

William C. Bausman  
Curriculum Vitae

Université de Genève  
Département de philosophie  
Rue de Candolle 2  
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Switzerland  
William.Bausman@unige.ch

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Scientific Metaphysics

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Epistemology, History of Philosophy of Science, History of Modern Philosophy, Logic

**EDUCATION**

- 2016      Ph.D. in Philosophy. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
Dissertation: *Neutral Theory, Biased World*  
Adviser: C. Kenneth Waters  
Committee: William Wimsatt, Jozef Uffink, Stephen P. Hubbell, Alan Love  
Awarded: December 2016
- 2007      B.A. in Philosophy, Minor in Physics. University of California, Santa Barbara

**POSITIONS**

- 2016-2018      Postdoc for “From Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics” Project  
Supervisor: Marcel Weber  
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2014      Visiting Instructor, Spring Trimester  
Carleton College, Northfield, MN

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Manuscripts Under Review**

"Modeling: Neutral, Null, and Baseline"

\*Revising in response to R&R decision

“Not null enough: causal null hypothesis testing in community ecology and comparative psychology”, co-authored with Marta Halina

\*Revising in response to R&R decision

**Articles under Preparation**

“Against Lloyd’s methodological monism: the view from community ecology”

“How to make metaphysics more scientific: epistemic lessons from biological sciences”

“False Models for Fecund Research Programmes”  
“Not Strong Inference but Baseline Modeling”

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- 2017 “Against Lloyd's methodological monism: the view from community ecology”  
Bordeaux-Geneva Colloquium in Philosophy of Biology.  
Geneva, Switzerland. October.
- 2017 “On inferring to metaphysical claims from scientific practice”  
Society for the Metaphysics of Science  
Central American Philosophical Association. Kansas City, MI. March.
- 2016 “Modeling: Neutral, Null, and Baseline”  
Philosophy of Science Association. Atlanta, GA. November
- 2016 “The use of Karl Popper in ecology”  
The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science Congress.  
Minneapolis, MN. June.
- 2016 “On the privilege of a neutral theory”  
Eastern American Philosophical Association. Washington, DC. January.
- 2015 “Telling the origins of the neutral theory of ecology”  
History of Science Society. San Francisco, CA. November.
- 2015 “Telling the origins of the neutral theory of ecology”  
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology  
Montreal, Canada. July.
- 2015 “Not null enough: non-statistical null hypothesis testing in community ecology  
and comparative psychology”  
(Co-written with Marta Halina, but I was unable to attend the conference and  
Halina presented and defended it)  
Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice. Aarhus, Denmark. June.
- 2015 “On the privilege of a neutral theory”  
Philosophy Graduate Student Conference. University of Calgary Philosophy  
Department. Calgary, Canada. March.
- 2014 “Not null enough: causal null hypothesis testing in community ecology and  
comparative psychology”  
(Co-written, presented, and defended with Marta Halina)  
Philosophy of Biology at Madison Workshop. Madison, WI. June.
- 2013 “But isn't the neutral theory of ecology a null model?”  
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

Montpellier, France. July.

- 2012      Commentary on Jay Odenbaugh's "Neutrality, Niche, and Nulls: Causal Relevance in Ecology"  
Workshop on Philosophical Perspectives on Causal Reasoning in Biology.  
Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science, Minneapolis, MN. May
- 2011      "The Paradox Raised by the Neutral Theory of Ecology"  
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology  
Salt Lake City, UT. July.
- 2010      "Leibniz vs. Descartes on Force and the Nature and Causes of Body"  
Minnesota Philosophical Society. Bloomington, MN. November.

### **WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION**

- 2017      *Practices of Individuation and Classification in Science*  
Banff, Canada. June-July  
2 week workshop investigating the scientific practices of classification and individuation, especially in biology and chemistry and the possibilities of metaphysical conclusions from these practices.  
The format was a mixture of interviews with senior participants, informal discussions, and group projects. Participation was very selective.  
<http://biological-practice-to-metaphysics.org/summer-institutes/2017-calgary>
- 2016      *Reconceiving and Explaining the Success of Science*  
Basel, Switzerland. August  
2 week workshop investigating the idea that the success of science is explained by looking to scientific practices and the possibilities for a metaphysics based on scientific practices.  
The format was a mixture of interviews with senior participants, informal discussions, and group projects. Participation was very selective.  
<http://biological-practice-to-metaphysics.org/summer-institutes/2016-basel>

