

DANIEL G. SWAIM

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EMPLOYMENT

Kansas State University

2023-2024 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Florida State University

2022-2023 Dean's Postdoctoral Scholar in Philosophy of Science

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

2022 Ph.D. in Philosophy

Dissertation: *Time's Deep Rhythms: Models, Mechanisms, and Narratives in Historical Explanation*

Committee: M. Weisberg (adviser), A. Currie (University of Exeter), Q. Spencer, and D. Singer

Awards & Fellowships: Benjamin Franklin Fellowship; Nancy L. Blank Graduate Prize

Louisiana State University

2016 M.A. in Philosophy

Thesis: *Dispositions in Evolutionary Biology: A Metaphysically Realist Account*

Committee: C.H. Pence (adviser), J. Cogburn, and J. Roland

Awards: LSU Graduate Teaching Assistantship

Saint Edward's University

2013 B.A. in Philosophy

Awards: Bill & Pat Munday Scholarship Prize; SEU Endowed Scholarship

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization: Philosophy of Science, History & Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Social Science, Philosophy of History

Areas of Competency: Biomedical Ethics, Ethics of Just Warfare and Military Technology, Ethics of AI & Technology, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Race

Other Teaching Competencies: Moral Philosophy, Logic, History of Philosophy (esp. Kant & modern)

PUBLICATIONS

1. Swaim, D.G. Forthcoming. "Getting from Here to There: The Contingency of Evidence and the Value of Speculation." *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*.
2. Swaim, D.G. Forthcoming. "Geology: The Philosophy of Geology as the History of This and Other Planets," in *The Handbook of Philosophy of the Historical Sciences*. Edited by Avizier Tucker. Under contract with Bloomsbury Press.
3. Swaim, D.G. Forthcoming. "Nailing Down the Essentials: A Review of Michael Devitt's *Biological Essentialism*," in *The Quarterly Review of Biology*.

4. Swaim, D.G. (with A. Currie). 2022. "Minimal Metaphysics vs. Maximal Semantics: A response to Paul Roth and Fons DeWulf." *Journal of Philosophy of History*.
5. Swaim, D.G. (with A. Currie). 2022. "Past Facts and the Nature of History." *Journal of Philosophy of History*, 1: pp. 1-28.
6. Swaim, D.G. 2021. "What Is Narrative Possibility?" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 89: pp. 257-266.
7. Swaim, D.G. 2019. "The Roles of Possibility and Mechanism in Narrative Explanation." *Philosophy of Science* 86 (5): pp. 858-868.
8. Swaim, D.G. (with C.H. Pence). 2018. "The Economy of Nature: The Structure of Evolution in Linnaeus, Darwin, and the Modern Synthesis." *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 8 (3): pp. 435-454.
9. Swaim, D.G. Under Review (R&R). "Truth and Scientific Understanding(s): A Parting of the Ways?" *International Studies in Philosophy of Science*.
10. Swaim, D.G. Under Review (R&R). "Inference to the Best Explanation: A Material Account." *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*.
11. Swaim, D.G. Under Review. "Representation & Commitment: A Defense of Ontic Explanation." *Philosophy of Science*.

IN THE WORKS

1. "When Species Concepts Don't Matter (in Paleobiology)." Here I argue that species concepts are explanatorily inert in certain paleobiological debates. Some have argued that certain macroevolutionary trends (like lineage extinction due to runaway sexual selection) can't be properly inferred from the fossil record because the fossil record is confined to something like a morphological species concept (as opposed to, say, the biological species concept). I argue that such trends can be properly read-off of the fossil record, and that this is independent of any species concept.
2. "Darwin, Lyellian Uniformitarianism, and Evolutionary Realism." I take a deep look at Darwin's use of Lyellian Uniformitarianism. I argue that it is primarily a methodological commitment as opposed to an ontological one (this is a matter of controversy in the Darwin literature). But, I argue, Darwin's methodological commitment gave the necessary conceptual scaffolding to develop a realist picture of evolution by natural selection.
3. "On the Continuity of Natural, Social, and Historical Sciences." I look into historiographical literature to unearth the deep symmetries between the epistemic features of natural science, social science, and history. The primary purpose of my argument is to show, in particular, that human history is a species of scientific research. History is, at bottom, a form of social science, which I take to be continuous with the natural sciences. This is especially the case with "macrohistories." I deploy a form of mechanistic thinking to develop this picture of historical research.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- 2024 Philosophy of Science
Philosophy and Race
Ethics in a Global Society
Ethical Decision Making & Problem Solving
Biomedical Ethics
- 2023 Introduction to Philosophy (3x)
Environmental Ethics
First Year Seminar in Philosophy
Introduction to Philosophy of Science
Biomedical Ethics
- 2022 Introduction to Philosophy (2x)
- 2021 Biomedical Ethics

