
Alison Sutton Fernandes

Department of Philosophy
Trinity College Dublin
College Green
Dublin 2, Ireland

alison.fernandes@tcd.ie
alisonfernandes.net

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

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

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

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

- 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

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 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.

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.

Invited Submissions

- 2018 'Causation: Further Themes', Routledge Online Encyclopaedia of Philosophy.

Articles Under Review

- 'Freedom, Self-Prediction, and the Possibility of Time Travel'
- 'Time Travel and Counterfactual Asymmetry'
- 'Does the Temporal Asymmetry of Value Support a Tensed Metaphysics?'
- 'I Think therefore I Will: Fichtean Insights into Freedom and Belief'

Articles In Preparation

- 'Do Humean Reductions of Chance Justify the Principal Principle?'

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 'Does a Temporal Asymmetry of Value Support a Tensed Metaphysics?'
- Agency and Time Workshop, University of Hamburg
- 2018 'Three Accounts of Time and Chance'
- History and Metaphysics of the Laws of Nature Conference, CEU Budapest
- Time and Explanation Workshop, University of Milan and FraMEPhys Project
- 2018 'The Time Traveller's Guide to Causation'
- Royal Institute of Philosophy Seminar Series, University of Nottingham
- 2018 'Does a Temporal Asymmetry of Value Support a Tensed Metaphysics?'
- Departmental Colloquium, University of Birmingham
- 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 'Do Humean Reductions of Chance Justify the Principal Principle?'
Foundations of Probability Seminar Series, Rutgers University
- 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

- 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'
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
- 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 '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

Invited Panel

- 2018 'Explaining the Temporal Value Asymmetry'
Time and the Observer Conference, UC San Diego

TEACHING

Instructor, Trinity College Dublin

Metaphysics: Science and Modality	PI7104	Term 2, 2018
Metaphysics (survey course)	PI3117/3017	Term 2, 2018
Metaphysics: Freedom and Time	PI4042/4142	Term 1, 2018

Instructor, University of Warwick

MA Research Methods	PH9F2	Term 1 2017, Term 2 2018
---------------------	-------	--------------------------

Instructor, Columbia University

Time Travel, Free Will and Causation Summer Teaching Scholar, designed original syllabus	PHIL S3602	Summer 2015
---	------------	-------------

Teaching Assistant, 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

Teaching Assistant, University of Sydney

Reality, Ethics and Beauty	PHIL1011	Semester 1, 2010
----------------------------	----------	------------------

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer

Philosophical Review, 2018
Philosophical Studies, 2018
Analysis, 2017–2018
Synthese, 2017
Philosophical Psychology, 2017–2018
Minds and Machines, 2017
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, 2016
Philosophy of Science, 2015–2017
American Philosophical Quarterly, 2015
Journal of Philosophical Research, 2015
British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, 2014–2018
Erkenntnis, 2013–2015

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 Organisation

Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference program committee, Milan, 2018
Temporal Asymmetries in Philosophy and Psychology, University of Warwick, 2018
Naturalism in German Idealism Conference, New York, 2013
New York German Idealism Workshop, 2012–13
Columbia University/NYU Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2011

IMPACT

Panel Speaker: 'Back from the End of Time', HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye, 2018
Talk: 'Time Travel, Entropy, and Why the Future is Different from the Past', St Paul's School, London, 2017
Arts Workshop Organiser and Presenter: 'Philosophy and Psychology of Time', Belfast, 2017, 2018

REFEREES

Achille Varzi, *Professor of Philosophy*
Columbia University
+1 212 854 3531
av72@columbia.edu

Jenann Ismael, *Professor of Philosophy*
University of Arizona
+1 520 621 5045
jtismael@email.arizona.edu

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

Barry Loewer, *Professor of Philosophy*
Rutgers University
+1 848 932 6768
loewer@rci.rutgers.edu

David Albert,
Frederick E. Woodbridge Professor of Philosophy
Columbia University
+1 212 854 3519
da5@columbia.edu

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