

ALYSSA NEY

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EDUCATION

Brown University, Philosophy, MA 2003, PhD 2005

Dissertation: *The Metaphysics of Unified Science*

Advisor: Jaegwon Kim

Tulane University, Physics and Philosophy, BS 1999

Honors Thesis: *The Philosophy of Space and Time*

Advisor: Donald Lee

AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Mind

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Science, Logic, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2015 – present Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Davis

2011 – 2015 Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester

2009 – 2011 James P. Wilmot Assistant Professor, University of Rochester

2005 – 2011 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester

Fall 2008 Visiting Scholar, Columbia University

BOOKS

Metaphysics: An Introduction. Routledge, 2014.

The Wave Function: Essays in the Metaphysics of Quantum Mechanics. co-edited with David Z Albert. Oxford University Press, 2013.

ARTICLES

“Microphysical Causation and the Case for Physicalism,” *Analytic Philosophy*, forthcoming.

“Physicalism, Not Scientism,” *Scientism*. J. De Ridder, R. Peels, and R. van Woudenberg, eds. Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Grounding in the Philosophy of Mind: A Defense,” *Scientific Composition and Metaphysical Ground*. K. Aizawa and C. Gillett, eds. Palgrave-Macmillan, 2016.

“Fundamental Physical Ontologies and the Constraint of Empirical Coherence,” *Synthese*, October 2015.

“A Physicalist Critique of Russellian Monism,” *Consciousness in the Physical World: Essays on Russellian Monism*, T. Alter and Y. Nagasawa, eds. Oxford University Press, 2015.

“Does an Adequate Physical Theory Demand a Primitive Ontology?” with Kathryn Phillips, *Philosophy of Science*, July 2013.

“Introduction” and “Ontological Reduction and the Wave Function Ontology,” *The Wave Function: Essays in the Metaphysics of Quantum Mechanics*. A. Ney and D. Albert eds. Oxford University Press, 2013.

“The Status of Our Ordinary Three Dimensions in a Quantum Universe,” *Noûs*, September 2012.

“Neo-Positivist Metaphysics,” *Philosophical Studies*, August 2012.

“The Causal Contribution of Mental Events,” *The Mental and the Physical: New Perspectives on Type Identity*. S. Gozzano and C. Hill, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

“Convergence on the Problem of Mental Causation: Shoemaker’s Strategy for (Nonreductive?) Physicalists,” *Philosophical Issues*, 2010.
(Reply by Sydney Shoemaker, “Comments on Alyssa Ney,” in the same issue)

“Are There Fundamental Intrinsic Properties?” *New Waves in Metaphysics*, A. Hazlett, ed. Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010.

“Physical Causation and Difference-making,” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, December 2009.

“Reductionism,” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, November 2008.

“Defining Physicalism,” *Philosophy Compass*, July 2008.

“Physicalism as an Attitude,” *Philosophical Studies*, March 2008.

“Can an Appeal to Constitution Solve the Exclusion Problem?” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, December 2007.

“Physicalism and Our Knowledge of Intrinsic Properties,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, March 2007.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Review of Steven French’s *The Structure of the World*,” *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, December 2014.

“Review of John Heil’s *The Universe as We Find It*,” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, December 2014.

“Review of Tim Maudlin’s *The Metaphysics within Physics*,” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, September 2011.

PRESENTATIONS

“Finding Consciousness in the Wave Function,” *Toward a Science of Consciousness*, Tucson, April 2016.

“Are the Questions of Metaphysics More Fundamental Than Those of Science?” EPSA Düsseldorf, September 2015, University of Alabama, November 2015, University of South Carolina, November 2015, University of California, San Diego, April 2016.

Author Meets Critics Session on Mathias Frisch’s *Causal Reasoning in Physics*, APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, April 2016.

“The Metaphysics of Mental Disorders,” University of Bordeaux Biology and Medicine Series, September 2015, Iowa State University, December 2015, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville, March 2016.

“The Empirical Case for Physicalism,” Northern California Consciousness Conference, March 2016.

“Finding the World in the Wave Function,” Workshop on Spatial Functionalism, Institut Jean Nicod, June 2015, Causality in a Quantum World, Queensland, August 2015, and New Trends in the Metaphysics of Science, Paris, December 2015.

