

# Isaac Wilhelm

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## RESEARCH AREAS

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AOS: metaphysics, philosophy of science, philosophy of physics.  
AOC: epistemology, feminist philosophy, logic.

## EMPLOYMENT

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<b>National University of Singapore</b> Assistant Professor, Presidential Young Professorship	2021–present
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## EDUCATION

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<b>Ph.D. Philosophy:</b> Rutgers	2015–21
<b>M.S. Mathematics:</b> Rutgers	2016–18
<b>M.A. Philosophy:</b> Tufts	2013–15
<b>B.A./B.A. Mathematics, Cinema (both honors):</b> Univ. Chicago	2007–11

## BOOKS

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2023	<b>Logic for Justice</b> <i>Routledge.</i>
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## ARTICLES (ACADEMIC)

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Forthcoming	<b>The Value of Naturalness</b> <i>Erkenntnis.</i>
Forthcoming	<b>Worlds are Pluralities</b> <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy.</i>
2023	<b>Centering the Born Rule</b> <i>Quantum Reports</i> 5: 311-324.

- 2023      **Comparing Mathematical Explanations**  
*The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 74: 269-290.
- 2023      **Constitution, Evidence, and an Argument for Realism**  
*The Asian Journal of Philosophy* 46: 1-10.
- 2022      **Centering the Everett Interpretation**  
*Philosophical Quarterly* 72: 1019-1039.
- 2022      **Intrinsicality and Entanglement**  
*Mind* 131: 35-58.
- 2022      **Pluralities, Counterparts, and Groups**  
*Philosophical Studies* 179: 2133-2153.
- 2022      **Tractability and Laws**  
*Synthese* 200: 1-17.
- 2022      **Typical: a Theory of Typicality and Typicality Explanation**  
*The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 73: 561-581.  
         - Honourable mention, 2022 *BJPS* Popper Prize.  
         - Featured in the OUP “Best of Philosophy 2019” article collection.
- 2021      **Centering the Principal Principle**  
*Philosophical Studies* 178: 1897-1915.
- 2021      **Comparing the Structures of Mathematical Objects**  
*Synthese* 199: 6357-6369.
- 2021      **Explanatory Priority Monism**  
*Philosophical Studies* 178: 1339-1359.
- 2021      **Grounding and Propositional Identity**  
*Analysis* 81: 80-81.
- 2021      **The Counterfactual Account of Explanatory Identities**  
*The Journal of Philosophy* 118: 57-78.
- 2020      **A Statistical Analysis of Luck**  
*Synthese* 197: 867-885.
- 2020      **An Argument for Entity Grounding**  
*Analysis* 80: 500-507.
- 2020      **Interventionist Explanation and the Problem of Single Variable Boundary Constraints**  
*Noûs* 54: 945-955.
- 2020      **The Logic of Typicality**  
 In V. Allori, ed., *Statistical Mechanics and Scientific Explanation: Determinism, Indeterminism and Laws of Nature*. World Scientific. (with Harry Crane)
- 2020      **The Stage Theory of Groups**  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 98: 661-674.

- 2019            **Celestial Chaos: The New Logics of Theory-Testing in Orbital Dynamics**  
*Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 65: 97-102.
- 2019            **The Ontology of Mechanisms**  
*The Journal of Philosophy* 116: 615-636.
- 2018            **New Data on the Representation of Women in Philosophy Journals: 2004-2015**  
*Philosophical Studies* 175: 1441-1464. (with Sherri Conklin and Nicole Hassoun)
- 2018            **The Representation of Belief**  
*Journal of Philosophical Logic* 47: 715-732.

## PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

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- 2023            **Mystical Rationality**  
 In H. De Cruz and J. De Smedt, ed., *Avatar: The Last Airbender and Philosophy*. Blackwell.
- 2021            **Why Christians should welcome face masks**  
*Messenger* (January/February) 170: 27.
- 2017            **From Ants to Quantum Non-Locality**  
*The Daily Ant: Philosophy Phriday*. (with Eddy Chen)

## PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

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- “Typicality and Size”  
 - Pacific APA (symposium), Portland, March 2024.
- “Grounding Meaning”  
 - MAPS, NYU, November 2023.
- “Typicality First”  
 - CHPS, Boulder, December 2023.
- “Grounds for Effective Theories”  
 - SPAWN, Syracuse, June 2023.  
 - UCSD, April 2022.  
 - University of Geneva Speaker Seminar, online, December 2021.  
 - Society for the Metaphysics of Science, online, September 2021.
- “Wavefunction Mereology”  
 - FraMEPhys: Metaphysical Explanation in Physics, Birmingham, May 2023.
- “Centering Perfect Naturalness”

