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Wolfgang Schwarz

Employment

- since 2017 **Lecturer**, University of Edinburgh, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences
- 2015–2017 **Chancellor’s Fellow**, University of Edinburgh, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences
- 2010–2014 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Australian National University, RSSH School of Philosophy
- 2009–2010 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, University of Cologne, Emmy Noether Research Group “Understanding and the Apriori”
- 2008–2009 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Australian National University, Centre for Consciousness
- 2006–2008 **Visiting Research Fellow**, Australian National University, RSSH School of Philosophy
- 2005–2006 **Teaching Fellow**, University of Bielefeld, Department of Philosophy

Research Interests

Formal Epistemology: diachronic norms • self-locating beliefs • perception
• interpretationism

Philosophy of Language: modals • conditionals • implicatures • multi-indexing • meta-semantics

Metaphysics: dimensions of reality • transworld identity • meta-metaphysics

Logic: quantified modal logic • applications of Gödel’s theorems • automated theorem proving

Philosophy of Science: structure and interpretation of probabilistic models

Education

- 2006 **PhD in Philosophy**
University of Bielefeld (*summa cum laude*)
- 2003 **Magister Artium in Philosophy, Neuroscience, and Formal Logic**
University of Bielefeld and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich

Publications: Journal Articles

- 2021 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Discourse, Diversity, and Free Choice**”. In: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 99, pp. 48–67. DOI: [10.1080/00048402.2020.1736108](https://doi.org/10.1080/00048402.2020.1736108).
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Objects of Choice**”. In: *Mind*, forthcoming. DOI: [10.1093/mind/fzaa032](https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzaa032).
- 2020 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Ability and Possibility**”. In: *Philosophers’ Imprint* 20.6, pp. 1–21.
- 2019 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**From Sensor Variables To Phenomenal Facts**”. In: *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 26, pp. 217–227.
- 2018 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Imaginary Foundations**”. In: *Ergo* 5.29, pp. 764–789. DOI: [10.3998/ergo.12405314.0005.029](https://doi.org/10.3998/ergo.12405314.0005.029).
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**No Interpretation of Probability**”. In: *Erkenntnis* 83.6, pp. 1195–1212. DOI: [10.1007/s10670-017-9936-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-017-9936-9).
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Subjunctive Conditional Probability**”. In: *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 47.1, pp. 47–66. DOI: [10.1007/s10992-016-9416-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10992-016-9416-8).
- 2017 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Diachronic Norms for Self-locating Beliefs**”. In: *Ergo* 4, pp. 709–738. DOI: [10.3998/ergo.12405314.0004.025](https://doi.org/10.3998/ergo.12405314.0004.025).
- 2016 Jens Christian Bjerring and Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Granularity Problems**”. In: *The Philosophical Quarterly* 67.266, pp. 22–37. DOI: [10.1093/pq/pqw028](https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqw028).
- 2015 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Belief update across fission**”. In: *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 66, pp. 659–682. DOI: [10.1093/bjps/axu001](https://doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axu001).
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Lost memories and useless coins: Revisiting the absentminded driver**”. In: *Synthese* 192, pp. 3011–3036. DOI: [10.1007/s11229-015-0699-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-015-0699-z).
- 2014 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Against Magnetism**”. In: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92.1, pp. 17–36. DOI: [10.1080/00048402.2013.765900](https://doi.org/10.1080/00048402.2013.765900).

- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Counterpart Theory and the Paradox of Occasional Identity**”. In: *Mind* 123.492, pp. 1057–1094. DOI: [10.1093/mind/fzu143](https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzu143).
- 2013 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Contingent Identity**”. In: *Philosophy Compass* 8.5, pp. 486–495. DOI: [10.1111/phc3.12028](https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12028).
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Variations on a Montagovian theme**”. In: *Synthese* 190.16, pp. 3377–3395. DOI: [10.1007/s11229-012-0173-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-012-0173-0).
- 2012 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Changing Minds in a Changing World**”. In: *Philosophical Studies* 159, pp. 219–239. DOI: [10.1007/s11098-011-9699-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-011-9699-0).

