

Contact Information

Philosophisches Seminar
Bursagasse 1, 72070 Tübingen
Tel: +49 (0)1573 5608 174
E-Mail: tobias.wilsch@gmail.com

Specialization

- Main research focus: Metaphysics, Action Theory, Epistemology
- Additional research interests: Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Logic, Metaethics

Employment and Care Work

- Faculty member (Akademischer Rat), Tübingen University, Oct. 2016 until present.
- Parental leave, Aug. 2023–Feb. 2024.
- Interim Professor in Theoretical Philosophy, Mainz University, Oct. 2021–March 2023.
- Postdoc in the project *The Lightness of Being: A Metaontological Investigation*, Uppsala University, PI: Matti Eklund, Sept. 2015–Aug. 2016.

Education and Qualification

- Habilitation in Philosophy, Tübingen University, Feb. 2024.
- PhD in Philosophy, Rutgers University, Main Supervisor: Jonathan Schaffer, Sept. 2010–June 2015.
- Doctoral student, Australian National University (ANU), Supervisors: David Chalmers and Jonathan Schaffer, Feb. 2009–Aug. 2010.
- M.Litt in Philosophy, University of St Andrews, Sept. 2007–Sept. 2008.
- Visiting student in Philosophy, University of St Andrews, Sept. 2006–June 2007.
- Undergraduate studies in Philosophy, Logic, and Theory of Science, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich, Oct. 2004–June 2006.

PublicationsBooks

1. *The Sources of Necessity: Essence, Laws, and Logic*, Oxford University Press, April 2025.
2. *Einführung in die Metaphysik*, with S. Jaag, L. Vogt, & J. Werner, Metzler Verlag, in preparation.
3. *On Laws in Metaphysics*, PhD dissertation, 2015.

Articles

1. „Modal Logicism and De Re Necessity“, *Argumenta* (2022) 14, 395–414.
2. „The Governance of the Laws of Nature: Guidance and Production“, *Philosophical Studies* (2021) 178, 909–933.
3. „Laws of Metaphysics“, in *The Routledge Handbook of Metaphysical Grounding*, Mike Raven (ed.), New York: Routledge (2019), 425–437.
4. „Genuine Violations of Laws“, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2018) 96(4): 806–821.
5. „Sophisticated Modal Primitivism“, *Philosophical Issues* (2017) 27/1, 428–48.

6. „The Deductive-Nomological Account of Metaphysical Explanation“, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2016) 94(1), 1-23.
7. „The Nomological Account of Ground“, *Philosophical Studies* (2015) 172/12, 3293–331.

Guest-Editor

1. “Reasons and Explanation”, with J. Müller and I. Schumski, Topical Collection in *Synthese*.

Third Party Funding

- Teach@Tübingen Postdoc Fellowships for Henrik Rydéhn, with Thomas Sattig, 2019.
- conference grant from GAP, 2019.
- DFG-Project “Sources of Necessity”, with Thomas Sattig, Duration: 3 years, 422.000€, 2018.

Stipends and Scholarships

- Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, 2014-2015.
- Mellon Summer Stipend, 2013.
- International Postgraduate Research Scholarship from the Australian government, 2009.
- PhD Scholarship from the University of Leeds (turned down), 2008.
- PhD Scholarship of the University of Reading (turned down), 2008.
- AHRC Tuition Fellowship (turned down), 2008.

Courses Taught

Lectures

- Introduction to Philosophy (Tübingen W19, S23)
- Introduction to Theoretical Philosophy (Mainz W21, S22, W21)
- Introduction to Formal Logic (Tübingen W17)

Seminars

- *Introductory (e.g. Proseminars)*
Introduction to Action Theory (W24); Philosophy of Persons (S24); Introduction to Epistemology (W21); Introduction to the Mind-Body Problem (S21); Introduction to the Philosophy of Language (S19); Knowledge and World (S19, W22); Introduction to Metaphysics (W18, S22); Freedom and Necessity (S18); Epistemic Methods (S17); Laws, Causality, and Explanation (W16); Introduction to Ethics (Rutgers, S14); Introduction to Philosophy (Rutgers; S11, S12, S13); Current Moral and Social Issues (Rutgers, W12); Logic, Reasoning and Persuasion (Rutgers, S12); Ethics of Food (Rutgers, S11).
- *Advanced (e.g. Haupt- and Oberseminars)*
Knowledge and Perception (S24); Essences in Current Philosophy (S23); Time and Temporality (W22); Freedom in Thought and Action (W22); Normative Epistemology (S22); The Nature of Psychological States (S22); Powers and Causality (W21); Philosophy of Persons (W21); Current debates in Epistemology: Knowledge, Inference, and Reasons (S21); Possibility and Do-ability (W20); Theories of Rationality (S20); Unity Problems in Metaphysics (W19); Sources of Necessity (S19); Freedom of the Will (W18); Evidentialism (S18); Social ontology and social epistemology (W17); Objects and

Properties (S17); Theories of Epistemic Justification (W16); Epistemic Circularity (Uppsala, S16); Metaphysics of Time (Uppsala, W15).

- *Historical*
David Hume's Theoretical Philosophy (W20); Descartes' *Meditations*, with Dr. Irina Schumski (W17).
- *Research Seminar*
Problems of Theoretical Philosophy, with Prof. Ralf Busse (W21, S22, W22).

