



JAMES WOODWARD (California Institute of Technology)

Biography

Education: Ph.D., University of Texas, 1977.

Current position: J. O. and Juliette Koepfli Professor of Humanities and Professor of Philosophy, Caltech.

Major Publications and Current Research: *Making Things Happen: A Theory of Causal Explanation* (2005 Lakatos prize), "Saving the Phenomena" (*Philosophical Review*, 1988, co-authored with James Bogen), "Sensitive and Insensitive Causation" (*Philosophical Review*, 2006), "Interventionist Theories of Causation in Psychological Perspective" (in *Causal Learning: Psychology, Philosophy and Computation*, 2007), "Moral Intuition: Its Neural Substrates and Normative Significance" (*Journal of Physiology- Paris*, 2007, co-authored with John Allman, Biology, Caltech), "Experimental Investigations of Social Preferences", forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Economics*.

I plan to extend the ideas in *Making Things Happen* to yield a more detailed understanding of the structure of causal explanation in physics, biology, and the social /behavioral sciences. As a member of an interdisciplinary initiative sponsored by the McDonnell Foundation, I'm also working, in collaboration with several psychologists, on the empirical psychology of causal learning and judgment and more generally on evidence/learning in science. In conjunction with colleagues

in neurobiology at Caltech, I'm working on empirical investigations of cooperative and moral behavior.

Service for PSA and Other Organizations:

Editorial Board, *Philosophy of Science*, 1992- 2000

Program Committee for 1994 PSA Meeting

Chair of Nominating committee, 1998-99

Governing board, 2000-04

Referee for *Philosophy of Science*

Statement about the future of PSA:

The PSA is a wonderful organization but there are a number of issues we should address over the next few years. In no particular order these include:

- 1) We should work to increase membership in the PSA, attendance at PSA meetings, and in general raise the profile of the PSA and make it a more vibrant and exciting organization. We should also work to strengthen academic links with other professional communities with which we share interests and also to increase the visibility of philosophy of science within philosophy. In the latter connection we might explore measures to encourage program committees at the various APA meetings to include more philosophy of science. We also might, as a group, make more of an effort to identify to our members new, intellectually exciting areas that philosophers of science may wish to explore.
- 2) Although this may seem an unexciting issue, the PSA currently functions in such a way that it has very limited institutional memory and continuity. This has real consequences for everything from our relationship with HSS to our relationship with the UC Press. We should work to establish procedures, record-keeping, and other measures that will help to create more of an institutional memory. These might include more regular meetings of the governing board, circulation of minutes of meetings, and perhaps the creation of a long-term committee on the future and goals of the PSA.
- 3) My understanding is that the PSA is in good shape financially. Nonetheless we need to consider how to spend the funds we have most effectively.
- 4) Would it be feasible to meet annually? PSA probably does not have the infrastructure to host a large meeting every year but it might be possible to provide partial support for smaller more focused meetings or workshops in off years.