Other Publications

- 2021 Ned Hall, Brian Rabern, and Wolfgang Schwarz. “**David Lewis’s Metaphysics**”. In: *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Ed. by Edward N. Zalta. Fall 2021. Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University.
- 2018 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Semantic Possibility**”. In: *The Science of Meaning*. Ed. by D. Ball and B. Rabern. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 360–380.
- 2015 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Analytic Functionalism**”. In: *A Companion to David Lewis*. Ed. by B. Loewer and J. Schaffer. John Wiley & Sons, pp. 504–518.
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Best System Approaches to Chance**”. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Probability and Philosophy*. Ed. by Alan Hájek and Christopher Hitchcock. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 423–439.
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Review of Tychomancy**”. In: *Philosophy of Science* 82.2, pp. 313–320. DOI: [10.1086/680490](https://doi.org/10.1086/680490).
- 2014 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Proving the Principal Principle**”. In: *Chance and Temporal Asymmetry*. Ed. by A. Wilson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 81–99.
- 2012 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**How Things are Elsewhere: Adventures in Counterpart Semantics**”. In: *New Waves in Philosophical Logic*. Ed. by G. Russell and G. Restall. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 8–29.
- 2009 Wolfgang Schwarz. *David Lewis: Metaphysik und Analyse*. Paderborn: mentis.
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Eigenschaften/Relationen**”. In: *100 Grundbegriffe der Philosophie*. Ed. by Christian Nimtz. Reclam, pp. 68–70.
- Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Notwendigkeit/Möglichkeit**”. In: *100 Grundbegriffe der Philosophie*. Ed. by Christian Nimtz. Reclam, pp. 190–192.

- 2007 Wolfgang Schwarz. “**Modal Metaphysics and Conceptual Metaphysics**”. In: *Philosophie: Grundlagen und Anwendungen. Ausgewählte Beiträge aus den Sektionen der GAP 6*. Ed. by Helen Bohse and Sven Walter. Paderborn: Mentis, pp. 520–528.

Selected Talks

- 2021 “**Believing Against the Evidence**”
- Choice Group, LSE, 2021
 - Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge, 2021
- 2021 “**Impossible Outcomes**”
- departmental seminar, University of Leeds, 2021
 - PhilSoc seminar, University of Edinburgh, 2021
- 2020 “**No Evidence for Singular Thought**”
- joint seminar series Lingnan University and University of Hong Kong, 2020
 - invited contribution to workshop *Singularity and Identity*, University of Umeå, 2019
- 2020 “**Modal Knowledge without Modal Facts**”
- departmental seminar, Durham University, 2020
 - workshop with Barry Loewer and Katalin Balog, University of Edinburgh, 2019
 - invited contribution to workshop *Modal Knowledge*, University of Bielefeld, 2017
- 2020 “**Semantic Possibility**”
- Lancaster University Philosophy Society, 2020
- 2019 “**Lewis’s Empiricism**”
- keynote talk at conference *David Lewis and His Place in the History of Analytic Philosophy*, Manchester, 2019
- 2018 “**Abilities and Possibilities**”
- departmental seminar, University of Glasgow, 2018
 - departmental seminar, Australian National University, 2018
 - departmental seminar, University of Aberdeen, 2017 (as “Abilities de dicto and de re”)
 - invited contribution to FU Workshop in Metaphysics, FU Berlin, 2017
- 2018 “**Counterparts in Singular Thought**”
- departmental seminar, Sydney University, 2018
- 2018 “**No Interpretation of Probability**”
- CamPoS seminar, Cambridge, 2018
 - research group *Causality, Laws, Dispositions and Explanations*, University of Cologne, 2014
- 2017 “**Imaginary Foundations**”
- invited contribution to workshop *Experience and Updating*, Ruhr-University Bochum, 2017
 - departmental seminar, University of Melbourne, 2013
 - workshop with Tim Williamson, University of Cologne, 2010 (as “Phenomenal Evidence”)
 - departmental seminar, Australian National University, 2006 (as “What do we learn from Experience?”)
 - departmental seminar, University of Bielefeld, 2006

