

AJA WATKINS

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Starting 2023

Assistant Professor

Department of Philosophy

EDUCATION

Boston University

2018-Present

Ph.D. Philosophy (Candidate)

Dissertation advisor: Alisa Bokulich

Dissertation: Forecasts from the Deep Past: Using Paleoclimate Analogues to Inform Climate Projections

Northeastern University

2013-2018

B.S. Philosophy and Mathematics

Minor in Law and Public Policy

RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization: Philosophy of science (climate science, historical sciences, biology, modeling)

Areas of Competence: Feminist philosophy; bioethics; environmental ethics; logic

REFEREED ARTICLES

(forthcoming in *Hypatia*) “Androcentrism in Biological Typing”

Bocchi, F., Bokulich, A., Castillo Brache, L., Grand-Pierre, G., & Watkins, A. (2022). Are We in a Sixth Mass Extinction? The Challenges of Answering and Value of Asking. *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. doi: 10.1086/722107.

Watkins, A. (2021). The epistemic value of the living fossils concept. *Philosophy of Science*, 88(5), 1221-1233. doi: 10.1086/714875

Watkins, A. (2021). Multi-model approaches to phylogenetics: Implications for idealization. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A*, 90:285–297. doi: 10.1016/j.shpsa.2021.10.006

Watkins, A. (2021). Reevaluating the grandmother hypothesis. *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, 43(3), 103. doi: 10.1007/s40656-021-00455-x

Watkins, A. (2021). Development and microbiology. *Biology & Philosophy*, 36(4), 34. doi: 10.1007/s10539-021-09809-y

Watkins, A. (2020). Testing for phenotypic plasticity. *Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology*, 13, 1–23. doi: 10.3998/ptpbio.16039257.0013.003

Watkins, A., & Bocchi, F. (2020). Pathogen versus microbiome causation in the holobiont. *Biology & Philosophy*, 35(1), 7. doi: 10.1007/s10539-019-9709-8

INVITED ARTICLES & REVIEWS

Carrera, M. & Watkins, A. (forthcoming). Review: *Preparing Dinosaurs: The Work Behind the Scenes*, by Caitlin Wylie. *Philosophy of Science*.

Watkins, A. & Ohnesorge, M. (forthcoming). Review: *Science on a Mission: How Military Funding Shaped What We Do and Don't Know about the Ocean*, by Naomi Oreskes. *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.

Watkins, A. (2023). Is Contemporary Climate Change Really Unprecedented? *Extinct: The Palaeontology Blog*. url: <http://www.extinctblog.org/>

Bokulich, A. & Watkins, A. (2023). Data Models. In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Theory in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*. SAGE Publications, Inc. doi: 10.4135/9781071872383

Watkins, A. (2021). Review: *The Genesis Quest: The Geniuses and Eccentrics on a Journey to Uncover the Origin of Life on Earth* by Michael Marshall. *The Quarterly Review of Biology*, 96(3), 211–211. doi: 10.1086/716130

Watkins, A., & Smead, R. (2020). Review: *The Origins of Unfairness: Social Categories and Cultural Evolution*, Cailin O'Connor. Oxford University Press, 2019, 256 pages. *Economics & Philosophy*, 36(2), 324–330. doi: 10.1017/S026626712000005X

Hepçaglayan, C., Watkins, A., & Powell, R. (2020). What is Paradoxical About ‘Fermi’s Paradox’? *Acta Biotheoretica*, 68(4), 469–477. doi: 10.1007/s10441-020-09376-x

Zucker, J., Rassaby, D., Watkins, A., & Smead, R. (2019). Bargaining and Intersectional Disadvantage: Reply to O'Connor, Bright, and Bruner. *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*, 8 (7): 1-8. <https://wp.me/p1Bfg0-4ei>

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

(under review after R&R) “Scaling Procedures in Climate Science: Using Temporal Scaling to Identify a Paleoclimate Analogue”

(under review) “Using Paleoclimate Analogues to Inform Climate Projections”

(draft) “When are fossils data?”

(draft) “Sex eliminativism” (*with Marina DiMarco*)

(draft) “Paleoclimate Proxies and the Benefits of Disunity”

(draft) “Paleoecological Analogues and the Adequacy of Purposes for Data”

(draft) “What is philosophy of the geosciences?” (*with Miguel Ohnesorge*)

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

(2023, June) Paleocological Analogues and the Adequacy of Purposes for Data. Mid-Year Philosophy of Biology Meeting, hosted by the Centre for Philosophy of the Sciences at the Australian National University.

(2023, April) Paleoclimate Proxies and the Benefits of Disunity. Cambridge Early Career Workshop in the Philosophy of Measurement.

(2022, November) When are fossils data? Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting – Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice Cognate Session on “Beyond Incompleteness: New Perspectives on Fossil Data.” *co-organized with Adrian Currie, Caitlin Wylie, Meghan Page, Douglas Erwin*

(2022, November) Sex eliminativism. Poster presented at the Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting. *with Marina DiMarco*

(2022, November) Paleocological Analogues: Local Data for Local Purposes. Poster presented at the Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting.

(2022, November) Sex eliminativism. Philosophy in Biology and Medicine (PhilInBioMed) Network Meeting – flash talk. *with Marina DiMarco*

(2022, August) Multi-Proxy Paleoclimate Reconstructions: Consilience, Robustness, and Calibration. The Future of the Past: Philosophical Issues in the “Historical” Sciences at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

(2022, July) Scale Models in Climate Science: Using Temporal Scaling to Identify a Paleoclimate Analogue. Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice Biennial Meeting.

