

ROBERT NORTHCOTT

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Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-St Louis, August 2005–ongoing
AOS: philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, metaphysics

Publications

1) Journal

- J11) ‘Walsh on causes and evolution’
Philosophy of Science (forthcoming)
- J10) ‘Verisimilitude: a causal approach’
Synthese (forthcoming)
- J9) ‘On Lewis, Schaffer and the non-reductive evaluation of counterfactuals’
Theoria (forthcoming)
- J8) ‘Is actual difference making actually different?’
Journal of Philosophy 106.11, November 2009, pp629-634
- J7) ‘Natural-born determinists: a new defense of causation as probability-raising’
Philosophical Studies (forthcoming)
- 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

- S4) ‘How necessary are randomized controlled trials?’
to appear in the 9th edition of Ronald Munson, *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics* (Thomson Wadsworth). (This is the most widely used medical ethics textbook in the USA.)
- S3) ‘Progress in economics: lessons from the spectrum auctions’
chapter 11 in *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Economics* (Oxford 2009, Don Ross and Harold Kincaid, eds), pp306-337
(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

- P2) 'Is it bad luck or the ref's fault?'
in Ted Richards (ed), *Soccer and Philosophy* (Open Court, forthcoming)
- P1) 'The Irrational Game: why there's no perfect system'
in Eric Bronson (ed), *Poker and Philosophy* (Open Court, 2006), pp105-115

Awards and Scholarships

- National Science Foundation HPS Scholars Award, 'Causation and biology', spring-fall 2010 (\$50,000)
- UM Research Board award, 'Measuring causal strength in biology', spring-fall 2008 (\$20,000)
- UMSL Research Award, 'Causes in science and philosophy', fall 2006 (\$7000)
- UMSL Small Grants, spring 2006, 2007 and 2008, fall 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

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

Presentations

(* = refereed conference presentation)

- 46) 'Causal strength in social science', Philosophy of Social Science, Birmingham AL, April 2010
- *45) 'Genetic drift', Eastern APA, New York, December 2009
- *44) 'Weighted explanations in social science', Boulder Conference for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, October 2009
- *43) 'Causation, selection and fitness', British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of East Anglia, July 2009
- 42) 'Experimental philosophy and metaphysics', University of Kansas, May 2009
- 41) 'Causation and fitness', St Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association conference, St Louis, February 2009
- 40) 'Genetic drift', History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine, Washington University in St Louis, January 2009
- 39) 'Apportioning explanatory responsibility, and an application to genetic drift', University of Bristol, December 2008
- *38) 'Genetic causation and actual difference makers', Philosophy of Science Association, Pittsburgh, November 2008
- 37) 'Experimental philosophy and metaphysics – two cases from the literature on causation', Saint Louis University, October 2008
- 36) 'Genetic drift and apportioning explanatory responsibility', Missouri Philosophy of Science workshop, University of Missouri-Columbia, September 2008
- *35) 'Innateness and science', Biological Explanations of Behavior, Hanover, June 2008
- *34) 'Apportioning explanatory responsibility', Pacific APA, Pasadena, March 2008
- 33) 'Innateness and science', University of Pittsburgh, February 2008
- *32) 'Apportioning explanatory responsibility', Illinois Philosophical Association, Edwardsville, November 2007
- 31) Commentary on Denis Walsh's 'The Pomp of Superfluous Causes', Kline philosophy of biology workshop, University of Missouri-Columbia, September 2007
- *30) 'Causation and contrast classes', Mind/Aristotelian Society, Bristol, July 2007
- *29) 'Innateness and science', British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Bristol, July 2007
- *28) 'Weighted explanations in history', Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, Tampa, March 2007
- 27) 'Weighted explanations in history', Philosophy of Science WiP, Washington University in St Louis, March 2007
- *26) 'ANOVA and causal strength in biology', Does Philosophy Matter to Science?, New York, March 2007
- 25) 'What is innateness?', Biology departmental seminar, University of Missouri-St Louis, February 2007
- *24) 'Innateness and science', Midsouth philosophy conference, Memphis, February 2007
- 23) 'Innateness and science', University of Missouri-St Louis WiP, February 2007
- 22) 'Natural-born determinists: causal judgment in a probabilistic world', Philosophy, Neuroscience and Psychology WiP, Washington University in St Louis, September 2006
- *21) 'Genes, environment and causation', British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Southampton, July 2006

