

Cailin O'Connor

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Areas of Specialty

Philosophy of biology and behavioral science. Philosophy of science. Game theory and evolutionary game theory.

Areas of Competence

Formal Social Epistemology. Decision theory and rational choice.

Academic Appointments

University of California, Irvine

Assistant Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science, 2013–Present.

Member, Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Science, 2013–Present.

Visiting Positions

Visiting Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Australia National University, Summer 2017 [scheduled].

Visiting Fellow, Center for Natural and Social Sciences, London School of Economics, Summer 2016.

Visiting Fellow, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, Fall 2015.

Visitor, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Ludwig-Maximilians Universitat, July 2013.

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy (LPS), *University of California, Irvine*, 2013. Dissertation: “Categories, Generalization, and Vagueness”; committee: P. Kyle Stanford (UCI, co-chair), Brian Skyrms (UCI, co-chair), Jeffrey Barrett (UCI), Simon Huttegger (UCI).

A.B. Visual and Environmental Studies, *Harvard College*, 2006.
Cum laude.

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

- A11. “The Cultural Red King Effect.” *Journal of Mathematical Sociology* (forthcoming)
doi: 10.1080/0022250X.2017.1335723 (2017)
- A10. “Games and Kinds.” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (forthcoming)
- A9. “Power, Bargaining, and Collaboration.” with J. Bruner. *Scientific Collaboration and Collective Knowledge*. T. Boyer, C. Mayo-Wilson, and M. Weisberg eds. Oxford University Press: Oxford (forthcoming)
- A8. “Evolving to Generalize: Trading Precision for Speed.” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. **68**(2), 389–410 (2017).
- A7. “In Epistemic Networks, Is Less Really More?” with S. Rosenstock and J. Bruner. *Philosophy of Science* **84**(2), 234–252 (2017).
- A6. “The Evolution of Guilt.” *Philosophy of Science* **83**(4), 897–908 (2016).

- A5. “Ambiguity is Kinda Good, Sometimes.” *Philosophy of Science* **82**(1), 110–121 (2015).
- A4. “David Lewis in the Lab: An Experimental Study of Signaling Conventions,” with J. Bruner, S. Huttegger, and H. Rubin. *Synthese*. doi: 10.1093/bjps/axv038. (2014)
- A3. “Evolving Perceptual Categories.” *Philosophy of Science* **81**(5), 840–851 (2014).
- A2. “The Evolution of Vagueness.” *Erkenntnis*. **79**(4), 707–727 (2014).
- A1. “Deus Ex Machina: A Cautionary Tale for Naturalists,” with N. Fulton, E. Wagner, and P. K. Stanford. *Analyse & Kritik*. **34**(1), 276–281 (2012).

Other Articles

- O2. “Games, Guilt, and Evolution.” *Emotions Researcher*, ISRE’s Sourcebook for Research on Emotion and Affect, Andrea Scaratino ed. (2016).
- O1. “Sexual Selection Studies: an NESCent Catalyst Meeting.” with Joan Roughgarden and fifteen other interdisciplinary researchers. (2015).

Reviews

- R3. “Black Holes, Black-Scholes, and Prairie Voles: an Essay Review of *Simulation and Similarity*” with J. Weatherall. *Philosophy of Science* (forthcoming).
- R2. “Review of *Philosophy of Biology*.” *Philosophy of Science*. **82**(4), 731–733 (2015).
- R1. “Review of *Darwinian Populations and Natural Selection*.” *Philosophy of Science* **79**(4), 598–593 (2012).

Popular Writing/Blog Posts

- P5. “If Evolution Favours Fairness, Why Does Inequality Persist?” *The Forum for European Philosophy Blog* (November 2016).
- P4. “Game Theory and The Walking Dead.” *The Huffington Post Blog* (July 2015).
- P3. “Strategic Learning and Discrimination in Academia” *Digressions and Impressions*, Guest Post (February 2015).
- P2. “Are Women Worse at Math? It’s Time to Stop Asking.” *The Huffington Post Blog* (February 2015).
- P1. “Life is Random.” *Slate Magazine* (September 2014).