(2022, June) Climate Data and Paleoclimate Proxy Data: A Comparison of Measurement Processes. Measurement at the Crossroads: Measuring and Modeling.

(2022, April) Scaling Procedures in Climate Science: Using Temporal Scaling to Identify a Paleoclimate Analogue. Scientific Understanding and Representation (SURE) Annual Workshop.

(2022, March) The Past is Key to the Future: Paleoclimate Analogues for Contemporary Climate Change. Annual Notre Dame History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Values (ND HPSTV) Graduate Conference.

(2021, December) Fossils as Data Models. 3rd Palaeontological Virtual Congress.

(2021, November) The Epistemic Value of the Living Fossils Concept. Contributed paper at Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting.

(2021, November) Using Temporal Scaling to Establish a Paleoclimate Analogue. Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting - Poster Session.

(2021, September) The Past as Key to the Future: The Paleoclimate as an Analogue Model for Contemporary Climate Change. European Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting.

(2021, August) The Earth as its Own Analogue Model: How Paleoclimate Data Inform Climate Projections. Integrated History and Philosophy of Climate Data Conference at the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of Bern.

(2021, July) Analogue Models in Paleontology. International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Biennial Meeting.

(2021, May) Accommodating horizontal inheritance in phylogenetics. Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Meeting.

(2021, May) Using Temporal Scaling to Establish Paleoclimate Analogues. The Geological Society conference on Climate Change in the Geological Record.

(2021, May) Living Fossils as Paleoclimate Proxies: The Case of *Ginkgo biloba*. Philosophy of Plant Biology Workshop.

(2021, April) Multi-Model Approaches to Phylogenetics and the Purposes of Idealization. Scientific Understanding and Representation (SURE) Annual Workshop.

(2021, January) Using Temporal Scaling to Establish a Paleoclimate Analogue. Philosophy of Science Association - Virtual Poster Session.

(2020, June) Accommodating horizontal inheritance in phylogenetics. Philosophy of Biology at the Mountains - on Zoom.

(2020, February) Criticizing inferiorizing science. Colloquium paper presented at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting.

(2019, November) A new defense of the grandmother hypothesis. Paper presented at the Northern New England Philosophical Association Annual Conference.

(2019, July) Deontic logic and 'ought implies can.' Poster presented at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

(2023, May). Using Paleoclimate Analogues to Inform Climate Projections. Boston Colloquium for Philosophy of Science at the Boston University Center for Philosophy and History of Science.

(2023, February). Rates of Climate Change: Now and in the Deep Past. Graduate Student & Postdoc Seminar at Harvard University's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

(2022, December). Sex Eliminativism. Philosophy of Biology Reading Group at Pitt HPS. *with Marina DiMarco*

(2022, September). Paleoclimate Analogues as Climate Models: Implications for Model Ontology and Epistemology. Models in the Geosciences Workshop (Technische Universität Berlin).

(2022, July). Sex Eliminativism. Reading on Gender and Philosophy (ROGAP) at MIT. *with Marina DiMarco*

(2020, November). Proxy Data: The Advantages of Indirect Measurement. Vita Activa Idee in Bozza Talk Series. *with Leticia Castillo-Brache*

RESEARCH GROUPS & VISITS

Visit to Australian National University Centre for Philosophy of the Sciences (Summer 2023): Hosted by Rachael Brown (Director of CPS).

Visit to University of Auckland (Summer 2023): Hosted by Emily Parke.

Philosophy of the Geosciences Research Group (2020-Present): Research group at Boston University on philosophical issues in the geosciences (geology, climate science, etc.), organized by Alisa Bokulich.

Mind and Morality Lab (2019-2022): Research group at Boston University on moral psychology, organized by Victor Kumar. I served as the lab manager in 2020-2021.

Rossetti Research Group (2018-2019): Research group at Northeastern University on interdisciplinary philosophy, organized by Rory Smead. I served as the student coordinator in 2018.

AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Fall 2020 - Summer 2023): Three years of full tuition and stipend support plus additional funding for home institution (BU).

Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Award – Edwin S. and Ruth M. White Prize and Angela J. and James J. Rallis Memorial Award (April 2022): Competitive awards given by the BU Center for the Humanities to outstanding graduate students.

Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (December 2021): Competitive support for humanities and social sciences graduate students to pursue research abroad.

BU Women's Council Scholarship (April 2021): Competitive scholarship for women graduate students.

Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Dissertation Fellowship (Summer 2020).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Philosophy of Science (Fall 2023)

Contemporary Moral Issues (Fall 2023)

Boston University

Science, Technology, and Values (Spring 2022)

Philosophy of Science (Summer 2021)

SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Journal Refereeing: British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Synthese, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Biology & Philosophy, Frontiers in Earth Science.

Philosophy Department Graduate Student President (BU): Co-President, 2021-2022

American Association of Philosophy Teachers Seminar: Participant, 2021

Philosophy of Science Association Underrepresented Philosophy of Science Scholars Program: Mentee, 2020-Present

Philosophy Graduate Student Conference (BU): Co-organizer, 2019-2021

Minorities and Philosophy Chapter (BU): Member and undergraduate mentor, 2019-Present