

PATRICK FORBER

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Philosophy Department
Tufts University, Miner Hall 220
Medford, MA 02155
Ph: 617 627 4551

patrick.forber@tufts.edu
pforber.squarespace.com

EDUCATION

Stanford University

Ph.D. Philosophy, June 2006
Thesis: "The Traces of Change: Evidence in Evolutionary Biology"
M.S. Biological Sciences, M.A. Philosophy, June 2005

The Australian National University

Visiting student, 2003, 2005

University of California, San Diego

B.S. General Biology, B.A. Philosophy, June 2000
Summa Cum Laude, Honors with Distinction in Philosophy,
Caledonian Honor Society of John Muir College

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Tufts University, 2012-present
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Tufts University, 2006-2012
Visiting Fellow, Centre for the Foundations of Science, University of Sydney, 2013
Visiting Researcher in Philosophy, University of Utah, 2010
Visiting Researcher in Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine, 2007

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Probability

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Evolutionary Biology, History of Biology, British Empiricism, Nietzsche

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed articles

"Reciprocal Spite," (with Rory Smead, under review).
"An Evolutionary Paradox for Prosocial Behavior," (with Rory Smead, forthcoming). *The Journal of Philosophy*.
"The Evolution of Fairness Through Spite," (with Rory Smead, 2014). *The Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Biological Sciences* 281.
"The Evolutionary Dynamics of Spite in Finite Populations," (with Rory Smead, 2013). *Evolution* 67:698-707.

- “The Perils of Tweaking,” (with Brian Epstein, 2013). *Synthese* 190:203-218.
- “Modeling Scientific Evidence: The Challenge of Specifying Likelihoods,” (2012). *EPSA Philosophy of Science: Amsterdam 2009*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- “Historical Reconstruction: Gaining Epistemic Access to the Deep Past,” (with Eric Griffith, 2011). *Philosophy and Theory in Biology*.
- “Reconceiving Eliminative Inference,” (2011). *Philosophy of Science* 78:185-208
- “Confirmation and Explaining How Possible,” (2010). *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 41:32-40.
- “Spandrels and a Pervasive Problem of Evidence,” (2009). *Biology and Philosophy* 24:247-266.
- “Can There Be Stochastic Evolutionary Causes?” (with Kenneth Reisman, 2007). *Philosophy of Science* 74:616-627.
- “Nietzsche was no Darwinian,” (2007). *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 75(2).
- “On the Explanatory Roles of Natural Selection,” (2005). *Biology and Philosophy* 20:329-342.
- “Manipulation and the Causes of Evolution,” (with Kenneth Reisman, 2005). *Philosophy of Science* 72(5): 1113-1123.

Invited articles

- Area review on the philosophical issues surrounding natural selection, causation, and explanation (in preparation). *Biology and Philosophy*.
- “Biological Inheritance and Cultural Evolution in Nietzsche’s *Genealogy*,” (2013). *Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 44:329-341.
- “Debating the Power and Scope of Adaptation,” (2013). *The Philosophy of Biology: A Companion for Educators* (Springer).
- “Conjecture and Explanation: A Reply To Reydon,” (2012). *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 43:298-301.
- “Adaptationism,” (with Steven Orzack, 2010). *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (SEP does blind reviews of all entries.)
- “Introduction: A Primer on Adaptationism,” (2009). *Biology and Philosophy* 24:155-159.

Book reviews

- “Evolution and the Levels of Selection.” Review of Samir Okasha’s *Evolution and the Levels of Selection* (2008). *The Philosophical Review* 177:626-630.
- “Forever Beyond Our Grasp?” Essay review of P. Kyle Stanford’s *Exceeding Our Grasp: Science, History, and The Problem of Unconceived Alternatives* (2008) *Biology and Philosophy* 23:135-141.
- “Grounding the Big Picture.” Essay review of Sandra Mitchell’s *Biological Complexity and Integrative Pluralism* (2005) *Biology and Philosophy* 20:913-923.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- “The Evolution of Fairness Through Spite.” Evolution meetings (Snowbird 2013) and Sydney-ANU Philosophy of Biology Workshop (Pearl Beach, Australia 2013).