Works In-Progress

Book

- W1. “Dynamics of Inequity.” under contract with Oxford University Press

Papers

- W1. “Dynamics of Minority Disadvantage in Collaboration.” with J. Bruner. (under review)
- W2. “Communication When Interests Conflict: A Signaling Experiment.” with H. Rubin, J. Bruner, and S. Huttegger. (under review)
- W3. “When it’s Good to Feel Bad: Evolutionary Models of Guilt and Apology” with S. Rosenstock. (under review)
- W4. “Modeling Intersectional Oppression.” with L.K. Bright and J. Bruner. (under review)
- W5. “Discrimination and Collaboration.” with H. Rubin (under review)

Invited Talks

- T31. TBA. Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA. (October 2017 [scheduled]).
- T30. TBA. Department of Philosophy, Australia National University, Canberra, Australia. (August 2017 [scheduled]).
- T29. TBA. Department of Philosophy, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. (July 2017 [scheduled]).
- T28. TBA. Workshop on Ethics and Risk, Australia National University, Canberra, Australia. (July 2017 [scheduled]).
- T27. Writing Op-Eds: How and Why?, Pacific American Philosophical Association Meeting, Seattle, Washington. (April 2017).
- T26. Risk and Collaboration. Risk and the Culture of Science - Do We Need a Maverick Room?, Center for the Study of Existential Risk, Cambridge, England. (April 2017).
- T25. Games and Kinds. 10th Logos Barcelona Workshop of Naturalistic Theories of Intentionality, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. (December 2016).
- T24. Games and Kinds. Department of Philosophy, University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria. (October 2016).
- T23. Panel Participant. Women in Science Forum, London School of Economics, London, England. (September 2016).
- T22. Games and Kinds. Popper Seminar, Department of Philosophy, Logic, and Scientific Method, London School of Economics, London, England. (September 2016).
- T21. The Emergence of Bargaining Inequity. Choice Group, London School of Economics, London, England. (September 2016).
- T20. The Emergence of Bargaining Inequity. Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England. (September 2016).
- T19. “Evolutionary Behavioral Modeling” [lecture series]. MCMP Summer School on Mathematical Philosophy for Female Students. Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy. Ludwig-Maximilians Universität. München, Germany. (July 2016).
- T18. “Power, Bargaining, and Evolution”. Colombia Workshop on Group Agency and Social Epistemology, Columbia University, New York, NY. (April, 2016).
- T17. “Power, Bargaining, and Evolution”. Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Studies, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA. (January 2016).
- T16. “Dynamics and Diversity in Epistemic Communities”. Minorities and Philosophy, CUNY, New York, NY. (December 2015).
- T15. “Induction.” Fundamental Concepts in Philosophy of Science Lecture Series, Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy. (November 2015).
- T14. “The Evolution of Guilt”. Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Melon University. Pittsburgh, PA. (November 2015).
- T13. “Dynamics and Diversity in Epistemic Communities”. Minorities and Philosophy, Carnegie Melon University, Pittsburgh, PA. (November 2015).
- T12. “Dynamics and Diversity in Epistemic Communities”. The Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. (September 2015).
- T11. “Modeling the Evolution of Guilt.” Philosophy Day, California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, CA. (April 2015).
- T10. “Guilt as an Individual Level Benefit”. Philosophy of Science Conference, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. (March 2015).

- T9. “Evolution, Models, and Philosophy.” Eastern American Philosophical Association Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. (December 2014).
- T8. “Evolving to Generalize: Trading Speed for Precision.” The Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. (December 2014).
- T7. “The Evolution of Vagueness.” 3rd CSLI Workshop on Logic, Rationality, and Intelligent Interaction. Stanford University. Stanford, CA. (May 2014).
- T6. “Evolving Perceptual Categories.” Department of Philosophy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, NV. (April 2014).
- T5. “Evolving Perceptual Categories.” Epistemology and Philosophy of Psychology Workshop, University of California, Riverside. Riverside, CA. (January 2014).
- T4. “The Evolution of Vagueness.” Department of Philosophy, University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA. (October 2013).
- T3. “Evolving Perceptual Categories.” Department of Philosophy, Notre Dame University. South Bend, IN. (October 2013).
- T2. “Evolving to Categorize.” Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University. Munich, Germany. (July 2013).
- T1. “Evolving to Categorize.” Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine. Irvine, CA. (June 2013).

