

P.D. Magnus
Department of Philosophy
University at Albany, SUNY
Albany, New York 12222

September 6, 2018
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Specialization: philosophy of science

Areas of research include underdetermination, scientific realism, and natural kinds — along with related issues in the history of philosophy and the ontology of art.

Teaching interests also include science studies, logic, history of modern philosophy, pragmatism, and existentialism.

POSITIONS HELD & DEGREES EARNED

University at Albany, State University of New York

- Professor of Philosophy, 2017–
- Chair of the Philosophy department, 2013–2019
- Associate professor of Philosophy, 2010–2016
- Assistant professor of Philosophy, 2004–2010

Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh

- Visiting fellow, Fall 2010

Bowdoin College

- Visiting assistant professor of Philosophy, 2003–2004

University of California, San Diego

- Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2003
Underdetermination and the Claims of Science
committee: Paul Churchland (chair), Donald Rutherford, Nancy Cartwright, Naomi Oreskes, Martin Sereno
- Instructor or teaching assistant in Philosophy for nine terms between 1998 and 2003
- M.A. in Philosophy, 2000
- Philosophy Department webmaster, 1998–2000
- Editorial assistant for the journal *Philosophy of Science*, 1998–1999

Texas Christian University

- B.A. major in Philosophy and Physics, minor in Russian and Mathematics; with University Honors, summa cum laude; 1996
- Teaching assistant in Philosophy, 1994–1996

PUBLICATIONS

Books

3. *Scientific Enquiry and Natural Kinds: From Planets to Mallards*. Palgrave Macmillan. 2012.

Reviews:

- Matthew H. Slater in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. June 28, 2013.
- Miles MacLeod. ‘Following through on naturalistic approaches to natural kinds.’ *Metascience*. 23(2): 335–338. October 2013.
- Marion Godman in *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*. 28(3): 343–346. 2014.

2. co-editor and co-author of introduction, with Jacob Busch. *New Waves in Philosophy of Science*. Palgrave MacMillan. 2010.

1. *forall x: an introduction to formal logic*. 2005.

An introductory logic textbook which is offered under an open license. It has been downloaded hundreds of thousands of times and used by instructors and students all over the world.

forall χ has been adapted and incorporated into custom editions and derivative works, including:

- Dave Witte Morris and Joy Morris, University of Lethbridge, *Proofs and Concepts: the fundamentals of abstract mathematics* (2009)
- J. Robert Loftis, Lorain County Community College, *forall x: Lorain County remix* (2010)
- Tim Button, University of Cambridge, UK, *forall x: Cambridge* (2012)
- Nathan Carter, Bentley University, *forall x in Lurch* (2013)
- José Ángel Gascón, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain; translation, *paratodo x: Una Introducción a la Lógica Formal* (2015)
- E. J. R. Elliott, University of Leeds, *forall x Leeds* (2016)
- Aaron Thomas-Bolduc and Richard Zach, University of Calgary, *forall x: Calgary remix* (2017)
- Anthony Eagle, University of Adelaide, *forall x Adelaide* (2017)
- Jonathan Jenkins Ichikawa, University of British Columbia, *forall x UBC edition* (2017)
- Kathryn Lindeman, Saint Louis University, *forallx: SLU* (2017)

Articles and chapters

In reverse chronological order, with details as indicated:

℞ anonymously refereed, ℑ invited, ℵ journal article, ℬ book chapter

- ℞ 46. ‘That some of Sol LeWitt’s later wall drawings aren’t wall drawings.’ *Contemporary Aesthetics*. v.16. 2018.
- ℑ ℵ 45. ‘Cautious realism and middle range ontology.’ *Metascience*. Forthcoming.
- ℑ 44. review of Thomas Boyer-Kassem, Conor Mayo-Wilson, Michael Weisberg (eds.) *Scientific Collaboration and Collaborative Knowledge in Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. April 2018.
- ℞ ℑ ℵ 43. ‘Taxonomy, ontology, and natural kinds.’ *Synthese*. 195(4): 1427–1439. 2018.
- ℞ ℵ 42. with Jon Mandle. ‘What kind of is-ought gap is there and what kind ought there be?’ *Journal of Moral Philosophy*. 14(4): 373–393. 2017.
- ℞ ℵ 41. ‘Kind of Borrowed, Kind of Blue.’ *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. 74(2): 179–185. Spring 2016.
- ℑ ℵ 40. with Jason D’Cruz. ‘Preserving the autographic/allographic distinction.’ *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. 73(4): 453–457. Fall 2015.
- ℞ ℵ 39. ‘John Stuart Mill on taxonomy and natural kinds.’ *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science*. 5(2): 269–280. Fall 2015.
- ℞ ℵ 38. with Ron McClamrock. ‘Friends with benefits! Distributed cognition hooks up cognitive and social conceptions of science.’ *Philosophical Psychology*. 28(8): 1114–1127. 2015.
- ℑ 37. ‘Epistemic categories and causal kinds.’ *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*. 48(B): 263–266. December 2014.
- ℞ ℵ 36. ‘Science and rationality for one and all.’ *Ergo*. 1(5): 129–138. November 2014.
- ℞ ℵ 35. with Jason D’Cruz. ‘Are digital images allographic?’ *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. 72(4): 417–427. Fall 2014.
- ℞ ℵ 34. ‘NK≠HPC.’ *Philosophical Quarterly*. 64(256): 471–477. July 2014.
- ℞ ℵ 33. ‘No grist for Mill on natural kinds.’ *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy*. 2(4): 1–15. 2014.
- ℞ ℵ 32. ‘What scientists know is not a function of what scientists know.’ *Philosophy of Science*. 80(5): 840–849. December 2013.

- R J 31. with Heather Douglas. ‘State of the field: Why novel prediction matters.’ *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*. 44(4): 580–589. December 2013.
- R J 30. with Cristyn Magnus and Christy Mag Uidhir. ‘Judging covers.’ *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. 71(4): 361–370. Fall 2013.
- I 29. review of Peter Achinstein’s *Evidence and Method: Scientific Strategies of Isaac Newton and James Clerk Maxwell* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. July 2013.
- B 28. ‘Historical individuals like *Anas platyrhynchos* and ‘Classical Gas’ in *Art & Abstract Objects*. Christy Mag Uidhir, ed. Oxford University Press. 2013.
- I 27. review of Joseph Keim Campbell, Michael O’Rourke, and Matthew H. Slater (eds.) *Carving Nature at Its Joints: Natural Kinds in Metaphysics and Science* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. February 2012.
- R J 26. ‘Drakes, seadevils, and similarity fetishism.’ *Biology&Philosophy*, 26(6): 857–870. November 2011.
- I J 25. ‘Miracles, trust, and ennui in Barnes’ Predictivism.’ *Logos&Episteme*, 2(1): 103–115. March 2011.
- R J 24. with Christy Mag Uidhir. ‘Art concept pluralism.’ *Metaphilosophy*, 42(1–2): 83–97. January 2011.
- J 23. ‘Philosophy of science in the 21st century.’
 - in English, *Metaphilosophy*, 44(1–2): 48–52. January 2013.
 - in Russian, *Istoriko-Philosophskii Almanach*, Moscow; third issue, 2010: 469–473.
- R J 22. ‘Inductions, red herrings, and the best explanation for the mixed record of science.’ *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 61(4): 803–819. December 2010.
- B 21. with Greg Frost-Arnold. ‘The Identical Rivals Response to underdetermination’ in *New Waves in Philosophy of Science*. P.D. Magnus and Jacob Busch (eds.) Palgrave Macmillan. 2010.
- I J 20. ‘On trusting Wikipedia.’ *Episteme*. 6(1): 74–90. February 2009.
- R J 19. ‘Demonstrative induction and the skeleton of inference.’ *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*. 22(3): 303–315. October 2008.
- R J 18. ‘Early response to false claims in Wikipedia.’ *First Monday*. 13(9): September 2008.
- R J 17. ‘Mag Uidhir on performance.’ *British Journal of Aesthetics*. 48(3): 338–345. July 2008.
- R J 16. ‘Reid’s defense of common sense.’ *Philosophers’ Imprint*, 8(3): 1–14. May 2008.

