Jonathan Vandenburgh

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Education

Northwestern University
Ph.D., Philosophy, expected June 2022.
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, arguing that beliefs are causally structured and that the relevant alternatives in a situation are those consistent with the causal structure. 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 relevant alternatives theory of knowledge, where something can be known only if it is true in all relevant alternative circumstances. 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 Language
AOC: Ethics, History of Philosophy

Academic Papers

"Conditional Learning Through Causal Models"
Forthcoming in *Synthese*: https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-020-02891-x

"Causal Models and the Logic of Counterfactuals"
Under review; available on PhilPapers: https://philpapers.org/rec/VANCMA-6

"Causal Models and the Relevant Alternatives Theory of Knowledge"
Under review; available on PhilPapers: https://philpapers.org/rec/VANCMA-7

"Learning as Hypothesis Testing: Learning Conditional and Probabilistic Information"
Under review; available on PhilPapers: https://philpapers.org/rec/VANLAH-5

"Triviality Results, Conditional Probability, and Restrictor Conditionals"
Available on PhilPapers: https://philpapers.org/rec/VANTRC-4

"Generics, Stereotypes, and Causal Models"
Draft available

Academic Talks	"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
Teaching	**Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University** 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-present TA Coordinator, Northwestern Philosophy Department, 2020-present Reviewer, *Theoria* Reviewer, *Synthese* Reviewer, *Linguistics and Philosophy* Member, American Philosophical Association, 2019-present
Languages and Skills	English (native), German (intermediate), French (basic), Python, MATLAB, LaTeX

Graduate Coursework	*Logic, Language, Epistemology and Metaphysics*

Logic, Language, Epistemology and Metaphysics
Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence*, Spring 2019 (Fabrizio Cariani)
Metaphysics of Material Objects*, Winter 2019 (Michael Glanzberg)
Topics in Applied Epistemology*, Fall 2019 (Jennifer Lackey)
Counterfactuals*, Spring 2018 (Fabrizio Cariani)
Truth and Meaning*, Winter 2018 (Michael Glanzberg)
Meaning and Mental Representation, Winter 2017 (Michael Glanzberg)
Epistemic Psychology, Fall 2016 (Baron Reed)
Intuitionistic Logic, Fall 2015 (Curtis Franks)

Ethics and History of Philosophy
Hegel's Logic*, Spring 2019 (Mark Alznauer)
Heidegger and Gadamer*, Winter 2019 (Cristina Lafont)
Ancient Philosophy: Pleasure*, Winter 2019 (Richard Kraut)
Love and Friendship in Plato and Aristotle, Spring 2018 (Richard Kraut)
Aristotle's Philosophy of Philosophy, Winter 2018 (Joseph Karbowski)
Habermas, Winter 2018 (Cristina Lafont)
Critiques of Morality: Nietzsche and Williams, Fall 2017 (Mark Alznauer)
History of Skepticism, Fall 2017 (Baron Reed)
Plato and Aristotle on the Good, Spring 2017 (Christopher Shields)
Hegel and Honneth, Fall 2016 (Mark Alznauer)

Economics
Macroeconomics I-II*, 2019-2020 (Christiano, Eichenbaum, Lorenzoni)
Organizational Economics I-II*, 2019 (Powell, Barron)
Social Choice and Voting Models*, Spring 2018 (Egorov)
Microeconomics I-III*, 2016-2017 (Dekel, Siniscalchi, Pavan)

Mathematics and Physics
Quantum Field Theory I-II*, 2018-2019 (Petriello, Low)
Probability Theory, Spring 2016 (David Galvin)
Algebraic Geometry, Fall 2015 (Sonja Mapes-Szekelyhidi)
Representation Theory, Fall 2015 (Samuel Evans)
Real Analysis I, Fall 2015 (Richard Hind)
Logic I-II, 2014-2015 (Sergei Starchenko, Peter Cholak)
Topology and Geometry I-II, 2014-2015 (Stephan Stolz, Laurence Taylor)
Algebra I-II, 2014-2015 (Andrei Jorza)

Social Sciences and Humanities
Romanticism East and West*, Spring 2018 (Clare Cavanagh)
Early Modern Political Theory, Winter 2018 (James Farr)
Nation Building and State Formation, Winter 2018 (Hendrik Spruyt)
Russian Formalism*, Fall 2017 (Nina Gourianova)
The Concept of Revelation, Spring 2017 (Jean-Luc Marion)
History of Revolutions, Winter 2017 (Paul Gillingham)
Sociology of Global Capitalism, Fall 2017 (Monica Prasad)
(* indicates audit or pass/fail)

References

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Northwestern University
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