Other Talks

- T24. “Discrimination and Collaboration” Formal Epistemology Workshop. University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. (May 2017 [scheduled]).
- T23. “Games, Evolution, and Intersectionality.” Philosophy of Science Association 2016 Biennial Meeting. Symposium: “Formal Methods and Social Epistemology.” Atlanta, GA. (November 2016, symposium contribution).
- T22. “The Evolution of Discriminatory Norms in Scientific Disciplines.” The Science of Evolution and the Evolution of the Sciences. Leuven, Belgium. (October 2016).
- T21. “Games and Kinds.” 8th Quadrennial Fellows Conference. Lund, Sweden. (August 2016).
- T20. “Cooperation Without the Cooperative Principle.” Decisions, Games, and Logic. Ann Arbor, MI (July 2016, presented by co-author).
- T19. “In Epistemic Communities, Is Less Really More?” Formal Epistemology Workshop. Groningen, Netherlands (June 2016 [scheduled], presented by co-author).
- T18. “In Epistemic Communities, Is Less Really More?” Models and Simulations 7 Conference. Universitat de Barcelona. Barcelona, Spain (May 2016, presented by co-author).
- T17. “Communication Without the Cooperative Principle.” Southwest Experimental and Behavioral Economics Conference. University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA (May 2016).
- T16. “In Epistemic Communities, Is Less Really More?” Medical Knowledge in a Social World. University of California, Irvine. Irvine, CA. (March 2016, presented by co-author).
- T15. “Communication Without the Cooperative Principle.” Experimental Philosophy Conference. Buffalo, New York (September 2015).
- T14. “The Evolution of Guilt: A Modeling Based Approach.” Ninth Principia International Symposium, Florianopolis, Brazil (August 2015 [accepted contribution]).
- T13. “Communication Without the Cooperative Principle.” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting 2015. Montreal, Canada. (July 2015, presented by co-author).

- T12. “Strategic Thinking in Biology.” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting 2015. Symposium: “Evolutionary Modeling in Biology and the Behavioral Sciences 2.” Montreal, Canada. (July 2015, symposium contribution).
- T11. “Evolving to Generalize.” Conference on Agent Based Models in Philosophy, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany (December 2014).
- T10. “Modeling the Underrepresentation of Women in Academia.” Conference on Feminist Philosophy of Science, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium (November 2014).
- T9. “Guilt as a Signal.” Philosophy of Science Association 2014 Biennial Meeting. Symposium: “Moral Emotions: Approaches, Origins, and Ethics.” Chicago, IL. (November 2014, symposium contribution).
- T8. “Experimenting on Sim-Max Games.” Experimental Social Science Laboratory Workshop. University of California, Irvine. Irvine, CA. (March 2014, presented by co-author).
- T7. “Learning Generalization: Trading Speed for Precision.” Winter Quantitative Biology Meeting. Big Island, Hawaii. (February 2014, contributed talk).
- T6. “The Evolution of Learning Generalization.” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting 2013. Symposium: “Models of Functional Plasticity.” University of Montpellier. Montpellier, France. (July 2013, symposium contribution).
- T5. “Perceptual Categorization.” Games, Interactive Rationality, and Learning 2013. University of Lund. Lund, Sweden. (April 2013).
- T4. “David Lewis in the Lab: An Experimental Study of Signaling Conventions,” with J. Bruner, S. Huttegger, and H. Rubín. Games, Interactive Rationality, and Learning 2013. University of Lund. Lund, Sweden. (April 2013, presented by co-author).
- T3. “Signaling Games and Categorization in Biological Systems.” Philosophy of Science Association 2012 Biennial Meeting. Symposium: “Signals, Signaling Games, and Biological Behavior.” San Diego, CA. (November 2012, symposium contribution).
- T2. “The Evolution of Vagueness.” Games, Interactive Rationality, and Learning 2012. University of Lund. Lund, Sweden. (April 2012).
- T1. “Did the Development of Language Faculties in Humans Influence the Speed of Our Cognitive Evolution?” History and Philosophy of Biology in the Desert. Arizona State University. Phoenix, AZ. (February 2011).

Awards, Grants, and Honors

NSF Grant, 1535139, “Social Dynamics and Diversity in Epistemic Communities,” NSF Science, Technology, and Society Research Grant, \$305,986, 2015-2018.

Justine Lambert Graduate Prize in the Foundations of Science, for “The Evolution of Vagueness,” University of California, Irvine, 2013.

A. Kimball Romney Award for Outstanding Graduate Paper, for “The Evolution of Vagueness,” University of California, Irvine, 2012.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable Mention, 2012.

Social Science Merit Fellowship, University of California, Irvine, 2010–2015.

Courses Taught

- LPS 242: Information Theory (graduate seminar) Spring 2017.
- LPS 242: Formal and Empirical Approaches to Social Epistemology (graduate seminar) Spring 2016.
- Soc Sci H1: The Philosophy and Biology of Sex and Gender (honor's program seminar) Winter 2016-2017.
- Soc Sci H1E: The Good Life (honor's program social science core course) Spring 2015-2017.
- LPS 242: Philosophy of Biology (graduate seminar) Winter 2015.
- LPS 60: The Making of Modern Science (lower division course) 2014-2015.
- LPS 242: Cultural and Genetic Evolution (graduate seminar) Spring 2014.
- LPS 144/244: Evolutionary Game Theory (upper division/graduate lecture course) Spring 2014.

