

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

Trinity College, Associate Professor of Philosophy, July 2018—

Trinity College, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, July 2012—July 2018

**EDUCATION**

Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Philosophy

Ph.D. in Philosophy, minor in History and Philosophy of Science, June 2012

Dissertation: *Rethinking Reductionism: From 17<sup>th</sup> Century Mechanism to Contemporary Molecular Neuroscience* (Chair: Colin Allen)

M.A. in Philosophy, June 2011

University of Cincinnati

B.S. in Biology, 2004

B.A. in Philosophy, 2005

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Philosophy of Science ◦ Philosophy of Mind ◦ Philosophy of Neuroscience

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Philosophy of Psychiatry ◦ Metaphysics ◦ Philosophy of Biology ◦ Philosophy of Medicine ◦

Philosophy of Cognitive Science/Psychology ◦ History of Analytic Philosophy

**REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

Hartner, D. and K. Theurer. 2018. Why Psychiatry Should Not Seek

Mechanisms of Disorder. *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/teo0000095>

Theurer, K. 2018. Looking Up and Looking Down: On the Dual Character of

Mechanistic Explanations. *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*. 49(3): 371-392.

Theurer, K. and T. Polger. 2018. Is Consciousness an Adaptation? In *The Routledge Handbook of Evolution and Philosophy*. R. Joyce (Ed.) London: Routledge.

Theurer, K. 2014. Complexity-Based Theories of Emergence: Criticisms and

Constraints. *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* 28(3): 277-301.

Theurer, K. 2013. Seventeenth-Century Mechanism: An Alternative

Framework for Reductionism. *Philosophy of Science* 80(5): 907-918.

Theurer, K. and J. Bickle. 2013. What's Old is New Again: Kemeny-Oppenheim Reduction in Current Molecular Neuroscience. *Philosophia Scientiae* 17 (2): 89-113.

Theurer, K. 2013. Compositional Explanatory Relations and Mechanistic Reduction. *Minds and Machines* 23 (3): 287-307.

**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

“Disorder as Dysfunction: Adaptationism and Teleology in Psychiatry”

“Ambitious Hypotheses: An Evolutionary Neuroscientific Perspective on Multiple Realization”

“A Critique of Psychiatry’s Turn Toward ‘Precision Medicine’” (with Daniel F. Hartner)

## **PHILOSOPHICAL PRESENTATIONS**

- “Disorder as Dysfunction: Adaptationism and Teleology in Psychiatry”  
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
04 December 2020 (Originally scheduled for March 2020)
- “Disorder as Dysfunction: Adaptationism and Teleology in Psychiatry”  
Conceptual and Methodological Aspects of Biomedical Research  
Department of Analytic Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences  
28 October 2020 (originally scheduled for June 2020)
- “Is ‘healthy’ psychiatric functioning necessarily adaptive?”  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
Memphis, TN  
20 March 2020 (Conference canceled due to COVID-19)
- “Disorder as Dysfunction: Adaptationism and Teleology in Psychiatry”  
Trinity College Philosophy Club  
06 March 2020
- “A Critique of Psychiatry’s Turn Toward ‘Precision Medicine’” (with Daniel F. Hartner)  
Peter Sowerby Interdisciplinary Workshop: Conceptual Issues in Biological Psychiatry  
06 November 2019, King’s College, London
- “Psychiatry’s Implicit Adaptationism” (invited)  
08 April 2019, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
- “Psychiatry’s Panglossian Paradigm”  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
23 March 2019, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
- “A Critique of Psychiatry’s Turn Toward ‘Precision Medicine’” (with Daniel F. Hartner)  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
23 March 2018, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
- “What A Brain State Is Not”  
La Société de Philosophie des Sciences  
29 June 2016-01 July 2016, Lausanne, Switzerland
- “Doing Metaphysics Responsibly: What Can Evolution Tell Us About What Minds Really Are?” (invited)  
Trinity College Biology Department Invited Lecture, 08 April 2016
- “What A Brain State Is Not”  
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
10-12 March 2016, Louisville, KY
- “What A Brain State Is Not”  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
19-20 February 2016, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
- “Why Psychiatry Shouldn’t Seek Mechanisms of Disorder” (with Daniel F. Hartner)  
“Pathologizing Body and Mind: Leuven Philosophy of Medicine Conference”  
15-16 October 2015, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
- “More Information, Better Explanations: Reductionism in Biological Psychiatry” (invited)  
“Explanations of Cognition”, University of Stirling  
20-22 July 2015, Stirling, Scotland, UK
- “The Mechanisms of Psychiatric Disorders: Are We Looking in the Wrong Direction?” (with

