

Philosophisches Institut  
Heinrich-Heine Universität Düsseldorf  
Universitätsstraße 1, Geb. 23.21/04.86  
40225 Düsseldorf, Germany

Office : +49(0)211 81 11473  
Mobile: +31(0) 618 158 655  
[votsis@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de](mailto:votsis@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de)  
website: [www.votsis.org](http://www.votsis.org)

# IOANNIS VOTSIS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

---

**Nationality:** Cypriot

**Academic Posts:** 08/2010 – 12/2010 *Visiting Fellow*, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh.

07/2006 – *Research Fellow*, Philosophy Institute, University of Düsseldorf (position partly funded by the DFG - German Research Foundation).

09/2004 – 06/2006 *Teaching Fellow*, Philosophy Department, University of Bristol.

**Education:** 2004 London School of Economics (University of London)  
**PhD. Philosophy**, 'The Epistemological Status of Scientific Theories: An Investigation of the Structural Realist Account'

Primary Supervisor: Prof. John Worrall  
Secondary Supervisor: Prof. Michael Redhead FBA

Examiners: Prof. Peter Lipton (University of Cambridge)  
Prof. Donald Gillies (University College, London)

1998 University of California, Berkeley  
**B.A. Philosophy** (distinction in general scholarship).

Undergraduate Thesis Supervisor: Prof. John Searle

## PUBLICATIONS

---

**Editorship:** Scientific Realism Quo Vadis? Theories, Structures, Underdetermination and Reference, to appear in *Synthese*, DOI 10.1007/s11229-009-9610-0 (with Gerhard Schurz).

**Articles:** 1. 'Data meet Theories: Up, Close and Inferentially Personal', to appear in *Synthese*, DOI 10.1007/s11229-009-9614-9.

2. 'A Preliminary Application of Frame-Theory to the Philosophy of Science: The Phlogiston-Oxygen Case', to appear in *Concept Types and Frames in Language, Cognition, and Science*, proceedings of CTF09 (secondary author with Gerhard Schurz).

3. 'The Caloric Concept under a Frame-Theoretic Spotlight', to appear in *Concept Types and Frames in Language, Cognition, and Science*, proceedings of CTF09 (primary author with Gerhard Schurz).
4. 'Structural Realism: Continuity and its Limits', to appear in *Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science*.
5. 'How not to be a Realist or Why we Ought to Make it Safe for Closet Structural Realists to Come out', to appear in *Western Ontario Series in Philosophy of Science*.
6. 'Saving the Intuitions: Polythetic Reference', to appear in *Synthese*, DOI 10.1007/s11229-009-9601-1.
7. 'Making Contact with Observations', in M. Suárez, M. Dorato and M. Rédei (Eds.) *EPSA Philosophical Issues in the Sciences. Launch of the European Philosophy of Science Association*, vol. 2, Springer, 2010.
8. 'Uninterpreted Equations and the Structure-Nature Distinction', 2007, *Philosophical Inquiry*, vol. 29(1-2): 57-71.
9. 'The Upward Path to Structural Realism', *Philosophy of Science*, 2005, vol. 72(5): 1361-1372.
10. 'Is Structure Not Enough?', *Philosophy of Science*, 2003, vol. 70(5): 879-890.

**Submitted:**

- 'Structural Realism', co-authored with Roman Frigg (LSE).  
 'The Historical Test of Realism'.

**Reviews & Reports:**

- Review of Anjan Chakravartty's *A Metaphysics for Scientific Realism: Knowing the Unobservable*, *Analysis*, 2009, vol. 69(2):378-380.
- Report: 'Theoretical Frameworks and Empirical Underdetermination', *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 2009, vol. 40 (1):137-140.
- Review of Yemima Ben-Menahem's *Conventionalism*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, 2008, vol 39(1): 234-237.
- Report: 'Theoretical Frameworks and Empirical Underdetermination', *The Reasoner*, 2008, vol. 2(6): 5-6.
- Review of Kyle Stanford's *Exceeding our Grasp: Science, History and the Problem of Unconceived Alternatives*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, 2007, vol. 21(1): 103-106.

Review of Ilkka Niiniluoto's Critical Scientific Realism, *Philosophy of Science*, 2003, vol.70(2): 444-447.

**In Preparation:**

Book proposal on Structural Realism with F.A. Muller (Utrecht & Rotterdam) for *Cambridge University Press*.

'Evidential Equivalence' with Gerhard Schurz (Düsseldorf)

'The Indefatigable *Principium Contradictionis*'

'Perspectival Structural Realism'

'The Observation-Ladenness of Theory'

'Ecumenical Empiricism'

Review of Stathis Psillos' Knowing the Structure of Nature for the *Philosophical Quarterly*.