Supervision and More

- Supervisor of Gaetan Bovey's PhD dissertation on modal metaphysics.
- Supervisor of Hagen Braun's PhD dissertation on the metaphysics of normativity.
- Supervision of 15+ BA-theses and 5+ MA-theses.
- 30+ oral examinations for "Staatsexamen" in the teacher training program.
- Design and implementation of digital course formats.

Selected Talks

- Book Symposium on my *The Sources of Necessity*, Gap.12, Düsseldorf, Sept. 2025.
- "Explanationism and Rational Motivation", Gap.12, Düsseldorf, Sept. 2025.
- "Explanationism and Rational Motivation", FrankMeta7, Frankfurt, June 2025.
- "Why choose powers over laws?", workshop, Athens, 2024.
- "Was sind die Ursachen unserer Handlungen?", Vorsingen, Zurich, 2024.
- „Necessity and Essence, de dicto and de re“, UNCUT 4 workshop, Chapel Hill, 2024.
- „What is the source of action explanation?“, workshop, Tübingen, 2023.
- „Necessity and Essence, de dicto and de re“, workshop, Mainz, 2023.
- „Deontic Principles in the Image of Causal Laws“, workshop on Grounding, Fundamentality, and Applied Metaphysics, Vienna 2023.
- „Modale Metaphysik und die Entstehung der Welt“, colloquium, Mainz, 2022.
- „Metaphysical Laws and Manners of Exertion“, workshop, Bern, 2022.
- „Solving Blackburn's Dilemma with Anchored Possibility“, GAP.11, HU Berlin, 2022.
- „Logicism about Necessity“, *eidōs* colloquium, Geneva, 2021.
- „A Possibility-Based Account of Governance“, research colloquium in Bern, 2021.
- „Die Natur der Erklärung“, Vorsingen, Stuttgart, 2020.
- „Modal Pluralism and the Great Chain of Being“, workshop, Lund, 2020.
- „On Logic's Fundamental Role“, colloquium, HU Berlin, 2019.
- „What Logic Does“, UNCUT 2 conference, Chapel Hill, 2019.
- „Modal Pluralism and the Problem of Modal Strength“, Vorsingen, Bielefeld, 2019.
- „Modal Pluralism and the Problem of Modal Strength“, workshop, Berlin 2019.
- „The Unity Problem of Explanation“, colloquium, Leipzig 2018.
- „The Axiomatic Account of Governance“, GAP.10, Köln 2018.
- „Fragmentation of Necessity“, workshop, Lugano 2018.
- „Reducing Normativity to Necessity?“, UNCUT 1 workshop, Tübingen, 2018.
- „Laws of Metaphysics“, workshop zu Grounding, Hamburg, 2018.
- „Governance and Production“, workshop, Düsseldorf, 2018.
- „A Puzzle about Explanation“, workshop, Hamburg, 2017.

- „Governing Laws“, workshop, Köln 2016.
- „Logical Explanation“, workshop, Gothenburg, 2016.
- „Logical Explanation“, Metaontologie workshop, Berlin, 2016.
- „Generic Laws“, Logos workshop, Barcelona, 2015.
- „Generic Laws“, Nordic Metaphysics workshop, Uppsala, 2015.
- „Essence and Ontological Deflation“, Metaontology workshop, Uppsala, 2015.
- „The Nomological Account of Ground“, BSPC 2014, Bellingham, 2014.
- „On Ted Sider’s Notion of Structure“, Fundamentality workshop, CUNY, 2011.
- „Best System Approach to Laws of Ground“, Fundamentality conference, ANU, 2010.

Organization and Administration

- *Reviewer for presses and journals:*
Oxford University Press, The Philosophical Review, Nous, PPR, Mind, The Journal of Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Analysis, Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Quarterly, Synthese, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Dialectica, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Theoria, Grazer Philosophische Studien, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Acta Analytica, Inquiry, Problemos.
- *Reviewer for funding agencies*
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.
- *Workshops organization*
 - (1) Reasons and Explanation; with M. Müller and I. Schumski, Tübingen 2023.
 - (2) Essence, Identity, Existence; with D. Franken, Mainz 2023.
 - (3) Tübingen Modality workshop – Online Edition 2021.
 - (4) The Modal-Explanatory Nexus: A Dialogue between the Early Modern Period and Contemporary Metaphysics; with S. Bender, HU Berlin 2019.
 - (5) Tübingen Masterclass with Timothy Williamson and one-day workshop; with T. Sattig, Tübingen 2019.
 - (6) Necessity and Essence; with T. Sattig, Tübingen 2018.
 - (7) Tübingen Masterclass with Jonathan Schaffer; with T. Sattig, Tübingen 2017.
 - (8) Inaugural Metaontologie workshop; with M. Eklund, Uppsala 2015.
 - (9) Princeton-Rutgers Philosophy Graduate conference 2012.
 - (10) Fundamentality conference; with J. Schaffer, Canberra 2010.
- *Academic self-administration*
Outreach: Organizing roundtables with student body in Tübingen for internal review.
Curriculum design: Contributing to the conception of the “Introduction to Philosophy” model at Tübingen, incl. design of a general introduction course.
Accreditation: Member of the task force reaccreditation, analysis of student statistics, liaison with central administration.
Others: Planning and implementation of a workspace for PhD students.
Managerial: Managing tutors for lecture tutorials (logic, intro to philosophy), managing Hiwis (for website maintenance, conference organization, research tasks).