

Jonathan Vandenburg

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Academic Employment

Stanford University
Postdoctoral Fellow, McCoy Family Center for Ethics and Society
and Apple University, 2022-present

Education

Northwestern University
Ph.D., Philosophy, 2022.
Dissertation: “Causal Models, Meaning, and Beliefs”
Committee: Sandy Goldberg, Fabrizio Cariani, Michael Glanzberg, and Lance Rips

Northwestern University
M.A., Philosophy, 2018.

University of Notre Dame
B.S., Mathematics, *magna cum laude*, 2016.

Dissertation

“Causal Models, Meaning, and Beliefs”
This dissertation develops a causal theory of the relevant alternatives in a situation and applies this theory to the semantics and epistemology of conditionals, the theory of knowledge, and the epistemology of stereotyping. The first chapter presents the theory of causal models and causal alternatives. The second chapter applies this theory to the meaning of conditional and counterfactual sentences, developing a semantic framework for conditionals with familiar logical properties. The third chapter argues that how people change their beliefs when learning conditional information depends on the causal background and provides a model for conditional learning. The fourth chapter uses the theory to develop a causal version of the safety condition for knowledge, where knowledge requires that one’s belief be true in all causally relevant alternatives consistent with one’s evidence. The final chapter applies the theory to the epistemology of stereotyping, arguing that stereotypical judgments often rely on false causal models of group differences.

Areas of Specialization

AOS: Epistemology, Philosophy of AI, Philosophy of Language
AOC: Ethics, History of Philosophy

Publications

“Backtracking Through Interventions: An Exogenous Intervention Model for Counterfactual Semantics,” *Mind & Language* (2022)
<https://doi.org/10.1111/mila.12447>

“Conditional Learning Through Causal Models,” *Synthese* **199**, 2415-2437 (2021)
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-020-02891-x>

Under Review

“A Causal Safety Criterion for Knowledge”
Under revision with *Erkenntnis*; Available on Philpapers

In Preparation	“Triviality Results, Conditional Probability, and Restrictor Conditionals” Available on Philpapers
	“Learning as Hypothesis Testing” Available on Philpapers
	“Generics, Stereotypes, and Causal Models” (Draft available)
	“Deontological Reasons, Risk, and Uncertainty” (Draft available)
Academic Talks	“A Causal Safety Criterion for Knowledge” Stanford Logic and Formal Philosophy Seminar, 2022 (scheduled)
	“Generics, Stereotypes, and Causal Beliefs”* Dual Character Concepts, Normative Generics, and Evaluative Language, 2022
	“Learning as Hypothesis Testing”* Prolog: Combining Probability and Logic, 2021
	“Generics, Stereotypes, and Causal Models” Northwestern Dissertation Research Seminar, 2020
	“A Bayesian Approach to Conditionals Without Triviality”* European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI), 2019
	“Conditionals and Bayesian Updating: A Response to Triviality” Northwestern Dissertation Research Seminar, 2019 (* indicates refereed talks)
Conference Participation	Chair, “Causation, determinism, and decision-making” Central APA, 2022
	Commenter, “Might- and would-counterfactuals, indeterministic structural equations, and synchronized interventions” Central APA, 2021
Teaching	Instructor, Northwestern University PHIL 110-CN: Intro to Philosophy, Fall 2021
	Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University PHIL 210: History of Philosophy: Modern, Spring 2022 PHIL 260: Intro to Moral Philosophy, Fall 2019 CLASSICS 212: Rome: Culture and Empire, Spring 2019 PHIL 210: History of Philosophy: Ancient, Winter 2019 [4 sections] PHIL 254: Intro to the Philosophy of the Natural Sciences, Winter 2018 PHIL 150: Intro to Logic, Fall 2017

Service and Affiliations	Vice President, Philosophy Graduate Student Association, 2020-21 TA Coordinator, Northwestern Philosophy Department, 2020-21 Reviewer for <i>Philosophical Studies</i> , <i>Synthese</i> (x3), <i>Erkenntnis</i> , <i>Linguistics and Philosophy</i> , <i>Acta Analytica</i> , and <i>Theoria</i> Member, American Philosophical Association, 2019-present	
Languages and Skills	English (native), German (intermediate), French (basic), Python, MATLAB, L ^A T _E X	
References	Fabrizio Cariani Department of Philosophy University of Maryland, College Park fabrizio@umd.edu	Michael Glanzberg Department of Philosophy Rutgers University michael.glanzberg@philosophy.rutgers.edu
	Sanford Goldberg Department of Philosophy Northwestern University s-goldberg@northwestern.edu	Patricia Marechal Department of Philosophy University of California, San Diego pmarechal@ucsd.edu