

MATT FARR

School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry | University of Queensland
Forgan Smith Building | St Lucia | QLD 4072 | Australia

☎ +61 7 3365 2613 • ✉ m.farr@uq.edu.au • 🌐 mattfarr.co.uk

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

2014– **Postdoctoral Research Fellow** • Philosophy, University of Queensland
Project: *The Causal Power of Information in a Quantum World* | Directors: Phil Dowe & Gerard Milburn

2013–2014 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow** • Center for Time, Philosophy, University of Sydney
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 A. 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: 26* **h-Index: 3***

Cited in: Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society; 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*, 16/05/2017

Works in Progress

UNDER REVIEW

- 2017 **Explaining Temporal Qualia** • Under review
 Latest version: <http://www.mattfarr.co.uk/files/theme/etq.pdf>
- 2017 **Temporal Ontology in Perspective** • Under review
 Latest version: <http://www.mattfarr.co.uk/files/theme/top.pdf>
- 2017 **The C Theory of Time** • Under review

MONOGRAPH

- Exp. 2017 ***The Temporally Adirectional Universe: A defence of the C theory of time***
 This book sets out and defends a new and alternative theory of time: the 'C Theory' of time. The C theory offers new ways of thinking about fundamental philosophical notions at the centre of scientific enquiry, such as causation, explanation, chance, probability, and of course time itself. 11 chapters; 98,000 words.

DRAFTS

- In preparation **Perceiving backwards causation**
- In preparation **The Past Hypothesis needs no causal explanation**
- In preparation **What is the problem of quantum causation?** • With Sally Shrapnel (Queensland)
- In preparation **The Metaphysics of Multi-Fingered Time** • With Karim Thébault (Bristol)
- Under revision **Pre-entanglement shows that individual quantum systems do not possess states** • With David Miller (Sydney) | arxiv.org/abs/1405.2757

Selected Talks

Perceiving Backwards Causation

⊕ = Forthcoming

REFEREED CONFERENCES

- ⊕ Jul 2017 *British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference*, University of Edinburgh
 ⊕ Oct 2017 *Society for Metaphysics of Science*, Fordham University, New York

Explaining Temporal Qualia

INVITED COLLOQUIA

- 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 2013 School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland

REFEREED CONFERENCES

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

UNIT COORDINATOR

2015 **Advanced Topics in Metaphysics: Time and Causation** • University of Queensland
3rd year undergraduate unit | Department of Philosophy | Full responsibility for course design | 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 | 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 | 12 two-hour seminars

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

GUEST LECTURER

- 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
- 2009 **Doctoral scholarship (full award)** • Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK

VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

- Nov–Dec 2015 **Group Visiting Fellowship** • Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy

CONFERENCE GRANTS

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

TRAVEL GRANTS

- 2016 **University of Queensland Research Grant** • University of Queensland
- 2014 **School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry Travel Grant** • University of Sydney
- 2013 **School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry Travel Grant** • University of Sydney
- 2012 **Travel Grant** • Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany
- 2011 **Travel Grant** • National Science Foundation, USA
- 2011 **Postgraduate Travel Grant** • Bristol University Alumni Foundation
- 2011 **School of Arts Postgraduate Conference Grant** • University of Bristol
- 2011 **Conference Bursary** • British Society for the Philosophy of Science
- 2010 **School of Arts Postgraduate Conference Grant** • University of Bristol

2010 **Conference bursary** • British Society for the Philosophy of Science

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 *The Causal Power of Information in a Quantum World* | 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 *New Agendas for the Study of Time* | 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 *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*
- 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–
2015 **Category editor for PhilPapers** • Category: *Causal Eliminativism*.
Guest Journal Editor • *Synthese* | Special issue: ‘Conventional Principles in Science’.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 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 previous 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 previous research project
- Deborah Brown** • Associate Professor of Philosophy, School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland | Colleague and current supervisor