

CURRICULUM VITAE

Michael Christian Cifone

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Education

- 2009: **Ph.D.** Title: “Structuralism and Natural Philosophy: Method, Metaphysics and Explanation”. Thesis advisor: Jeffrey Bub, Committee for Philosophy and the Sciences (formerly: Committee on the History and Philosophy of Science); Dept. of Philosophy, **University of Maryland at College Park**.
- 2007: **M.A.** in Philosophy; Committee for Philosophy and the Sciences, Dept. of Philosophy, **University of Maryland at College Park**.
- 2000: **B.A.** (Honors in the Discipline & *Cum Laude*) in Philosophy; **Elizabethtown College** (Minor degrees in: Physics and Mathematical Science).

Areas of specialization: The Philosophy and Metaphysics of Natural Science (special focus on Relativity and Quantum Theories); Philosophy of Physics.

Areas of competence: Philosophy of Science; non-Western Philosophical Traditions (Indian, Chinese and Japanese philosophies, with special focus on Buddhist thought); Ethics; Psychoanalysis (Freud and Lacan); Critical Theory; History of Philosophy; History of Science (special focus on Classical and Modern Physics); Logic (both “Critical Thinking” and formal Symbolic Logic); Philosophical Foundations of Christian Mysticism; Hegel; Schopenhauer; Nietzsche; Heidegger; Deleuze; Film and Philosophy; Philosophy of Sexuality and Gender.

—Employment History—

- 2017 (Fall)—**present:** Adjunct Prof. of Philosophy at St. John’s University; Queens, NY
- 2016 (Fall)—Spring 2024: Adjunct Assistant Prof. in Philosophy at Bronx Community College, CUNY; Bronx, NY.
- 2022 (Spring) Adjunct Prof. of Philosophy, Compton College; Compton, CA (remote).
- 2020 (Fall)—2022 (Spring): Adjunct Prof. of Philosophy, Gwynedd-Mercy University; Gwynedd Valley, PA (remote)
- 2019 (Spring)—2020 (Spring): Adjunct Prof. of Philosophy, Manhattan College; Riverdale, NY.
- 2016 (Spring)—2017 (Spring): Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy and Religion, Rowan College at Burlington County; Pemberton & Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 2016 (Spring): Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Rowan University; Glassboro NJ
- 2016 (Spring): Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy and Ethics, Camden County College; Camden, NJ

2015 (Fall): Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Marymount Manhattan College; New York, New York

2014 (Fall): Adjunct Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Francisco

2011—2014: Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, University of San Francisco; San Francisco, CA

2009—2011: Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Gwynedd-Mercy College

2010—2011: Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Drexel University; Philadelphia, PA

2009—2010: Instructor, Rosemont College

2008 (Fall): Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Philosophy, Elizabethtown College; Elizabethtown, PA.

2007 (Fall): Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Philosophy, George Washington University; Washington, D.C.

2006 (Fall): Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Philosophy, George Mason University; Fairfax, VA

2006 (Spring): Instructor, Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D.C.

2005 (June-July): Part-time Lecturer, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Maryland (at Shady Grove).

2004 (Fall): Adjunct faculty, Dept. of Philosophy, George Washington University; Washington, D.C.

2001—2009: Graduate Teaching Assistant & Part-time Lecturer, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Maryland; College Park, MD.

—Fellowships and Awards—

Awards/fellowships/scholarships:

(2006) Department of Philosophy Summer Research Scholarship.

(2005) Department of Philosophy Summer Research Scholarship.

(2005) Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award for Academic Term 2005. Awarded by the **Center for Teaching Excellence**, University of Maryland.

(2002) Brian Hull Award (Fellowship) for Best First Year Graduate Student. Dept. of Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park.

Presentation and Travel Awards:

(2006) Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland at College Park for travel to the 8th Biennial Meeting of the International Quantum Structures Association; Sliema, Malta; 9 – 14 July.

(2004) **National Science Foundation** Young Researcher's Grant to attend the International Quantum Structures Association, 7th biennial meeting at the University of Denver, Denver, CO; 17 – 22 July.