- Jowett Society, Oxford, May 2023.
- “Size and Rationality”
- Humean Workshop, Johns Hopkins, April 2023.
- “Talk About Types”
- Higher-Order Metaphysics Conference, Hamburg, March 2023.
- “Effective Theories Made Easy”
- PSA Symposium, Pittsburgh, November 2022.
- “Centering the Everett Interpretation”
- Harvard Foundations of Physics Colloquium, Boston, November 2022.
  - FASS Provost Brown-Bag Research Seminar, NUS, October 2022.
  - Law and Probability Summer School (instructor), Budapest, July 2022.
  - Laws Workshop, online, August 2020.
- “The Big Bang, Fine Tuning, and the Existence of God”
- Tembusu College, Singapore, November 2022.
  - Look at Life, Richmond IN, April 2019.
- “Kinds are Groups”
- Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality, online, August 2022.
- “Centering Update”
- Colloquium, ANU, July 2022.
  - Colloquium, Koç University, April 2022.
  - Colloquium, NUS, April 2022.
- “Typed Composition as Typed Identity”
- Higher-Order Metaphysics Workshop, USC, June 2022.
- “The Typical Principle”
- Law and Probability Summer School (instructor), Budapest, July 2022.
  - Probability Seminar, online, November 2021.
- “Meaning and Statespace”
- Explanation Between Logic and Philosophy, online, September 2021.
- “The Counterfactual Account of Explanatory Identities”
- Super Saturday Seminars, online, August 2021.
- “Gender is Essential to Some, But Not All, Individuals”
- Graduate Course, Notre Dame, October 2020.
- “Pluralities, Counterparts, and Groups”
- Social Ontology, online, July 2020.
- “Possible Worlds and the Upper Bound Problem”

- Central APA (colloquium), New Orleans, February 2021.
- Joint Session, University of Kent, July 2020.

“Centering the Principal Principle”

- Colloquium, Notre Dame, January 2021.
- Eastern APA (symposium), Philadelphia, January 2020.
- CCNY Philosophy of Physics Workshop, New York, May 2019.

“Typical”

- Eastern APA (symposium), New York, January 2019.
- MCMP, Munich, June 2018.

“Climate Surveying” (with Savannah Kincaid)

- Eastern APA, MAP session, New York, January 2019.

“Explanatory Priority Monism”

- Central APA (colloquium), Denver, February 2019.
- FraMEPhys Workshop on Explanatory Pluralism, University of Birmingham, June 2018.

“Comparative Structure”

- Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Regina, May 2018.
- Society for Exact Philosophy, University of Connecticut, May 2018.
- Eastern APA (colloquium), Savannah, January 2018.
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Edinburgh, July 2017.

“The Ontology of Mechanisms”

- Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Toronto, November 2019.
- Composition Workshop, Rutgers-Newark, May 2018.
- Rutgers-Bochum Workshop, Rutgers, April 2018.

“Intrinsicality and Quantum Entanglement”

- Fifth International Summer School in the Philosophy of Physics, Saig, July 2017.
- Canadian Philosophical Association, Toronto, May 2017.

“Lawhood and Computational Tractability”

- Pacific APA (colloquium), Seattle, April 2017.
- Western Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Alberta, October 2016.

“Sufficient and Necessary Conditions for Representability”

- NASSLLI, Rutgers University, July 2016.

“Chaos Regained: On the Possibility of a New Era of Orbital Dynamics”

- Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice, Rowan University, June 2016.
- History of Philosophy of Science Conference, University of Minnesota, June 2016.

“Quantity, Property, and Fundamental Law”

- The Metaphysics and Epistemology of Grounding and Fundamentality, CUNY, December 2015.

## COMMENTS AND PANELS

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“Effective Field Theory and Metaphysics” (Laura Ruetsche and Mike Miller), commentator, Pacific APA symposium, April 2023.

“Cournot’s Principle and the Best-System Interpretation of Probability,” panelist, Rutgers Probability Seminar, online, February 2022.

“Bohmian Mechanics and Local Reductive Explanation” (Alexander Franklin) commentator, Society for the Metaphysics of Science, online, September 2021.

“Constraining Inductive Metaphysical Inferences by Help of Internal Unification” (Kian Salmikhani), commentator, Society for the Metaphysics of Science, New York, October 2017.

“Grounding, Dependence and Mathematical Explanation” (Bill D’Alessandro), commentator, Eastern APA, Baltimore, January 2017.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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FASS Faculty Research Award	2024–25
- Awarded to less than three faculty at NUS (out of 400+).	
FASS Writing Fellowship	2024–25
- Awarded to less than eight faculty at NUS (out of 400+).	
NUS Research Grant	2024–25
Presidential Young Professorship (\$500,000 SGD)	2021–26
Rutgers Excellence Fellowship for Doctoral Studies (declined)	2021–22
SCP-Templeton Graduate Fellowship for Cross-Training in Physics (\$30,000 USD)	2017–18
Rutgers Excellence Fellowship for Doctoral Studies	2015–17

## TEACHING

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### National University of Singapore

- Philosophy of Science	Spring 2024
- Feminist Philosophy	Fall 2023
- Metaphysics	Fall 2023
- Philosophy of Science	Spring 2023
- Feminist Philosophy	Fall 2022
- Logic	Fall 2022
- Philosophy of Science (online)	Spring 2022

- Feminist Philosophy (online) Spring 2022
- Chance and Uncertainty (online) Fall 2021

## Rutgers

- Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making (online) Summer 2020
- Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making Fall 2019
- Bioethics (online) Summer 2019
- Introduction to Philosophy of Science Spring 2019
- Introduction to Philosophy Summer 2018
  - At NJ Educational Opportunity Fund for disadvantaged students.

