

Joshua Eisenthal

California Institute of Technology
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Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Science, Early Analytic Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Logic, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Language

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 — present **California Institute of Technology; Einstein Papers Project.**
Research Assistant Professor of Philosophy; Editor.
- 2020 — 2021 **University of Bonn.**
Heinrich Hertz Fellowship.
- 2018 — 2019 **University of Pittsburgh.**
Visiting Lecturer.

EDUCATION

- 2011 — 2018 **University of Pittsburgh**
Ph.D., Philosophy
Dissertation advisors: Mark Wilson, Thomas Ricketts.
Committee: James Shaw, Kenneth Schaffner, Warren Goldfarb.
- 2009 — 2011 **Canterbury Christ Church University**
Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (Teach First)
- 2005 — 2009 **University of Oxford**
MPhysPhil, Physics and Philosophy
– Visiting Student at Princeton University, 2008–2009

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 **“Normal Connections’ and the Law of Causality.”** In: Zalabardo, J. (ed)
Wittgenstein’s Tractatus: A Critical Guide. Cambridge University Press.

- 2023 **“Propositions as Pictures in Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*: A Sketch of a New Interpretation.”** In: Pichler, A. Heinrich-Ramharter, E. and Stadler, F. (eds) *100 Years Tractatus*. Beiträge der Österreichischen Ludwig Wittgenstein Gesellschaft, Vol. XXIX. Kirchberg am Wechsel: ALWS.
- 2022 **“Reichenbach’s Empirical Axiomatization of Relativity.”** With Lydia Patton. *Synthese*, 200 (6): 1-24.
- 2022 **“Models and Multiplicities.”** *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 60 (2): 277-302.
- 2021 **“Hertz’s *Mechanics* and a Unitary Notion of Force.”** *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 90: 226-234.
— Winning entry for the 2020 Du Châtelet Prize in Philosophy of Physics.
- 2020 **“A Raum with a View: Hermann Weyl and the Problem of Space.”** With Neil Dewar. In: Beisbart C., Sauer T., Wüthrich C. (eds) *Thinking About Space and Time*. Einstein Studies, Vol. 15.
- 2018 **“Mechanics without Mechanisms.”** *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part B: Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, 62: 45–55.

EDITORIAL PROJECTS AND REVIEWS

- 2024 ***The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein, Volume 17. The Berlin Years: June 1929 - November 1930.*** With Diana Kormos Buchwald, Ze’ev Rosenkranz, József Illy, Daniel J. Kennefick, Anne Kox, Tilman Sauer, Jennifer Nollar James, et al. Princeton University Press.
- 2021 **Review of José Zalabardo (2015), *Representation and Reality in Wittgenstein’s Tractatus*.** *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy*, 9(6): 21–33.
- 2021 ***The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein, Volume 16. The Berlin Years: June 1927 - May 1929.*** With Diana Kormos Buchwald, Ze’ev Rosenkranz, József Illy, Daniel J. Kennefick, Anne Kox, Dennis Lehmkuhl, Tilman Sauer, Jennifer Nollar James, et al. Princeton University Press.
- 2020 **“Epistemology of Geometry.”** With Lydia Patton. *Oxford Bibliographies*, New York: Oxford University Press. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/obo/9780195396577-0402>]

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Absolute Motion Detector” — under review; manuscript available on request.

“Proposition as Pictures” — draft in progress.

AWARDS

- 2020 **Duke University.** Du Châtelet Prize in Philosophy of Physics. Duke University.
- 2018 **British Society for the History of Philosophy.** BSHP Graduate Essay Prize (runner up).
- 2018 **University of Pittsburgh.** Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award.
- 2017 **University of Pittsburgh.** Nicholas Rescher Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2016 **University of Pittsburgh.** Wesley C. Salmon Research Fund.
- 2011 **Teach First.** Teaching Excellence Award.
- 2009 **Princeton University.** J. Walker Tomb Prize in Philosophy of Time.
- 2009 **Princeton University.** John Martyn Warbeke Prize in Metaphysics and Epistemology (co-winner).
- 2009 **Princeton University.** Alexander Guthrie McCosh Prize (co-winner).
- 2009 **University of Oxford.** Elizabeth Anscombe Prize (Physics and Philosophy nominee).

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 **University of California Los Angeles.** History, Philosophy and Science of Science Seminar Series, April 2024. “The Absolute Motion Detector.”
- Bard College.** Physics Phriday Seminar Series, February 2024. “The Absolute Motion Detector.”
- 2023 **California Institute of Technology.** HPS Seminar Series, March 2023. “Back to the Problem of Space.”
- 2022 **Harvard University.** Black Hole Initiative, May 2022. “Back to the Problem of Space.”
- Duke University.** Du Châtelet Prize in Philosophy of Physics and History and Philosophy of Chemistry Joint Workshop, April 2022 “Hertz’s *Mechanics* and a Unitary Notion of Force.”
- 2020 **University of Bonn.** History and Philosophy of Physics Research Seminar, November 2020 “Hertz’s *Mechanics* and a Unitary Notion of Force.”
- University of California, Irvine.** Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, February 2020 “Hertz’s Dynamical Models in Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*.”
- 2016 **McMaster University.** Workshop, *Logic in Kant’s Wake*. May 2016. “Logically Oriented Physics.”

