

School of Divinity, History and Philosophy
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APPOINTMENTS

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Aberdeen, School of Divinity, Hist. & Phil., since 2013
Visiting Associate Professor for Philosophy of the Life Sciences, Utrecht University, 2016
Lecturer, University of Aberdeen, School of Divinity, History & Philosophy, 2009 – 2013
British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, King's College London, Dept. Philosophy, 2008 – 2009
Teaching Associate, University of Bristol, Philosophy Department, 2007 – 2008
British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Cambridge, Dept. HPS, 2006 – 2007

AOS

History and Philosophy of Biology

AOC

Phil Science, Phil Medicine, Phil Mind

EDUCATION

PhD, Philosophy, King's College London, August 2006
MA, Philosophy, King's College London, October 2003 (Distinction)
Dr. rer. nat., Zoology [equivalent to PhD], University of Würzburg, November 2000
Diplom-Biologe [equivalent to MSc in Biology], University of Bremen, February 1996; 1993-1994:
Visiting Student at U Maryland at College Park; 1991: 'Vordiplom Biologie', U Freiburg

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Collection

2013: *Animal Communication Theory: Influence and Information*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 468 pp.

Journal Articles

2016: 'Genetic coding' reconsidered: an analysis of actual usage. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 67: 707-730.
2015: Prospects for probabilistic theories of natural information. *Erkenntnis*, 80 (4): 869-893.
2014: Causal control and genetic causation. *Noûs*, 48 (3): 450-465.
2013: On the 'transmission sense of information'. *Biology and Philosophy*. 28 (1): 141-144.
2012: Varieties of parity. *Biology and Philosophy*, 27: 903-918.
2010: Reply to Bence Nanay's "Natural selection and the limited nature of environmental resources", *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 41: 4201-421.
2010: What does natural selection explain? *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 41: 61-66.
2009: A consumer-based teleosemantics for animal signals. *Philosophy of Science*, 76: 864-875.
2009: DNA, inference, and information. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 60: 1-17.
2005: Genetic information as instructional content. *Philosophy of Science*, 72: 425-443.
2005: John Maynard Smith's notion of animal signals. *Biology and Philosophy*, 20: 1011-1025.
2004: The arbitrariness of the genetic code. *Biology and Philosophy*, 19: 205-222.

Book Chapters

- 2018: Evolution and information: an overview. In Richard Joyce (ed.): *Routledge Handbook of Evolution and Philosophy*, pp. 79-90.
- 2018: The content of animal signals. In Kristin Andrews & Jacob Beck (eds.): *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds*, pp. 324-332.
- 2016: The philosophy of communication and information. In Luciano Floridi (ed.): *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Information*, pp. 304-317.
- 2013: A primer on information and influence in animal communication. In U.E. Stegmann (ed.): *Animal Communication Theory: Influence and Information*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-39.
- 2005: Die Adaptationismus-Debatte. In: Krohs, U. & Toepfer, G. (eds.): *Philosophie der Biologie: Eine Einführung*. Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, pp. 287-303.
- 2005: Der Begriff der genetischen Information. In: Krohs, U. & Toepfer, G. (eds.): *Philosophie der Biologie: Eine Einführung*. Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, pp. 212-230.
- 2004: Theorien und Verwendungsweisen des Informationsbegriffs in der Genetik. In: Bluhm, R. & Nimtz, C. (eds.): *Ausgewählte Beiträge zu den Sektionen der GAP.5, 5. Internationaler Kongress der Gesellschaft für Analytische Philosophie, Bielefeld, 22.-26. September 2003*. Paderborn: mentis.

Reviews

- 2010: Review of Brian Garvey, *Philosophy of Biology*, Acumen, 2007. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 61: 235-236.
- 2007: Review of Robert A. Wilson, *Genes and the Agents of Life. The Individual in the Fragile Sciences*, Cambridge: CUP, 2005. *Mind*, 116: 238-240.
- 2007: Review of Alexander Rosenberg, *Darwinian Reductionism – Or, How to Stop Worrying and Love Molecular Biology*, University of Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 47: 899-900.
- 2005: Review of Jason Scott Robert, *Embryology, Epigenesis, and Evolution: Taking Development Seriously*, Cambridge: CUP, 2004. *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, 27: 300-302.
- 2004: Review of Graham Gordon, *Genes. A Philosophical Inquiry*, London: Routledge, 2002. *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, 24: 451-452.