## Additional Teaching (select courses)

- Grade School
  - Summer Program for Gifted Youth, two courses (Northwestern) 2013–14
  - Saturday Program for Gifted Youth, twelve courses (Northwestern) 2011–13
  - Young Scholar’s Program, two courses (UChicago) 2008–10
- Adult Education
  - Conversation: ESL (Whatcom Literacy Council) 2021
  - Mathematics: ESL (Whatcom Literacy Council) 2021
- Dark Foan Tutoring
  - Tutoring business owner and founder; 22 full-time students. 2011–13

## SERVICE

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- Referee 2017–present
- *Analysis, Asian Journal of Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Bloomsbury, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Ergo, Erkenntnis, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Inquiry, Journal of Philosophical Logic, Journal of the APA, Noûs, Philosophia, Philosophia Mathematica, Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Science, Quantum Reports, Res Philosophica, Routledge, Statistical Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Theoria, World Scientific.*
- NUS Presidential Colloquia 2022–26
- Organize, and fund, colloquia each semester.
- NUS Presidential Conferences 2022–26
- Organize, and fund, one conference every few years.
  - 2023 conference: Formal Epistemology.
- Search committees 2022–present
- Run junior and senior faculty searches (NUS).
- Graduate admissions 2022–present

- Serve on the Graduate Admissions Committee (NUS).

Advising	2022–present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ryan Tan (NUS).</li> <li>- Deepesh Vasudev (NUS).</li> </ul>	
Climate Committee, Rutgers Philosophy Department	2015–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized, or co-organized, three departmental climate surveys.</li> <li>- Organized the Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophers Mentorship program.</li> </ul>	
Managing Editor	2019–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion, Volume 9.</li> <li>- Oxford Studies in Metaphysics, Volume 12.</li> </ul>	
Marc Sanders Prizes	2019–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizer for the Sanders Prize in Philosophy of Religion.</li> <li>- Organizer for the Sanders Prize in Metaphysics.</li> </ul>	
Metro Area Philosophy of Science (MAPS)	2017–19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized three to five talks for the MAPS group each semester.</li> </ul>	
Rutgers-Columbia Workshop: Quantum Field Theories	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Co-organized a two-day international workshop on the philosophy of QFT.</li> </ul>	
MAPS Pre-Workshop Workshop	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized an international workshop on structure in physics.</li> </ul>	
Philosophy of Science Reading Group	2016–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized the Rutgers philosophy of science reading group.</li> </ul>	
Filming/Editing Talks and Courses	2016–18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foundations of Probability Seminar.</li> <li>- Metaphysics of Fine Tuning Conference.</li> <li>- Center for Philosophy of Religion, Marc Sanders Lectures.</li> </ul>	
Data Collection on Representation of Women in Philosophy	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project to determine proportion of journal publications by women.</li> </ul>	

## FILM PRODUCTION

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After college, I worked in documentary production for two years, before deciding to pursue a career in philosophy. During that period, I won some grants and directed some films. I also acquired audio and video editing skills, which I occasionally use in academic settings.

### Sanders Lectures

- 120 minutes; 2018 (Fall); credited as editor. Published online.
- 120 minutes; 2018 (Spring); credited as editor. Published online.
- 120 minutes; 2017; credited as editor. Published online.



Luke Barnes on Fine Tuning, Rutgers Philosophy of Religion 2017

120 minutes; credited as editor: audio and video recording of Luke Barnes' 2017 lecture on fine tuning, sponsored by the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion. Published online.

Newton's Principia

75 hours; 2015; credited as editor: audio and video recording of a two-semester course on the science and philosophy of Newton's *Principia*.

American Diner

105 minutes; 2013; credited as director, DP, editor: a documentary about three small-town diners. Screenings: Kartemquin, Chicago; Doc Films, Chicago.

The Point

15 minutes; 2011; credited as director, sound producer, DP, editor: a documentary about Promontory Point. Screenings: Film Studies Center, University of Chicago.

Select Filmmaking Awards

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| - Kartemquin Labs Film Screening Review                         | 2013 |
| - Fire Escape Films: Travel Grant                               | 2012 |
| - Chicago Filmmakers Sponsorship Grant                          | 2012 |
| - Seidel Scholars PRISM Grant for Film Equipment (co-recipient) | 2011 |