- Daniel F. Hartner)  
 Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
 04-06 June 2015, Duke University, Durham, NC
- “Dismantling the Autism Puzzle: Mechanistic Explanations and the Nature of Psychiatric Disorder” (with Daniel F. Hartner)  
 Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
 13-14 March 2015, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
- “The Mechanisms of Psychiatric Disorder: Hope for a Unified Science of Mind and Brain?”  
 Keynote address, Southern Utah University Philosophy Conference  
 07 February 2015, Cedar City, UT
- “More Information, Better Explanations: Reductionism in Biological Psychiatry”  
 Philosophy of Science Association 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting  
 6-9 November 2014, Chicago, IL
- “Ambitious Hypotheses: Pain, Homology, and Multiple Realization” (invited)  
 University of Connecticut  
 9 April 2014, Storrs, CT
- “Ambitious Hypotheses: Pain, Homology, and Multiple Realization”  
 Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
 21-22 February 2014, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
- “Ambitious Hypotheses: Pain, Homology, and Multiple Realization”  
 Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
 6-9 February 2014, Charleston, SC
- “More Information, Better Explanations: Reductionism in Biological Psychiatry”  
 Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
 28 February – 2 March 2013, Austin, TX
- “More Information, Better Explanations: Reductionism in Biological Psychiatry”  
 Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
 15-16 February 2013, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
- “When Is a Mechanism More Than the Sum of Its Parts?”  
 American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting  
 27-30 December 2012, Atlanta, GA
- “Seventeenth-Century Mechanism: An Alternative Framework for Reductionism”  
 Philosophy of Science Association 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Meeting  
 15-17 November 2012, San Diego, CA
- “Compositional Explanatory Relations and Mechanistic Reduction”  
 Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
 21-23 June 2012, Boulder, CO
- “When Is a Mechanism More Than the Sum of Its Parts?”  
 University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society Spring Conference  
 30-31 March 2012, Iowa City, IA
- “Compositional Explanatory Relations and Mechanistic Reduction”  
 Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
 22-24 March 2012, Savannah, GA
- “When Is a Mechanism More Than the Sum of Its Parts?” (invited)  
 Trinity College  
 8 February 2012, Hartford, CT
- “Compositional Explanatory Relations and Mechanistic Reduction” (invited)

- University of Delaware Cognitive Science Workshop  
16-17 September 2011, Newark, DE
- “Compositional Explanatory Relations and Mechanistic Reduction” (invited)  
Mississippi State University  
9 September 2011, Starkville, MS
- “Ruthless Reduction: From Molecular Mechanisms to Mental Illness” (invited)  
"Complexity: Its Theoretical Foundations and Consequences in Diverse Applications"  
Altonaer Stiftung für Philosophische Grundlagenforschung  
24-26 August 2011, Hamburg, Germany
- “Emergence and Biological Complexity” (invited)  
"Complexity: Its Theoretical Foundations and Consequences in Diverse Applications"  
Altonaer Stiftung für Philosophische Grundlagenforschung  
24-26 August 2011, Hamburg, Germany
- “Seventeenth-Century Mechanism: An Alternative Framework for Reductionism”  
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology  
10-15 July 2011, Salt Lake City, UT
- “Mechanism, Reduction, and Contextual Explanation”  
University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society Spring Conference  
25-26 March 2011, Iowa City, IA
- “Mechanism, Reduction, and Contextual Explanation”  
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
10-12 March 2011, New Orleans, LA
- “Mechanism, Reduction, and Contextual Explanation”  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
4-5 March 2011, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
- “Emergence, Reduction, and Mechanism: Lessons from the 17th Century” (invited)  
Brand Lecture, Indiana University, Department of Philosophy  
17 April 2010, Bloomington, IN
- “Malice, Hatred, and Revenge in Hume’s *Treatise*”  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
5-6 March 2010, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
- “On the Prospects for ‘Real’ Emergence”  
Philosophical Foundations of Systems Biology (PSBio), “Biological Explanation:  
Systems, Levels, and Causes”  
10-12 December 2009, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
- “Zombies, Intuitions, and the Limits of Conceivability”  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
22-23 February 2008, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

