
Alison Sutton Fernandes

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

Areas of Competence Epistemology

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
- 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)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2018– Trinity College Dublin, Department of Philosophy
Assistant Professor
- 2017– University of Warwick, Department of Philosophy
- 2018 Research Fellow, UK AHRC Project: ‘Time: Between Metaphysics and Psychology’
- 2016– University of Pittsburgh, Center for Philosophy of Science
- 2017 Postdoctoral Research Fellow

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- 2023 Research Ally Award, Irish Research Council
- 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 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

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2023 *The Temporal Asymmetry of Causation*. Cambridge Elements in Philosophy of Physics, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Edited Volumes

2022 Christoph Hoerl, Teresa McCormack and Alison Fernandes (eds.) *Temporal Asymmetries in Philosophy and Psychology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sole-authored Refereed Journal Articles

- Forth. ‘The Branchpoint Proposal and the Role of Counterfactuals’, *The Journal of Philosophy*
- 2022 ‘How to Explain the Direction of Time’, *Synthese*. 200(5): 1–30.
- 2022 ‘Back to the Present: How Not to Use Counterfactuals to Explain Causal Asymmetry’, *Philosophies*. 7(2): 43.
- 2021 ‘Does the Temporal Asymmetry of Value Support a Tensed Metaphysics?’, *Synthese*. 198(5): 3999–4016.
- 2021 ‘Time Travel and Counterfactual Asymmetry’, *Synthese*. 198(3): 1983–2001.
- 2020 ‘Freedom, Self-Prediction, and the Possibility of Time Travel’, *Philosophical Studies*. 177(1): 89–108.
- 2017 ‘A Deliberative Approach to Causation’, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 95(3): 686–708.
- 2016 ‘Varieties of Epistemic Freedom’, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 94(4): 736–751.

Co-authored Refereed Journal Articles

- 2022 Ruth Lee, Jack Shardlow, Christoph Hoerl, Patrick A. O’Connor, Alison Fernandes, Teresa McCormack, ‘Towards an account of intuitive time’, *Cognitive Science*. 46(7)
- 2021 Jack Shardlow, Ruth Lee, Christoph Hoerl, Teresa McCormack, Alison S. Fernandes, Patrick Burns, ‘Exploring people’s beliefs about the experience of time’, *Synthese*. 198 (11): 10709–10731.
- 2020 Ruth Lee, Christoph Hoerl, Patrick Burns, Alison S. Fernandes, Patrick A. O’Connor, & Teresa McCormack, ‘Pain in the Past and Pleasure in the Future: Past-Future Preferences for Hedonic Goods’, *Cognitive Science*. 44(9): e12887. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.12887>

Invited Submissions

- Forth. ‘The Direction of Time’, in Nina Emery (ed.) *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Time*, London: Routledge.
- 2023 ‘Naturalism, Functionalism and Chance: Not a Best Fit for the Humean’, in Michael Hicks, Siegfried Jaag and Christian Loew (eds.) *Humean Laws for Human Agents*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2023 ‘Time, Flies, and Why We Can’t Control the Past’, in Barry Loewer, Brad Weslake and Eric Winsberg (eds.) *The Probability Map of the Universe: Essays on David Albert’s Time and Chance*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. pp. 312–34.
- 2022 ‘Caring for Our Future Selves’, in Christoph Hoerl, Teresa McCormack and Alison Fernandes (eds.) *Temporal Asymmetries in Philosophy and Psychology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2018 ‘Causation: Further Themes’, *Routledge Online Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.

In Preparation

‘Could there ever have been a Direction of Time’

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 ‘Two Projects on the Direction of Time’
Milan
University of Stirling
- 2023 ‘Explaining Temporal Asymmetries’
FramePhys Workshop, University of Birmingham
Direction of Time Workshop, University College Dublin

