

MATT FARR

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Research Interests

Metaphysics • Time; causation; modality; agency; methodology of metaphysics

Philosophy of Science • Causal explanation; laws of nature; indeterminism

Philosophy of Physics • Direction of time; symmetries; ontology of quantum mechanics

Philosophy of Mind • Time perception; physicalism; cognitive illusions

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)
- 2007 **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

- Forth. **Causation and Time Reversal** • *British Journal for Philosophy of Science*
Latest version: <http://www.mattfarr.co.uk/files/theme/ctr.pdf>
- 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
With Milena 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 Sam Baron, John Cusbert, Maria Kon & Kristie 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

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>

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2016 **Review of Mathias Frisch's *Causal Reasoning in Physics*** • *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* | [dx.doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axwo20](https://doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axwo20) | 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

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2014 **Causation, Time Symmetry and Russell's Directionality Argument** • Blogpost for *New Agendas for the Study of time* | <https://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: 22* **h-Index: 3***

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

*Source: *Google Scholar*

Works in Progress

UNDER REVIEW

- 2016 **Temporal Ontology in Perspective** | Latest version: <http://www.mattfarr.co.uk/files/theme/top.pdf>
- 2016 **The C Theory of Time**
- 2016 **Realism about Time Direction**

MONOGRAPH

- Exp. 2017 ***The C Theory of Time: Reassessing the Philosophy and Physics of Time***
A book examining the metaphysics of time in light of the role of first and third person explanations in science and causal assumptions in physics. 10 chapters; 90,000 words. In progress.

DRAFTS

- In preparation **Explaining Temporal Qualia**
- In preparation **The Past Hypothesis needs no time-directed explanation**
- In preparation **Two-Timing Presentism**
- In preparation **A new (lack of) perspective on McTaggart's paradox**
- 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

Explaining Temporal Qualia

☺ = Forthcoming

INVITED COLLOQUIA

Nov 2016 Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU Munich.
Oct 2016 School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland

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

2014–2015 **Associate PhD Supervisor** • Alexandra Varlakov | Philosophy, University of Queensland | Philosophy of information

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 £2,500
 2009 **Doctoral scholarship (full award)** • Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK £50,000

VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

Nov–Dec 2015 **Senior 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 workshop *The Present State of Presentism.* £100

TRAVEL GRANTS

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 Principal organiser 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

2016–	Dialectica; Theoria; Analytic Philosophy
2015–	Philosophical Studies
2014–	Synthese*; European Journal for Philosophy of Science*; International Studies in Philosophy of Science
2013–	Erkenntnis*; Symmetry
2012–	Philosophy of Science*
2009–	British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*

Reviewer of Book Manuscripts

- 2016 Harvard University Press
 2013 Chicago University Press

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* | causal-information.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

Available upon request.