

Christopher J. Austin

✉ christopherja@gmail.com • 📞 07779309466 • 🌐 christopherjaustin.com

Research Focus

Specialisation: Metaphysics (esp. Modality, Dispositions, & Causation)
Philosophy of Science (esp. Philosophy of Biology)

Competence: Ancient Philosophy (esp. Aristotle)
Early Modern Philosophy (esp. Leibniz, Hume, & Locke)

Academic Appointments

Research Fellow in Metaphysics	<i>Durham University</i>	[2019 –]
Head of Philosophy	<i>Sutton Grammar School</i>	(2017-2019)
Research Fellow in Metaphysics	<i>University of Oxford</i>	(2016-2017)
Associate Lecturer	<i>Oxford Brookes University</i>	(2016-2017)
Post-Doc Researcher	<i>Analysis Trust at University of Oxford</i>	(2015-2016)
Teaching Associate	<i>University of Nottingham</i>	(2012-2015)

Education

Ph.D.	<i>University of Nottingham</i>	Philosophy	(2011-2015)
M.A./BPhil	<i>University of Oxford</i>	Philosophy	(2009-2011)
B.A. (hons.)	<i>Indiana University</i>	Philosophy	(2004-2009)

Post-Doctoral Research Project Memberships

The Mereology of Potentiality Funding Body: Leverhulme Trust	<i>Durham</i>	[2019 –]
The Metaphysics of Biology Role: External research collaborator Funding Body: Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad	<i>Murcia</i>	[2017 –]
The Metaphysics of Entanglement Funding Body: Templeton World Charity Foundation	<i>Oxford</i>	(2016-2017)
Power Structuralism in Ancient Ontologies Funding Body: European Research Council	<i>Oxford</i>	(2015-2017)

Publications

Books

Essence in the Age of Evolution: A New Theory of Natural Kinds (2018)
Routledge

Edited Volume Chapters

**“Form, Cause, and Explanation in Biology:
A Neo-Aristotelian Perspective”** (forthcoming)
in Neo-Aristotelian Perspectives on Formal Causation
Routledge: eds. L. Jansen, P. Sandstad
[invited contribution]

“Dispositions in Evolutionary Developmental Biology” (2018)
co-authored with L. Nuño de la Rosa
in Evolutionary Developmental Biology: A Reference Guide
Springer: eds. L., Nuño de la Rosa, G. Müller
[invited contribution]

“Structural Powers & The Homeodynamic Unity of Organisms” (2018)
co-authored with A. Marmodoro
in Neo-Aristotelian Perspectives on Contemporary Science
Routledge: eds. W. Simpson, R. Koons, N. Teh
[invited contribution]

“A Biologically Informed Hylomorphism” (2018)
in Neo-Aristotelian Perspectives on Contemporary Science
Routledge: eds. W. Simpson, R. Koons, N. Teh
[invited contribution]

Journal Articles

“Contemporary Hylomorphisms: On the Matter of Form” (2020)
Dialogoi

**“Organisms, Activity, and Being:
On the Substance of Process Ontology”** (2020)
European Journal for Philosophy of Science
DOI: 10.1007/s13194-020-0278-0

“Recent Work in the Philosophy of Biology” (2017)
Analysis [invited contribution]
DOI: 10.1093/analys/ans032

“Evo-Devo: A Science of Dispositions” (2017)
European Journal for Philosophy of Science
DOI: 10.1007/s13194-016-0166-9

“Aristotelian Essentialism: Essence in the Age of Evolution” (2016)
Synthese
DOI: 10.1007/s11229-016-1066-4

**“The Ontology of Organisms:
Mechanistic Modules or Patterned Processes?”** (2016)
Biology & Philosophy
DOI: 10.1007/s10539-016-9533-3

“Is Dispositional Causation Just Mutual Manifestation?” (2015)
Ratio
DOI: 10.1111/rati.12100

“The Dispositional Genome: *Primus Inter Pares*” (2015)
Biology & Philosophy
DOI: 10.1007/s10539-014-9454-y

“The Truthmaking Argument Against Dispositionalism” (2015)
Ratio
DOI: 10.1111/rati.12071

“The Relation of Compresence in the Bundle Theory” (2008)
Percipi

Book Reviews

“Causality: An Empirically Informed Plea for Pluralism” (2016)
Metascience [invited contribution]
DOI: 10.1007/s11016-016-0062-0
Review of *Causality: Philosophical Theory Meets Scientific Practice*
by P. Illari & F. Russo, Oxford University Press (2015)

