

David B. Kinney

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Specialization

AOS: Philosophy of Science, Formal Epistemology, Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

AOC: Decision Theory, Philosophy and Public Policy

Academic Employment

Omidyar Postdoctoral Fellow, Santa Fe Institute, September 2019-Present

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, London School of Economics, 2015–2019

Dissertation Title: *The Problem of Granularity for Scientific Explanation*.

Advisors: Katie Steele (ANU), Jonathan Birch (LSE), Luc Bovens (UNC Chapel Hill)

Examiners: Christopher Hitchcock (Cal Tech) and Christian List (LSE)

Visiting Student, Australian National University, February–August 2017, August 2018

M.Sc. Philosophy and Public Policy, London School of Economics, 2013–2014 (Distinction)

B.A. Philosophy, Dartmouth College, 2007–2011 (*cum laude*, High Honors)

Publications

2019. [On the Explanatory Depth and Pragmatic Value of Coarse-Grained, Probabilistic, Causal Explanations](#). *Philosophy of Science*. 86(1): 145-167.

2019. [Inductive Explanation and Garber-Style Solutions to the Problem of Old Evidence](#). *Synthese*. 196(10): 3995-4009.

2018. [Imprecise Bayesian Networks as Causal Models](#). *Information*. 9(9), 211.

Selected Works In Progress

‘Bayesian Networks and Causal Ecumenism.’ Under Review.

‘Blocking the Argument for Emergent Chance.’ Under Review.

‘Curie’s Principle and Causal Graphs.’ Under Review.

‘Stacking and Theory Choice in Science.’ Under Review.

‘Pragmatic Causal Feature Learning’ (with David Watson). Under Review.

‘Risk-Aversion and Elite-Group Ignorance’ (with Liam Kofi Bright). Under Review.

'Epistemic Principles of Astrobiology' (with Chris Kempes). In Progress.

'Why Average When You Can Stack? Better Methods for Generating Accurate Group Credences.' In Progress.

'Kolmogorov Complexity and Occam's Razor Assumptions in Inductive Causal Inference.' In Progress.

Awards and Scholarships

LSE Philosophy Class Teacher Award 2016, 2019

LSE Popper Prize (biennial award for distinguished graduate work in an area of philosophy to which Karl Popper made significant contributions), 2018

National Science Foundation Travel Grant 2018

LSE Postgraduate Travel Award 2016 (x2), 2017 (x3), 2018 (x3)

LSE Student's Union Teaching Award: Highly Commended for Feedback and Communication 2016

LSE Ph.D. Studentship 2015–2019

James B. Reynolds Scholarship for Graduate Study Abroad 2013–2014 (provided M.Sc. tuition)

Teaching

Courses Taught at LSE (As Graduate Teaching Assistant):*

*At LSE, graduate teaching assistants have full responsibility for weekly classes and marking formative and summative work.

PH103: Introduction to Philosophy. 2018-19

PH201: Philosophy of Science. 2017-18

PH225: Business and Organizational Ethics. Autumn 2016

PH101: Logic. 2015-16

PH222: Philosophy and Public Policy. 2015-16

Courses Taught at King's College London (As Graduate Teaching Assistant):

6AANA046: Topics in Political Philosophy. Autumn 2016

Teacher Training:

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education

Selected Conference and Workshop Presentations

TBD. 2020 Cambridge Workshop on Superdeterminism and Retrocausality. May 2020. Cambridge.

Kolmogorov Complexity and Occam's Razor Assumptions in Inductive Causal Inference. Conference for Philosophy of Science and Formal Methods in Philosophy. December 2019. Gdansk.

Algorithmic Causal Modeling as a More General Model of Inductive Causal Inference. European Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Conference. September 2019. Geneva.

Efficient Information Gathering for Agents with a Causal Model of their Environment. Workshop on Causal Cognition in Humans and Machines. May 2019. Oxford.

Pragmatic Causal Feature Learning. Workshop on Causation vs. Constitution: Loosening the Friction. December 2018. Bergen.

Curie's Principle and Causal Graphs.

Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting. November 2018. Seattle, WA.

Society for Exact Philosophy Annual Conference. May 2018. Storrs, CT.

Causal Explanations: Power, Depth, Granularity, and Accuracy. Explanatory Power Workshop. June 2018. Geneva.

Two Concepts of Independence for Imprecise Bayesian Networks. Munich-Sydney-Tilburg-Turin Philosophy of Science Conference. June 2018. Turin.

Bayesian Networks and Multi-Level Causation. APA Central Division Meeting. February 2018. Chicago, IL.

A Dilemma for Multi-Level Humeans. Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference. July 2017. Adelaide.

Choosing the Correct Level of Causal Description: A Pragmatic Approach.

Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference. October 2017. New York, NY.

Munich-Sydney-Tilburg Philosophy of Science Conference. March 2017. Sydney.

Dutch Research School of Philosophy (OZSW) Conference. December 2016. Groningen.

Invited Talks

Levels Without Supervenience: An Information-Bottleneck Approach. Institute of Philosophy. October 2019. London.

Pragmatic Causal Feature Learning. LSE Choice Group. November 2018. London.

Imprecise Bayesian Networks as Causal Models. Workshop on Counterfactuals and Causal Modeling. August 2018. Canberra.

A Dilemma for Multi-Level Humeans.

LSE Choice Group. October 2017. London.

University of Melbourne HPS Seminar. July 2017. Melbourne.

Choosing the Correct Level of Causal Description: A Pragmatic Approach. ANU PhilSoc Seminar. March 2017. Canberra.

Service

Research Assistant for LSE Choice Group (Weekly departmental seminar), 2017-2019.

Reviewer for *Philosophy of Science* (x3), *Synthese*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* and *International Journal of Approximate Reasoning*.

Referee for LSE-Bayreuth Student Philosophy Conference, 2017-2019

Non-Academic Employment

Hampton Partners. Mergers and Acquisitions Analyst. London. 2014-2015

UK House of Lords. Parliamentary Intern to Baroness Claire Tyler of Enfield. London. 2013-2014 (concurrent with M.Sc. study)

Hughes Hubbard and Reed LLP. Corporate Paralegal. New York. 2011-2013

References

Dr. Jonathan Birch
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method
London School of Economics and Political Science

Dr. Luc Bovens
Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Christopher Hitchcock
J. O. and Juliette Koepfli Professor of Philosophy
Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences
California Institute of Technology

Dr. Katie Steele
Associate Professor
School of Philosophy
Australian National University

Dr. Colleen McKenna (Teaching Reference)
Academic Developer
Teaching and Learning Centre
London School of Economics and Political Science