### **SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS**

- “Clusterin Protection In The Vascular Response To Injury Begins At Day 1 And Persists To Day 56”  
Authors: E. Konaniah, K. Theurer, J. Cook, S. Street, D. Hui, N. Granholm  
The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology, 2005
- “Apolipoprotein J/Clusterin Shortens VLDL Residence Time in the Circulation”  
Authors: S. Street, E. Konaniah, K. Theurer, J. Cook, D. Hui, and N. Granholm  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology, 2004

“Apolipoprotein J/Clusterin Modulates VLDL Production”

Authors: N. Granholm, K. Theurer, S. Street, E. Konaniah, J. Cook, and D. Hui.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology, 2003

“VLDL Production and Clearance” (invited)

Women in Science and Engineering Summer Research Program

5 September 2002, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

## **COMMENTARIES**

William Faw, “Shame, Guilt, Empathy, and Psychopathy: Empirical Understandings”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

22 March 2019, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Kenneth Aizawa, “Polger and Shapiro on Multiple Realization”

Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology

09 March 2019, Cincinnati, Ohio

Rebecca Tuvel, “A Story about a “Scandal””

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

24 March 2018, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

J. Kenneth Arnette, “From Pseudo-Science to Quasi-Science: Philosophy of Science and the Psychiatry of Depression”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

31 March 2017-01 April 2017, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Hyungrae Noh, “Vegetative State, Consciousness Ascription, and Misrepresentation: A New Methodology”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

19-20 February 2016, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Eric Gilbertson, “Source Incompatibilism and Doing One’s Reasonable Best”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

13-14 March 2015, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Jake Wright, “The Space Between Explanation and Understanding”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

22 March 2014, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

John Bickle, “Marr and Reductionism”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

21 March 2014, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Maurice Lamb and Anthony Chemero, “Understanding Dynamical Models”

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

12-15 June 2013, Brown University, Providence, RI

Philip Woodward, “A Posteriori Physicalism and the Principle of Rational Discrimination”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

15-16 February 2013, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Hayden Thornburg, “Hyper-Emergence: A New Non-Deducibility Criterion”

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

22-24 March 2012, Savannah, GA

Michael McCourt, “The Pragmatics of Empty Names”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference

24-25 February 2012, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Derek Jones, “What Do Animat Models Model?”

Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
4-5 March 2011, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN  
Jack Furlong, “Doing Science to Deontology: Nietzsche’s Kantian Joke, or the Genealogizing  
of Moral Psychology”  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
5-6 March 2010, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN  
Russ Abbott, “The Reductionist Blind Spot: Downward Reduction and Upward  
Conceptualization”  
North American Conference on Computing and Philosophy  
10-12 July 2008, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN  
Aaron Kostko, “The Harms of the Harmful Dysfunction Analysis of Mental Disorder: An  
Empirical Case Study”  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
22-23 February 2008, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Faculty Research Expense Grant, Trinity College, 2019—2021

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

The Philosophy of Science Association  
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)  
The American Philosophical Association  
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
Society for the Metaphysics of Science