- “Causation in Evolution: Drawing the Map and Calibrating the Compass.” The Australian National University PBDB7 (Moruya, Australia 2013).
- “How Problematic are Unconceived Alternatives for Evidential Reasoning?” Conference on Unconceived Alternatives and Scientific Realism (Durham, England 2013).
- “Patterns of Evidential Reasoning and the Signatures of Selection.” Sydney HPS (2013).
- “The Evolution of Antisocial Behavior.” Arizona State University, School of Life Sciences (2013) and ISHPSSB (Montpelier 2013).
- “The Evolution of Spite” (with Rory Smead). Pacific APA (Seattle 2012).
- “The Evolution of Spite with Applications to Human Behavior” (with Rory Smead). Harvard University seminar series on the Evolution and Development of Human Behavior (2011).
- “An Analysis of Inheritance.” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Conference (Salt Lake City 2011).
- “Historical Reconstruction and Consilience.” University of Western Ontario, Complexity and History conference (2010).
- “The Perils of Tweaking.” (with Brian Epstein) University of Toronto, Simulations and Modeling conference (2010) and MIDAS Epistemology of modeling and simulation, Pittsburgh (2011).
- “The Importance of Explaining How Possible and the Reference Class Problem.” Workshop on Explanation in the Special Sciences, University of Cologne, Germany (2010).
- “Evidence and Objectivity.” University of Pennsylvania (2009).
- “Confirmation and the Signatures of Selection.” Philosophy of Biology at Madison Workshop (2010), Duke University, IHPST Paris (2009).
- “Modeling Scientific Inference: The Challenge of Specifying Likelihoods.” European Philosophy of Science Association (Amsterdam 2009).
- “The Hard Problem for Philosophy of Historical Science.” The Australian National University PBDB 3 (Moruya, Australia 2009).
- “Detecting the Signatures of Selection.” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Conference (Brisbane 2009).
- “Confirmation and Macroevolution.” Workshop on Macroevolution and Diversity (University of Montreal 2008), Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference (Canberra 2006).
- “Models of Scientific Inference and a Lesson From the Field.” The Australian National University PBDB2 Conference (Kioloa, Australia 2007).
- “What Good Are Optimality Models Anyway?” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Conference (Exeter 2007) and Tempo and Mode seminar series, The Australian National University (Botany and Zoology Department 2007).
- “A New Kind of Eliminative Inference.” University of California, Irvine, Logic and Philosophy of Science Program (2007).
- “The Causes of Evolution.” Workshop on the “Toronto Interpretation” of Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto (2007)
- Invited participant for a workshop on Elliott Sober’s manuscript, Evidence and Evolution, The Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (2007).

“Can There Be Stochastic Evolutionary Causes?” (with Kenneth Reisman). Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting (Vancouver 2006), The Australian National University PBDB1 (Dolphin Beach, Australia).

“Deciphering the Traces of Evolutionary Change.” The Australian National University, Tufts University (Biology Department), University of Cincinnati (2006).

“The Importance of Genuine Rivals in Evolutionary Biology.” California Institute of Technology, Tufts University, University of California Davis, University of Minnesota, University of Utah, Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Job Talk 2005).

“Confirmation In Theory and In Practice.” The Australian National University (2005).

“Adaptive Landscapes and Confounding Ecology.” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Conference (Guelph 2005).

“Manipulation and the Causes of Evolution,” (with Kenneth Reisman). Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting (Austin 2004), The Australian National University (2004).

“Bridging the Generation Gap: Inheritance and Evolution.” The Australian National University (2003).

“Mechanisms of Heredity and Evolutionary Explanations.” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Conference (Vienna 2003).

WORKSHOP INVITATIONS

How Can the History and Philosophy of Science Contribute to Contemporary U.S. Science Teaching? Boston University Center for the Philosophy and History of Science (December 2012).