“What is Physicalism?” Philosophy Today Series, University of Alabama, November 2015.

“Microphysical Causation and the Case for Physicalism,” Kim Retirement Conference, September 2014, Washington University, November 2014, UC Davis, January 2015, APA Central Division, February 2015, Marist College, March 2015, Towards a Science of Consciousness, Helsinki, June 2015, Centre for Time, University of Sydney, August 2015.

“Grounding and Ontological Dependence in the Philosophy of Mind and Science” Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Invited Session on Metaphysics and Cognition, Providence, Rhode Island, June 2013 and Workshop on Grounding, Syracuse University, November 2013, Workshop on Scientific Composition and Ground, Rutgers Newark, April 2015, Kinds and Quantities Workshop, Hong Kong University, May 2015.

“Background Dependence as a Constraint on Theories of Quantum Gravity,” Time in Quantum Gravity Conference, University of California, San Diego, March 2015, Southern Methodist University, April 2015.

“Finding Ourselves in a Quantum Universe, Monroe Community College, November 2014, Phelps Colloquium, University of Rochester, February 2015.

Author Meets Critics Session on John Heil’s *The Universe As We Find It*, APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego, April 2014.

“Fundamental Physical Ontologies and the Constraint of Empirical Coherence,” UNC Chapel Hill, August 2013, Workshop on Meta-Ontology, Manchester University, September 2013, Carolina Metaphysics Workshop, January 2014, PERSP Final Conference, September 2014.

“A Physicalist Critique of Russellian Monism,” Northwestern Conference on Philosophy of Mind, February 2014.

“Monism and Quantum Mechanics,” APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, February 2014.

“Physicalism, Not Scientism,” Conference on Scientism, VU Amsterdam, January 2014.

“Configuration Space in a Relativistic Setting,” Foundations of Physics 2013, Munich, July 2013.

“Fundamental and Derivative Causation,” Workshop on Causation and Laws (University of Konstanz), September 2012 and University of Barcelona, May 2013.

“Does an Adequate Physical Theory Demand a Primitive Ontology?” with Kathryn Phillips, Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science (University of Colorado), October 2011, Conference on Space-time and the Wave Function (Barcelona), April 2013, and Complutense University (Madrid), May 2013.

“Indispensability Arguments in Metaphysics,” Metaphysical Virtues Conference (Western Michigan University), March 2013 and Mellon Workshop on Metaphysics (Cornell University), April 2012.

“Grounding the Truth about Mental Causation,” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Austin, Texas, February 2013.

“Physics and Fine-Tuning Arguments,” Monroe Community College, November 2012.

“Can There Be a Literary Philosophy of Time?” with John Michael, University of Rochester (Course on the Art and Science of Time), April 2012.

“Physical Causation: Methodology and New Directions,” APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, February 2012.

“Quantum Mechanics and Ontology,” Vassar College, February 2012.

“Is Charge Intrinsic?” The Ohio State University, January 2012.

“Neo-Positivist Metaphysics,” APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego, California, April 2011, University of Bristol, November 2011, and University of Edinburgh, November 2011.

“Ontological Reduction and the Wave Function Ontology,” University of Miami, October 2010, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, November 2010, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2011, Metaphysics and Philosophy of Science Conference (University of Toronto), May 2011.

“Peer-Led Team Learning in Philosophy 101,” with Robin Frye, Conference on College Teaching and Learning, Niagara University, January 2011.

“Physicalism and Materialism,” Brown University (Presentation to Jaegwon Kim’s seminar), October 2010.

“Causal Foundationalism and the Special Sciences,” Workshop on Multi-level Causation (IHPST Paris), March 2010 and Lingnan University (Hong Kong), May 2010.

“Wave Function Realism,” Conference on Philosophy of Physics and Cosmology (Rutgers University), April 2010.

“The Measurement Problem and Many Worlds Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics,” University of Rochester (Physics and Philosophy Group), March 2010.

“The Status of Our Ordinary Three Dimensions in a Quantum Universe,” Vassar College, February 2010, and University of Rochester (Physics and Philosophy Group), February 2009.