Biology and popular science

- 2003: The life of a Southeast Asian treehopper. *Malaysian Naturalist*, 56 (3): 44-49.
- 2002: A feat of forms. *Malaysian Naturalist*, 56 (2): 40-44.
- 2002: Assessing the semelparity hypothesis: Egg-guarding and fecundity in an iteroparous treehopper. *Ethology*, 108 (10): 857-869. (first author; with K. E. Linsenmair)
- 2002: Subsocial and aggregating behaviour in Southeast Asian treehoppers (Homoptera: Membracidae). *European Journal of Entomology*, 99: 29-34. (first author; with K. E. Linsenmair)
- 2002: New species, synonymies, and life-histories of the Southeast Asian treehopper genus *Pyrgauchenia* Breddin (Homoptera: Membracidae: Centrotinae). *Journal of Natural History*, 36: 279-303. (first author; with M. D. Webb and K. E. Linsenmair)
- 1998: An 'exaggerated' trait in insects: the prothoracic skeleton of *Stictocephala bisonia* (Homoptera: Membracidae). *Journal of Morphology*, 238: 157-178.
- 1998: Natural history of the treehopper *Gigantorhabdus enderleini*. *Malayan Nature Journal*, 52 (3&4): 241-249. (first author; with P. J. A. Kessler, M. M. Sofian, M. Bin Lakim, and K. E. Linsenmair)
- 1997: Revaluation of the prothoracic pleuron of the Membracidae (Homoptera): the presence of an epimeron and a subdivided episternum in *Stictocephala bisonia* Kopp & Yonke, *Oxyrhachis taranda* (Fabr.), and *Centrotus cornutus* (L.). *International Journal of Insect Morphology and Embryology*, 26 (1): 35-42.
- 1997: Morphologie einer "Exzessivbildung" bei Insekten: das Pronotum der Buckelzirpen (Homoptera: Membracidae). *Verhandlungen der Deutschen Zoologischen Gesellschaft*, 90 (1): 216.
- 1997: Das Propleuron der Buckelzirpen (Homoptera: Membracidae) – eine Neubewertung. *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für allgemeine und angewandte Entomologie*, 11: 825-827.

Work in progress

- Monograph: *The rise of genetic coding and information in the 1950s* [under contract, *Springer Briefs in Philosophy of Science*, series editor Sahotra Sarkar]
- Journal manuscript: “Hypothesis-testing by diagram” [under review]

INVITED TALKS

- “An integrated HPS perspective on genetic information and coding”, U Pittsburgh (HPS), 9 December 2016
- “Animal signals, acquisition conditions and the explanation of behaviour”
- 9th Logos Workshop on *The Naturalization of Intentionality*, Barcelona, 1-2 December 2016
 - University of Connecticut, 12 December 2016
- “Tools for testing mechanistic hypothesis”, Workshop on *Many Methods–One Biology?*, LMU Munich, 21-22 October 2016
- “Information, Coding, and Genetic Mechanisms”
- KLI Klosterneuburg/Vienna, 4 August 2016
 - University of Edinburgh, 15 October 2015
- “Do animal signals have derived content?”, Bar Hillel International Workshop on *Information and its Role in Science: Physics, Biology, Cognitive and Brain Sciences*, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, 30 May – 2 June 2016
- Roundtable participant “Heredity in the Postgenomic Era II”, Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin, 21-23 May 2015
- “Genes and Causal Patterns”
- Descartes Centre, University of Utrecht, 18 November 2014
 - Workshop *Organisms, Machines & Mechanism*, University of Geneva, 5-6 December 2013
- Roundtable participant “Heredity in the Postgenomic Era I”, Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin, 19-20 June 2014
- Keynote: “Information Concepts in the Life Sciences: Inferring Theoretical Roles from Actual Usage”, *Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology*, Duke University, 7-8 June 2013
- “Natural Information and Receiver Content”, University of Edinburgh, 21 November 2012
- “Information in Ethology”, Academy of Sciences, Göttingen, 20 April 2012
- “Consumer-based Teleosemantics”, Workshop *Teleosemantics Today*, Institut für Philosophie, Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, 16-18 February 2012
- “The Several Parity Theses of Developmental Systems Theory“, Minnesota Centre for Philosophy of Science, Minneapolis (MN), 5 April 2011
- “Animal Signals and Representational Content”
- University of Durham (UK), 24 February 2011
 - Duke University (NC), 1 April 2011
- “Can the Habituation/Dishabituation Methodology Document Reference?”, *Workshop on Functional Reference*, Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin, 16-18 June 2010
- “Animal Signals”
- University of Leeds, 22 April 2009
 - London School of Economics, 2 March 2009
 - University of East Anglia, 12 November 2009
- “Developmental Programmes”
- *Philosophy of Darwin Conference*, Royal Institute of Philosophy, Birmingham, 10 June 2009
 - *Symposium on the Philosophy of Biological Evolution*, University of Groningen, 20 October 2009
- “Genes and Information”
- Information in Physics and Biology Workshop*, University of Leeds, 14 September 2007
- University of Bristol, 19 November 2007
- “Searching for the Content of Animal Signals”, *Symposium Philosophy and the Sciences of Animal Mind and Behaviour*, University of Leeds, 12 July 2006.
- “Non-rigid designation and the explananda of natural selection?”, *Workshop in Philosophy of Biology*, University of Stirling, 13-15 May 2005
- “From arbitrariness to symbolic representation?”, ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society, University of Exeter, 18 January 2005
- “Genetic Information: The Current Debate London School of Economics, 16 June 2004
- Roundtable participant “Genes and Information in Development and Evolution”, Institute of Humanities at the Science Centre NRW, Essen (Germany), February and July 2003