- R J 15. with Lawrence Schell. ‘Is there an elephant in the room? Addressing rival approaches to the interpretation of growth perturbations and small size.’ *American Journal of Human Biology*, 19(5): 606–614. September/October 2007.
- R J 14. ‘Distributed cognition and the task of science.’ *Social Studies of Science*, 37(2): 297–310. April 2007.
- R J 13. ‘What’s new about the New Induction?’ *Synthese*, 148(2): 295–301. January 2006.
- R J 12. ‘Background theories and total science.’ *Philosophy of Science*, 72(5): 1064–1075. December 2005.
- R J 11. ‘Reckoning the shape of everything: Underdetermination and cosmotopology.’ *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 56(3): 541–557. September 2005.
- R J 10. ‘Hormone research as an exemplar of underdetermination.’ *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 36(3): 559–567. September 2005.
- R J 9. ‘Peirce: Underdetermination, agnosticism, and related mistakes.’ *Inquiry*, 48(1): 26–37. February 2005.
- I 8. ‘Underdetermination of theories’ in *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia*. Sahotra Sarkar and Jessica Pfeifer (eds.) Routledge. 2005.
- R J 7. with Craig Callender, ‘Realist ennui and the base rate fallacy.’ *Philosophy of Science*, 71(3): 320–338. July 2004.
- R J 6. ‘The price of insisting that Quantum Mechanics is complete.’ *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 55(2): 257–267. June 2004.
- R J 5. ‘Reid’s dilemma and the uses of pragmatism.’ *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*, 2(1): 69–72. March 2004.
- R J 4. ‘Underdetermination and the Problem of Identical Rivals.’ *Philosophy of Science*, 70(5): 1256–1264. December 2003.
- R J 3. with Jonathan Cohen, ‘Williamson on knowledge and psychological explanation.’ *Philosophical Studies*, 116(1): 37–52. October 2003.
- R J 2. ‘Success, truth, and the Galilean Strategy.’ *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 54(3): 465–474. September 2003.
1. with Michael Kalichman, education resources for the Responsible Conduct of Research Education Consortium. Website content. September 2002.
- Reprinted in the University of Arizona’s Program in Research Integrity Education *PRIE Newsletter*, 6(6): June 2006 through 7(4): April 2007.

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

- Cover Me Softly, *Hi-Phi Nation*, 27 February 2018. Guest.
- 100 Philosophers 100 Artworks 100 Words #9, *Aesthetics for Birds*, 14 August 2014.
- How I came to be interested in interesting things, *Aesthetics for Birds*, 15 August 2013.

PRESENTATIONS

39. ‘Science, Values, and the Priority of Evidence.’ Presented at the *Society for Exact Philosophy* annual meeting in Storrs, Connecticut (May 2018).
38. ‘Faculty Perspective.’ *Open Education Resources Workshop*. UAlbany (November 2017, April 2018).
37. ‘Does pluralism about natural kinds have to be superficial and anti-realist? (Spoiler: No.)’ Presentation at the conference *Scientific Knowledge Under Pluralism*, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (March–April 2017).
36. ‘Academia and open education.’ Open Access Week celebration. University Libraries, UAlbany (October 2015).
35. Session participant, ‘Norms, kinds, and biological practice’ at the *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology* biennial meeting in Montreal, Quebec (July 2015).
34. ‘What the 19th century knew about taxonomy and the 20th forgot.’ Presented at the *Philosophy of Science Association* biennial meeting in Chicago, Illinois (November 2014).
33. ‘Taxonomy, ontology, and causation.’ Invited presentation at *The Metaphysics of Science: Causation and Natural Kinds*, a workshop at the Panthéon-Sorbonne and the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Paris (March 2014).
32. ‘Natural kinds and the fate of Pluto.’ UAlbany Honors College Lecture (October 2013).
31. ‘Music, metaphysics, and mallards.’ Presented at a telematic symposium on philosophy of art, held between UAlbany and Moscow State University (May 2013).
30. ‘The how and why of DIY publishing.’ Invited presentation to the NorthEast Regional Computing Program symposium on *DIY Publishing and the University*, Norwood, Massachusetts (April 2013).
29. ‘Natural kinds in the 19th century.’ Invited presentation to the philosophy department at Middlebury College (March 2013).

