

Angela Potochnik

Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Cincinnati

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Science; Philosophy of Biology; History of Logical Empiricism

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

History of Analytic Philosophy; Logic; Metaphysics; Epistemology; History of Biology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Cincinnati

Associate Professor of Philosophy, 2013 – present

Director of Graduate Studies, 2014 – present

Affiliated Faculty, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2012 – present

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2010 – 2013

Oklahoma State University

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2008 – 2010

Affiliated Faculty, Gender and Women's Studies, 2009 – 2010

EDUCATION

Stanford University: Philosophy, MA 2004, PhD 2007

Dissertation: *Evolution, Explanation, and Unity of Science*

Advisors: Elliott Sober and Michael Friedman

Committee Members: Helen Longino and Peter Godfrey-Smith

University Chair: Marcus Feldman (Biology)

Hendrix College: Philosophy, BA 2002

Honors in Philosophy, *Summa cum Laude*

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Runner Up for the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence, UC College of Arts and Sciences, 2017

Inaugural recipient of a Rising Star Award, University of Cincinnati College of Arts and Sciences, 2017

Planning Committee, NEH Next Generation Humanities Planning Grant, to create pathways from humanities PhD work to non-academic professions, University of Cincinnati, 2016-2017

Research Fellowship, Charles Taft Research Center, University of Cincinnati, 2013-2014

Taft Award to partially fund a three-day conference, University of Cincinnati, 2012

University Research Council Summer Research Fellowship, University of Cincinnati, 2012

Marjorie Grene Prize, biannual award for the best manuscript from a meeting of the International Society for History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology while a graduate student, 2011-2013

Taft Summer Research Grant, University of Cincinnati, 2011

Visiting Research Fellowship, Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University, Autumn and Winter Quarters, 2010 - 2011

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh 2010-2011 (declined for Clayman Institute Research Fellowship)

Dean's Incentive Grant, Oklahoma State University, 2009

Fae Rawdon Norris Grant to organize a visiting lecture, Oklahoma State University, 2009

President's Medal, for the senior "best exemplifying the highest ideals of the college," Hendrix College, 2002

R.G. Shoemaker Award, for the outstanding graduating senior in philosophy, Hendrix College, 2002

BOOKS

Idealization and the Aims of Science, University of Chicago Press, in press, expected Fall 2017.

Recipes for Science: An Introduction to Scientific Reasoning, with Matteo Colombo and Cory Wright, textbook manuscript forthcoming with Routledge. Equal authorship.

ALL OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Eight Other Questions about Explanation," in *Explanation Beyond Causation*, Alexander Reutlinger and Juha Saatsi (Eds.), Oxford University Press, in press, expected Spring 2018.

"Scientific Explanation: Putting Communication First," *Philosophy of Science*, Symposium Proceedings PSA2014, 2016, 83: 721-732.

"The Diverse Aims of Science," in a special issue of *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 2015, 53: 71-80.

"Causal Patterns and Adequate Explanations," *Philosophical Studies*, 2015, 172(5): 1163-1182.

"Toward Philosophy of Science's Social Engagement," with Francis Cartieri, in a special issue of *Erkenntnis* on socially engaged philosophy of science, 2014, 79(5): 901-916.

Editor, Socially Engaged Philosophy of Science, special issue of *Erkenntnis*, 2014, 79(5): 901-1017.

"Biological Explanation," 2013, in K. Kampourakis (Ed.), *The Philosophy of Biology: A Companion for Educators*, vol. 1 of History, Philosophy and Theory of the Life Sciences, chapter 4, pages 49-65, Springer.

Review of Helen Longino, *Studying Human Behavior: How Scientists Investigate Aggression and Sexuality* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2013.

"Defusing Ideological Defenses in Biology," *BioScience*, 2013, 63(2): 118-123.

"Feminist Implications of Model-Based Science," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 2012, 43(2): 383-389.

“Modeling Social and Evolutionary Games,” *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 2012, 43(1): 202-208.

“The Limitations of Hierarchical Thinking,” with Brian McGill, *Philosophy of Science*, 2012, 79(1): 120-140. Primary authorship.

Essay Review of Roughgarden’s *The Genial Gene*, in “Sex and Sensibility: The Role of Social Selection,” Erika Milam, Roberta Millstein, Angela Potochnik, and Joan Roughgarden, *Metascience*, 2011, 20(2), 253-277.