- *20) ‘Natural-born determinists: causation in a probabilistic world’, Causality and probability in the sciences, Kent, June 2006
- *19) ‘Natural-born determinists: ex post versus ex ante judgments of probabilistic causation’, Society for Exact Philosophy, San Diego, May 2006
- 18) ‘Is causation dispensable?’, University of Missouri-St Louis WiP, October 2005
- 17) ‘Causation and contrast classes’, University of Delaware, January 2005
- 16) ‘Intuition reversals and theories of causation’, UC San Diego Experimental Philosophy Laboratory, January 2005
- *15) ‘Pearson’s wrong turning: against statistical measures of causal efficacy’, Philosophy of Science Association, Austin, November 2004
- 14) ‘Causation and contrast classes’, LSE Causality: Metaphysics and Methods research group, June 2004
- 13) ‘Causation and contrast classes’, UC San Diego colloquium, April 2004
- 12) ‘Pearson’s wrong turning: against statistical measures of causal efficacy’, UC San Diego Experimental Philosophy Laboratory, February 2004
- 11) ‘Commensurability, interaction and causal strength’, UC San Diego Experimental Philosophy Laboratory, December 2003
- 10) ‘Defining causal strength, and why it matters’, UC San Diego Science Studies, December 2003
- 9) ‘Causal strength and the analysis of variance’, LSE Causality: Metaphysics and Methods research group, July 2003
- 8) ‘Causal strength and causal interaction’, LSE departmental seminar, June 2003
- *7) ‘Can a causal potency be defined independent of context?’, University of London graduate philosophy conference, May 2003
- *6) ‘Defining causal strength’, UC San Diego graduate philosophy conference, April 2003
- *5) ‘Two kinds of political philosophy’, National Postgraduate Analytical Philosophy Conference, Bristol, July 2002
- 4) ‘Two kinds of political philosophy: Rawls versus the biologists’, LSE rationality seminar, February 2002
- 3) ‘What is genuine altruism?’, Darwin@LSE research group, November 2000
- 2) ‘Emotional misfires: morality, altruism and self-interest’, Darwin@LSE research group, May 2000
- 1) ‘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

- My student evaluation scores are consistently above the departmental average, sometimes far above. (Detailed statistical read-outs available on request.)
- Syllabi and notes for all these courses were developed by me from scratch

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
- Three summers as a TA in LSE International Summer School in Economics
- Selected because of my popularity with students to deliver LSE's external one-week intensive program 'Introduction to Economics', Brunei Investment Agency
- Co-writer of external Intermediate Macroeconomics exam for LSE, 2004–2006
- 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-January 2008

UMSL:

- philosophy department's representative on the Faculty Senate and University Assembly, January 2008-December 2009
- UMSL Research Committee, spring 2010

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, 'Imagination and phenomenal experience', June 2008
- Stuart Reeves, 'Moral concerns in genomic medicine beyond GINA', April 2009

Reviewer for:

Australasian Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Synthese

Oxford University Press, Cognitive Science society, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, University of Missouri Research Board

Chapters from: *Causality and Probability in the Sciences* (Russo and Williamson eds, College Publications 2007), *Causality in the Sciences* (Illari, Russo and Williamson eds, Oxford UP forthcoming)

Professional Memberships:

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

Blog:

Contributor to philosophy of science blog: <http://itisonlyatheory.blogspot.com/>

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