Guest Lecturer

- 2023 “The Nature and Variety of Scientific Models,” Intro to Critical Thinking for C. Davis
“Materialist Theories of Mind,” Intro to Philosophy for R. Clarke
- 2019 “Observation and Experimentation,” Intro to Philosophy of Science for M. Weisberg
“Three Kinds of Adaptationism,” Philosophy of Biology for M. Weisberg
- 2018 “Evidence and Confirmation,” Intro to Epistemology and Metaphysics for D. Singer
- 2015 “Locke’s Theory of Substance,” History of Modern Philosophy for J. Cogburn
“The Problem of Divine Hiddenness,” Philosophy of Religion for J. Cogburn
- 2014 “The Argument from Design,” Philosophy of Religion for J. Cogburn

Teaching Assistant

- 2019 Philosophy of Science for M. Weisberg
- 2018 Intro to Epistemology and Metaphysics for D. Singer
- 2017 Philosophy of Science for Q. Spencer
The Social Contract for K. Tan
- 2015 Introduction to Logic for C. Blakeley

Philosophy of Religion for J. Cogburn

History of Modern Philosophy for J. Cogburn

Intro to Philosophy for C. Blakeley

2014 Logic I for C. Pence

Philosophy of Religion for J. Cogburn

History of Ancient Philosophy for R. Parsons

Intro to Ethics for M. Altamirano

CO-ORGANIZED EVENTS

2021 *Methods, Theory & Reality Workshop*, D.G. Swaim, C. Davis, and A. Curtis-Trudel

2020 *Zoom Philosophy of History Reading Group*, D.G. Swaim and A. Currie

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2024 “Representation & Commitment: A Fulsome Defense of Ontic Explanation”
Speaker at *Method, Theory & Reality Workshop*

“Darwin, Lyellian Uniformitarianism, and Evolutionary Realism”
Speaker at *Mississippi Academy of Sciences: HPS Division*

2023 “When Species Concepts Don’t Matter (in Paleobiology)”
Speaker at *International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*

2021 “Inference to the Best Explanation: A Material Account”
Speaker at *Philosophy of Science Association Meeting*

“Truth and Scientific Understanding(s): A Parting of the Ways?”
Speaker at *Methods, Theory, and Reality Workshop*

2020 “A New Account of Narrative Possibility”
Speaker at *POBAMz: Philosophy of Biology at the Mountains via Zoom*

“Archaeological Practice and Explanatory Inference”
Speaker at *Archaeology Works!* - canceled due to COVID

Invited participant at *PaleoSchool*

2019 “What Is Narrative Possibility?”
Speaker at *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*

- 2018 “The Roles of Possibility and Mechanism in Narrative Explanation”
Speaker at *Philosophy of Science Association Meeting*
- “Explanation in the Historical Sciences: Mechanisms and Possibilities”
Speaker at *Historical and Scientific Explanation: Reexamining the Connection*
- 2017 Invited participant at *Summer Workshop on Philosophy and Physical Computing*
- 2016 “The Economy of Nature: The Structure of Evolution in Linnaeus, Darwin, and Toward the Extended Synthesis,” Speaker at *Contemporary Scientific Realism and the Challenge from the History of Science*
- 2015 “The Economy of Nature and Structural Realism”
Speaker at *LSU Philosophy Salon*

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Philosophy of Science

Confirmation Theory, M. Weisberg
Topics in Philosophy of Science: Values in Science, M. Weisberg
Philosophy of Biology, M. Weisberg
Philosophy of Science, C. Pence
History & Philosophy of Evolution, C. Pence

Logic

Mathematical Logic, S. Weinstein
Modal Logic & Formal Epistemology, Z. Domotor
Advanced Logic, J. Roland
Modal Logic, J. Roland

History of Philosophy

Aristotle's *Physics*, A. Hahmann
Kant: *First Critique & Prolegomena*, G. Hatfield & R. Horstmann
Descartes' *Natural Philosophy*, K. Detlefsen
Marx: *Das Kapital*, J. Rocha
History of *Metaphysics*, J. Cogburn

Ethics

Law & Morality of Warfare, C. Finkelstein
Political Authority & Political Obligation, S. Perry
Topics in Moral Philosophy: Parfit's *On What Matters*, H. Sarkar

Science

Advanced Evolution, J. Plotkin & T. Linksvayer

Macroevolution, D. Homberger

REFERENCES

Michael Weisberg, Weisberg@phil.upenn.edu

Adrian Currie, A.Currie@exeter.ac.uk

Quayshawn Spencer, QSpencer@upenn.edu

Charles H. Pence, Charles@charlespence.net

Daniel Singer, SingerD@phil.upenn.edu (teaching)