CONFERENCES

- “Outline of a project on the current state of Goethean Biology”, *Evolving Morphologies*, Dornach, 4-9 October 2017
- “Philosophical conclusions from historical analyses: The case of genetic information”, *Biennial Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association*, Exeter, 6-9 September 2017
- “Modelling mechanisms in two dimensions”, *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Annual Conference*, University of Edinburgh, 13-14 July 2017
- “Using diagrams to explore mechanisms of molecular processes”, Workshop on *Representing Scientific Results: Forms of Knowledge*, University of Kassel, 18-19 November 2016
- “Model organisms and explanation”
- *European Philosophy of Science Association*, Düsseldorf, September 2015
 - *Causality and Modeling in the Science Conference*, UNED Madrid, 29 June-1 July 2015
- “Theoretical Roles of Information in Animal Behaviour Studies”, *Evolution, Intentionality and Information Conference*, University of Bristol, 29-31 May 2013
- “More Work for Probabilistic Theories of Information”, *Joint Session*, University of Stirling, 7 July 2012
- “Code and Tape Metaphors in Molecular Genetics”, *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Annual Conference*, University of Stirling, 5 July 2012
- “Metaphors and Mechanisms”, *Joint Session*, University of Sussex, 9 July 2011
- “Ken Waters on the Causal Role of Genes”, *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Annual Conference*, University of Sussex, 8 July 2011
- “Sequence Control and Programme Control”, *Biennial Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association*, Amsterdam, 21-24 October 2009
- “Three Approaches to Animal Communication”, *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Annual Conference*, University of East Anglia, 13 July 2009
- “Teleosemantics is not Explanatorily Vacuous”, *Joint Session*, University of East Anglia, 11 July 2009
- “Teleosemantics for Animal Signals”
- *Philosophy of Science Association*, Pittsburgh, 5-9 November 2008
 - *Biological Explanations of Behavior: Philosophical Perspectives*, University of Hannover, 12-15 June 2008
- “Against Causal and Informational Parity”, *International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology*, Exeter, 26-29 July, 2007
- “Naturalising Genetic Information”, *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Annual Conference*, University of Manchester, 7-8 July 2005
- “Representational states in cognitive science: Lessons from molecular biology?”, *Graduate/Post-doc Conference in Philosophy of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Biology*, All Souls College, Oxford, 30 April 2005
- “What, exactly, does natural selection explain?”, *First Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of the Natural Sciences*, London School of Economics, 27-28 May 2005
- “Theorien und Vewendungsweisen des Informationsbegriffs in der Genetik”, *Gesellschaft für Analytische Philosophie (GAP 5)*, Bielefeld, 22-27 September 2003
- “The arbitrariness of the genetic code”, *International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology*, Vienna, 16-20 July 2003
- “Explikationen und Rechtfertigungen des Begriffs ‘Genetische Information’”, University of Bielefeld, 2 July 2001

