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## Alison Sutton Fernandes

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**Areas of Specialisation**      Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Physics

**Areas of Competence**      Epistemology, History of Philosophy (German Idealism)

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### EDUCATION

2016    Ph.D. (Philosophy)  
Department of Philosophy  
Columbia University

*Thesis: A Deliberative Account of Causation: How the Evidence of Deliberating Agents Accounts for Causation and its Temporal Direction*

Committee: Achille Varzi (sponsor), John Collins, Jenann Ismael

Fundamental physics makes no reference to causes, and seems radically at odds with the very idea of causation. Its laws don't distinguish between the past and future, and don't relate individual states (as causal relations do) but only states of the universe as a whole. This dissertation explains how causation fits into a scientific picture of the world by relating it to deliberation: causal relations correspond to the evidential relations we use when we decide on one thing in order to achieve another. Tamsin's taking her umbrella, for example, counts as a *cause* of her staying dry if and only if her *deciding* to take her umbrella is grounds for thinking she'll stay dry. Causation has an epistemic nature: it relates to evidence and matters for decision-making. An important advantage of this approach is that it allows causal asymmetry to be derived from temporally symmetric laws and features of deliberation. When agents properly deliberate about what to do, their decisions aren't evidence for past outcomes they seek. It follows that causes always come before their effects.

2010    M.Phil. (Philosophy)  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Sydney, Australia

2009    B.Sc. (Advanced) (Physics, Chemistry)/B.A. (Philosophy)  
University of Sydney, Australia  
First Class Honours with University Medal (Philosophy), 6 year combined degree

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2017–    University of Warwick, Department of Philosophy  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, AHRC Project: 'Time: Between Metaphysics and Psychology'

2016–    University of Pittsburgh, Center for Philosophy of Science  
2017    Postdoctoral Research Fellow

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

- Forth. 'A Deliberative Approach to Causation', *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.  
2016 'Varieties of Epistemic Freedom', *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 94(4): 736–751.

### Book Chapters

- Forth. 'Time, Flies, and Why We Can't Control the Past', in press, in Barry Loewer, Eric Winsberg and Brad Weslake (eds.) *Time's Arrows and the Probability Structure of the World*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

### Articles Under Review

- 'Time Travel, Counterfactuals, and the Open Future'  
'I Think therefore I Will: Fichtean Insights into Freedom and Belief'

### Articles In Preparation

- 'Freedom, Self-Prediction and Time Travel'  
'Do Humean Chances Justify Following the Principal Principle?'

## INVITED TALKS

- 2018 'Time Travel and Causal Asymmetry'  
Royal Institute of Philosophy Seminar Series, University of Nottingham
- 2017 'The Temporal Asymmetry of Chance'  
The Second Law of Thermodynamics Conference, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy  
Centre for Philosophy of Time Colloquium Series, University of Milan  
Philosophy and Science Colloquium, Leibniz University, Hannover  
Center for Philosophy of Science Talk Series, University of Pittsburgh
- 2017 'Do Humean Chances Justify Following the Principal Principle?'  
Foundations of Probability Seminar Series, Rutgers University  
Philosophy of Science: Contemporary Debates Series, University of Edinburgh
- 2017 'Time Travel, and Causal Asymmetry'  
Where is there Causation? Workshop, Umeå University, Sweden
- 2017 'Temporal Asymmetries: From Psychology to Metaphysics and Back Again'  
Future Thinking and Its Development, Queens University Belfast
- 2017 'Causal Asymmetry and the Trouble with Time Travel'  
Departmental Colloquium, University of Arizona
- 2016 'Causal Asymmetry and the Trouble with Time Travel'  
Causation and the Physical World Workshop, University of Cologne
- 2016 'A Deliberative Account of Causation'  
Philosophy of Physics Workshop, University of Arizona
- 2015 'Propensities for Agent-based Accounts of Causation'  
Propensities and Statistics Seminar, Institute of Philosophy, University of London  
Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge
- 2015 'The Trouble with Epistemic Freedom'  
Current Projects, University of Sydney
- 2014 'Time Asymmetries in Causation, Influence and Deliberation'  
Sigma Club, London School of Economics
- 2014 'Why Causes? Justifying Causal Talk in Epistemic Terms'  
Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge
- 2013 'Time Asymmetries of Agency'  
Time Symmetry Conference, University of Sydney