Presentations: Conferences, Workshops, Symposiums

- **“Power Structuralism: An Ontology of Organisms”** (with A. Marmodoro), *Life and Mind: Aristotelian Themes in Contemporary Philosophy*, Institut d’Études Avancées de Paris, September 2019 [on invitation]
- **“Causation at the Intersection of Biology and Philosophy”**, *Spanish Society for Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science Conference*, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid, November 2018 [invited symposium]
- **“Form, Cause, and Explanation in Biology: A Neo-Aristotelian Perspective”**, *Formal Causation*, Universität Rostock, October 2018
- **“Essence in the Age of Evolution”**, *The Research Workshop on Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Science*, Complutense University of Madrid, May 2018 [keynote: on invitation]
- **“A Biologically Informed Hylomorphism”**, *The View From Above: Structure, Emergence, and Causation*, University of Oxford, January 2018 [on invitation]
- **“Aristotelian Essentialism: Essence in the Age of Evolution”**, *Aristotle Resurgent: Exploring Neo-Aristotelian Approaches to Ethics, Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Science*, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, May 2017 [on invitation]
- **“Developmental Biology: A Matter of Form”**, *5th Annual Nordic Network for the Philosophy of Science Meeting*, University of Copenhagen, April 2017
- **“A Biologically Informed Hylomorphism”**, *Cambridge Philosophy of Science Seminar*, Cambridge University, March 2017 [on invitation]
- **“The Genetic Realisation of Dispositional Properties”**, *3rd Annual Nordic Network for the Philosophy of Science Meeting*, University of Geneva, April 2015
- **“Dispositional Directedness Naturalised”**, *17th Annual British Postgraduate Philosophical Association Conference*, University of Glasgow, June 2013
- *Dispositions, Causes, Modality*: DFG Research Group in Causation, Laws, Dispositions, and Explanation, University of Cologne, March 2012
- **“The Conditional Analysis of Dispositions: The Problem of Masking and the Threat of Vacuity”**, *The First Institute of Philosophy/Northern Institute of Philosophy Graduate Conference*, University of Aberdeen, July 2010
- **“Dispositional Actualism & Possible Worlds: An Ersatz, Realist Proposal”**, *11th Annual Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference*, Princeton and Rutgers University, May 2010
- **“Invariant or Contextual Dispositional Essentialism?: Grades of Modality, Nomic Contingency and Explanation”**, *The Ockham Society*, University of Oxford, November 2009
- **“The Intrinsic and Extrinsic Aspects of Attribution”**, *Southern Appalachian Philosophy Conference*, University of North Carolina Asheville, October 2006
- **“Is it Possible for Possibility to be Predicable?”**, *Ohio Philosophical Association*, College of Wooster, April 2007

Teaching Experience

Ancient Greek Philosophy	<i>European Studies, Oxford</i>	(2018)
Epistemology	<i>Sutton Grammar School</i>	(2017-2019)
Philosophy of Mind	<i>Sutton Grammar School</i>	(2017-2019)
Ethics	<i>Sutton Grammar School</i>	(2017-2019)
Philosophy of Religion	<i>Sutton Grammar School</i>	(2017-2019)
Special Topic: Metaphysics	<i>Oxford Brookes University</i>	(2016)
Intro. to Philosophy	<i>Oxford Brookes University</i>	(2016)
Special Topic: Hume	<i>University of Nottingham</i>	(2015)
Philosophy of Science	<i>University of Nottingham</i>	(2014)
Metaphysics & Language	<i>University of Nottingham</i>	(2014)
History of Western Philosophy	<i>University of Nottingham</i>	(2012-2013)
Plato	<i>University of Nottingham</i>	(2012-2013)
Ancient Philosophy	<i>Corpus Christi College, Oxford</i>	(2010)

Awards and Fellowships

Analysis Trust Studentship at The University of Oxford (2015)

This prestigious and highly competitive studentship supports a promising philosopher, enabling him or her to conduct full-time research, and is accompanied by a £14,000 grant. The studentship was for the independent research project ‘Aristotelian Evo-Devo’, and was based at the University of Oxford, in association with Anna Marmodoro’s Power Structuralism in Ancient Ontologies project, externally funded by a €1.3 million grant from the European Research Council.

Vice Chancellor’s International Research Excellence Scholarship (2011)

This fully-funded, highly competitive scholarship at the University of Nottingham is awarded to overseas students who exhibit a history of and potential for outstanding academic excellence in their respective fields.

Professional Service

Referee for International Peer-Reviewed Philosophical Journals

Mind, Philosophy of Science, The Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Metascience, Synthese, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Acta Biotheoretica, Biology and Philosophy, History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences, Erkenntnis, Dialectica, Acta Analytica, Topoi, International Journal of Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Inquiries, European Journal of Philosophy of Science, Logical Analysis and History of Philosophy

Referee for Academic Publishers and Research Council Committees

Bloomsbury Publishing, The European Research Council (ERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)

Conference and Workshop Organisation

- *The Mereology of Potentiality* (2020)
Durham University
- *Time, Laws, and Free Will* (2020)
University of Oxford
- *Aristotelian Biology Meets Christian Theology in the Early Imperial Era* (2019)
University of Oxford
- *Issues at the Intersection of Metaphysics and Biology* (2018)
Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia
- *The Foundation of Reality: Fundamentality, Space, and Time* (2017)
University of Oxford
- *Corpus Christi College Philosophy Open Day* (2017)
University of Oxford
- *New Directions in the Metaphysics of the Trinity* (2016)
University of Oxford
- *14th Annual Oxford Graduate Conference* (2010)
University of Oxford

Dissertation & Theses

- Ph.D.** **University of Nottingham** (2015)
Essence in the Age of Evolution: A Defence of Neo-Aristotelian Biological Natural Kind Essentialism
Supervised by: Stephen Mumford & Penelope Mackie
Examination Committee: Samir Okasha (external) & Mark Jago (internal)
- M.A. (BPhil)** **University of Oxford** (2011)
Defending Dispositional Realism: Tropes, Truthmaking and Counterfactuals
Supervised by: Joseph Melia
- B.A. (Honours)** **Indiana University** (2008)
A Critique of the Contemporary Essentialist's Commitment
Supervised by: Timothy O'Connor

References

Stephen Mumford

Professor of Metaphysics
Durham University
stephen.mumford@durham.ac.uk

Penelope Mackie

Associate Professor & Reader
University of Nottingham
penelope.mackie@nottingham.ac.uk

William Jaworski

Professor of Philosophy
Fordham University
jaworski@fordham.edu

Anna Marmodoro

Fellow in Philosophy
University of Oxford
anna.marmodoro@philosophy.ox.ac.uk

Timothy O'Connor

Professor of Philosophy
Indiana University
toconnor@indiana.edu

Stephen Boulter

Professor of Philosophy
Oxford Brookes University
sboulter@brookes.ac.uk