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

As a faculty member

- Visiting Fellow, Munich Centre of Mathematical Philosophy, October 2016
- Visiting Fellow, Konrad Lorenz Institute, Vienna, July 2016
- Santander Mobility Award: Research stay in Madrid, July 2015
- College of Arts and Sciences, University of Aberdeen: One 3-yr PhD studentship, 2013 – 2016

Visiting Scholar, Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, July 2013
Scots Philosophical Association: Research Grants, 2013 – 2016
College of Arts and Sciences, University of Aberdeen: Four 3-yr PhD studentships, 2012 – 2017
Wellcome Trust: Small Research Grant, “Historical Case Studies in 20th Century Biomedicine”, 2012
Grants for conference organisation, 2012: Scots Philosophical Association, British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Mind Association

As a postdoc

British Academy: Small Research Grant, “The Informational Consensus in Ethology”, 2008-11
Philosophy of Science Association, British Academy, University of Bristol: Travels Grants, 2008
British Academy: Postdoctoral Fellowship, “The Epistemology and Metaphysics of Animal Communication”, 2006 – 2010
German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina: Postdoctoral Fellowship, “Explications of the Concept of Genetic Information” (held at King’s College London), 2003
German Research Council: Postdoctoral Fellowship, “Evolution of female preferences for male ‘exaggerated’ traits in subsocial treehoppers (Homoptera: Membracidae)”, 2000 – 2002 [returned]

As a student

British Society for the Philosophy of Science: Doctoral Fellowship in Philosophy of Science, 2004-06
King’s College London, Department of Philosophy: Sargeant Travel Fund, 2005
European Commission, TMR-Programme: Grant for the Natural History Museum, London, 1999
Arthur-von-Gwinner Stiftung: Research grant for fieldwork in Malaysia, 1997
German Research Council (DFG): Doctoral Fellowship in the interdisciplinary Graduate Programme “Arthropod Behaviour”, 1995 – 1999
German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes): Studentship, 1993-95
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD): Studentship for the University of Maryland, 1993-94

TEACHING

Undergraduate courses (at the University of Aberdeen)

Controversial Questions (first year), Fall 2017 (co-taught)
Sex, Race, and Disability (third & fourth years), Spring 2017
Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Language (second year), Spring 2017 and 2018 (with Luca Moretti)
Philosophy of Medicine (third year), Medical School, Fall 2015 and 2017
Philosophy of Science I (first year), Spring 2015 (with Guido Bacciagaluppi)
Philosophy of Science II (second year), Spring 2015 (with Guido Bacciagaluppi)
Experience, Knowledge and Reality (first year), Spring 2015 (with Beth Lord)
Science and Philosophy (second year), Spring 2014 and Fall 2015
Knowledge and Mind (first year), Spring 2010 – 2013 (with Luca Moretti)
Philosophy of Biology (third & fourth yrs), Spring 2010, 2013 and Fall 2014
Experiments and Scientific Reasoning (fourth year), Fall 2012 and Spring 2014
Genes, Brains and Evolution (fourth year), Fall 2010, Spring 2018
Information and Philosophy (fourth year), Fall 2009

Graduate courses

Philosophy of Biology, Utrecht University (Spring 2016)
The ‘Book of Life’ and the Rise of Molecular Biology, University of Aberdeen (Fall 2012)
Recent Topics in Philosophy of Biology, University of Aberdeen (Fall 2010)
Phil. of Biol. & Cog. Sciences, King’s College London (Fall 2008, with D. Papineau and M. Mameli)
Philosophy of Biology, University of Bristol (Spring 2008)
Advanced Animal Ecology (lab. course), Univ. of Würzburg (Spring & Fall 1999, with E. Strohm)
Tropical Biology (field course at Mt. Kinabalu, Malaysia), University of Würzburg (Fall 1998)

As tutor

Philosophy of Science (graduate seminars), London School of Economics (Fall 2008)
Introduction to Philosophy A: Descartes, Hume (first year), University of Bristol (Fall 2007)
Introduction to Philosophy B: Ethics, Political Phil. (first year), University of Bristol (Spring 2008)
Epistemology (second year), University of Bristol (Spring 2008)
Philosophy of Biology (second year), University of Cambridge (Spring 2007)
Metaphysics (second year), King's College London (Spring & Fall 2005)
Epistemology and Methodology (second year), King's College London (Fall 2004 & Spring 2005)
Philosophy of Mind (second year), University of Bielefeld (Fall 2001)

