement), S98-S108. 2001.
- “‘Laws of Nature’ as an Indexical Term: A Reinterpretation of the Best-System Analysis,” *Philosophy of Science* **66** 3(supplement), S502-S511, 1999.
- “*Ceteris Paribus*, There is No Problem of Provisos,” (with John Earman) *Synthese* **118**, 439-478, 1999.

“Lewis, Carroll, and Seeing through the Looking Glass,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* **76**, 426-438, 1998.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Douglas Kutach, *Causation and Its Basis in Fundamental Physics*,” in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, August 2014.

“Gordon Belot, *Geometric Possibility*,” in *Review of Metaphysics*, 2012.

“Mauro Dorato, *The Software of the Universe: An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Laws of Nature*,” in *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, 2006.

PRESENTATIONS

“Must a Cause be Earlier than Its Effect?” to be presented at the 2015 Central Division American Philosophical Association Meeting, St. Louis.

“Can Humean Laws Explain? And If So, How?” presentation at the workshop *Explaining Laws*, Institute for Philosophy, University of Luxembourg, October, 2014.

“Fuzzy Credence as Vague Credence,” presentation at the Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society, Cambridge, UK, July 2014.

“Humean Laws and Explanation,” presentation at the Annual Conference of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Cambridge, UK, July, 2014.

“Humeanism and the Power of Laws to Explain,” presentation at the UNC/Hebrew University Workshop in Philosophy, May 2014.

“Must a Cause be Earlier than Its Effect?” presentation at Annual Conference of the Philosophy of Time Society, Gargnano, Italy, May 2014.

“Again with the Grue,” colloquium talk in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, February 21, 2014.

“Frequencies, Law-Governed Frequencies, and Ranges of Values,” Johannes von Kries’ Conception of Probability, its Roots and Impact, University of Bonn, September 13th – 14th, 2012.

- “A Simple Theory of Causation in the Agency/Manipulationist Tradition; or, Is Causation Normative? Yes, and How!” Triangle Area Philosophy Symposium, August 31, 2012.
- “Sampling Inference, Theoretical Inference, and the Scientific Realism Debate,” Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, Stirling, Scotland, July 8, 2012.
- “An Old Solution to the Old Riddle of Induction Yields a New Solution to the New Riddle of Induction,” Annual Conference of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Stirling, Scotland, July 5, 2012.
- “An Old Solution to the Old Riddle of Induction Yields a New Solution to the New Riddle of Induction,” paper presented to the Department of Philosophy, University of Bristol, June 8, 2012.
- “Comments on Ken Gemes on Nietzsche on Free Will,” comments delivered at the conference Free Will: Then and Now, Institute of Philosophy, London, April 2012.
- “Normativism about Counterfactuals, Nomic Necessity, and Perhaps Dispositions,” paper presented at the conference Causation, Modality, Dispositions at the University of Cologne, March 2012.
- “Laws about Frequencies?” paper presented at the conference Laws and Chances at the University of Cologne, March 2012.
- “Direct Inference and the New Riddle of Induction,” paper presented to the Department of Philosophy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, November 2011.
- “Measurement, Counterfactuals, Laws, and Fine-Tuning,” paper presented at the conference Laws of Nature: Their Nature and Knowability, at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo, Ontario, May 2010.
- “Measurement, Counterfactuals, and Laws,” presented at the conference Metaphysics of Science 09, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, England, September 2009.
- “Measurement, Counterfactuals, and Laws,” paper presented to the Graduate Student Research Colloquium, Department of Philosophy, King’s College, London, March 2009.
- “Measurement, Counterfactuals, and Laws,” paper presented to the Department of Philosophy, University of Western Ontario, February 2009.