28. ‘What scientists know is not a function of what scientists know.’ Presented at the *Philosophy of Science Association* biennial meeting in San Diego, California (November 2012).
27. ‘Drakes, seadevils, and similarity fetishism.’ Presented at *Metaphysics & the Philosophy of Science* at the University of Toronto (May 2011).
26. ‘Nine planets, fine planets — or eight planets, great planets?’ Invited presentation to the philosophy department at the City College of New York (November 2010).
25. ‘Miracles, trust, and ennui in Barnes’ *Predictivism*.’ Part of a book symposium at the *Philosophy of Science Association* biennial meeting in Montreal, Quebec (November 2010).
24. ‘What to say about natural kinds.’ Lunchtime talk at the Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (October 2010).
23. ‘Ubiquity and relativity of natural kinds.’ Invited presentation to the Cornell University philosophy department (May 2010).
22. ‘The Identical Rivals Response to underdetermination.’ Invited presentation at the *Underdetermination in Science* workshop, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (March 2009).
21. ‘Philosophy of science in the 21st century.’ Presented at a telematic symposium on developments in philosophy, held between UAlbany and Moscow State University (February 2009).
20. ‘Theory concept pluralism.’ Presented to the University of Nevada Las Vegas philosophy department (February 2009).
19. ‘Philosophy and Wikipedia.’ Presented to the UAlbany philosophy department (December 2008).
18. ‘What SPECIES can teach us about THEORY.’ Presented to the *Creighton Club* New York State Philosophical Association (November 2007).
17. ‘The skeleton of inference.’ Invited presentation to the Southern Methodist University philosophy department (March 2007).
16. ‘Epistemology and the Wikipedia.’ Presented at the *North American Computing and Philosophy Conference* in Troy, New York (August 2006).
15. ‘Eliminating induction.’ Presented at the *Society for Exact Philosophy* annual meeting in La Jolla, California (May 2006).
14. ‘Tom Reid meets Tom Bayes: skepticism, dogmatism and common sense.’ Presented at *Hume and His Critics*, a conference on the Scottish Enlightenment at Baylor University (April 2005).

13. ‘Background theories and total science.’ Presented at the *Philosophy of Science Association* biennial meeting in Austin, Texas (November 2004).
12. ‘The value of philosophy.’ Presented at the *Maine Philosophical Institute* (May 2004).
11. ‘Reckoning the shape of everything.’ Invited talk to the UAlbany philosophy department (January 2004).
10. ‘The promise and perils of science as distributed cognition.’ Presented to the UC San Diego Experimental Philosophy Lab (January 2004).
9. ‘Williamson on knowledge and psychological explanation.’ Presented at the *Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference* (May 2003).
8. ‘Science, underdetermination, and the structure of space.’ Invited talk to the Bowdoin College philosophy department (April 2003).
7. ‘Underdetermination from the bottom up.’ Philosophy colloquium at UC San Diego (January 2003).
6. ‘Underdetermination and aspirations of certainty.’ Presented to the UC San Diego History of Philosophy Roundtable (June 2002).
5. ‘Underdetermination and the Problem of Identical Rivals.’ Presented at the *Southern California Philosophy Conference* at UC Irvine (October 2001) and at the *Philosophy of Science Association* biennial meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (November 2002).
4. ‘Reliability on the crowded net: Finding the truth in a web of deceit.’ Presented at *MacHack* in Detroit, Michigan (June 2001).
3. ‘Underdetermination and the inference against value freedom.’ Presented at *Value-Free Science: Ideal or Illusion?*, a conference sponsored by the Ethics Center at the University of Alabama, Birmingham (February 2001).
2. ‘Reality, sex, and cyberspace.’ Presented at *MacHack* in Detroit, Michigan (June 2000).
1. ‘The logic of normative structure.’ Presented at *Philosophy and the Social Sciences*, a graduate student conference at the University of Texas, Austin (March 2000).

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Visiting Fellowship at the Center for Philosophy of Science, Pittsburgh (Fall 2010)
- UAlbany, College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching (2009)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship (1996–2001)
- A. Campbell Garnet Memorial Award for a Philosophical Essay (1996)

- TCU Senior Scholar in Philosophy, Senior Scholar in Physics (1996)
- Phi Beta Kappa: elected (1995), Φ BK Senior Scholar (1996)
- Sigma Xi Essay Award (1995)

TEACHING

Courses taught

Undergraduate courses

- Introduction to logic; sentential and first-order logic
- Understanding science; an introduction to philosophy of science and science studies
- Scientific revolutions; science studies before and after Kuhn
- American philosophy; the transcendentalist and pragmatist traditions
- History of modern philosophy; Descartes to Kant
- Existentialism
- Philosophy of art

Shared-resource courses, for graduate students and advanced undergraduates

- Philosophy of science
- Metaphysics
- Theory of knowledge

Graduate seminars

- Causality and determinism
- Underdetermination of theory
- Realism and natural kinds
- Values and scientific knowledge
- Pragmatism

Syllabuses for all courses are at www.fecundity.com/courses

Dissertation and thesis advisement

Advisor

- Ph.D. thesis advisor. Gunnar Babcock. *Organisms and Species*. In progress.
- Undergraduate honors thesis advisor. Kassie Sarr-Dietershagen. *Nancy Cartwright's Empiricism, Realism, and Pluralism*. Spring 2013.
- Undergraduate honors thesis advisor. Brett Bustamante. *Applied Humor Theory*. Spring 2008.
- Ph.D. thesis advisor. John Styles. *Empirically Grounded Metaphors in Science*. Spring 2008.

Committee member

- Ph.D. committee member. Marius Pascale. *What Monsters May They Be: The Moral Status of Macabre Fascination and the Paradox of Horror*. Spring 2016.
- Ph.D. committee member. Kevin Olbrys. *Plato and the Sophists: Eristic Practice, Cognition, and Perception*. Fall 2015.
- Ph.D. committee member. John Milanese. *Expecting the Unexpected: A Precautionary Principle Addressing Unconsidered Dangers*. Spring 2015.
- Ph.D. committee member. Tom Fowler. *The Role of the Simple Natures and Method in Descartes' Meditations*. Summer 2014.
- Ph.D. committee member. Kimberley Van Orman. *Explaining the Gap: How a Particular View of Explanation Underwrites the Explanatory Gap*. Spring 2014.
- M.A. thesis reader. Damian Thibeault. *The Force of Reason: An Argument Against David Hume's Doctrine on the Inertness of Reason*. Fall 2012.
- Ph.D. committee member. Juliette Stevens. *Mental Causation: A Nonreductivist Perspective*. Summer 2008.
- Examiner in History for Dan Spanjer. Spring 2007.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Service within the UAlbany Philosophy Department

- Department chair, 2013–9
- Program review and assessment, 2006–13
- Colloquium committee, 2005–6
- Graduate studies committee, 2004–5, 2011–3
Director of graduate studies, 2012–3
- Library and information committee, 2004–13
- Undergraduate studies committee, 2004–6, 2007–11
Director of undergraduate studies, 2005–6, 2007–10
- Webmaster, 2004–present
- Search committee, for tenure-track hiring, 2005–6, 2006–7, 2013–4 (chair), 2014–5, 2016–7

UAlbany, service at the college level

- Academic Program Committee, 2009–2010

UAlbany, service at the university level

- Council on Promotion and Continuing Appointment, 2012–4
- Council on Research, 2007–8

Service outside UAlbany

- External reviewer for the Philosophy Department at SUNY Oswego, Spring 2015

Conference organizing and related service

- Program committee, *Philosophy of Science Association* biennial meeting in Seattle, Washington, November 2018
- Co-organizer, special interest lunch on science and values at the *Philosophy of Science Association* biennial meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, November 2016
- Chair and co-organizer, first annual Graduate Mini-Conference, UC San Diego Philosophy, April 2003
- Papers committee, *MacHack*, June 2001, June 2002

Service as referee

- Article referee for journals including *The American Journal of Bioethics*, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal of the Philosophy of Science*, *Information Research*, *Inquiry*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, *Logos&Episteme*, *Perspectives on Science*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy of Science*, *The Polish Journal of Philosophy*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, and *Theoria*
- Book referee for McGraw-Hill and Palgrave Macmillan

Current as of September 6, 2018.

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