Guest lectures and seminars

"Medical Images", University of Aberdeen, School of Medicine, MSc Medical Imaging (Fall 2017)
"Health and Disease: Objective Categories or Value Judgements?", Utrecht University (Spring 2016)
"Health, Disease, and Genetic Causation", Utrecht University, USelect Masterclass (Spring 2016)
"Mind and Body", University of Aberdeen, Access Course (Fall 2015)
"Creationism", University of Aberdeen, School of Education (Fall 2010 and 2011)
"The Scientific Method", King's College London, School of Medicine (Spring 2009)

Undergraduate Supervision

Dissertations, MA Philosophy, University of Aberdeen, since 2009
Independent Studies (third year), University of Aberdeen, since 2009
Final Year Essays, BA Philosophy, University of Bristol, 2007-08

Graduate Supervision and Examining

Supervisor and Internal examiner for PhD students in Philosophy, University of Aberdeen, 2016
Dissertations, MLitt in Philosophy (by Research), University of Aberdeen, since 2015
Dissertations, MLitt in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Aberdeen, 2009-2013
Internal examiner for a PhD candidate in Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, 2012
Dissertation, MA in Philosophy, King's College London, 2008-09
Internal examiner for MA Essays and Theses, University of Bristol, 2007-08
External examiner for MPhil Essays and Theses, University of Cambridge, 2007-08

Other

Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice (taught component), King's College London, 2006

SERVICE

Organisation of workshops and sessions

Workshop: "What can the Philosophy of Biology learn from the History of Biology?", Utrecht University, 19-20 March 2016. Speakers included William Bechtel, Ingo Brigand, Sabina Leonelli, Kärin Nickelsen, Sahotra Sarkar, and Raphael Scholl
Workshop: "Natural Information", University of Aberdeen, February 2012. Speakers included Andrew Meskin, Ruth Millikan, Karen Neander, Andrea Scarantino, and Nicholas Shea
Workshop: "Animal Cognition", University of Bristol, June 2008. Speakers included Colin Allen
Session: "Animal Minds", Annual Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, Exeter, 2007. Speakers included Simon Fitzpatrick and Gregory Radick
Session: "Information and Biological Development", Annual Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, Exeter, 2007. Speakers included Paul Griffiths, Nicholas Shea, and Arnon Levy [co-organised with Nicholas Shea]

Reviewer

Journals: *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Erkenntnis*, *International Journal for Philosophy*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy and Technology*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Mind*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biomedical and Biological Sciences*, *Synthese*; *Animal Behaviour*, *Acta Biotheoretica*, *Behavioural Processes*, *Quarterly Review of Biology*.

Book manuscripts/proposals: Palgrave Macmillan (2012); Bloomsbury (2014)

Grant applications: German Research Council (2015, 2014); Royal Society (2015), National Science Foundation (2014)

Other: *Society for the Metaphysics of Science* (2016)

Member of Professional Committees

Scots Philosophical Association, since 2015

European Philosophy of Science Association (Fifth Conference), Düsseldorf, September 2015

German Society for Philosophy of Science, Hannover, March 2013

Philosophy of Biology in the UK, All Souls College, Oxford, April 2012

European Philosophy of Science Association (Second Conference), Amsterdam, October 2009

University and Department (University of Aberdeen, unless noted otherwise)

Research and Impact Lead for Philosophy, since 2015

Personal Tutor for undergraduate students at all levels and from across the School, since 2013

Adviser of Studies for MA Honours, 2013/14

Convener, Philosophy Colloquium, 2014

Undergraduate Programme Coordinator for Philosophy, 2011- 2013

Chair, Philosophy Exam Board, 2011- 2013

Chair, Staff-Student Liaison Committee, 2011- 2013

Member, School Teaching and Learning Committee, 2011-2013

Adviser of Studies for MA Sub-Honours (40+ students p.a.), 2009-2011

Library Representative for Philosophy, 2009-2011

Admissions Tutor for Joint Degrees in Phil/Econ, Phil/Soc, and Phil/Class (Univ. of Bristol), 2007 – 2008

Departmental Disability Representative (University of Bristol), 2007 – 2008

REFERENCES

Available upon request