

# J. E. WOLFF

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## RESEARCH SPECIALISATION

Philosophy of Science; Metaphysics

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Medicine; Philosophy of Physics; Kant

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

King's College London	Lecturer	2017 onwards
The University of Hong Kong	Assistant Professor	2012-2016
The University of Puget Sound	Visiting Assistant Professor	2011-2012

## FELLOWSHIPS

MCMP University of Munich	Humboldt Fellow	2015-2018
The University of Michigan	ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow	2010-2011

## EDUCATION

Stanford University	PhD in Philosophy	2004-2010
University of Munich (LMU)	MPhil in Philosophy	2000-2004

## AWARDS & GRANTS

<i>Humboldt Foundation</i> - Experienced Researcher Scheme	2015-2018
<i>Hong Kong Research Grants Council</i> - Early Career Scheme	2015-2018
<i>Hong Kong University</i> - Seed Funding	2013
<i>ACLS</i> - Recent Doctoral Recipients Fellowship	2010-11
<i>ACLS</i> - Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2009-10

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Journal Articles

- “Heaps of moles? – Mediating macroscopic and microscopic measurement of chemical Substances”, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* (forthcoming)
- “Using defaults to understand token causation”  
*Journal of Philosophy*, 113:1 5-26, 2016
- “Naturalistic quietism or scientific realism?”  
*Synthese*, First online: September 2015
- “Observability, visualizability and the question of metaphysical neutrality”  
*Foundations of Physics*, 45:9 1046-1062, 2015
- “Spin as a Determinable”  
*TOPOI*, 34:2 379-386, 2015
- “Heisenberg’s Observability Principle”  
*Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, 45, 2014
- “Are Conservation Laws Metaphysically Necessary?”  
*Philosophy of Science*, 80 (5), 2013
- “Do objects depend on structures?”  
*The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 63 (3), 2012

### Research Blog Contributions

- “The Metaphysical Status of Quantities”, BJPS Blog [Auxiliary Hypotheses](#), 31.10.2017

## **UNDER REVIEW/IN PREPARATION**

### Research Monograph

#### *Metaphysics of Quantities*

Proposal currently under review with OUP (*draft chapters available on my website*)

### Journal Articles

- “Why eliminativism?”  
[Contribution to book symposium on S. French’s *Structure of the World*]  
*Erkenntnis* (*under review; draft available on my website*)

### Invited Chapters

- “Naturalism and the interpretation of quantum mechanics”  
In: *Scientific Realism and the Quantum*. Juha Saatsi and Steven French (eds)., OUP, 2018 (*under review; draft available on my website*)
- “Fundamental and derived quantities”  
In: *The Foundation of Reality: Fundamentality, Space and Time*. Anna Marmodoro (ed.), OUP, 2019 (*under review; draft available on my website*)
- “Representationalism in Measurement Theory – Structuralism or Perspectivism?”  
In: *Understanding Perspectivism: Scientific challenges and methodological prospects*. Michela Massimi (ed.), Routledge (2018) (*in preparation*)

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “The new SI—Trade-offs in empirical determinability”  
Symposium *Redefining Units: Reflections on the 2018 Reform of the Metric System*, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle, Nov, 2018
- “Can we empirically determine whether a concept is quantitative?”  
*Concept Formation in the Natural and the Social Sciences*, Zurich, Oct 2018
- “Realism without Foundationalism”  
*Philosophy of Physics: Measurement*, IUC Dubrovnik, April 2018
- “Fixing constants to define units”  
*Symposium on the new SI*, Pacific APA, San Diego, March 2018
- “Intrinsicalism or Structuralism?”  
*Ranch Metaphysics Workshop*, Tucson, AZ, January 2018
- “Are computer simulations measurements?”  
9<sup>th</sup> Bethe Centre Workshop *Computational Science and Reality*, Bad Honnef, October 2017
- “What comes first, scales or quantities?”  
*Physics of Scale*, Durham, July 2017
- “Quietism about Interpretation”  
*Science, Metaphysics, and Skepticism*, Bonn, June 2017
- “Symmetries and Measurement Theory”  
*With and without Measure: Symmetry and Symmetry Breaking*, LMU Munich, June 2017
- “Quantities – Metaphysical Choicepoints”  
*Philosophy of Physics Research Seminar*, Oxford, June 2017
- “Absolutism about Quantity – Decision by case study?”  
*Sigma Club Lecture*, LSE, Feb 2017
- “How should we understand the disagreement btw comparativists and absolutists?”  
*The Metaphysics of Quantities*, Instituto di studi filosofici, Lugano, Feb 2017
- “The curious case of the mole”  
*Concepts and Problems of Scale*, The University of Wollongong, Mar 2016
- “Foundationalism vs. Coherentism about Quantities and Measurement”  
The University of Helsinki, Nov 2015
- “Realism about Measurement and Realism about Magnitudes”  
MCMP, LMU Munich, July 2015
- “Why Eliminativism—Comments on Steven French’s *The Structure of the World*”  
*Society for Realist/Antirealist Discussion*, Pacific APA, Vancouver Apr 2015
- “The metaphysical status of quantities”  
*Philosophy of Science: Contemporary Debates*, The University of Edinburgh, Mar 2015
- “Quantitative Structure - A new approach to structural realism”  
Department of Philosophy, The University of Aberdeen, Mar 2015
- “Naturalistic quietism or scientific realism?”  
*Science: The Real Thing?*, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, May 2014
- “Are conservation laws necessary?”  
Technical University Darmstadt, Feb 2013
- “Structure In Action”  
*Causation and Structuralism Workshop*, Cologne, Feb 2013

## CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

- “From microscopic to macroscopic”  
*Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting*, Atlanta, Nov 2016
- “The curious case of the mole”  
*Metaphysics of Science Society*, Geneva, Sep 2016
- “Why did additivity cease to be a central element in the theory of measurement?”  
*BSPS Annual Meeting*, Cardiff, July 2016
- “Sums no more - The changing role of additivity in measurement theory”  
&*HPS6*, University of Edinburgh, July 2016
- “Magnitudes as Spaces”  
*Workshop on analogue content and magnitudes*, Antwerp, November 2015
- “Realism about quantities?”  
*CLMPS 2015*, Helsinki University, August 2015
- “Realism about Measurement and Realism about Magnitudes”  
*The Making of Measurement*, CRASSH Cambridge University, July 2015
- “Spin as a Determinable”  
*The Metaphysics of Quantum Mechanics*, Corpus Christi, Oxford, Oct 2014
- “Criteria of Physical Significance for Quantities”  
*Second Singapore Workshop on Integrated History and Philosophy of Science in Practice*, NTU Singapore, Aug 2014
- “A New Target for Scientific Realism Debates”  
*New Thinking about Scientific Realism*, Cape Town, South Africa, Aug 2014
- “Pauli’s objection to Weyl and the origins of the divide between Anschaulichkeit und Beobachtbarkeit”, *Symposium: Operation and Visualization in Physics and Psychophysics*, HOPOS, Ghent, July 2014
- “The physical significance of quantities in physics”  
SIFLS, Rome, June 2014
- “Are Conservation Laws Metaphysically Necessary?”  
*Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting*, San Diego, November 2012
- “Quantities need Structures”  
*Structuralism in Physics and Mathematics Conference*, Bristol, September 2012
- “Metaphysics as foundations of science”  
*APA Pacific Division Meeting*, Seattle, April 2012
- “When is it metaphysics?”  
*Metaphysics and Philosophy of Science Conference*, Toronto, May 2011
- “Do Objects Depend on Structure?”  
*Workshop on Structuralism*, Notre Dame, November 2010
- “Grasping the Noble - Amending McDowell’s Reading of Aristotle”,  
*APA Eastern Division Meeting*, New York, December 2009

## RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND ORGANISATION

**Organiser and Host:** *Kinds and Quantities*, May 2015  
International conference at Hong Kong University, funded by the School of Humanities

**Main Organiser:** *Operation and Visualization in Physics and Psychophysics*,  
July 2014; Contributed Symposium at HOPOS 2014, Ghent

## **TEACHING**

Lecturer, King's College London

Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Medicine

Metaphysics II

The Concept of Mental Disorder (*convener*)

MBBS II – Philosophical Topics in Medicine (*for medical students*)

Philosophy of Science (*for biomedical students*)

MBBS I – Belief and Decision under Uncertainty (*for medical students*)

Assistant Professor, The University of Hong Kong

Philosophy of Science

Metaphysics

Philosophy of Physics

Kant's Critical Philosophy

Critical Thinking

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Puget Sound

Philosophy of Science

Early Modern Philosophy

19th Century Philosophy

Introduction to Philosophy

## **POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

King's College London

Chris de Ray: "The evolutionary challenge to scientific realism" PhD, 2018 onward

Gabriel Wyse: "Grounding and Social Ontology", Mphil, 2017 onward

Athamos Stradis: "Statistical Mechanics & Memory" PhD, 2017 onward

Patrick Owens, MA, 2017

Wenxin Liu, MA, 2017

Hong Kong University

Vera Matarese: "A structuralist account for Bohmian ontology", PhD, 2013-2017

Zoe Cocchiari, Sanja Sarman, both PhD, 2015-6 (mentor);

Yip Tak Ho; Lucy Sparrow; Johannes Hoerning, all MPhil, 2014-6 (mentor);

## **UNDERGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

King's College London

*Undergraduate dissertations:*

Kieran Borchard, Joe Hamilton, Paolo Vischi (2018)

Henry Jackson, Orla Mulvenna, Andrew Warren (2017)

Hong Kong University

*Senior Thesis:* Han Fanghang (2015)

*Senior Essay:* Li Zan (2016)

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### Professional

Referee for: *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*; *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*; *Synthese*; *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Erkenntnis*; *Disputatio*; *Analysis*;

Program Committee: Society for Metaphysics of Science 2017

Lecture Series at MCMP Summer School for Female Students, July 2018

### King's College London

Study Abroad Officer (2017/18)

Placement Officer (2017/18)

Small Group Teaching Lead (term 2 2017)

Convener Cumberland Lodge (2017)

Member Steering Committee (term 2 2017)

### Hong Kong University

Seminar Convener, Dept. of Philosophy, 2014-2016

Faculty Admissions Committee, Faculty of Arts, 2014-2016

Faculty Board Member, Faculty of Arts, 2012-2016

## **LANGUAGES**

German (native), English (fluent), French (reading), Greek (reading), Latin (reading)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ACADEMIC TRAINING**

### Training for academic staff members

*Research Degree Supervision for New Supervisors*, King's College London, March 2017

*Being a Personal Tutor at King's*, King's College London, February 2017

*Advanced Teaching and Learning Certificate*, Hong Kong University, December 2012

### Other

*Visiting Student Research Collaborator*

Princeton University, Summer 2009

*Foundations of Quantum Mechanics*

2nd Geneva Summer School in the Philosophy of Physics, 2009

*Junior Year Abroad*

University of St Andrews, 2002-03