- 2023 The Direction of Time in a Physical World Workshop, Cologne
'How to Explain the Direction of Time'
Online Symmetry Workshop
- 2023 'Naturalism, Functionalism and the Metaphysics of Science'
Colloquium in Logic and Philosophy of Science, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
Foundations of Physics Seminar, Harvard University
Metaphysics and Epistemology Seminar, Oxford University
- 2022 'Naturalist Metaphysics and the Direction of Time'
Blue Sky Thinking Workshop
- 2022 'Naturalism, Functionalism and the Metaphysics of Science'
Physics, Time and Agency Conference, Dublin
CEU Summer School on the Metaphysics of Laws and Chance, Budapest
- 2022 'How Agency Features in Explaining the Direction of Causation'
Causal Perspectivalism Conference, University of Birmingham
- 2022 'The Role of Agency in the Metaphysics of Time'
Time: Appearance and Reality Workshop, University of Milan
- 2022 'Evidence-Based Accounts of Chances and Counterfactuals'
Metaphysics of Science Seminar Series, University of Bristol
- 2022 'Naturalism, Agency and the Metaphysics of Science'
Former Fellows Talks, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
- 2022 'Three Accounts of Laws and Time'
Departmental Colloquium, University of Bristol
- 2020 'Evidence-Based Science'
Digital Metaphysics
- 2019 'The Direction of Time and its Expression in Records'
All Things Reichenbach, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
Foundations of Physics Workshop, Columbia University
- 2019 'Asymmetries of Agency'
Agency and Time Workshop, University of Hamburg
- 2019 'Why Do We Deliberate Towards the Future?'
The Humbolt Conversation in Philosophy Series, University of Leipzig
- 2019 'Do We Need Humean Accounts of Chance to Justify the Principal Principle?'
Humean Laws Workshop, Harvard University
- 2019 'Three Accounts of Laws and Time'
Keynote, Durham Graduate Conference in Metaphysics
- 2018 'Four Ways for Agency to Feature in the Philosophy of (Relatively) Fundamental Physics'
Workshop on the Future of the Foundations of Physics, Columbia University
- 2018 'Three Accounts of Laws and Time, *or*: Does Science Need Metaphysics?'
Departmental Colloquium, University of Stirling
Metro Area Philosophy of Science Talk, NYU/Rutgers/CUNY/Columbia, New York
- 2018 'Three Accounts of Laws and Time'
History and Metaphysics of the Laws of Nature Conference, CEU Budapest
Time and Explanation Workshop, University of Milan and FraMEPhys Project
Workshop for Achille Varzi on the Occasion of his Unbirthday, University of Milan
- 2018 'Counterfactuals, Time Travel, and the Distant Present'
Time and Time Again Workshop, University College Dublin
- 2018 'The Time Traveller's Guide to Causation'
Royal Institute of Philosophy Seminar Series, University of Nottingham
- 2018 'Explaining the Temporal Value Asymmetry'
Time and the Observer Conference, UC San Diego
- 2018 'Does a Temporal Asymmetry of Value Support a Tensed Metaphysics?'
Departmental Colloquium, University of Birmingham

- 2017 ‘Do Humean Reductions of Chance Justify the Principal Principle?’
Foundations of Probability Seminar Series, Rutgers University
- 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
Philosophy of Physics Seminar, University of Oxford
- 2017 ‘The Time Traveller’s Guide to Causation’
Where is there Causation? Workshop, Umeå University, Sweden
Venice Seminar on Causal & Explanatory Reasoning, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
Philosophy of Science: Contemporary Debates Series, University of Edinburgh
- 2017 ‘A Deliberative Account of Causation’
London Judgement and Decision Making Seminar, jointly with LSE Choice Group
- 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

- 2024 ‘Two Projects on the Direction of Time’
International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference, Lugano
- 2023 ‘Reconciling Accounts of Causation’
European Congress for Analytic Philosophy
- 2022 ‘Caring for Our Future Selves’
International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference, Barcelona
- 2021 ‘Evidence-based Accounts of Chance and Counterfactuals’
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference
- 2019 ‘Can the Past be Chancy?’
International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference, Boulder
- 2018 ‘Does a Temporal Asymmetry of Value Support a Tensed Metaphysics?’
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference, Milan
International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference, Seoul
- 2017 ‘Best Systems or Bust’
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Conference
- 2017 ‘Temporal Asymmetries: From Psychology to Metaphysics and Back Again’

- 2017 European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference
‘Freedom, Self-Prediction and the Metaphysics of Time Travel’
- 2017 International Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference
‘Freedom, Self-Prediction and the Psychology of Time Travel’
- 2016 American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting
‘A Deliberative Account of Causation’
- 2016 Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting
‘Freedom, Self-Prediction and the Psychology of Time Travel’
- 2016 Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association (Postgraduate Session)
‘Time Travel, Counterfactuals and Holding the Past and Present Fixed’
- 2015 Metaphysics of Space, Time and Spacetime, International Graduate Conference
‘A Deliberative Account of Causation’
- 2015 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 ‘McDowell and Fichte on Experience: Anti-Foundationalism and Rational Revision in Epistemology’
Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference
- 2009 ‘Fichte and the Norm of Truth’
Australian Society for Continental Philosophy Conference

TEACHING

Instructor, Trinity College Dublin

Metaphysics: Science and Modality	MPhil	2019, 2020, 2022
History, Philosophy and Ethics of Science	2 nd year	2020, 2021, 2023
Philosophy of Science	2 nd year	2020, 2021, 2023
Metaphysics (survey course)	3 rd year	2019, 2019, 2021, 2022
Metaphysics: Freedom and Time	4 th year	2018, 2019

Instructor, University of Hamburg

Reading Seminar ‘Agency Past and Future’

July 2019

Instructor, University of Warwick

MA Research Methods

PH9F2

2017, 2018

Instructor, Columbia University

Time Travel, Free Will and Causation

PHIL S3602

Summer 2015

Summer Teaching Scholar, designed original syllabus

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for the Metaphysics of Science
Society for the Philosophy of Time
British Society for the Philosophy of Science
Irish Philosophical Club
Irish Philosophical Society
Aristotelian Society (lifetime member)

Research Affiliations

Charter Fellow, John Bell Institute for the Foundations of Physics
Centre for Philosophy of Time, University of Sydney

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer

American Philosophical Quarterly, 2015
Analysis, 2017–2022
Analytic Philosophy, 2018–2021
Australasian Journal of Philosophy, 2023
British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, 2014–2020
Ergo, 2024
Erkenntnis, 2013–2023
European Journal for Philosophy of Science, 2019–2022
Journal for General Philosophy of Science, 2018
Journal of Philosophical Research, 2015–2018
Journal of Philosophy, 2019–2020
Mind and Machines, 2017
Mind, 2018
Noûs, 2020
Philosophia, 2024
Philosophical Psychology, 2018–2020
Philosophical Quarterly, 2018
Philosophical Review, 2018
Philosophical Studies, 2018
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, 2016–2024
Philosophy Compass, 2020
Philosophy of Science, 2015–2019
Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, 2023
Swiss National Science Foundation (project reviewer), 2019
Synthese, 2017–2023

Advisory Board

Epistemic Studies (edited book series), Scientific Advisory Board, 2018–9
International Association for Philosophy of Time, Steering Committee, 2020–2024

Editorial Board and Contributor

A Guide for Philosophers in Non-Permanent Employment in the UK, BPA and SWIP UK publication, 2018
Philosophy of Science Association Women's Caucus Blog, 2015–2017
Investigations in the Philosophy of Cosmology Blog, 2012–2014

Conference and Event Organisation

Physics, Time, and Agency Conference, Lead Organiser, Dublin, 2022
European Philosophy of Science Association, Program Committee, Turin, 2021
Fourth International Conference on the History of Physics, Program Committee, Dublin, 2020

Foundations of Physics Conference, Co-organiser, Columbia University, 2019
It's a Matter of Time, Co-organiser, Dublin, 2019
Time in Mind Workshop, Co-organiser, Dublin, 2019
Irish Society for the Philosophy of Time, Co-founder and co-director, 2019–
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference, Program Committee, Milan, 2018
Temporal Asymmetries in Philosophy and Psychology, Co-organiser, University of Warwick, 2018
Second Law of Thermodynamics Conference, Program Committee, Munich, 2017
Naturalism in German Idealism Conference, Co-organiser, New York, 2013
New York German Idealism Workshop, Co-organiser, 2012–13

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Philosophy by Postcard Writer, Iris Murdoch Centenary, 2019
Trinity Panel of Experts Exhibit Response, Perfection, Dublin, 2019
Guest Speaker at Trinity College Dublin Access Summer School, 2019
Article: 'The future seems wide open with possibilities – but is it?', *Aeon*, 22 Feb 2019
Interview with *The Irish Times*: 'Living in the now: It's not as simple as you'd think', 22 Jan 2019
Panel Speaker: 'Back from the End of Time', HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye, 2018
Arts Workshop Organiser and Presenter: 'Philosophy and Psychology of Time', Belfast, 2017, 2018
Talk: 'Time Travel, Entropy, and Why the Future is Different from the Past', St Paul's School, London, 2017

REFEREES

Jenann Ismael, *Professor of Philosophy*
University of Arizona
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jtismael@email.arizona.edu

Huw Price, *Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy*
University of Cambridge
+44 (0) 1223 335 090
hp331@cam.ac.uk

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Columbia University
+1 212 854 3531
av72@columbia.edu

Jessica John Collins, *Associate Professor of Philosophy*
Columbia University
+1 212 854 3970
jdc9@columbia.edu

David Albert,
Frederick E. Woodbridge Professor of Philosophy
Columbia University
+1 212 854 3519
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Barry Loewer, *Professor of Philosophy*
Rutgers University
+1 848 932 6768
loewer@rci.rutgers.edu

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Columbia University
+1 212 854 7887
wrm4@columbia.edu