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

Chair, Trinity College Academic Freedom Committee, 2022-2023  
Trinity College Academic Freedom Committee, Fall 2020—present  
Trinity College Faculty Conference, Fall 2020  
Faculty Mentor, Trinity College Faculty Mentoring, Advocacy & Support (MAST) Program  
Trinity College Academic Freedom Committee, Spring 2019  
President, Trinity College AAUP Chapter, July 2018—July 2019; July 2020—January 2021  
Guest lecturer for Prof. Sarah Raskin’s graduate neuroscience seminar  
Chair, Trinity College Institutional Review Board, January 2018 – June 2019  
Trinity College Jury Pool, Fall 2017—Spring 2020  
Vice President, Trinity College AAUP Chapter, July 2017-July 2018  
At-Large Member, Trinity College AAUP Chapter, Spring 2017, Spring 2020  
Trinity College Neuroscience Coordinating Committee, Fall 2016 – present  
Trinity College Institutional Review Board, Fall 2016 – present  
Faculty Advisor, Trinity College Undergraduate Philosophy Club, 2012 – present  
Executive Board Member, Midsouth Philosophy Conference, 2013 – present  
Trinity College Athletic Advisory Committee, Fall 2015, Spring 2018  
Trinity College Faculty Research Committee, Spring 2014 – Fall 2015  
Program Committee Co-Chair, Midsouth Philosophy Conference, 2014  
Session Chair, “In Defense of (a Formulation of) Physicalism”  
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting  
16 – 20 April 2014, San Diego, CA

Session Chair, “Concepts, Computational Mechanisms, and Cognitive Explanation”

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

28 February – 2 March 2013, Austin, TX

Participant, manuscript workshop for Dan Lloyd’s *Ghosts in the Machine: A Dialogue on Minds, Brains, and Computers*, 8 March 2014

Reviewer, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *Erkenntnis*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *Episteme*, *Minds and Machines*, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophy of Science*, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*

Referee, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Midsouth Philosophy Conference

Guest Lecturer for William Church’s first-year seminar, “Science and Religion: Friend or Foe?”

Assessment of Prof. Todd Ryan’s PHIL 283: Early Modern Philosophy (Spring 2015)

Junior Faculty Hiring Committee, Department of Philosophy, Trinity College, 2012-2013

President, Graduate Association of Students of Philosophy, Indiana University, 2009-2010

### **UNIVERSITY LEVEL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Full Responsibility (Trinity College)

101 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2018, Spring 2020)

103 Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2018)

108 First Year Seminar: The Self and Human Nature (Fall 2016)

205 Symbolic Logic (Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022)

213 Philosophy of Sport (Spring 2014, Fall 2021)

221 Science, Reality, and Rationality (Fall 2012, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2022)

226 Neuroscience, Ethics, and Agency (Spring 2015, Fall 2017)

252 Philosophy of Biology (Spring 2021)

285 Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy (Spring 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2019; Spring 2021)

311 Philosophy of Medicine (Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022)

319 Philosophy of Neuroscience and Psychiatry (Spring 2019, Spring 2022)

361 Metaphysics (Spring 2014)

378 Philosophy of Mind (Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Spring 2020)

First Year Seminar (Fall 2016, Fall 2022)

Full Responsibility (Indiana University)

100 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2011)

140 Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2008)

### **OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Instructor, Indiana University School of Continuing Studies (2008 - 2012)

(Full course responsibilities. All courses were taught entirely online or by mail.)

P100 Introduction to Philosophy

P140 Introduction to Ethics

P150 Introduction to Logic

P240 Business Ethics

P282 Women in Philosophical Thought

## REFERENCES

Distinguished Professor Colin Allen  
Department of History and Philosophy of Science  
University of Pittsburgh  
[colin.allen@pitt.edu](mailto:colin.allen@pitt.edu)

Professor Elisabeth Lloyd  
Department of History and Philosophy of Science  
Indiana University  
[ecalloyd@indiana.edu](mailto:ecalloyd@indiana.edu)

Professor Thomas W. Polger  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Cincinnati  
[thomas.polger@uc.edu](mailto:thomas.polger@uc.edu)

Professor Jonathan Weinberg  
Department of Philosophy  
The University of Arizona  
[jmweinberg@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jmweinberg@email.arizona.edu)