

ROBERT NORTHCOTT

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Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-St Louis, August 2005–ongoing

AOS: philosophy of science, metaphysics, philosophy of special sciences
AOC: economics, ethics

Publications

1) Journal

- J6) 'Weighted explanations in history'
Philosophy of the Social Sciences 38.1, March 2008, pp76-96
- J5) 'Can ANOVA measure causal strength?'
Quarterly Review of Biology 83.1, March 2008, pp47-55
- J4) 'Causation and contrast classes'
Philosophical Studies 39.1, May 2008, pp111-123
- J3) 'Causal efficacy and the analysis of variance'
Biology and Philosophy 21.2, March 2006, pp253-276
- J2) 'Pearson's wrong turning: against statistical measures of causal efficacy'
Philosophy of Science 72.5, December 2005, pp900-912
- J1) 'Comparing apples with oranges'
Analysis 65.1, January 2005, pp12-18

2) Other scholarly

- S3) 'Progress in economics: lessons from the spectrum auctions'
Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Economics, forthcoming (Don Ross and Harold Kincaid, eds)
(co-authored with Anna Alexandrova)
- S2) Review of 'The Scientific Study of Society' by Max Steuer
Economics and Philosophy 20.2, October 2004, pp375-381
(co-authored with Anna Alexandrova)
- S1) 'Defining causal strength'
CPNSS Discussion Paper CTR 14/03, September 2003

3) Popular

- P1) 'The Irrational Game: why there's no perfect system'
in Eric Bronson (ed), *Poker and Philosophy* (Open Court, 2006), pp105-115

Education

PhD Philosophy, London School of Economics, July 2004

Advisers: Colin Howson, Nancy Cartwright

Thesis title: 'Approximate truth and causal strength in science'

MSc Economics, London School of Economics

Average grade: 67 (in top six of year, from about 125 students in total)

Diploma in Economics, King's College, University of Cambridge

Grade: 1* distinction (in top three of whole year of economics undergraduates)

BA Mathematics and History, King's College, University of Cambridge

Part II History, Grade: 2.1 Part IA Mathematics, Grade: 2.1

S-levels, Hampstead Comprehensive School

Subjects and grades: Chemistry 1, Physics 1, Further Mathematics 2

A-levels, Hampstead Comprehensive School

Ancient History A, Chemistry A, Further Mathematics A, Mathematics A, Physics A

Awards and Scholarships

-- UM Research Board award, 'Measuring causal strength in biology', spring-fall 2008 (\$20,000)

-- UMSL Research Award, 'Causes in science and philosophy', fall 2006 (c \$7,000)
(--UMSL Research Award, 'Measuring causal strength in biology', spring 2008 (\$7000)
-- declined)

-- UMSL Small Grants, spring 2006, 2007 and 2008 (up to \$1000 each)

-- Jacobsen Essay Prize in philosophy, University of London (open to all U of L faculty and graduate students), March 2004

-- Analysis Trust scholarship, October 1999–September 2000 (c 15,000 pounds)

-- Inaugural LSE Department of Economics teaching prize, June 1998

Presentations (* = refereed conference presentation)

*-- 'Innateness and science', Biological Explanations of Behavior, Hannover, June 2008

*-- 'Apportioning explanatory responsibility', Pacific APA, Pasadena, March 2008

-- 'Innateness and science', University of Pittsburgh, February 2008

*-- 'Apportioning explanatory responsibility', Illinois Philosophical Association, Edwardsville, November 2007

-- Commentary on Denis Walsh's 'The Pomp of Superfluous Causes', Kline philosophy of biology workshop, University of Missouri-Columbia, September 2007

*-- 'Causation and contrast classes', Mind/Aristotelian Society, Bristol, July 2007

*-- 'Innateness and science', British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Bristol, July 2007

- *-- ‘Weighted explanations in history’, Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, Tampa, March 2007
- ‘Weighted explanations in history’, Philosophy of Science WiP, Washington University St Louis, March 2007
- *-- ‘ANOVA and causal strength in biology’, Does Philosophy Matter to Science?, New York, March 2007
- ‘What is innateness?’, Biology departmental seminar, University of Missouri-St Louis, February 2007
- *-- ‘Innateness and science’, Midsouth philosophy conference, Memphis, February 2007
- ‘Innateness and science’, University of Missouri-St Louis WiP, February 2007
- ‘Natural-born determinists: causal judgment in a probabilistic world’, Philosophy, Neuroscience and Psychology WiP, Washington University St Louis, September 2006
- *-- ‘Genes, environment and causation’, British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Southampton, July 2006