—Publications—

Articles:

- (2024) “Editorial”; *Limina—The Journal of UAP Studies* 1 (1): 3—7.
- (2022) “Transcendental Skepticism”; *The SCU Review*, No. 11 (27 October).
- (2016b) “Axioms in Z—Notes on a Scandalous Appropriation of Philosophy out of the Sublimity of the Thing. Part II: Affirmations”; *International Journal of Žižek Studies*.
- (2016a) “Axioms in Z—Notes on a Scandalous Appropriation of Philosophy out of the Sublimity of the Thing. Part I: Negations”; *International Journal of Žižek Studies* 10 (1).
- (2014) “Nothingness and Science (A Propaedeutic)”, *Cosmos and History: The Journal of Natural and Social Philosophy* 10 (1): 253—274.
- (2008b) “Why Quantum Mechanics Favors Adynamical and Acausal Interpretations such as Relational Blockworld over Backwardly Causal and Time-Symmetric Rivals” with Michael Silberstein and W.M. Stuckey; *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 39 (4): 736—751.
- (2008a) “Reconciling Spacetime and the Quantum: Relational Blockworld and the Quantum Liar Paradox” with W. M. Stuckey and Michael Silberstein; *Foundations of Physics* 38 (4): 348—383.
- (2006) “Deflating Quantum Mysteries via the Relational Blockworld,” with W. M. Stuckey and Michael Silberstein; in *Physics Essays* 19 (2): 269—283.

Book Chapters:

- (2007b) “The Relational Blockworld Interpretation of Non-relativistic Quantum Mechanics,” with W.M. Stuckey and Michael Silberstein; in Guillaume Adenier, Christopher A. Fuchs and Andrei Khrennikov (eds.) *Foundations of Probability and Physics* 4, 412—421 (American Institute of Physics: Melville, NY).
- (2007a) “An Argument for 4D Blockworld from a Geometric Interpretation of Nonrelativistic Quantum Mechanics,” with Michael Silberstein and W. M. Stuckey; in Petkov (ed.) *Relativity and the Dimensionality of the World* (Springer Verlag “Fundamental Theories of Physics” series).
- (2005) “Reversing the Arrow of Explanation in the Relational Blockworld: Why Temporal Becoming, the Dynamical Brain and the External World Are ‘In The Mind’” (World Scientific Press, *Conference Proceedings for: Endophysics, Time, Quantum and the Subjective*; co-authored with W. M. Stuckey and Michael Silberstein).

In Preparation:

- “Fire In The Sky: UAP, Climate Change and the Political Economic Future of Human Society” (for an edited volume being prepared for 2025-26).
- “Rational Responses To Extraordinary Hypotheses” (with Kevin Knuth and Wes Watters; in preparation for *Entropy*).
- “Beyond Cold Cases: Bringing the Science of UAP Down To Earth” (with Wes Watters, for the European Astrobiology Institute’s [conference](#) in Kiruna, Sweden; Sept. 2024).
- “Alien Matters: Thinking Normatively About UAP” (with Michael Uhall, for the International Studies Association Conference Ethics Panel; Chicago 2025).

“It’s All About the Evidence – But What Is the Evidence? A Philosophical Inquiry Into the Problem of UFO Evidence” (for an edited volume tentatively entitled *UFOs in Academia: 21st Century Perspectives*).

“Into the ‘Workshop’ of Being: The Place and Necessity of Theology and the Religious in the UFO Experience” (tentatively planned for the upcoming *Archives of the Impossible* conference, Spring 2025).

—Presentations—

Invited (with honorarium):

(2023) “Transcendental Skepticism”. MUFON Orange County. 19 April.

(2010) “Being *and* Becoming: A Dialogue Between Relational Blockworld and the Implicate Order”; *Toward An Algebra of Process: A Symposium in Honor of Basil J. Hiley*; Helsinki, Finland; Hotel Presidentti, 11—14 November.

(2005) “Minkowski Meets Hilbert in a Relational Blockworld: A Geometric Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics”, *Time Symmetric Approaches Quantum Mechanics*, Centre for Time at the University of Sydney, Sydney Australia, 23—26 July 2005 (co-presented with W.M. Stuckey and Michael Silberstein). Key-note speaker: Nobel Laureate Sir Anthony Leggett.

Delivered/ Accepted:

(2024) “Beyond Cold Cases: Bringing the Science of UAP Down To Earth”; *Social and Ethical Frontiers in Space 2024, A Joint Conference of the European Astrobiology Institute (EAI) and the Society for Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology (SSoCLA)*; Kiruna, Sweden; 22—26 September 2024 (co-presented with Wesley Watters, Wellesley College).