- “Why Do Laws of Nature Support Counterfactual Conditionals?” paper presented to the Department of Philosophy, Dartmouth College, July 2008.
- “Comments on Harman,” presented at conference “The War on Induction,” Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, April 2007.
- “Laws, Theories, Measurements, Counterfactuals, and how Those Things are All Related to One Another,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society, High point University, high point, NC, February 2007.
- “The Meta-Theoretic Conception of Laws of Nature,” presented to the Department of Philosophy, Dartmouth College, July 2006.
- “Coping With Severe Test Anxiety: Problems and Prospects for an Error-Statistical Approach to the Testing of High-Level Theories,” ERROR 06 Conference, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, VA, June 2006.
- “Comments on Roland,” Annual Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, IL, April 2006.
- “Laws, Counterfactuals, and Measurement,” presented to the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, North Carolina State University, August 2005.
- “Comments on Sickler,” presented at Annual Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, IL, April 2005.
- “Comments on Kronz,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Durham, NC, February 2005.
- “The Meta-Theoretic Conception of Laws of Nature,” presented to the Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, December 2004.
- “Sellars, van Fraassen, Layer Cakes, and Scientific Realism,” presented to the Department of Philosophy, Florida State University, February, 2004.
- “A Puzzle About Symmetries, Laws, and Measurable Quantities,” presented to the Department of Philosophy, University of Kansas, December 2003.
- “Comments on Schneider” (a reply to “Are the Intuitions that the Laws of Nature Govern Misleading?” by Susan Schneider), presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, December 2002 in Philadelphia.

- “What Interpretation Might Be,” presented at the Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, September 2002.
- “Scientific Images, and Why They’re Good Things to Try to Get; or, Scientific Realism without Convergent Realism,” colloquium paper, Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, September 2001.
- “Reliabilist Verificationism and Underdetermination,” colloquium paper, Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 2001.
- “New and Improved Humean Supervenience,” colloquium paper, Department of History and Philosophy, Montana State University, March 2001.
- “Is Logical Empiricism Committed to the Ideal of Value-Free Science?” presented at the conference *Value-Free Science: Ideal or Illusion?* Center for Science and Human Values, University of Alabama at Birmingham, February 2001.
- “Undermining Undermined: Why Humean Supervenience Never Needed to be Debugged (Even If It’s a Necessary Truth),” presented at the Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 2000.
- “Undermining Undermined,” presented at the North Carolina / South Carolina Philosophical Society, Duke University, February 2000.
- “‘Laws of Nature’ as an Indexical Term: A Reinterpretation of Lewis’s Best-System Analysis,” presented at the Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Kansas City, Missouri, October 1998.
- “Leibniz’s ‘Newtonianism’,” presented at HOPOS 98 (Second International History of Philosophy of Science Conference), University of Notre Dame, March 1998.

GRANTS

Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, 2002-3 (awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies), \$60,000.

Junior Faculty Development Grant, UNC-Chapel Hill (2002).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

TO DISCIPLINE

Referee for the journals *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *International Studies in Philosophy of Science*, *Nous*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*.

Chair of session on "The Problem of *A Priori* Knowledge." (Speaker: Nick Zangwill; Commentator: David Sanford.) Annual Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2001.

Chair of session on "A Bayesian Account of Severity." (Speaker: Prasanta Bandyopadhyay; commentator: Deborah Mayo.) Annual Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, Illinois, May 2000.

Participant, *Philosophy of Experimental Inference: Induction, Reliability, and Error*, an NEH Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers. June 14-July 23, 1999. Director: Deborah G. Mayo.

WITHIN UNC-CHAPEL HILL

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Philosophy: 2005-present..

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Philosophy: 2014-2015, 2013-2014, 2012-2013, 2003-2004, 2001-2002, 2000-2001.

Member, Placement Committee, Department of Philosophy: 2003-2004.

Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Philosophy: 2003-2004, 1999-2000.

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of Philosophy: 2001-2002, 2000-2001.

Member, Hiring Committee, Department of Philosophy: 2001-2002.

Member, Colloquium Committee, Department of Philosophy: 1999-2000.