“A Neurathian Conception of the Unity of Science,” *Erkenntnis*, 2011, 34(3): 305–319.

“Explanation and Understanding: An Alternative to Strevens’ *Depth*,” *The European Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2011, 1(1): 29-38.

“Explanatory Independence and Epistemic Interdependence: A Case Study of the Optimality Approach,” *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2010, 61(1): 213–233.

“Levels of Explanation Reconceived,” *Philosophy of Science*, 2010, 77(1): 59–72.

“Optimality Modeling in a Suboptimal World,” in a special issue of *Biology and Philosophy*, edited by Patrick Forber, 2009, 24(2): 183–197.

“Optimality Modeling and Explanatory Generality,” *Philosophy of Science*, 2007, 74(5): 680–691.

“Revisiting Galison’s ‘Aufbau/Bauhaus’ in Light of Neurath’s Philosophical Projects,” with Audrey Yap, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 2006, 37(3): 469–488. Equal authorship.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

University of Notre Dame, October 2017 (upcoming)

University of California Davis, May 2017 (upcoming)

“Explaining with Idealizations,” University of Maryland, February 2017

“How Idealizations Represent and Explain,” University of Kansas, December 2016

Author-meets-critics session on James Tabery’s *Beyond Versus: The Struggle to Understand the Interaction of Nature and Nurture*, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, April 2015

“How Scientific Explanations Generate Understanding,” Case Western Reserve University, February 2015

“Explaining with Idealizations,” Workshop on Modeling and Scientific Explanation, Jerusalem, June 2014

“Causal Patterns and Adequate Explanations,” Department of Philosophy, Indiana University, April 2014

“Causal Patterns and Adequate Explanations,” Philosophy Club, Saint Louis University, February 2014

“Science Isn’t After the Truth,” Missouri Philosophy of Science Workshop, University of Missouri, October, 2013

“Increasing Realism Without Getting Real,” invited paper at the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, March 2013

“Modeling Social and Evolutionary Games,” Department of Biology, University of Cincinnati, April 2012

- “Idealizing the Realizers,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Group Program, April 2011
- “Feminist Implications of Model-Based Science,” Philosophy of Biology Lab Group, University of California, Davis, Feb. 2011
- “The Limitations of Hierarchical Thinking,” Department of Philosophy, Stanford University, Nov. 2010
- “Modeling Social and Evolutionary Games,” Philosophical Pizza Munch, California Academy of the Sciences, Oct. 2010
- “Cooperation, Competition, and the Evolution of Sex,” Philosophy Club, Oklahoma State University, Feb. 2010
- “Explanation and Understanding,” Department of Philosophy, University of Cincinnati, Jan. 2010; and Department of Philosophy, University of Kentucky, Feb. 2010
- “Science in a Complex World: Lessons from Biology,” Steel Center Lecture, Hendrix College, March 2009
- “Cooperation, Competition and the Evolution of Sex,” Department of Philosophy, Hendrix College, March 2009
- “Evolution and Contextual Explanation,” Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, Jan. 2009
- “Philosophical Lessons from the Historical Sciences,” School of Geology, Oklahoma State University, Sept. 2008
- “Situating the Optimality Approach in Population Biology,” Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University, Sept. 2008
- “Philosophical Lessons from the Historical Sciences,” Philosophy Club, Oklahoma State University, Sept. 2008
- “The Unity of Science in a Disordered, Dappled World,” Departments of Philosophy at Syracuse University; University of California, Davis; University of Western Ontario; Florida State University; Oklahoma State University; and California State University, Long Beach; Jan. and Feb. 2008
- “Evolution and the Unity of Science,” Undergraduate Philosophy Association, Stanford University, Nov. 2005
- “Another Kind of Unity: The Case of Evolutionary Modeling,” Philosophical Pizza Munch, California Academy of the Sciences, Oct. 2005
- “Otto Neurath’s Philosophy and Politics,” with Audrey Yap, Undergraduate Philosophy Association, Stanford University, Oct. 2004