(2023) “The Society for UAP Studies and *Limina – The Journal of UAP Studies*: Developing the International Academic Infrastructure Necessary to Sustain UAP Studies Going Forward”; *Alien Discussions Revisited - An Interdisciplinary Colloquium on the State of Research and Policy Implications Concerning UFOs and Other Forms of Alien Encounter*; Durham University; Durham, U.K.; 24—25 March 2023.

(2023) “Fire In the Sky: UFOs, Climate Change and the Political-Economic Future of Human Society”; *Bringing SETI Home: National Security and the Politics of UFO Disclosure*; workshop hosted by the Mershon Center at Ohio State University; Columbus, OH; 13—14 March 2023.

(2017) “Marcuse and the Possibility of a New Utopia—Intimations of a ‘Cinematic’ Society”; *10th International Critical Theory Conference of Rome*; Rome, Italy; 11—13 May 2017.

(2014) “Call of Nature—Science In Despair To Become A Self. A Propaedeutic on the Possibility of a New Science of Nature”; *The Society for European Philosophy and Forum for European Philosophy* (joint annual conference), “Philosophy After Nature”; Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands; 3—5 September 2014.

(2014) short presentation on Lee Smolin’s recent book *Time Reborn* (topic: “critique of the timelessness of the Newtonian Paradigm”), as part of Drucilla Cornell’s seminars on “Revolution: Transformation or Event?”; **London Critical Theory Summer School**; the Institute for the Humanities; Birkbeck University; London, UK (see “Workshops”).

(2014) “Nothingness and Science—A Propaedeutic on the Possibility of Music as a New Kind of Science”; *The Foundations of Mind*; University of California Berkeley; Berkeley, California USA; 6—7 March 2014.

(2010) “Bohm and the Unfinished Project of Somatic Epistemology”; *8th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities*; Honolulu, Hawai’i, USA 13—16 January 2010.

(2007) “Against Bohmian ‘Mechanics’: Describing a World of Structure in Bohm’s ‘Implicate Order’”; *13th International Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science*; Tsinghua University; Beijing, China 9—15 August 2007.

(2006) “Quantum to Classical Transition per the Relational Blockworld”, *3rd Feynman Festival*; Dept. of Physics, University of Maryland at College Park, 25—29 August 2006 (accepted for presentation).

(2006) “Quantum to Classical Transition per the Relational Blockworld”, *8th Biennial Meeting of the International Quantum Structures Association*; Sliema, Malta 9—14 July 2006.

(2005) “The Relational Blockworld”, *New Directions in the Foundations of Physics*; American Institute of Physics, April 30—May 1 (co-presented with W. M. Stuckey and Michael Silberstein).

(2005) “Quantum Liar Paradox Resolved: The Quantum ‘Lies’ In a Relational Blockworld”, *April Colloquium, Foundation of Physics Group*, Committee for Philosophy and the Sciences (CPaS), University of Maryland, College Park.

(2004) “Static for Dynamism: Special Relativity and the Nature of ‘Time’”, *International Conference on the Ontology of Space-Time*; Concordia University; Montréal, Quebec, Canada; May 11—14 (co-presented with Michael Silberstein).

—Workshops/Symposia/Conferences/Seminars—

Invited:

(2023) “Optical Observables of UAP”. Workshop conducted by Association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France (AAAF), Technical Commission “Sigma2”. 7 June.

(2023) “Bringing SETI Home: National Security and the Politics of UFO Disclosure”. Workshop hosted by the Mershon Center at Ohio State University. Columbus, OH; 13—14 March.

(2015) **London Critical Theory Summer School**; Birkbeck, University of London; London, UK. July. Lecture seminars given by: Slavoj Žižek, David Harvey, Étienne Balibar, Wendy Brown, Costas Douzinas, Stephen Frosh, Esther Leslie and Jacqueline Rose.

(2014) **London Critical Theory Summer School**; Birkbeck, University of London; London, UK 7—18 July. Lecture seminars given by: Slavoj Žižek, David Harvey, Étienne Balibar, Drucilla Cornell, Costas Douzinas, Stephen Frosh, Esther Leslie, and Jacqueline Rose.

(2008) Conference on “The Legacy of David and Sarah Bohm”; Pari Center for New Learning; Pari, Italy 13—16 June.