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Presentations

- 2017 'Best Systems or Bust'  
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference
- 2017 'Temporal Asymmetries: From Psychology to Metaphysics and Back Again'  
European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference
- 2017 'Freedom, Self-Prediction and the Metaphysics of Time Travel'  
International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference, Milan
- 2017 'Freedom, Self-Prediction and the Psychology of Time Travel'  
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting
- 2016 'A Deliberative Account of Causation'  
Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting
- 2016 'Freedom, Self-Prediction and the Psychology of Time Travel'  
Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association (Postgraduate Session)
- 2016 'Time Travel, Counterfactuals and Holding the Past and Present Fixed'  
Metaphysics of Space, Time and Spacetime, International Graduate Conference
- 2015 'A Deliberative Account of Causation'  
Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association  
10th UK Integrated History and Philosophy of Science Workshop  
Metaphysics of Science Summer School, University of Helsinki
- 2015 'Causation Made Useful'  
Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference
- 2015 'Epistemic Freedom and the Unity of Practical and Theoretical Reason in Fichte'  
Freedom and Autonomy, University of Essex 18th International Graduate Conference
- 2014 'An Epistemic Model of Practical Deliberation'  
Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association
- 2012 'Why (It Seems) We Cannot Influence the Past: An Appeal to Deliberative Agency'  
38th Conference on Value Inquiry  
Pittsburgh/Carnegie-Mellon University Graduate Conference  
University South Florida Graduate Conference
- 2011 'Realism and Response-Dependence'  
Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference
- 2009 'Fichte and the Norm of Truth'  
Australian Society for Continental Philosophy Conference
- 2009 'McDowell and Fichte on Experience: Anti-Foundationalism and Rational Revision in Epistemology'  
Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

- 2015 Summer Teaching Scholar Competition for undergraduate course proposal, Columbia University
- 2015 Lina Kahn Metaphysics Essay Prize, Columbia University
- 2014 Charles Frankel Memorial Fund Fellowship, Columbia University (faculty nominated)
- 2013 Sidney Morgenbesser Fellowship, Columbia University (faculty nominated)
- 2012 David H. Siff Philosophy of Science Essay Prize, Columbia University
- 2010 Columbia University Faculty Fellow (full funding)
- 2009 University of Sydney Postgraduate Award (full funding)
- 2009 University Medal for Philosophy, University of Sydney
- 2008 Walter Reid Memorial Prize for Academic Performance in Arts, University of Sydney
- 2008 Honours Scholarship, University of Sydney (full tuition funding)
- 2007 Walter Reid Memorial Prize for Academic Performance in Arts, University of Sydney
- 2007 Dean's List of Excellence in Academic Performance, University of Sydney

## TEACHING

<b>Instructor</b> , University of Warwick MA Research Methods		PH9F2-20	Term 1 2017, Term 2 2018
<b>Instructor</b> , Columbia University Time Travel, Free Will and Causation Summer Teaching Scholar, designed original syllabus		PHIL S3602	Summer 2015
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Columbia University Feminism and Philosophy	Christia Mercer	PHILV2110	Fall 2014
Metaphysics	Achille Varzi	PHILV3601	Fall 2013
Kant	Patricia Kitcher	PHILV3251	Spring 2013
Methods and Problems	David Albert	PHILC1010	Fall 2012
Methods and Problems	John Collins	PHILC1010	Spring 2012
Ethics	Katja Vogt	PHILV3701	Fall 2011
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , University of Sydney Reality, Ethics and Beauty		PHIL1011	Semester 1, 2010

## VISITING POSITIONS

2014 Visiting Graduate Student, University of Cambridge

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Reviewer

*Analysis*, 2017

*Synthese*, 2017

*Minds and Machines*, 2017

*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 2016

*Philosophy of Science*, 2015–2016

*American Philosophical Quarterly*, 2015

*Journal of Philosophical Research*, 2015

*British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2014

*Erkenntnis*, 2013–2015

### Editorial Board and Contributor

*Philosophy of Science Association Women's Caucus* Blog, 2015–2017

*Investigations in the Philosophy of Cosmology* Blog, 2012–2014

### Conference Organisation

Temporal Asymmetries in Philosophy and Psychology, 2018

UK Joint Session Volunteer, 2014

Naturalism in German Idealism Conference, 2013

New York German Idealism Workshop, 2012–13

CU/NYU Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2011

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative, Columbia University, 2012–2013

Co-founder and Organiser, Columbia University Graduate Workshop, 2011–2013

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association  
Philosophy of Science Association  
Aristotelian Society  
British Society for the Philosophy of Science  
European Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
Society for the Metaphysics of Science

## IMPACT AND OUTREACH

Talk: 'Time Travel, Entropy, and Why the Future is Different from the Past', St Paul's School, London, 2017  
Arts workshop organiser and speaker: 'Philosophy and Psychology of Time', Belfast, 2017  
Volunteer philosophy teacher, Free School Manhattan, 2011

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Innovative Teaching Summer Institute, Columbia University, 2015  
Collaborative Learning Certificate, Columbia University, 2014

## LANGUAGES

English: Native speaker  
German: Reading, writing, speaking, B2/C1 level (Advanced German I, Columbia University)

## REFEREES

**Achille Varzi**,  
*Professor of Philosophy*  
Columbia University  
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*Frederick E. Woodbridge Professor of Philosophy*  
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**Edouard Machery**, *Distinguished Professor and  
Director of the Center for Philosophy of Science*  
University of Pittsburgh  
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Teaching portfolio, writing samples, transcripts and further materials available on request.  
Please email A.Fernandes.1@warwick.ac.uk.