SELECTED REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- “Causal Patterns and Actual Causes,” in a session on “Modeling Real Patterns in Biology,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, University of Montreal, July 2015
- “Putting Communication First,” in a Symposium on Scientific Explanation: Communication, Representation, Objectivity, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Chicago, November 2014
- “Idealization and the Limits of Science,” Models and Simulations in the Sciences: Perspectives from Philosophy, History, and Policy, University of Notre Dame, May 2014
- “Science Isn’t After the Truth,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego, April 2014
- “Non-Causal Features of Causal Explanations,” A Conference in Honor of Elliott Sober, University of Wisconsin, Madison, May 2013

“Defusing Ideological Defenses in Biology,” Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, San Diego, Nov. 2012

“A Dispute over the Basics of Nature,” part of a critical discussion of Roughgarden’s *The Genial Gene*, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, University of Sydney, July 2009

“Optimality Explanation as Anti-Reductionism,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, University of Exeter, July 2007

“Generality, Complexity, and Approaches to Explanation,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, April 2007

“Optimality Modeling and Explanatory Generality,” Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, University of British Columbia, Nov. 2006

“Optimality Modeling and Explanatory Generality,” Southwest Colloquium in History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences, University of California, Davis, April 2006

“Another Kind of Unity: The Case of Evolutionary Modeling,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, University of Guelph, July 2005

“Another Kind of Unity: The Case of Evolutionary Modeling,” Philosophy of Biology Workshop, Stirling University, May 2005

“A Shift in Wittgenstein’s Position on Syntax,” The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, University of San Francisco, June 2004

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Graduate Courses

Phil 7021: History of Logical Empiricism	2012, 2017
Phil 6041: Graduate Logic	2015
Phil 8060: Idealization in Science	2014
Phil 8060: Socially Engaged Philosophy of Science	2012
Phil 740: Philosophy and Evolutionary Biology	2011
Phil 239: Teaching Methods (Stanford University)	2007, 2008

Undergraduate Courses

Hist 3096/Phil 3096: Vienna and the Birth of Modern Culture (co-taught with Katherine Sorrels)	2017
Phil 2010: Symbolic Logic	2014 – 2016
Phil 1032: How Science Works	2012, 2015
Phil 123: Introduction to Logic	2011, 2012
Phil 336: Gender and Science	2011
Phil 212: Twentieth Century Philosophy	2011
Phil 1313: Logic and Critical Thinking (Oklahoma State University)	2008 – 2010
Phil 4990: History of Analytic Philosophy (Oklahoma State University)	2010
Phil 4733: Philosophy of Biology (Oklahoma State University)	2009
Phil 4983: Metaphysics and Epistemology (Oklahoma State University)	2009
Phil 4713: Philosophy of Science (Oklahoma State University)	2008
Phil 195A: Unity of Science (Stanford University)	2008
Phil 50: Introductory Logic (Stanford University)	2008

PhD Dissertation Chair

Guilherme Sanches de Oliveira: <i>Scientific Modeling Without Representationalism</i>	2015 – present
Richard Stephenson	2015 – present

PhD Committees

Frank Faries: <i>Big Data and the Integrated Sciences of the Mind</i>	2015 – present
Eric Rogers: <i>Building a Better Invasion Biology: A Normative Approach to the Problem of Terminological Disunity</i>	2014 – present
Francis Cartieri: <i>Is Evolutionary Biology Possible?</i>	2013 – present
Maurice Lamb: <i>Characteristics of Non-Reductive Explanations in Complex Dynamical Systems Research</i>	2013 – 2015
Vanessa Bentley: <i>Building a Feminist Philosophy of Cognitive Neuroscience</i>	2012 – 2015
Hayden Thornburg: <i>New Work for a Theory of Emergence</i>	2011 –
Nina Atanasova: <i>Animal Models and the Unity of Neuroscience</i>	2011 – 2014

MA Thesis Advisor

Vanessa Bentley, co-advisor, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies MA committee: <i>Establishing the case for discipline-specific feminist philosophy of science</i>	2012 – 2013
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MA Committees

Sarah Mutschelknaus, MA committee (Oklahoma State University)	2009 – 2010
Charles Vachapittack, MA committee (Oklahoma State University)	2009 – 2010

Independent Study

Vanessa Bentley, Feminist Philosophy of Science, WGSS 811	2012
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PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES**Service to the Profession**