(2007) Conference “Everett at 50” on Everett’s Interpretation of Quantum Theory; Oxford University, Oxford, UK 19—22 July.

(2006) Symposium on Aharonov’s Time-symmetric reconstruction of quantum mechanics delivered by Yakir Aharonov at the Center for Quantum Studies, George Mason University; December.

(2005) Symposium II on “Quantum Paradoxes” delivered by Yakir Aharonov at the Center for Quantum Studies, George Mason University; December.

(2005) Symposium I on “Quantum Paradoxes” delivered by Yakir Aharonov at the Center for Quantum Studies, George Mason University; August.

(2004) 7th Biennial Conference of the *International Quantum Structures Association*; Denver, CO; July (participated as an NSF grant recipient).

Attended:

(2023) “The SOL Foundation Initiative for UAP Research and Policy”; Stanford University; 17—November.

(2022) “The Science of Consciousness”; University of Arizona Center for Consciousness Studies; Tucson, AZ 18—22 April.

(2013) “PLACE”: 5th Annual Meeting of the *Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition* (PACT); University of San Francisco; San Francisco, USA 26—28 September.

(2008) “The Clock and the Quantum”; Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics; Waterloo, Canada 28 September—2 October (Poster presentation by W.M. Stuckey and M. Silberstein related to our joint work of 2005—2008).

(2008) “Perspectives in Physics and Philosophy”; Carré des Sciences; Paris, France 16—19 June.

(2007) Annual Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science; Boston University, Boston, MA.

(2004) 19th Biennial Meeting of the *Philosophy of Science Association*; Austin, TX 18—20 November.

Organized:

(2023a) “Foundations, Frontiers and Future Prospects of UAP Studies”. Inaugural Symposium organized by the *Society for UAP Studies* on behalf of the *Limina—The Journal of UAP Studies*. 3—5 February 2023.

(2023b) Association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France (AAAF) Technical Commission Sigma2. Seminar/Webinar on “Optical Observables of UAP”. Paris, France. 7 June 2023. (co-organizer)

(2024a) Association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France (AAAF) Technical Commission Sigma2. Seminar/Webinar on “Approaches to Physical Observables of UAP”. Paris, France. 14—15 May 2024. (co-organizer)

(2024b) “Varieties and Trajectories of Contemporary UAP Studies”. Annual Conference of the *Society for UAP Studies*. Online. 16—18 August 2024.

—Commentator/Discussant—*Invited:*

(2023) Association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France (AAAF) Technical Commission Sigma2. Seminar on “Optical Observables of UAP”. Paris, France. 7 June.

(2012—2014) *El Círculo*. Interdisciplinary Seminars on Critical Theory; University of San Francisco. Seminar topics have included: J. Rancière’s *Dissensus* and *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*; W. Benjamin’s *Arcades Project*; Lacan’s *Ethics of Psychoanalysis* and *Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis* along with (Lacanian) readings of Sophocles’ *Antigone* and V. Woolf’s *The Waves*; the theoretical writings of S. Žižek, and an array of secondary sources in connection with each topic. (Yearly; meets Fall/Spring academic terms, once per week.)

(2003—2007) “New Directions in the Foundations of Physics”; American Institute of Physics, College Park, April 13 – 15.

—Teaching Experience—

(Note: all courses taught in a department of philosophy, unless otherwise specified)

Bronx Community College

- Introduction to Philosophy (PH 11; 2016—present)

St. John's University

- Philosophy of the Human Person (PHI 1000; Fall 2017, Spring & Fall 2019, Spring & Fall 2020 remote)
- Ethics (PHI 2200; Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2020 remote)
- Metaphysics (PHI 3000; Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020 remote)
- Introduction to (Symbolic) Logic (PHI 3400; Spring 2018)

Rowan University

- Logic of Everyday Reasoning (PHIL 09110; Spring 2016)
- Philosophy of Science (PHIL 22720; Spring 2016)

Rowan College at Burlington County

- Comparative Religion (REL 205; Spring 2016 & Fall 2017)

Marymount Manhattan College (Dept. of Philosophy and Religious Studies)

- Comparative Religious Ethics (RS 340; Fall 2015)
- Faith and Doubt (RS 110; Fall 2015)

University of San Francisco

In the Dept. of Theology and Religious Studies:

- Mystery of God/Mystery of the Human Person (THRS 104; Fall 2014)

In the Dept. of Philosophy:

- Ethics (PHIL 240; Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Summer 2012)
- Great Philosophical Questions (PHIL 110; Fall 2012, Spring 2013 & 2014)
- Asian Philosophy (PHIL & Asian Studies 220; Fall 2012)

Drexel University

- Critical Reasoning (PHIL 105; multiple times & **online**)
- Zero-Order Propositional Logic (PHIL 111; Winter 2011)
- Introduction to Eastern Philosophy (PHIL 102; multiple times)

Gwynedd-Mercy College

- Contemporary Philosophy (Spring 2021, remote)

- Infinity and Paradox (Honors Course; Fall 2020, remote)
- Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2020 & Spring 2021, remote)
- Encountering Ethics (Survey of Ethics, PHIL 2000; Spring 2010)
- Logic (Logic and Critical Thinking, PHIL 240; Fall 2009 and Spring 2010, accelerated)

Rosemont College

- Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2009, **online** accelerated)
- Ethics (PHI 360, Summer 2009, accelerated)
- Philosophy of Straight Thinking (PHI 380, Summer 2009 and Winter 2010, **online** accelerated)

Elizabethtown College

- Introduction to Philosophy (PH 105); Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA (Fall 2008)
- The Convergence of Western Science and Asian Philosophical-Spiritual Thought (PH 373); Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA (Spring 2008)

George Mason University

- Philosophy of Natural Sciences (PHIL 371, Fall 2006)

Smithsonian Institute

- “The Philosophical Traditions of Asia” for the Smithsonian Associates Program for Continuing Education (Spring 2006)

George Washington University

- Introduction to Logic: Logic and Critical Thinking (PHIL 045-10; Fall 2004 & 2007)

University of Maryland (College Park):

Philosophy of Physics (PHIL 354; Spring 2009).

Introduction to Logic (PHIL 170; Fall 2006).

Asian Philosophy Through Film (PHIL 308D; Summer 2005 & 2006; Winter 2007).

Asian Philosophy (PHIL 209A; Fall 2004 and 2005).

Philosophy and Film (PHIL 308C; summer 2002, 2003; winter 2004).

Philosophy of Sexuality/Gender (PHIL 400; Spring 2004)

Online Teaching Certifications

(2020) **City University of New York**, Summer Online Teaching Program (June, 4-week seminar)

Miscellaneous

(2002) indexing of the *Blackwell Companion to Philosophy of Science*, ed. by Peter Machamer and Michael Silberstein; Oxford: Blackwell.

(2022) founded [*Limina: The Journal of UAP Studies*](#), a peer-reviewed academic journal devoted to advancing the study of unidentified aerial phenomena to a higher level of scholarship.

(2022) founded the [*Society for UAP Studies*](#), a nonprofit organized as a global learned and professional society.

Professional Associations

- Society for European Philosophy
- Forum for European Philosophy
- American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division)
- Foundations of Physics; University of Maryland, College Park
- International Society for the Advanced Study of Spacetime
- Philosophy of Science Association
- Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies (SCU)
- UAP Expedition (UAPx)
- Society for UAP Studies

—Letters of recommendation/references—

General Academic:

Dr. Alexander Wendt; Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University. wendt.23@osu.edu

Dr. Greg Eghigian; Professor of History and Bioethics, Penn State University. gac2@psu.edu

Dr. Jeffrey Bub; Chair, Committee on Philosophy and the Sciences, University of Maryland at College Park. jbub@umd.edu

Dr. Allen Stairs; co-chair, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Maryland at College Park. stairs@umd.edu

Dr. Michael D. Silberstein, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Philosophy, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA. silbermd@etown.edu

Dr. William Mark Stuckey, Professor of Physics, Dept. of Physics & Engineering, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA. stuckeym@etown.edu

Dr. Pedro Lange-Churi6n, Professor, Dept. of Modern and Classical Languages & Latin American Studies, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. langechurion@usfca.edu

Teaching:

Dr. Tamar Rothenberg; chair, Dept. of History, Bronx Community College. tamar.rothenberg@bcc.cuny.edu

Dr. Elizabeth Hardman; professor, Dept. of History, Bronx Community College. elizabeth.hardman@bcc.cuny.edu