- *-- ‘Natural-born determinists: causation in a probabilistic world’, Causality and probability in the sciences, Kent, June 2006
- *-- ‘Natural-born determinists: ex post versus ex ante judgments of probabilistic causation’, Society for Exact Philosophy, San Diego, May 2006
- ‘Is causation dispensable?’, University of Missouri-St Louis WiP, October 2005
- ‘Causation and contrast classes’, University of Delaware, January 2005
- ‘Intuition reversals and theories of causation’, UC San Diego Experimental Philosophy Laboratory, January 2005
- *-- ‘Pearson’s wrong turning: against statistical measures of causal efficacy’, Philosophy of Science Association, Austin, November 2004
- ‘Causation and contrast classes’, LSE Causality: Metaphysics and Methods research group, June 2004
- ‘Causation and contrast classes’, UC San Diego colloquium, April 2004
- ‘Pearson’s wrong turning: against statistical measures of causal efficacy’, UC San Diego Experimental Philosophy Laboratory, February 2004
- ‘Commensurability, interaction and causal strength’, UC San Diego Experimental Philosophy Laboratory, December 2003

- ‘Defining causal strength, and why it matters’, UC San Diego Science Studies, December 2003
- ‘Causal strength and the analysis of variance’, LSE Causality: Metaphysics and Methods research group, July 2003
- ‘Causal strength and causal interaction’, LSE departmental seminar, June 2003
- *-- ‘Can a causal potency be defined independent of context?’, University of London graduate philosophy conference, May 2003
- *-- ‘Defining causal strength’, UC San Diego graduate philosophy conference, April 2003
- *-- ‘Two kinds of political philosophy’, National Postgraduate Analytical Philosophy Conference, Bristol, July 2002
- ‘Two kinds of political philosophy: Rawls versus the biologists’, LSE rationality seminar, February 2002

- ‘What is genuine altruism?’, Darwin@LSE research group, November 2000
- ‘Emotional misfires: morality, altruism and self-interest’, Darwin@LSE research group, May 2000
- ‘A definition of approximate truth’, LSE departmental seminar, October 1999

Positions

- Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-St Louis, August 2005–ongoing
- Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics, April–July 2005
- Visiting Scholar, UC San Diego philosophy department, September 2003–June 2004 and September 2004–April 2005
- Research Associate, Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics, August 2000–September 2005

Teaching

University of Missouri-St Louis:

- Graduate: Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics, Darwinism and Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Social Science
- Undergraduate: Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics, Darwinism and Philosophy of Biology (including for Honors College), Philosophy of Social Science, Bioethics

London School of Economics:

- Winner (the only year I was eligible), LSE economics department teaching prize, as voted for by students (from over 50 TAs in total)
- Four years as a TA in LSE Department of Economics, for courses ‘Macroeconomic Principles’ and ‘Economics of Social Policy’
- Three summers as a TA in LSE International Summer School in Economics, for courses ‘Intermediate Macroeconomics’ and ‘Economic Perspectives on Society’
- July 1997, selected by LSE to deliver external one-week intensive program ‘Introduction to Economics’, Brunei Investment Agency, London
- Co-writer of external Intermediate Macroeconomics exam for LSE, 2004–2006
- Exam grading – approximately 400 or 500 Finals papers each summer for LSE and University of London, 1997–2005
- Private tutoring in mathematics and in economics

Service

St Louis:

- organizer, co-founder of St Louis philosophy of science reading group (bi-weekly, faculty and students from UMSL, WashU, SLU and SIUE), December 2006-ongoing
- talk at Chaminade Preparatory School, St Louis, February 2008

UMSL:

- adviser, graduate school applicants
- supporter of and presenter at Philosophy Forum WiPs
- official judge, Undergraduate Research Fair 'Natural Sciences' category, April 2007
- philosophy member, Faculty Senate, January 2008-

MA dissertation committees (with dates of defense):

- Colleen Keating, 'Can Cobb integrate Dharmakirti?', December 2006
- John Gabriel, 'Organizing space-time: a causal analysis of spatiotemporal location', April 2007
- Dru Johnson, 'Distinguishing metaphysical from epistemological randomness', December 2007
- Ryan Massey, 'Transfer and the fuzzy-trace theory', December 2007
- Blake Myers
- Jeff Dauer

Independent Study:

- Michelle Sanchez, nature-nurture, spring 2008

Reviewer for:

- *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- *Synthese*
- Cognitive Science society
- University of Missouri Research Board
- *Causation and Probability* edited volume, from conference at University of Kent, June 2006

Professional Memberships:

- American Philosophical Association
- Philosophy of Science Association
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science

Miscellaneous other information

- Captain, LSE University Challenge TV quiz team (reached grand final, 1996/7 series)
- Successful player (i.e. net profit-maker) in public tournaments in both pool and poker
- Contributed to and co-published two separate Cambridge University 'Virtue Without Terror' poetry anthologies