“Mass, charge, and the rest,” UC Santa Cruz, October 2009 and Mellon Workshop on Metaphysics (Cornell University), May 2009.

“Are There Fundamental Intrinsic Properties?” APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2009.

“The Causal Contribution of Mental Events,” Mellon Workshop on Mental Causation (Syracuse University), December 2007 and the Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2008.

“Parity, Parsimony, and the Extended Mind,” APA Central Division Meeting, April 2007.

“Physical Causation and Difference-making,” APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 2007 and Syracuse University, January 2007.

“Physics and Philosophy,” University of Rochester (lecture to Physics 143: Waves and Modern Physics), April 2006.

“Physicalism as an Attitude,” Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Charleston, South Carolina, April 2006 and SUNY Geneseo, November 2005.

“Overdetermination and the Nature of Mental Causation,” APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, April 2005 and University of Texas Graduate Conference on Personhood, April 2004.

“Can an Appeal to Constitution Solve the Exclusion Problem?” APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, California, March 2005.

“Physicalism and Our Knowledge of Intrinsic Properties,” University at Buffalo, February 2005, Princeton/Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2004, and Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference, November 2003.

“Mental Causation,” University of Rochester, February 2005.

“Unified Science and Metaphysics,” SUNY New Paltz, January 2005.

COMMENTARIES

On David McElhoses’ “Difference-making, Reduction, and Multi-grade Causality,” APA Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle, Washington, April 2012.

On Daniel Lim’s “Exclusion, Overdetermination, and Vacuity,” APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego, California, April 2011.

On Derk Pereboom's "Russellian Monism" and Jessica Wilson's "Non-reductive Realization and the Powers-Based Subset Strategy", APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2009.

On Yuri Balashov's "Physical and Metaphysical Possibility," Metaphysics Meets Physics on the Raritan (Rutgers University), October 2007.

On Carrie Jenkins and Daniel Nolan's "Backwards Explanation and the 'Real' Explanation," Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2007.

On Barry Ward's "Humeanism, Laws, and the Governing Intuition," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Charleston, South Carolina, April 2006

On Christy Mag Uidhir's "On the Irrelevancy of the Live Performance," American Society of Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island, October 2005

On Eric Hiddleston's "The Nonreductivist's Troubles with Mental Causation," Creighton Club (New York State Philosophical Association) Annual Meeting, Ithaca, New York, October 2005.

COURSES TAUGHT

At the University of California, Davis

Lower Division: Understanding Scientific Change

Upper Division: Metaphysics, Alternative Logics

Graduate Seminars: Physicalism and Fundamentality

At the University of Rochester

Lower Division: Introduction to Philosophy, Introductory Logic, Minds and Machines, Science and Reason

Upper Division: Logical Methods in Philosophy, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Time

Graduate Seminars: Causation, Fundamentality, Introspection and Qualia, Metametaphysics, Metaphysics of Quantum Mechanics, Perceptual Experience, Qualia and Representation (co-taught with David Braun), Reductionism (co-taught with Kevan Edwards)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of Rochester Bridging Fellowship for a semester of coursework in physics, Spring 2014

University of Rochester Humanities Project Grant for a Series of Three Workshops Aimed at Connecting Metaphysics and Philosophy of Physics, Fall 2013-Fall 2015.

University of Rochester Center for Workshop Education Grant for Peer-led Workshops in Philosophy 101, Fall 2009-Fall 2010

Andrew W. Mellon Grant for Upstate New York Humanities Corridor Graduate Seminar on Reductionism (with Kevan Edwards), Fall 2009

University of Rochester Humanities Project Grant to support lecture series in History and Philosophy of Physics, University of Rochester, 2006-2008

Andrew W. Mellon Grant for Upstate New York Humanities Corridor Three Day Workshop on Mental Causation (with Robert Van Gulick), Fall 2007

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Associate Editor, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2015-present

Metaphysics Area Editor, *Ergo*, 2015-present

Scientific Advisory Committee, Templeton Grant on Space and time after Quantum Gravity, 2015-2018

Program Committee, APA Pacific Division, 2015-2017

President, Society for the Metaphysics of Science, 2015-2016

Program Committee, Philosophy of Science Association, 2014-2015

Program Committee, Society for the Metaphysics of Science, 2014-2015