Associate Editor, <i>Biology and Philosophy</i>	2017 –
Invited speaker at the Early Career Development Workshop, ISHPSSB conference in Montreal	2015
Invited Comments on James Woodward's talk at a conference in honor of Daniel M. Hausman, UW Madison	2015
Organizer of "Explanation: Communication, Representation, Objectivity," Symposium, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting	2014
Leaf Editor for PhilPapers (Unity of Science Leaf)	2010 – present
Comments on Joel Velasco's "Species, Genes, and the Tree of Life," Pacific APA	2010
Comments on Robert Northcott's "Genetic Drift," Eastern APA	2009
Organizer of "The Genial Gene: Author Meets Critics," ISHPSSB Conference	2009
Reviewer for <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Biology and Philosophy</i> (2), <i>BioScience</i> , <i>The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science</i> (2), <i>Ergo</i> , <i>Erkenntnis</i> (3), <i>European Journal of Philosophy of Science</i> , <i>Hypatia</i> , <i>The International Journal of Philosophy of Science</i> , <i>The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism</i> , <i>Perspectives on Science</i> , <i>Philosophers' Imprint</i> , <i>Philosophical Studies</i> , <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> (2), <i>Philosophy and Theory in Biology</i> , <i>Philosophy of Science</i> (9), <i>Science and Education</i> , <i>The Southern Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences</i> (3), <i>Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science</i> , <i>Synthese</i> (3), <i>Theoria</i> (2), Elsevier Press, the Estonian Research Council, Oxford University Press, Minnesota Studies in Philosophy of Science book series, Routledge (3), Springer, the Central States Philosophical Association, and the Konrad Lorenz Institute and Michelle R. Clayman Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs.	2008 – present
Member of the American Philosophical Association, the Philosophy of Science Association, and the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology	2002 – present

Professional Development

Participant in the UC Women Lead Executive Leadership program, sponsored by the	2016 – 2017
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Office of the Provost (competitive selection process)	
Participant in STEM Teaching and Learning Workshop: Hidden inequities in active learning	2017
Participant in the FORTE workshops: Pathways to Leadership, University of Cincinnati	2015
Participant in The Op Ed Project (sessions held at UC; competitive selection process)	2014 – 2015
Participant in CET&L Showcasing Your Teaching workshop, University of Cincinnati	2012
Participant in CET&L Teaching Large Classes workshop, University of Cincinnati	2011
Participant in the Function and Evolution Working Group at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis, University of Tennessee	2009 – 2010
Participant in the Behavioral Ecology and Evolution Reading Group, Oklahoma State University	2009 – 2010
Participant in the Roughgarden Lab meetings, Stanford University	2007 – 2008
Member of Science and Technology Studies Writing Group	2006 – 2008
Coordinator of interdisciplinary reading group on feminist philosophy of science	2006
Presenter and Participant in Logical Methods in the Humanities discussion series	2002 – 2006
Participant in interdisciplinary reading group on biology and feminism	2004
University of Cincinnati: Philosophy Department	
Director of Graduate Studies for the Philosophy Department	2014 – present
Member of the Diversity Task Force	2011 – present
Member of the Department Head Search Committee	2015
Member of Merit Review Committee	2014 – 2015
Member of the Graduate Studies Committee	2011 – 2013
Organizer of 49th Annual UC Philosophy Colloquium (three-day conference)	2012
Member of Taft Undergraduate Fellowship application review committee	2011
University of Cincinnati: College- and University-Level	
Mentor in the A&S women-to-women mentoring project	2016 – present
Representative of A&S on the University Graduate Council	2015 – present
Member of the Graduate Council of the College of Arts and Sciences	2014 – present
Member of the Taft Faculty Fellowship Committee	2016 – 2017
Member of the Classics Department Head Search Committee	2014 – 2015
Presentation on combatting implicit bias and stereotype threat in the classroom with Vanessa Carbonell, at a university-wide professional training workshop	2015
with Vanessa Carbonell, at UC's Annual Diversity Conference	2014
Member of the Diversity Task Force for the College of Arts and Sciences	2013 – 2014
Member of the University Research Council's Review Committee for Undergrad. Fellowships	2012 – 2013
Oklahoma State University	
Reviewer of travel grant proposals for the College of Arts and Sciences	2010
Developer and coordinator of the writing component of the MA Proseminar	2009
Member of the Modern Comprehensive Exam Committee	2008 – 2010
Organizer of philosophy faculty reading group	2008 – 2009