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2024 History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), University of Vienna, July 2024. "On Constructive and Principle Theories."
- Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy (SSHAP), Hartford and Middletown, Connecticut, June 2024. "Propositions as Pictures."
- Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP), University of South Carolina, May 2024. "The Absolute Motion Detector."
- 2023 44th International Wittgenstein Symposium, Kirchberg am Wechsel, August 2023. "Propositions as Pictures"
- Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy, Berlin, July 2023. "Back to the Problem of Space."
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science (BSPS), Bristol, July 2023. "Back to the Problem of Space."
- Integrated History and Philosophy of Science (&HPS), University of South Carolina, March 2023. "Back to the Problem of Space."
- American Philosophical Association (APA), Denver, February 2023. "Back to the Problem of Space."
- 2022 On *Übersichtlichkeit*: Wittgenstein's Perspicuous Representation and its Historical Genealogy, Venice, September 2022. "The Paradigm of an *übersichtliche Darstellung*."
- TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Workshop, Tilburg, August 2022. "An Essential Similarity: Hertz's Method in Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*."
- Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy, Shanxi University, July 2022. "An Essential Similarity: Hertz's Method in Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*."
- History of Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine, June 2022. "Hertz's *Mechanics* and a Unitary Notion of Force."
- British Society for the History of Philosophy, Edinburgh University, April 2022. "Hertz's *Mechanics* and a Unitary Notion of Force."
- 2021 Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, Vienna, July 2021. "Propositions as Pictures."
- 2020 TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Workshop, Tilburg, December 2020. "Causation, Necessity, and Philosophy of Science in Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*."
- 2019 TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Workshop, Tilburg, July 2019. "A New Role for Ontology."
- Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, Boston, June 2019. "A New Role for Ontology."
- 2018 Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, Hamilton, June 2018. "Wittgenstein's simple objects and Hertz's dynamical models."

- American Philosophical Association, Chicago, February 2018. “Matching Multiplicities: Analysis and Simplicity in the *Tractatus*.”
- 2017 European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Munich, August 2017. “A Logical Obscurity.”
- Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, Calgary, May 2017. “A Logical Obscurity.”
- 2016 History of Science Society (HSS), Atlanta, November 2016. “Mechanics without Mechanisms.”
- London School of Economics Foundations of Physics, London, July 2016. “Mechanics without Mechanisms.”
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Meeting, Cardiff, July 2016. “Mechanics without Mechanisms.”
- 2015 Spanish Society for Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, Barcelona, July 2015. “Wittgenstein’s so-called Logical Atomism.”
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Manchester, July 2015. “The Problem of Space.”
- Irvine-Pittsburgh-Princeton Conference, Princeton, March 2015. “The Problem of Space.”
- 2014 Philosophy of Logic Mathematics and Physics Conference, London Ontario, June 2014. “The Problem of Space.”

TEACHING

As Instructor of Record:

- “**Space and Time.**” Caltech, Spring term 2025
- “**Early 20th Century Philosophy: The Vienna Circle.**” Caltech, Winter term 2023
- “**Introduction to Logic.**” University of Pittsburgh, Spring semester 2019
- “**Philosophy and Science.**” University of Pittsburgh, Spring semester 2019
- “**Introduction to Logic.**” University of Pittsburgh, Fall semester 2018
- “**The *Tractatus* and Early Analytic Philosophy.**” University of Pittsburgh, Spring semester 2018

As Writing Instructor (University of Pittsburgh):

- “**Problems of Philosophy**” (with James Shaw), Spring semester 2017
- “**History of Ancient Philosophy**” (with Jessica Gelber), Fall semester 2016

As Recitation Instructor (University of Pittsburgh):

- “**Philosophy and Public Issues**” (with David de Bruijn), Fall semester 2017
- “**Introduction to Logic**” (with Thomas Ricketts), Spring semester 2015
- “**Introduction to Logic**” (with Kent Schmor), Fall semester 2014
- “**Philosophy of Science**” (with Giovanni Valente), Spring semester 2013
- “**History of Modern Philosophy**” (with Andrew Chignell), Fall semester 2012

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

History of Philosophy of Science; Philosophy of Science Association; British Society for the Philosophy of Science; Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy; British Society for the History of Philosophy; American Association of Philosophy Teachers.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Secretary

Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy, July 2024—present

Treasurer

Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy, July 2021—July 2024

Journal referee

Mind; British Journal for the Philosophy of Science; Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Science; Philosophy of Science; History of Philosophy of Science; Perspectives on Science; Foundations of Science; International Studies in the Philosophy of Science

LANGUAGES

English (fluent); German (reading)

REFERENCES

Diana Kormos-Buchwald

Robert M. Abbey Professor of History; Director and General Editor of The Einstein Papers Project, California Institute of Technology
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Katherine Brading

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TEACHING REFERENCE:

Anil Gupta

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