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Instructor**

#### **Carleton College**

2014      Philosophy of Science

#### **Instructor**

#### **University of Minnesota**

2016      Science, Technology, and Society  
2015      Introduction to Philosophy  
            Introduction to Logic  
2012      Introduction to Logic  
            Scientific Thought

## **Teaching Assistant**

### **University of Minnesota**

2014	Scientific Thought
2012	Introduction to Philosophy
2011	Scientific Thought Graduate Symbolic Logic II
2010	Graduate Symbolic Logic I Introduction to Philosophy
2008	Scientific Reasoning

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

### **University Level**

2014	Graduate Research Partnership Program, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota (UMN), Summer
2013-4	Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, UMN
2013	Graduate Research Partnership Program, College of Liberal Arts, UMN, Summer
2011	Graduate Research Partnership Program, College of Liberal Arts, UMN, Summer

### **Departmental Level**

2013	Swenson-Kierkegaard Semester Fellowship, Spring
2010	Department Research Partnership Program, Summer
2009	Department Research Partnership Program, Summer
2008-9	Graduate Student First Year Fellowship

## **SERVICE**

### **Reading and Writing Groups Organized**

*Lake Geneva Writing Group.* Geneva Center for Philosophy of Science. Begun Fall 2017

Writing group for postdocs and graduate students in Philosophy.

*Biology Interest Group – Works in Gestation.* Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science. Ran Spring 2015 – Spring 2016

This was an interdisciplinary writing group for graduate students interested in biology from any perspective.

*Early Modern Interest Group.* Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science.

Started Spring 2011, ongoing. <http://mcps.umn.edu/groups/earlyModern.html>

The group was started to read “non-philosophical” works by “Philosophers”, such as Leibniz’ *Protogaea* and Descartes’ *The Passions of the Soul*.

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

Reviewer for *Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology*

**Department Service**

Philosophy Department Search and Hiring Committee, University of Minnesota,  
Twin Cities (Fall 2012)

Philosophy Department Colloquium Committee, University of Minnesota, Twin  
Cities (2013, 2012, 2010)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Philosophical Association

Geneva Center for Philosophy of Science

International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Science Association

**LANGUAGES**

English (native), German (A2/B1 level)

## GRADUATE COURSES

Philosophy of the Biological Sciences (Waters, Love, Wimsatt)  
Seminar on Chance and Contingency in Biology (Waters and Travisano)  
Space and Time (Nounou)  
Historical and Conceptual Foundations of Statistical Inference\* (Waters and Uffink)  
Foundations of Statistical Mechanics\* (Uffink)

History of 20th Century Physics (Janssen)  
History of Ecology (Jones)

History of Philosophy of Science: 19th Century Philosophy of Science\* (Love)  
Seminar on Early Modern Philosophy (Hanks)  
Seminar on Ancient Philosophy (Peterson)  
Spinoza\* (Lewis)  
Plato's Republic\* (Peterson)

Graduate Symbolic II (Cook)  
Seminar on Logical Paradoxes\* (Cook)  
Modal Logic \* (Hanson)

Seminar of Kripke's *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language* (Hanks)  
Epistemology (Hanks)

History of Moral Theories (Tiberius)  
Seminar on Kant's Moral Philosophy (Holtman)

\* courses audited

## REFERENCES

C. Kenneth Waters  
Canada Research Chair in Logic and Philosophy of Science  
University of Calgary  
[c.waters@ucalgary.ca](mailto:c.waters@ucalgary.ca)

William Wimsatt  
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy  
University of Chicago  
[wwim@umn.edu](mailto:wwim@umn.edu)

Stephen P. Hubbell  
Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
UCLA  
[shubbell@eeb.ucla.edu](mailto:shubbell@eeb.ucla.edu)

Marcel Weber  
Full Professor in Philosophy of Science  
University of Geneva  
[Marcel.Weber@unige.ch](mailto:Marcel.Weber@unige.ch)

## Teaching Reference

Jason Decker  
Associate Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science  
Carleton College  
[jdecker@carleton.edu](mailto:jdecker@carleton.edu)