- 2016 **“Truth at a Context”**
 ○ Language Workshop, University of Edinburgh
- 2016 **“Semantic Possibility”**
 ○ departmental research seminar, University of Bielefeld, 2016
 ○ Language and Mind Seminar, University of St. Andrews, 2015
- 2015 **“Confirmation and Conditionalization”**
 ○ seminar series *Philosophy of Science: Contemporary Debates*, University of Edinburgh, 2015
 ○ workshop *Epistemology meets Philosophy of Mind*, Australian National University, 2012 (as “Coming to disagree with the evidence”)
- 2015 **“Options and Actions”**
 ○ departmental seminar, Universität des Saarlandes (as “Entscheidungsmöglichkeiten”)
- 2015 **“Structure and Content”**
 ○ invited contribution to workshop *The nature of representation*, University of Leeds
- 2014 **“Statistical Explanation”**
 ○ invited contribution to workshop *Explaining Laws*, University of Luxembourg
- 2014 **“A Humean Interpretation of the Everett Interpretation”**
 ○ invited contribution to workshop *Humeanism and its critics*, University of Cologne
- 2014 **“Decision Theory in Ethics”**
 ○ departmental seminar, University of Leeds
- 2013 **“Options, acts and consequences”**
 ○ Moral, Social and Political Theory Seminar, Australian National University
- 2013 **“The (pragmatic) power of unspecificity”**
 ○ PhilSoc Seminar, Australian National University
- 2013 **“Objects of probability”**
 ○ departmental seminar, Australian National University
- 2012 **“Dimensions of reality”**
 ○ PhilSoc Seminar, Australian National University
- 2012 **“Worms first! In defence of diachronic rationality”**
 ○ departmental seminar, Universität des Saarlandes (as “Ein Plädoyer für diachrone Rationalität”)
 ○ AAP, Wollongong
- 2012 **“Lost memories and useless coins”**
 ○ Formal Epistemology Workshop, Munich
- 2011 **“Proving the Principal Principle”**
 ○ workshop on Time & Chance, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2011 **“Displacement and restriction”**
 ○ workshop on Conditionals, Australian National University
- 2011 **“Montague’s paradox and the objects of attitudes”**
 ○ PhilSoc Seminar, Australian National University

Teaching: Course Organiser

- 2021 **Advanced Epistemology**
◦ part of the Online MSc programme *Epistemology, Ethics, and Mind*
- 2019–2020 **Mind, Matter, and Language (with Jade Fletcher/Mahrad Almotahari)**
◦ introductory course on philosophy of mind and language at Edinburgh
◦ taught twice
- 2019–2020 **Logic 2: Modal Logics**
◦ intermediate logic course centred around modal logic, with many philosophical applications
◦ taught three times
- 2020 **Epistemology**
◦ part of the Online MSc programme *Epistemology, Ethics, and Mind*
- 2009–2020 **Belief, Desire, and Rational Choice**
◦ an introduction to decision theory, formal epistemology, and formal value theory
◦ taught four times as a combined Honours/MSc course at Edinburgh 2016–2020, and once as a *Hauptseminar* in Cologne, in winter 2009/2010
- 2015–2016 **Philosophy of Science: Contemporary Debates**
◦ Edinburgh MSC course with guest lecturers and tutorials, over two semesters
- 2012 **Decision Theory and Game Theory**
◦ crash course (“Foundations Seminar”) for grad students at ANU
- 2011 **Mental Content (with Angela Mendelevici)**
◦ crash course (“Foundations Seminar”) for grad students at ANU
- 2009 **Meta-Logic (with Stephan Leuenberger)**
◦ crash course (“Foundations Seminar”) for grad students at ANU
- 2006 **David Lewis (with Ralph Busse)**
◦ Heidelberg Summer Workshop
- 2006 **Basic Themes in Philosophy of Language**
◦ *Hauptseminar*, University of Bielefeld
- 2006 **Origins of Analytic Philosophy**
◦ *Proseminar*, University of Bielefeld
- 2005–2006 **Theories of Intentionality**
◦ *Hauptseminar*, University of Bielefeld
- 2005–2006 **Introduction to Epistemology**
◦ *Proseminar*, University of Bielefeld