**RESEARCH GROUPS**

---

2008 - University of Duesseldorf, DFG Research Unit FOR 600 Functional Concepts and Frames, Project B6: 'A frame-theoretic investigation of the dynamics of scientific theories, their conceptual systems and their realistic reference', funded by the DFG - German Research Foundation.

2000 - 2004 London School of Economics, Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science

- Research Assistant for *Structuralism* project
- Research Assistant for *Darwin@LSE* project

**REFEREE FOR**

---

**Journals:**

Australasian Journal of Philosophy  
British Journal for the Philosophy of Science  
Dialectica  
Erkenntnis  
International Studies in the Philosophy of Science  
Journal for General Philosophy of Science  
Philosophy of Science  
Philosophical Papers  
Polish Journal of Philosophy  
Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics  
Studies in History and Philosophy of Science  
Synthese

**Chapters in Books:**

Stephan Hartmann and Luc Bovens (eds.) (2006) Nancy Cartwright's Philosophy of Science, Routledge.

**Publishers:**

Routledge

## SELECTED TALKS

---

Fall 2010 – ‘The Prospective Stance in Realism’, invited talk, Lunchtime Colloquium, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh.

June 2010 – ‘Scientific Representation and Perspective’, invited talk, University of Bochum.

Oct. 2009 – ‘The Double Life of Evidence: From the Streets to the Labs’, European Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Conference, Free University of Amsterdam.

Sept. 2009 – ‘Structural Realism: Invariance through Theory Change’, SOPHA 2009, University of Geneva.

Aug. 2009 – ‘The Caloric Under a Frame-Theoretic Spotlight’, (with Gerhard Schurz), Concepts, Types and Frames in Language, Cognition and Science, University of Duesseldorf.

June 2009 – ‘Δομικός Ρεαλισμός: Ιστορική Συνοχή και τα Όρια της’, 5th Pan-Hellenic Conference in the History, Philosophy and Teaching of Natural Sciences, University of Cyprus.

March 2009 – ‘Metaphilosophical Ruminations on Theoretical Term Reference’, invited talk, Research Seminar in Epistemology and Philosophy of Science, University of Tilburg.

Sept. 2008 – ‘Data Meet Theories: Up Close and Personal’, Data - Phenomena - Theories: What's the notion of a scientific phenomenon good for?, University of Heidelberg.

Aug 2008 – ‘Kuhn Loss: A Dilemma’, Sixth European Congress for Analytic Philosophy, Jagiellonian University Krakow.

July 2008 – ‘Ecumenical Empiricism’, Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association, University of Aberdeen.

July 2008 – ‘What’s Wrong with the Problem of Unconceived Alternatives?’, British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, University of St. Andrews.

June 2008 – ‘The Scope of Fiction: Comments on Tim Button's "Where Fiction Ends and Reality Begins"’, MetaMetaphysics Conference at Logos (Logic, Language and Cognition Research Group), University of Barcelona.

Nov. 2007 – ‘Making Contact with Observations’, First Conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association, Complutense University Madrid.

Aug. 2007 – ‘How not to be a Realist or Why we Ought to Make it Safe for Closet Structural Realists to Come out’, invited talk, Structure, Objects and Causality Workshop, Banff.

July 2007 – ‘The Observation-Ladenness of Theory’, Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association, University of Bristol.

Nov. 2006 – ‘Structural Realism 2.0’, invited talk, Philosophy of Physics Research Seminar, University of Oxford.

June 2006 – ‘Structural Continuity and its Limits’, invited talk, University of Utrecht.

May 2006 – ‘Seeing the Same Things’, invited talk, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

March 2006 – ‘Extracting Evidence from Observation’, invited talk, Division of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds.

Aug. 2005 – ‘Deflating Scientific Explanation’, Philosophical Perspectives on Scientific Understanding, Free University of Amsterdam.

July 2005 – ‘Evidential Equivalence’, British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, University of Manchester.

Nov. 2004 – ‘The Upward Path to Structural Realism’, Philosophy of Science Association Nineteenth Biennial Meeting, Austin, TX.

**Conference Organising:** *The Theory-Ladenness of Experience*, planned for Spring 2011 University of Duesseldorf, (with Gerhard Schurz and Michela Tacca)

*Novel Predictions*, planned for January 2011 University of Duesseldorf, (with Ludwig Fahrback and Gerhard Schurz)

*Different Methodologies, One Aim: Evidence and Theory at the Confluence*, Oct 21-24, 2009 Free University of Amsterdam, co-organised (w/Giora Hon, Maarten van Dyck, Dave Lagnado and Jan Willem Romeijn) Symposium at EPSA09.

