

MATT FARR

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Research Interests

Metaphysics • Time; causation; modality; methodology of metaphysics

Philosophy of Natural and Social Science • Causal and non-causal explanations; status of causality across natural and social sciences; laws of nature; the significance of past-directed indeterminism

Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science • Temporal and causal perception; personal identity over time; the time directionality of agency; the philosophical significance of cognitive illusions

Philosophy of Physics • Physical time asymmetries; causal reasoning in physics; the relationship between symmetries of theories and the practical application of theories; ontology of quantum mechanics

Employment

2017– **University of Cambridge, UK** • Teaching Associate in Philosophy of Science | Department of History and Philosophy of Science | Three-year full-time lecturing and research post.

2014–2017 **University of Queensland, Australia** • Postdoctoral Research Fellow | School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry | Project: *The Causal Power of Information in a Quantum World* | Directors: Phil Dowe & Gerard Milburn

2013–2014 **University of Sydney, Australia** • Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Center for Time & Department of Philosophy | Project: *New Agendas for the Study of Time: Connecting the Disciplines* | Directors: Huw Price, Dean Rickles, Kristie Miller & Alex Holcombe

Education

2013 **PhD in Philosophy** • University of Bristol • *Pass without corrections*
Thesis: *Towards a C Theory of Time: An Appraisal of the Physics and Metaphysics of Time Direction*
Supervisor: James Ladyman | Examiners: Huw Price (external); Alexander Bird (internal)

2008 **Master of Arts in Philosophy** • University of Bristol • *Awarded with Distinction*
Dissertation: *Thermodynamics and Time Asymmetry* | Supervisor: James Ladyman.

2006 **Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy** • University of Southampton • *First Class Honours*
Dissertation: *Presentism and Gödel's R-worlds* | Supervisor: Ray Monk.

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- In press **Causation and Time Reversal**
British Journal for Philosophy of Science | Accepted for publication December 2016 | philsci-archive.pitt.edu/12658/
- 2015 **Conventional Principles in Science: On the Foundations and Development of the Relativized A Priori**
Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics | Vol 52, pp. 111–113 | Introduction to special issue | With M. Ivanova | [dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsb.2015.11.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsb.2015.11.003)
- 2015 **Temporal Experience, Temporal Passage and the Cognitive Sciences**
Philosophy Compass | Vol. 10(8), 560–571 | With S. Baron, J. Cusbert, M. Kon & K. Miller | [dx.doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12244](https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12244)
- 2013 **A Relic of a Bygone Age? Causation, Time Symmetry and the Directionality Argument**
Erkenntnis | Vol. 78, pp. 215–235 | With Alexander Reutlinger | [dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10670-013-9510-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-013-9510-z) | Preprint: philsci-archive.pitt.edu/9561/
- 2012 **On A- and B-Theoretic Elements of Branching Spacetimes**
Synthese | Vol. 188, pp. 85–116 | [dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11229-011-0046-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-011-0046-y) | Preprint: philsci-archive.pitt.edu/id/eprint/9081

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2016 **Review of Mathias Frisch's *Causal Reasoning in Physics***
British Journal for Philosophy of Science | Vol. 67(4), pp. 1207–1213 | [dx.doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axw020](https://doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axw020) | Preprint: philsci-archive.pitt.edu/12079/
- 2015 **Review of Tim Maudlin's *Philosophy of Physics: Space and Time***
Philosophy in Review | Vol 35, No. 4, pp. 208–210 | journals.uvic.ca/index.php/pir/article/view/14362/5478

EDITED VOLUMES

- 2015 **Conventional Principles in Science: On the Foundations and Development of the Relativized A Priori**
 • Special issue of *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* | Vol. 52, Part B, pp. 111–162. | With Milena Ivanova. | <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/13552198/52/part/PB>

