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IOANNIS VOTSIS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Nationality: Cypriot

Academic Posts: 07/2006 – *Research Fellow*, Philosophy Institute, University of Düsseldorf – position funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation) since 2008.

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

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

Edited Volumes: ‘Scientific Realism Quo Vadis? Theories, Structures, Underdetermination and Reference’, *Synthese*, vol. 180(2), with Gerhard Schurz.

Articles: ‘The Prospective Stance in Realism’, to appear in *Philosophy of Science*.

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

'Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Structural Realism but Were Afraid to Ask', *European Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2011, vol. 1(2): 227-276.

'Saving the Intuitions: Polythetic Reference', 2011, *Synthese*, vol. 180(2): 121-137.

'Uninterpreted Equations and the Structure-Nature Distinction', *Philosophical Inquiry*, 2007, vol. 29(1-2): 57-71.

'The Upward Path to Structural Realism', *Philosophy of Science*, 2005, vol. 72(5): 1361-1372.

'Is Structure Not Enough?', *Philosophy of Science*, 2003, vol. 70(5): 879-890.

Chapters:

'A Preliminary Application of Frame-Theory to the Philosophy of Science: The Phlogiston-Oxygen Case', to appear in R. Osswald and S. Löbner (eds.), *Concept Types and Frames in Language, Cognition, and Science*, Springer, co-authored with Gerhard Schurz.

'How not to be a Realist or Why we Ought to Make it Safe for Closet Structural Realists to Come out', in D. Rickles (ed.), *Structure, Objects and Causality*, (Western Ontario Series in Philosophy of Science), Springer, 2011, ch. 3.

'Structural Realism: Continuity and its Limits', in A. Bokulich and P. Bokulich (eds.), *Scientific Structuralism*, (Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science), Springer, 2011, pp. 105-117.

'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, pp 267-277.

Conditionally Accepted:

'A Frame-Theoretic Analysis of Two Rival Conceptions of Heat', *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, co-authored with Gerhard Schurz.

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.

Submitted:

Proposal for a special issue on the Theory-Ladenness of Experience.

In Preparation:

Book on *Structural Realism* with F. A. Muller (Rotterdam)

'Evidential Equivalence' with Gerhard Schurz (Düsseldorf)

'Logic the Ultra-Physics'

'The Immaterial Conditional and its Logic'

'Perspectival Structural Realism'

'The Observation-Ladenness of Theory'

'Ecumenical Empiricism'

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

Review of Peter Howlett and Mary S. Morgan's (Eds.) *How Well do Facts Travel?*, *Metascience*.

RESEARCH GROUPS

2011 – 2015 University of Duesseldorf, Project B4: 'A frame-theoretic investigation of unification and reduction in scientific theories', part of the Collaborative Research Centre CRC 991 'The Structure of Representations in Language, Cognition, and Science' funded by the DFG - German Research Foundation.

2008 – 2011 University of Duesseldorf, Project B6: 'A frame-theoretic investigation of the dynamics of scientific theories, their conceptual systems and their realistic reference', part of the interdisciplinary group FOR 600 'Functional Concepts and Frames' 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
European Journal for the Philosophy of Science
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 Press.

Claus Beisbart and Stephan Hartmann (eds.) (2011) *Probabilities in Physics*, Oxford University Press.

Publishers:

Routledge

SELECTED TALKS

Invited:

May 2011 – 'Runaway Models', Seminario di Logica e Filosofia della Scienza, Università di Firenze.

May 2011 – 'Endorsing the Methods of Science', Dipartimento di Filosofia, Università di Pisa.

May 2011 – 'Structural Realism meets the Social Sciences', IMT Institute for Advanced Studies, Lucca.

April 2011 – 'Philosophy and Science: Past, Present and Future', The Metaphysical Society's Annual Symposium, Trinity College Dublin.

Nov. 2010 – 'Epistemic and Ontic Commitments: In Perfect Alignment?', Structuralism Workshop, University of Notre Dame.

Sept. 2010 – 'Structural Realism: From an Epistemological Point of View', Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh.

June 2010 – 'Scientific Representation and Perspective', University of Bochum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contributed Talks:

July 2011 – ‘Simplicity as a Guide to Falsity?’, 14th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, University of Nancy.

July 2011 – ‘Structural Realism and Causation: An Unhappy Marriage?’, British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, University of Sussex.

Nov. 2010 – ‘The Prospective Stance in Realism’, Philosophy of Science Association Twenty-Second Biennial Meeting, Montreal.

Oct. 2010 – ‘The Logic of Crucial Experiments’, Philosophy of Scientific Experimentation: A Challenge to Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh.

July 2010 – ‘Heat in Inter-theory Relations’, British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, University College Dublin.

June 2010 – ‘Thinking about Scientific Understanding and Explanation as a Structural Realist’, Understanding and the Aims of Science, Lorentz Center, University of Leiden.

May 2010 – ‘The Pessimistic Meta-Inductivist: A Sheep in Wolf’s Clothing?’, Philosophy of Science in a Forest (PSF2010), Dutch Association for the Philosophy of Science.

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.

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.

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

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: 1. *The Theory-Ladenness of Experience*, March 10-11 University of Duesseldorf, (with Gerhard Schurz and Michela Tacca), partly funded by the DFG Research Unit FOR 600 Functional Concepts and Frames.

2. *Novel Predictions*, February 25-26, 2011 University of Duesseldorf, (with Ludwig Fahrback and Gerhard Schurz)

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

4. *Theoretical Frameworks and Empirical 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.

5. *Structural Realism and Newman's Problem*, March 23rd 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:

- *Structural Realism* (11)
- *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 Düsseldorf, Philosophisches Institut:

- *Philosophy of Logic* (10)

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

FUNDING

Post-doctoral: 2011 - 2015 German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft): 'A frame-theoretic investigation of unification and reduction in scientific theories'.

2008 - 2011 German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft): 'A frame-theoretic investigation of the dynamics of scientific theories'.

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
British Society for the Philosophy of Science
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
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Philosophy of Science
University of Athens
Panepistimioupolis
15771 Athens, Greece

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Prof. John Worrall
Department of Philosophy,
Logic & Scientific Method
London School of Economics
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE, UK

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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 14/06/11