*Theoretical Frameworks and Underdetermination Workshop*, April 10-12, 2008 University of Duesseldorf, co-organised (with Gerhard Schurz), funded by the DFG Research Unit FOR 600 Functional Concepts and Frames.

*Structural Realism and Newman’s Problem*, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002 London School of Economics, co-organised (with John Worrall) – funded by the British Society for the Philosophy of Science.

**Scientific Committees:** June 11-14, 2009 University of Cyprus, 5th Pan-Hellenic Conference in the History, Philosophy and Teaching of Natural Sciences.

## **TEACHING**

---

**Lectures:**

University of Bristol, Department of Philosophy:

- *Epistemology* (05)
- *Philosophy of Science* [intermediate] (04, 05)
- *Philosophy of Science* [advanced] (05, 06)

**Graduate/Advanced Seminars:**

University of Düsseldorf, Philosophisches Institut:

- *Philosophical Logic* (10)
- *Evidence* (09)
- *The Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence* (09)
- *Intuitions* (08)
- *Scientific Realism* (06, 07)
- *The Theory-Ladenness of Observation* (07, 08)

University of Bristol, Department of Philosophy:

- *Scientific Epistemology and Methodology* (05, 06)
- *Philosophical Writing and Research* (04, 05)
- *Philosophy of Biology* [w/Andrew Woodfield] (05)

**Undergraduate Tutorials:**

University of Bristol, Department of Philosophy:

- *Introduction to Philosophy A & B* (04, 05)
- *Philosophy of Science* [intermediate and advanced] (05, 06)
- *Epistemology* (04)

London School of Economics, Department of Philosophy:

- *Reason, Knowledge and Values: An Introduction to Philosophy* (03-04)
- *Special Topics in the Philosophy of Natural and Social Science* (03-04)
- *Logic* (01-02)
- *Scientific Method* (00-01)
- *Scientific Revolutions* (00-01)
- *Frege and Russell* (99-00)

**Supervision:**

Unofficial PhD supervision of Guillaume Maranda (PhD awarded in 2009 by the University of Bristol, official supervisor Alexander Bird), postgraduate and undergraduate essay supervision.

**Committees:**

PhD progress interviews, Graduate Studies Committee, Staff-Student Committee, etc.

**Training:**

July 2002 LTSN Workshop on teaching Philosophy of Science  
Oct. 1999 Induction Session for Part-time Teachers  
Sept. 1999 Introduction to Teaching and Learning Workshop

## **GRANTS**

---

**Post-doctoral:** 2008 - 2011 German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft): 'A frame-theoretic investigation of the dynamics of scientific theories, their conceptual systems and their realistic reference'.  
  
2004 - 2007 Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, Juan de la Cierva Programme, elected for a 3-year postdoc, [NB: I declined this offer]

**Doctoral:** LSE Research Studentship 1999-2000, 2001-2002, 2002-2003.

---

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Philosophical Association  
Aristotelian Society  
European Philosophy of Science Association

---

### **MISCELLANEA**

**Other Work Experience:** 1999 – 2000 House of Commons  
Internship with Richard Burden MP  
  
1990 – 1992 Cypriot National Guard, Cyprus  
Cryptographer for the Telecommunications Division

**Languages:** Fluent in *English* and *Greek*; intermediate *French*, elementary German

---

### **REFERENCES**

Prof. Stathis Psillos Department of History & Philosophy of Science University of Athens Panepistimioupolis 15771 Athens, Greece <a href="mailto:psillos@phs.uoa.gr">psillos@phs.uoa.gr</a>	Prof. Gerhard Schurz Philosophisches Institut Geb. 23.21/04.82 University of Duesseldorf Universitaetstrasse 1 Duesseldorf, 40225, Germany <a href="mailto:gerhard.schurz@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de">gerhard.schurz@ phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de</a>	Prof. John Worrall Department of Philosophy, Logic & Scientific Method London School of Economics Houghton Street London WC2A 2AE, UK <a href="mailto:j.worrall@lse.ac.uk">j.worrall@lse.ac.uk</a>
---	--	--

Prof. Alexander Bird (Bristol), Prof. Nancy Cartwright FBA (LSE), Dr. Helena Cronin (LSE), Prof. Steven French (Leeds), Prof. Donald Gillies (UCL), the late Prof. Peter Lipton (Cambridge), Prof. Michael Redhead FBA (LSE).

CV last updated 18/03/10