Epistemology Think Tank: New Measures for Models, MIDAS Center, University of Pittsburgh (May 2012).

Debating Darwin: Philosophical Issues in Evolution and Natural Selection, University of California, Santa Barbara (February 2011).

Philosophy of Biology at Madison workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison (May 2010)

Workshop on Thinking About Macroevolution and Diversity, University of Montreal (September 2008).

Workshop on the “Toronto Interpretation” of Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto (October 2007).

Workshop on Elliott Sober’s manuscript, *Evidence and Evolution*, The Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (March 2007).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tufts University 2006 to present

Philosophy of Biology (Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Spring 2009, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013)

Evidence, Reality, and Scientific Change (Fall 2006)

Science and Pseudoscience (Fall 2012)

Biology and Humanity (Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Fall 2010)

Rational Choice (Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2013)

Formal Epistemology (Fall 2011)

Seminar: Logical Positivism (Spring 2008)

Seminar: The Boundaries of Darwinian Theory (with Daniel Dennett, Spring 2011)

Seminar: Accessing Prehistory (with George Smith, Fall 2008, Fall 2010)
Seminar: Formal Epistemology (Fall 2011)
Seminar: New Perspectives on Causal Inference (Spring 2012)
Seminar: Evolution of Minds and Morals (Spring 2014)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Visiting Fellowship, Centre for the Foundations of Science, University of Sydney (2013).
FRAC Grant, Tufts University, (2009)
Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford University (2005-2006)
Department Fellowship, Stanford University (2000-2005)
Eric Paul Allison Memorial Prize for Outstanding Merit in Philosophy, UC San Diego (2000)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Guest editor for a special issue in *Biology and Philosophy* commemorating 30 years since the publication of Gould and Lewontin's "The Spandrels of San Marco and the Panglossian Paradigm: A Critique of the Adaptationist Programme."

Program committee member for the Philosophy of Science Association 2014 biennial meeting.

Program committee member for the European Philosophy of Science Association 2009 meeting.

Referee for *Biology and Philosophy*, *Philosophy of Science*, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, the National Science Foundation, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Commentator for *The Handbook on the Philosophy of Information*, Biological Information (Eds. Johan van Benthem and Peter Adriaans).

Organizing committee for the workshop on the Future Directions in the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, www.ishpssb.org/workshop2004 (San Francisco 2004).

Session organizer for "Constructing and Confirming Models in Population Biology" (participants included Elisabeth Lloyd, Michael Weisberg, William Wimsatt, and myself) for ISHPSSB 2005.

Session organizer for "Optimality Modeling and Evolutionary Explanation" (participants included Stephen Downes, Angela Potochnik, Joan Roughgarden, and myself) for ISHPSSB 2007.

Session organizer for "Thinking Formally About Evolutionary Change: Detection and Ontology" (participants included Peter Godfrey-Smith, Kenneth Reisman, and myself) for ISHPSSB 2009.

Session organizer for "Organisms, Individuals, and Inheritance" (participants included Jonathan Birch, Austin Booth, Ellen Clarke, Greg Priest, and myself) for ISHPSSB 2011.

Session organizer (with Matt Haber) for "Exploring the Evolution of Culture and Social Behavior" (participants included Stephen Downes, Matt Haber, Fiona Jordan, Elisabeth Lloyd, and myself) for ISHPSSB 2013.

Affiliations: Philosophy of Science Association, European Philosophy of Science Association, American Philosophical Association, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Director of Graduate Studies, Fall 2013 to present

Search committee responsibilities, Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2013

Lecture series organizer, Spring 2008, Fall 2008

M.A. Admissions, Spring 2008, Spring 2011, Spring 2014

Freshman Advising, Fall 2008 (CAP seminar), Fall 2011

Philosophy Dept. Library Liaison, Fall 2008-Spring 2009, Fall 2013-present

University Library Committee, Fall 2008 to present

University Programs and Policies Committee, Fall 2013 to present

Honors thesis and summer scholar advising

Major advising for Philosophy and the Environmental Studies program