Teaching Assistantships

- 2018 **Knowledge and Reality**
◦ tutorial groups accompanying lectures in metaphysics and epistemology for year-2 students at Edinburgh

2016–2017 **Philosophy of Science I**

- part of the pre-honours lectures introducing philosophy of science at Edinburgh
- taught three times, in spring 2016, fall 2016, and fall 2017
- topics included laws, reduction, quantum mechanics, confirmation

2016 **Mind, Mind, Matter and Language**

- part of the pre-honours lectures introducing philosophy of mind and language for year-2 students at Edinburgh
- topics included consciousness and intentionality

2017–2019 **Philosophical Methods II**

- part of MSc course at Edinburgh, partly online, with recorded lectures and live sessions
- taught three times in 2017–2019

2016 **Philosophy of Science (online)**

- part of online MSc course, with recorded lectures and live sessions

Grants and Fellowships

2020 **Research Fellow** Kollegforschungsgruppe “Human Abilities”, Berlin (8 weeks)

2014 **DAAD Research Grant**

- 6-month full-time grant for research project on diachronic norms in Bayesian epistemology

2006–2008 **Visiting Research Fellow** Australian National University, Centre for Consciousness

2005 **PhD stipend** (Rektoratsstipendium), University of Bielefeld

Service to the Profession

Referee for *Acta Analytica* • *Analysis* • *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* • *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* • *Crítica* • *Dialectica* • *Ergo* • *Erkenntnis* • *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* • *Inquiry* • *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* • *Journal of Applied Logic* • *Journal of Logic, Language and Information* • *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* • *Journal of Philosophical Logic* • *Journal of Probability and Statistics* • *Linguistics & Philosophy* • *Logic and Logical Philosophy* • *Mind* • *Noûs* • *Pacific Journal of Philosophy* • *Philosophers’ Imprint* • *Philosophical Quarterly* • *Philosophical Studies* • *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* • *Review of Symbolic Logic* • *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* • *Studia Logica* • *Synthese* • *The Philosophical Review* • *Theoria*

External reviewer for Austrian Academy of Sciences • Israel Science Foundation • Swiss National Science Foundation • Leverhulme Trust

Philosophy-Related Software Resources

Tree Proof Generator www.umsu.de/trees

- a popular online prover for first-order and modal logic

Philosophical Progress www.philosophicalprogress.org

- tracks philosophy papers uploaded to personal pages and open access journals
- partly integrated into [PhilPapers](#)

Lewis Search www.david-lewis.org

- full-text search over the works of David Lewis

Outreach

- 2015–2020 **Organisation of the Philosophy section of the Sutton Trust Summer School**, Edinburgh
- six times, 2015–2020
- 2003–2020 **Weblog** www.umsu.de/wo

Departmental Service

- 2018–2020 **REF evaluation panel**, University of Edinburgh
- 2019 **Hiring panel, Scottish Enlightenment**, University of Edinburgh
- 2018–2019 **PhD admissions committee**, University of Edinburgh
- 2017–2018 **Pre-honours coordinator**, University of Edinburgh
- involved overseeing year-1 and year-2 teaching, community-building, rethinking curriculum, contact point for students
- 2018 **Hiring panel, Metaphysics & Philosophy of Science**, University of Edinburgh
- 2017 **Selection committee for PhD Fellowships**, University of Edinburgh