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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, RSSS 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, RSSS 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.

Wolfgang Schwarz. **"Objects of Choice"**. In: *Mind* 130, pp. 165–197. DOI: 10.1093/mind/fzaa032.

2020   Wolfgang Schwarz. **"Ability and Possiblity"**. 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.

Wolfgang Schwarz. **"No Interpretation of Probability"**. In: *Erkenntnis* 83.6, pp. 1195–1212. DOI: 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.

2017   Wolfgang Schwarz. **"Diachronic Norms for Self-locating Beliefs"**. In: *Ergo* 4, pp. 709–738. DOI: 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.

2015   Wolfgang Schwarz. **"Belief update across fission"**. In: *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 66, pp. 659–682. DOI: 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.

2014   Wolfgang Schwarz. **"Against Magnetism"**. In: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92.1, pp. 17–36. DOI: 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.

2013 Wolfgang Schwarz. **"Contingent Identity"**. In: *Philosophy Compass* 8.5, pp. 486–495. DOI: 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.

2012 Wolfgang Schwarz. **"Changing Minds in a Changing World"**. In: *Philosophical Studies* 159, pp. 219–239. DOI: 10.1007/s11098-011-9699-0.

——— Other Publications

2022 Wolfgang Schwarz. **"The Problem of Metaphysical Omniscience"**. In: *Perspectives on the Philosophy of David K. Lewis*. Ed. by Helen Beebee and J.R.A. Fisher. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 23–40.

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.

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. Ausgewahlte Beitrage aus den Sektionen der GAP 6*. Ed. by Helen Bohse and Sven Walter. Paderborn: Mentis, pp. 520–528.

Selected Talks

2023 **"Unspecific Antecedents"**
- Edinburgh Science of Meaning seminar, 2023

2023 **"Miraculous Counterfactuals"**
- departmental seminar, St Andrews University, 2023
- departmental seminar, University of Leeds, 2021
- PhilSoc seminar, University of Edinburgh, 2021

2021 **"Believing Against the Evidence"**
- Choice Group, LSE, 2021
- Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge, 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 Possiblity"**
- 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

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 **"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

———— Teaching: Course Organiser

2023   **Puzzles and Paradoxes**
- a 4th-year Honours course

2019–2023   **Logic 2: Modal Logics**
- an intermediate logic course centred around modal logic, with many philosophical applications
- taught six times

2009–2022   **Belief, Desire, and Rational Choice**
- an introduction to decision theory, formal epistemology, and formal value theory
- taught five times as a combined Honours/MSc course at Edinburgh 2016-2020, and once as a *Hauptseminar* in Cologne, in winter 2009/2010

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

2020   **Epistemology**
- part of the Online MSc programme *Epistemology, Ethics, and Mind*

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, 2022 **Mind, Mind, Matter and Language**
- part of the pre-honours lectures introducing philosophy of mind and language for year-2 students at Edinburgh

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* • *Ethics* • *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* • *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic* • *Noûs* • *Pacific Journal of Philosophy* • *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* • *Philosophia* • *Philosophers' Imprint* • *Philosophical Quarterly* • *Philosophical Studies* • *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* • *Res Philosophica* • *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

WebPPL-RSA github.com/wo/webppl-rsa/
- A WebPPL package for Rational Speech Act models

Outreach

2015–2022 **Organisation of the Philosophy section of the Sutton Trust Summer School**, Edinburgh
- eight times, 2015–2022

2003–2024 **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