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2014 **Causation, Time Symmetry and Russell's Directionality Argument** • Blogpost for *New Agendas for the Study of time* | newagendasstudyoftime.wordpress.com/2014/04/06/causation-time-symmetry-and-russells-directionality-argument/
- 2011 **Conventional Principles in Science** • *The Reasoner* | Vol 5(10)
 With Milena Ivanova | [kent.ac.uk/secl/researchcentres/reasoning/TheReasoner/vol5/TheReasoner-5\(10\).pdf](http://kent.ac.uk/secl/researchcentres/reasoning/TheReasoner/vol5/TheReasoner-5(10).pdf)

IMPACT

Citations: 28* **h-Index:** 3*

Cited in: Journal of Philosophy; Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society; Analysis; Philosophy of Science; British Journal for Philosophy of Science; Synthese; Erkenntnis; Philosophy Compass; Inquiry; International Studies in Philosophy of Science; Analytic Philosophy; Journal for General Philosophy of Science; Journal of Consciousness Studies; Cambridge University Press.

*Source: *Google Scholar*, 30/10/2017

Works in Progress

UNDER REVIEW

3 papers and 1 monograph. Details available upon request.

Selected Talks

Title TBA

☉ = Forthcoming

INVITED COLLOQUIA

- ☉ Apr 2018 *Sigma Club*, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Perceiving Backwards Causation

INVITED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- ☉ Feb 2018 *Temporal Asymmetries in Philosophy and Psychology*, University of Warwick, UK

Explaining Temporal Qualia

INVITED COLLOQUIA

- ☉ Nov 2017 *Serious Metaphysics Group*, University of Cambridge, UK
 ☉ Nov 2017 *Philosophy Departmental Seminar*, University of Bristol, UK
 Nov 2016 Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU Munich
 Oct 2016 School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland

REFEREED CONFERENCES

- Jul 2017 *Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association*, University of Edinburgh
 Jun 2017 *International Association for the Philosophy of Time Annual Conference*, Gargnano del Garda, Italy

Causation and Time Reversal

INVITED COLLOQUIA

- Jul 2016 Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge
 Jan 2016 Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU Munich | Video of talk: <https://itun.es/i6hN39Q>
 Dec 2016 School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland
- REFEREED CONFERENCES
- Jun 2016 *Australasian Association of Philosophy*, University of Adelaide, Australia
 Dec 2016 *New Zealand Association of Philosophers Annual Conference*, University of Waikato, New Zealand
 Jul 2016 *Foundations 2016: The 18th UK and European Conference on Foundations of Physics*, London School of Economics and Political Science
 Jul 2016 *British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference*, University of Cardiff
 Jun 2016 *Congrès de la Société de Philosophie des Sciences*, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
 Aug 2015 *Congress for Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science*, University of Helsinki

The C Theory of Time

INVITED COLLOQUIA

- Sep 2016 Department of Philosophy, University of Adelaide
 Sep 2015 School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland
 Feb 2015 Department of Philosophy, University of Southampton

Causal Realism in Physics

INVITED SYMPOSIUM

- Apr 2016 *Symposium on Mathias Frisch's 'Causal Reasoning in Physics'* (with Mathias Frisch, Alyssa Ney and James Woodward), American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division, San Francisco, California.

Causation and Retrodiction in Quantum Mechanics | with David Miller

INVITED CONFERENCE PAPER

- Aug 2015 *Causality in a Quantum World*, Twin Waters Resort, Sunshine Coast, QLD, Australia.

'Initial' Conditions and the Direction of Time

INVITED COLLOQUIUM

- Jul 2013 Department of Philosophy, University of Bristol.
 Jun 2013 *Sydney Foundations of Physics Seminar*, Centre for Time, University of Sydney.
- INVITED CONFERENCE PAPER
- Aug 2013 *Time Symmetry: A Unified Approach*, University of Sydney, Australia. August 29, 2013.

REFEREED CONFERENCES

- Jun 2014 *Italian Society for the Philosophy of Science*, University of Rome III
 Jul 2013 *Causation and Experimentation in the Sciences*, Paris-Sorbonne University, France

Supertemporal Ontology and the Triviality Problem

INVITED COLLOQUIUM

- Mar 2013 *Current Projects Seminar*, Centre for Time, University of Sydney, Australia
- REFEREED CONFERENCES
- Jul 2011 *Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association*, University of Sussex, UK
- INVITED CONFERENCE PAPER
- Mar 2011 *The Present State of Presentism*, Department of Philosophy, University of Bristol, UK

Does time have a direction?

INVITED COLLOQUIUM

- May 2012 *PERSP Space & Time Seminar*, University of Barcelona
- REFEREED CONFERENCES
- Oct 2011 *European Philosophy of Science Association*, University of Athens, Greece
 Jul 2011 *14th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science*, University of Nancy, France

Causation, Time Symmetry and the Directionality Argument | with Alexander Reutlinger

REFEREED CONFERENCES

- Sep 2011 *CaEitS2011: Causality and Explanation in the Sciences*, University of Ghent, Belgium

Non-Reductive Naturalism about Time Direction?

REFEREED CONFERENCES

Jul 2011 *British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference*, University of Sussex, UK

Towards a C Theory of Time

REFEREED CONFERENCES

Oct 2010 *SIFA 2010: 9th National Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy*, University of Padua, Italy

Review of talk: Calosi, C. (2011), *Humana.Mente* (15) | humanamente.eu/PDF/Issue15_Report_Calosi.pdf

Jul 2010 *British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference*, University College Dublin, Republic of Ireland

On Some Problems with A-theoretic and B-theoretic Models of Branching Spacetime

REFEREED CONFERENCES

Aug 2010 *Branching Time and Indeterminacy*, University of Bristol, UK

Teaching Experience

PHD SUPERVISION

2015–2017 **Primary PhD Supervisor** • Christopher Mesiku | Philosophy, University of Queensland | Free will & indeterminism

UNIT COORDINATOR

☉ = In progress

☉ 2018 **Philosophy of Physics** • University of Cambridge
Part IB course (2nd year undergraduate) | Department of History and Philosophy of Science | Full responsibility for course design & delivery | 4 one-hour lectures | Lent Term

☉ 2018 **Theory, Laws and Evidence** • University of Cambridge
Part II course (3rd year undergraduate) | Department of History and Philosophy of Science | Joint responsibility for course design & delivery | 4 one-hour lectures | Part of 8-lecture course jointly co-ordinated with Dr Anna Alexandrova | Lent Term

☉ 2017 **Metaphysics of Physics** • University of Cambridge
Part II course (2nd year undergraduate) | Department of History and Philosophy of Science | Full responsibility for course design & delivery | 4 one-hour lectures | Michaelmas Term

2017 **Realism** • University of Cambridge
Part II course (3rd year undergraduate) | Department of History and Philosophy of Science | Full responsibility for design & delivery | 4 one-hour lectures | One half of 'Realism & Reduction' unit, jointly co-ordinated with Dr Agnes Bolinska | Michaelmas Term

2017 **Reichenbach's *The Direction of Time*** • University of Cambridge
Part II 'Primary Source' course (3rd year undergraduate) | Department of History and Philosophy of Science | Full responsibility for course design & delivery | 4 one-hour lectures | Michaelmas Term | Course outline: <https://goo.gl/XJydjF>

2015 **Advanced Topics in Metaphysics: Time and Causation** • University of Queensland
3rd year undergraduate unit | Department of Philosophy | Full responsibility for course design & delivery | 12 two-hour lectures | 43 students | Course profile: <http://goo.gl/xxS6Bz>

2014 **Advanced Topics in Metaphysics: What is Time?** • University of Queensland
3rd year undergraduate unit | Department of Philosophy | Full responsibility for course design & delivery | 13 two-hour lectures | 36 students | Course profile: <http://goo.gl/JlhG8R>

2014 **Causation in Science** • University of Sydney
Postgraduate unit | Department of Philosophy | Full responsibility for course design & delivery | 12 two-hour seminars

2013 **Philosophy of Time** • University of Sydney
Postgraduate unit | Department of Philosophy | Jointly coordinated with Prof. Craig Callender (UCSD) and Prof. Huw Price (Cambridge) | Joint responsibility for course design & delivery; full responsibility for essay supervision, marking and feedback | 12 two-hour seminars

GUEST LECTURER

- 2017 **Part III and MPhil Lecture Series** • University of Cambridge
Lecture: “The Direction of Causation” | Department of History and Philosophy of Science | 1x 1.5hr lecture for MPhil and Part III students.
- 2014 **History and Philosophy of the Physical Sciences** • University of Sydney
Advanced undergraduate unit | Unit for History and Philosophy of Science | 2 two-hour lectures.
- 2013 **What Is This Thing Called Science?** • University of Sydney
Advanced undergraduate unit | Unit for History and Philosophy of Science | 2 one-hour lectures.
- 2013 **Philosophy of Science: The Philosophy of Symmetry.** • University of Sydney
Postgraduate unit | Unit for History and Philosophy of Science | 2 two-hour lectures.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- 2011–2012 **Philosophy of Natural and Social Science.** • University of Bristol
Second year undergraduate unit | Full responsibility for conducting seminars, organising readings, marking essays, and essay feedback | 1 group; 10 students; 12 seminars
- 2010–2011 **Philosophy of Mind** • University of Bristol
Second year undergraduate unit | Full responsibility for conducting seminars, organising readings, marking essays, and essay feedback | 1 group; 14 students; 12 seminars
- 2010–2011 **Realism and Normativity** • University of Bristol
Second year undergraduate unit on metaethics, theories of truth and semantic paradoxes | Full responsibility for conducting seminars, organising readings, marking essays, and essay feedback | 2 groups; 25 students; 12 seminars per group
- 2008–2009 **Introduction to Philosophy A** • University of Bristol
First year undergraduate unit on metaphysics and epistemology | Full responsibility for conducting seminars, organising readings, marking essays, and essay feedback | 1 group; 8 students; 12 seminars

Awards & Grants

SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2011 **Postgraduate bursary** • Royal Institute of Philosophy, UK £2,500
- 2009 **Doctoral scholarship (full award)** • Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK £50,000

VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

- Nov–Dec 2015 **Group Visiting Fellowship** • Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy €1,200

CONFERENCE GRANTS

- 2013 **School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry Conference Grant Award** • University of Sydney | For organisation of *Time Symmetry: A Unified Approach* \$5,000
- 2011 **School of Arts Conference Award** • University of Bristol | For organisation of workshop *The Present State of Presentism.* £100

TRAVEL GRANTS

- 2016 **University of Queensland Research Grant** • University of Queensland \$3,000
- 2014 **School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry Travel Grant** • University of Sydney \$1,000
- 2013 **School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry Travel Grant** • University of Sydney \$1,500
- 2012 **Travel Grant** • Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany €250
- 2011 **Travel Grant** • National Science Foundation, USA \$170
- 2011 **Postgraduate Travel Grant** • Bristol University Alumni Foundation £400

2011	School of Arts Postgraduate Conference Grant • University of Bristol	£100
2011	Conference Bursary • British Society for the Philosophy of Science	£75
2010	School of Arts Postgraduate Conference Grant • University of Bristol	£250
2010	Conference bursary • British Society for the Philosophy of Science	£75

Service to the Profession

ORGANISATION

Aug 2015	Causality in a Quantum World • Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast, QLD, Australia Co-organised with Pete Evans August 16–21 2015 28 speakers (12 invited + blind-refereed Call for Papers) Funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation as part of project <i>The Causal Power of Information in a Quantum World</i> causalinformation.weebly.com/conference/
Jul 2014	Free Will and Retrocausality in the Quantum World • Trinity College, University of Cambridge Co-organised with Huw Price July 1–4 2014 22 invited speakers Funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation as part of project <i>New Agendas for the Study of Time</i> goo.gl/ERhNlo
Aug 2013	Time Symmetry: A Unified Approach • University of Sydney Co-organised with Sam Baron August 26–27 2013 7 invited speakers newagendasstudyoftime.wordpress.com/events/time-symmetry/
2013–2014	Sydney Foundations of Physics Seminar Series • University of Sydney Organiser Fortnightly talks relating to philosophical and foundational issues in physics newagendasstudyoftime.wordpress.com/sydfop/
Aug 2011	Conventional Principles in Science • University of Bristol Co-organiser (with Milena Ivanova) August 18–19 2011 4 invited speakers; 4 contributed talks (after blind-refereed Call for Papers) Funded by the Analysis Trust, the Bristol Institute for Research in the Humanities and Arts and the Bristol Alumni Fund (total value £1,800) Proceedings published in special issue of <i>Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics</i>
Mar 2011	The Present State of Presentism • University of Bristol Principal organiser March 8 2011 3 invited speakers sites.google.com/site/mwefarr/presentism-workshop

REFEREEING

Journal Referee

* = Multiple occasions

Philosophical Studies;* Philosophy of Science;* British Journal for the Philosophy of Science;* Synthese;* Erkenntnis;* European Journal for Philosophy of Science;* International Studies in Philosophy of Science; Dialectica; Theoria; Analytic Philosophy; Foundations of Physics; Review of Symbolic Logic; Symmetry.

Reviewer of Book Manuscripts

Harvard University Press; Chicago University Press

EDITORIAL WORK

2017–	Category editor for PhilPapers • Category: <i>Causal Eliminativism</i> .
2015	Guest Journal Editor • <i>Synthese</i> Special issue: ‘Conventional Principles in Science’.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2017–2018	Manager of MPhil Admissions • Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge
2017–2018	Unit Examiner • Part IB & MPhil/Part III Ordinary Examiner Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge
2018	Paper manager • Part II, Paper 5: Philosophy of Science Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge Easter term
Oct 2015	Member of PhD student mid-candidature review committee • School of Historical and Philosophical

Inquiry, University of Queensland

Oct 2014 **Member of PhD student progress committee** • School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, University of Queensland | Two students

Nov 2013 **Member of postgraduate student review committee** • Department of Philosophy, University of Sydney | Two students

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Jun 2013 **Time: Inside and Out** • Public Lecture | Dartford Grammar School, Dartford, UK
Invited lecture on philosophy and physics of time, primarily for sixth-form philosophy and physics students.
Review: mattfarr.co.uk/files/theme/dartford.pdf

FURTHER SERVICE

2014– **Website designer and manager** • *The Causal Power of Information in a Quantum World* | causalinformation.weebly.com

Jul 2016 **Session Chair** • *British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference* | University of Cardiff, UK

Jun 2016 **Session Chair** • *Society for Philosophy of Science Annual Conference* | University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Aug 2015 **Session Chair** • *Congress for Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science* | University of Helsinki, Finland

Apr 2014 **Roundtable discussant** • *Sydney Meeting on Quantum Foundations* | University of Sydney

Honorary Affiliations

Feb 2015– **External Member** • Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy | LMU Munich.

Academic Referees

James Ladyman • Professor of Philosophy, University of Bristol | PhD supervisor

Huw Price • Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy, University of Cambridge | PhD examiner and director of former research project

Mathias Frisch • Professor of Theoretical Philosophy, Institute for Philosophy of Science, Leibniz University of Hannover | Professional acquaintance

Alexander Bird • Professor of Philosophy, University of Bristol | PhD examiner

Dean Rickles • Professor of Philosophy of Science, Unit for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Sydney | Co-director of former research project

Deborah Brown • Associate Professor of Philosophy, School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland | Former colleague and mentor