Professional Service

- Program Committee Member**, Reasoning and Argumentation in Science, Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig Maximilian Universität, Munich, Germany, May, 2017.
- Member**, Open Access Monograph Publishing Initiative, 2016-2017.
- Member**, Future Goals for the Philosophy of Science Women's Caucus Committee, 2016-2017.
- Program Committee Member**, British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Meeting, University of Edinburgh, July, 2017.
- Program Committee Member**, Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, May, 2017.
- Symposium Organizer**, "Formal Methods and Social Epistemology," Philosophy of Science Association 2016 Biennial Meeting, November, 2016.
- Board Member**, Philosophy of Science Archive, 2015–present.
- Mentor**, The Job Candidate Mentoring Program For Women in Philosophy, 2015–present.
- Selection Committee Member**, Philosophy of Science Association Women's Caucus Prize Symposium, 2016.
- Organizing Committee Member**, "Games, Interaction, Rationality, Learning, and Semantics 2016," University of Lund, 2016.
- Editor**, Highlighted Philosophers on Science Visions blog, 2015–present.
- Chair**, Philosophy of Science Association Women's Caucus Celebrating Women Committee, Winter 2015.
- Symposium Organizer**, "Evolutionary Modeling in Biology and the Behavioral Sciences 1 and 2," International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting 2015, July, 2015.
- Symposium Organizer**, "Moral Emotions: Approaches, Evolution, and Ethics," Philosophy of Science Association 2014 Biennial Meeting, November, 2014.
- Faculty Advisor**, Hypatia Society for Graduate Women in Philosophy, University of California, Irvine, 2013–present.
- Organizer**, Southern California Philosophy of Biology Reading Group, 2013–2015.
- Organizing Committee Member**, Perspectives on Gender, University of California, Irvine, Fall, 2014.
- Program Committee Member**, Conference on Agent Based Models in Philosophy, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, October, 2014.
- Managing editor**, *Philosophy of Science*, University of California, Irvine, January 2013–January 2014.

Organizing Committee Member, “Games, Interactive Rationality, Learning, and Signaling 2014,” University of Lund, April, 2014.

Symposium Organizer, “Information and Plasticity,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Meeting 2013, July, 2013.

Program Committee Member, “Games, Interactive Rationality, and Learning 2013,” University of Lund, April, 2013.

Symposium Organizer, “Signals, Signaling Games, and Biological Behavior,” Philosophy of Science Association 2012 Biennial Meeting, November, 2012.

Founder and Organizer, Hypatia Society for Graduate Women in Philosophy, University of California, Irvine, 2010–2013.

Referee for: *Oxford University Press, Games and Economic Behavior, Philosophy of Science, Synthese, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Biology and Philosophy, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Philosophy & Theory in Biology, Southern Journal of Philosophy, American Philosophical Quarterly.*

University Service

Admissions Committee Member, Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine, Winter 2017.

Presenter, LPS Graduate Student Career Day, University of California, Irvine, Spring 2016, Spring 2017.

Presenter, Campuswide Honors Program Fireside Chat, University of California, Irvine, Winter 2016, Winter 2017.

Presenter, Campuswide Honors Program Preview Day, University of California, Irvine, Fall 2016.

Rough Sort Hiring Committee Member, Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine, Fall 2015.

Hiring Committee Member, Department of Philosophy, University of California, Irvine, Fall 2014.

Colloquium Director, Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine, July 2013–present.

Prize Committee Member, Experimental Social Sciences Laboratory Workshop, University of California, Irvine, February 2014.

Graduate Student Committees

Jennifer Briner, (EEB) advancement committee, Spring 2017

Hannah Rubin, (LPS) advancement committee, Winter 2015, dissertation committee, Spring 2017

Sarita Rosenstock, (LPS) advancement committee, Spring 2016

Nathan Fulton, (Philosophy) advancement committee, Spring 2014, dissertation committee, Fall 2016

Bhattin Tolga Oztan, (IMBS) dissertation committee, 2014-2016

Rolf Johansson, (IMBS) advancement committee, Spring 2014

Justin Bruner, (LPS) advancement committee, Fall 2013

Affiliations

Philosophy of Science Association

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology