

# Jill North

Rutgers University  
Department of Philosophy  
106 Somerset St., New Brunswick, NJ  
j.north@rutgers.edu  
<http://jillnorth.org>

August 26, 2019

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Rutgers 2004  
Dissertation: "Time and Probability in an Asymmetric Universe"

B.A., Physics and Philosophy, Yale 1997  
*Summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, with Distinction in the Major

## EMPLOYMENT

2015–present Associate Professor, Rutgers University  
Department of Philosophy

2011–2015 Associate Professor, Cornell University  
Sage School of Philosophy

2006–2011 Assistant Professor, Yale University  
Department of Philosophy  
Secondary appointment in Physics  
Affiliated faculty, History of Science and Medicine; Cognitive Science

2004–2006 Bersoff Postdoctoral Fellow, NYU Philosophy Department

1997–1998 Menaul School, New Mexico, high school math and physics teacher

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of physics

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics, philosophy of science

## PUBLICATIONS

“Formulations of Classical Mechanics” (forthcoming), *A Companion to the Philosophy of Physics*, eds. Eleanor Knox and Alastair Wilson, Routledge.

“A New Approach to the Relational-Substantival Debate” (2018), *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* 11, 3–43.

“The Structure of a Quantum World” (2013), *The Wave Function: Essays on the Metaphysics of Quantum Mechanics*, eds. David Albert and Alyssa Ney. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 184–202.

“Time in Thermodynamics” (2011), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Time*, ed. Craig Callender. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 312–350.

“An Empirical Approach to Symmetry and Probability” (2010), *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 41, 27–40.

“The ‘Structure’ of Physics: A Case Study” (2009), *Journal of Philosophy* 106, 57–88.

“Two Views on Time Reversal” (2008), *Philosophy of Science* 75, 201–223.

“Understanding the Time-Asymmetry of Radiation” (2003), *Philosophy of Science (Proceedings)* 70, 1086–1097.

“What is the Problem about the Time-Asymmetry of Thermodynamics?—A Reply to Price” (2002), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 53, 121–136.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Book manuscript, tentative title *Structure, Physics, and Reality*

“Laws and Possibility”

## BOOK REVIEWS

Gordon Belot, *Geometric Possibility*. *The Philosophical Review* 122, 2013, 522–525.

Max Jammer, *Concepts of Simultaneity: From Antiquity to Einstein and Beyond*. *American Scientist* 96 (1), 2008.

Mathias Frisch, *Inconsistency, Asymmetry and Non-Locality: A Philosophical Investigation of Classical Electrodynamics*. *Philosophy of Science* 74, 2007, 555–558.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation STS Scholars Award (no. 1430435), 2014

American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship, 2003  
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, 1998  
Research Experience for Undergraduates NSF summer program, 1995 (with Dr. Carl Wieman, Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, Boulder, CO)  
Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, 1993–1997

## PRESENTATIONS

### THEORETICAL EQUIVALENCE

“Metaphysics and Equivalence,” 60th annual Boston Colloquium for Philosophy of Science, Boston, MA, February 2020.

“Metaphysics and Equivalence,” Symposium on Equivalent Theories in Physics, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, April 2019.

“Metaphysics and Equivalence,” 11th annual Auburn Philosophy Conference, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, April 2019.

### DIRECTION OF TIME

“Break It Down for Me: Direction of Time,” Rutgers Philosophy Department, 2018.

“Explaining the Direction of Time,” Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Club, 2018.

“Explaining the Direction of Time: A Puzzle in the Philosophy of Physics,” Wing Chun Wong Lecture, Towson University, Towson, MD, October 2017.

“Explaining the Direction of Time, or: Why Does Your Popsicle Melt on a Hot Day?,” Connecticut College Physics Department, New London, CT, February 2009.

### STRUCTURE OF SPACETIME

“Spatiotemporal Structure and the Relational-Substantival Debate,” Conference on The Foundation of Reality: Fundamentality, Space, and Time, Oxford University, March 2017.

“Spatiotemporal Structure and the Relational-Substantival Debate,” University of Massachusetts-Amherst Philosophy Department, Amherst, MA, February 2017.

“The Structure of Spacetime: A New Approach to the Spacetime Ontology Debate,” Physics as Metaphysics lecture series, Brown University, Providence, RI, November

2015.

“The Structure of Spacetime: A New Approach to the Spacetime Ontology Debate,” co-sponsored by The Sydney M. Edelstein Center for History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, October 2015.

“The Structure of Spacetime: A New Approach to the Spacetime Ontology Debate,” Bar-Hillel Colloquium for the History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science, The Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas at Tel Aviv University (co-sponsored by the Edelstein Center and Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem), Tel Aviv, Israel, October 2015.

“The Structure of Spacetime: A New Approach to the Spacetime Ontology Debate,” 49th Chapel Hill Colloquium in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, October 2015.

“The Structure of Spacetime: A New Approach to the Spacetime Ontology Debate,” Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2014.

“The Structure of Spacetime: A New Approach to the Spacetime Ontology Debate,” keynote address, annual graduate philosophy conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 2014.

“The Structure of Spacetime,” annual conference on Philosophy of Physics, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, May 2013.

“The Structure of Spacetime,” University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Philosophy, Milwaukee, WI, May 2013.

“The Structure of Spacetime,” Structure in Physics conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, April 2013.

#### CLASSICAL MECHANICS AND THEORETICAL EQUIVALENCE

“Classical Mechanics, Structure, and the World; or: On the (Non-)Equivalence of Theories,” Conference on Equivalent Theories in Science and Metaphysics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, March 2015.

#### STRUCTURE OF QUANTUM MECHANICS

“The Structure of a Quantum World,” Syracuse University Department of Philosophy, Syracuse, NY, September 2012.

“The Structure of a Quantum World,” keynote lecture at Calvin College Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, May 2012.

("The Structure of a Quantum World," accepted for the Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, 2010. Was unable to attend.)

"The Structure of a Quantum World," Yale University Department of Philosophy Faculty lunch, New Haven, CT, May 2010.

"The Structure of a Quantum World," American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 2010.

#### STRUCTURE IN CLASSICAL MECHANICS

"The Structure of Classical Mechanics," Cornell University Philosophy Department, Ithaca, NY, October 2009.

"The Structure of Classical Mechanics," American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, April 2009.

"The Structure of Classical Mechanics," Arizona Ontology Conference, Tucson, AZ, January 2009.

"The Structure of Classical Mechanics," Leeds Perspectives on Ontology Conference, University of Leeds, UK, September 2008.

"The Structure of Classical Mechanics," Mini-Workshop on the Metaphysics of Science, University of Bristol, UK, September 2008.

#### STRUCTURE OF PHYSICS

"The 'Structure' of Physics: A Case Study," Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, University of Western Washington, Bellingham, WA, August 2007.

"The 'Structure' of Physics: A Case Study," Joint Sessions of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK, July 2007.

"The 'Structure' of Physics: A Case Study," American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2007.

"The 'Structure' of Physics: A Case Study," Yale University Department of Philosophy Faculty lunch, New Haven, CT, October 2006.

"The 'Structure' of Physics: A Case Study," University of Michigan Philosophy Department, Ann Arbor, MI, September 2006.

#### SYMMETRIC PROBABILITY

"Symmetry and Probability," Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, November 2006.

“Symmetry and Probability,” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, University of Western Washington, Bellingham, WA, August 2006.

“Probability and Symmetry,” University of Maryland Philosophy Department, College Park, MD, November 2005.

“Understanding Probabilities in Statistical Mechanics,” University of California, San Diego Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy of Science, La Jolla, CA, April 2003.

#### TIME REVERSAL

“Two Views on Time Reversal,” University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, April 2007.

“Two Views on Time Reversal,” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Portland, OR, March 2006.

#### RADIATION ASYMMETRY

(“Understanding the Time-Asymmetry of Radiation,” accepted for presentation at the Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, November 2002. Was unable to attend.)

“The Time-Asymmetry of Radiation and the Initial Condition of the Universe,” University of Western Ontario 3rd Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Logic, Math and Physics, London, Ontario, Canada, May 2002.

#### COMMENTS

Panelist for “The Future of Space and Time” (with Gordon Belot, Sean Carroll, and Nick Huggett), Workshop on the Future of the Foundations of Physics, Columbia University, New York, NY, October 2018.

Moderator for panel discussion, “What Does the Future Hold for Physics: Is There a Limit to Human Knowledge?” (with physicists Vijay Balasubramanian, Eva Sil-verstein, and Neal Weiner), New York Academy of Sciences, New York, NY, April 2016.

Richard Healey, “Pragmatism and Fundamental Physics” and Mark Wilson, “Prag-matics’ Place at the Table: Suggestions from Multi-Scalar Science,” American Philo-sophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 2016.

Erica Shumener, “Explaining Identity and Distinctness,” Bellingham Summer Phi-losophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 2014.

David John Baker, “Some Consequences of Physics for the Comparative Metaphysics of Quantity,” Carolina Metaphysics Workshop, Duck, NC, June 2012.

David Albert and Julian Barbour, “Time—from the Beginning and in the Moment,” conference on “Why is there Anything? Cosmos, Logos, and the *Why* of the Universe,” Yale University, New Haven, CT, October 2011.

Alvin Plantinga, “Religion and Science: Where the Conflict Really Lies,” panel discussion on science and religion, Yale University, New Haven, CT, January 2010.

Mariam Thalos, “Non-Reductive Materialism without Hierarchy,” Colorado Conference on Dependence, Boulder, CO, March 2009.

Jonathan Cohen and Craig Callender, “A Better Best System Analysis of the Laws of Nature,” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 2008.

Thomas Hofweber, “Ontology as a Philosopher’s Project,” Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Boise, ID, April 2007.

Cian Dorr, “Finding Ordinary Objects in the World of Quantum Mechanics,” Arizona Ontology Conference, Tucson, AZ, January 2007.

Barry Loewer, “Counterfactuals and the Second Law,” New York University La Pietra Conference on Causation, Florence, Italy, June 2006.

Roger White, “Epistemic Permissiveness,” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Bellingham, WA, August 2005.

L. A. Paul, “Change is Multiple Realization,” Philosophy of Time Society, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division meeting, Pasadena, CA, March 2004.

Bradley Monton, “Presentism and Time Travel,” annual meeting of the Central States Philosophical Association, Columbia, MO, October 2002.

Huw Price, “Boltzmann’s Time Bomb,” Conference on Real Time and its Quantum Roots, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, March 2001.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-organizer (with Elisabeth Camp and Elizabeth Harman) for Athena in Action: A Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy, held at Princeton University in August 2014, August 2016, and June 2018

Advisor and mentor for Athena in Action: A Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy, to be held at Cornell University in summer 2020, and workshops every other year thereafter at locations TBD

Philosophy of physics editor for *Ergo*

National Science Foundation grants panelist, 2018

International Advisory Board, EU-Funded project A Framework for Metaphysical Explanation in Physics run by Alastair Wilson, University of Birmingham, UK, 2018–2022

Program Committee, 19th UK and European Conference on Foundations of Physics, 2018

Program Committee, Philosophy of Science Association biennial meeting, 2012

Guest co-editor (with Ben Bradley and Ryan Wasserman), Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference issue of *Philosophical Studies*, 2008

Program Committee, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, 2008

Referee work for *American Philosophical Quarterly*, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, Cambridge University Press, *Erkenntnis*, Foundational Questions Institute, *International Journal of Quantum Foundations*, Israeli Science Foundation, *Mind*, National Science Foundation, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Philosophical Review*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Philosophy of Science*, Routledge, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, *Synthese*, W. W. Norton

#### UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Rutgers Advisory Committee for Appointments and Promotions to Associate Professor, 2017–2019

Rutgers philosophy undergraduate curriculum committee, 2006–present

Rutgers philosophy graduate admissions, 2019

Cornell philosophy graduate admissions, 2012, 2014, 2015

*Philosophical Review* book review committee (Cornell), 2012–2014

Cornell ad hoc tenure committee, 2013

Co-organizer (with Karen Bennett and Erin Taylor) for A Conference Honoring Richard Boyd and Nicholas Sturgeon, 2012

Yale Committee on Honors and Academic Standing, 2009–2011

Yale philosophy graduate admissions, 2008, 2010

Yale subcommittee on Science Studies (History of Science and Medicine)