

# NEIL E. WILLIAMS *curriculum vitae*

Mar 26 2016

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor – University at Buffalo (SUNY) Philosophy 2012 – present  
Assistant Professor – University at Buffalo (SUNY) Philosophy 2005 – 2012

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**AOS** Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science  
**AOC** Mind, Epistemology, Early Modern, Philosophy of Medicine

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## EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (2005) PhD Philosophy (with Distinction)  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY (2001) MA Philosophy  
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY (1998) BA (Honours) Philosophy

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## PUBLICATIONS

**EDITOR:** *The Monist*, issue on **Causal Powers**, January 2011, Vol. 94. No. 1.

- What are Manifestations?** *(forthcoming)*  
*Dispositionalism. Perspectives from Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science*,  
Meincke, A (ed.). Dordrecht: Springer: xx-xx.
- Powerful Perdurance: Linking Parts with Powers** *(In press)*  
*Causal Powers*, Jacobs, J (ed.).  
New York: Oxford University Press: xx-xx.
- Powers: Necessity and Neighbourhoods** *(2014)*  
*American Philosophical Quarterly*, 51/4: 357-371.
- Dispositions and the Argument from Science** *(2011)*  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 89: 71-90.
- Putnam's Traditional Neo-Essentialism** *(2011)*  
*Philosophical Quarterly*, 242: 151-170.
- Arthritis and Nature's Joints** *(2011)*  
*Carving Nature at its Joints – Topics in Contemporary Philosophy Vol. 8*  
Campbell, J K, et al (eds.). Cambridge: MIT Press: 199-230.
- Putting Powers Back on Multi-Track** *(2011)*  
*Philosophia*, 39: 581-595.
- Puzzling Powers: The Problem of Fit** *(2010)*  
*The Metaphysics of Powers: Their Grounding and Their Manifestations*  
Marmodoro, A (ed.). New York: Routledge: 84-105.
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**PUBLICATIONS** (continued)

- The Ungrounded Argument is Unfounded** (2009)  
*Synthese*, 170: 7-19
- A Dispositional Theory of Possibility** (2008)  
*dialectica*, 62: 21-41 (with A. Borghini)
- The Factory Model of Disease** (2007)  
*The Monist*, 90: 555-584
- Do Zombies Hunger for Humean Brains?** (2007)  
*SWIF: Sito Web Italiano per la Filosofia*, 6: 62-72
- Static and Dynamic Dispositions** (2005)  
*Synthese*, 146: 303-324
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**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Book Project on Causal Powers and Contemporary Metaphysics.

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**PRESENTATIONS** († indicates refereed)

- TBD** Oct (2016)  
Marist College, Poughkeepsie, Rutgers NY
- Are there Extrinsic Powers?†** May (2016)  
CPA Calgary, Canada
- Indiana Jones and the Philosopher's Rosetta Stone** April (2016)  
Powers and Dispositions Conference, AUB, Beirut, Lebanon
- Fawlty Powers†** Sept (2015)  
Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference, Rutgers NJ
- Why I'm Not a Dualist** April (2015)  
Dispositions in Science Conference, Rome Tre, Rome, Italy
- Explanatory Powers** April (2015)  
Dispositions Workshop, University of Urbino, Urbino, Italy
- Categorical Properties: Can't Live with 'em...** Sept (2014)  
Metaphysics Meets Philosophy of Physics  
University of Rochester, Rochester
- Powers: Necessity and Neighbourhoods** March (2014)  
Oxford University, Oxford UK
- What is a Manifestation?** July (2013)  
The Ontological Commitments of Dispositionalism, Innsbruck, Austria
- Causal Necessity and Causal Relevance** March (2012)  
Dispositions and Necessity Conference, Koln, Germany
- 'Disease' is not a Natural Kind Term: A Tale of Two Diseases** Feb (2012)  
Society for the Metaphysics of Science: Session on Natural Kinds  
APA Central, Chicago
- Powers and Perdurant** April (2011)  
Putting Powers to Work Conference, St. Louis

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**PRESENTATIONS** Continued

<b>Virtus Dormitiva Redux: Killing the Golden Goose</b> Simon Fraser University, Vancouver	March (2011)
<b>Dispositions and the Argument from Science</b> † Metaphysics of Science, Melbourne, Australia	July (2009)
<b>Must Natural Kind Essences be Intrinsic?</b> † Canadian Society for History and Phil Science, Ottawa, Canada	May (2009)
<b>Arthritis and Nature's Joints</b> Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Moscow, Idaho	April (2008)
<b>Puzzling Powers</b> Substance and Attribute Conference, Tampere, Finland	May (2008)
<b>Intrinsic Powers</b> † APA Central, Chicago	April (2007)
<b>The Factory Model of Disease</b> Philosophy of Biology Conference, Buffalo	October (2007)
<b>Dispositions and Diseases</b> NCBO Disease Ontology Workshop, Baltimore	November (2006)
<b>On the Ontology of Disease</b> Philosophy of Biology Conference, Buffalo	October (2006)
<b>Thinking About Disease</b> Public Lecture Series, Buffalo	October (2006)
<b>The Problem of Dispositional Fit</b> † Dispositions and Causes Workshop and Conference, Bristol, UK	December (2005)
<b>Resembling and Causing</b> NCOR Ontology Conference, Buffalo	September (2005)
<b>Dispositional Actualism</b> University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY	February (2005)
<b>A Dispositional Theory of Possibility</b> University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada	January (2004)

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**OTHER CONFERENCE PRESENTATION**

Comments on "TBD" Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference, Geneva, Switzerland	September (2016)
Comments on "Originating at the Edge of Essence" CPA Calgary, Canada	June (2016)
Comments on "Space in Tropes" APA Central, Chicago	March (2016)
Comments on "Persistence, Thoughts and Personhood" APA Central, Chicago	February (2014)
Why Does Dividing Nature Matter? Public Forum Speaker, Moscow, Idaho	April (2008)
Comments on J. Kalhat's "Are There Structural Universals?" Columbia/NYU Grad. Conference	March (2003)

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**REVIEWS**

Review of P. Unger's <i>Philosophical Papers</i> Volumes 1 and 2 (OUP 2006) <i>Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews</i> , Feb 2007.	(2007)
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**AWARDS AND GRANTS**

2015	Professor of the Year – Bestowed by UB Philosophy Graduate Association
2015	Merit Award UB Philosophy
2014	Merit Award UB Philosophy
2012	Merit Award UB Philosophy
2010	Merit Award UB Philosophy
2009	Merit Award UB Philosophy
2008	Merit Award UB Philosophy
2006	Merit Award UB Philosophy
2004	Philosophy Department Dissertation Fellowship (Columbia)
2004	Lina Kahn Essay Prize: Best Grad Metaphysics Essay (Columbia)
2003	SSHRC Doctoral Grant (\$19K/p.a.) (Gov't Canada)
2003	Lina Kahn Essay Prize: Best Grad Metaphysics Essay (Columbia)
2003	Summer Fellowship (Columbia)
2002	Summer Fellowship (Columbia)
2002	Lina Kahn Essay Prize: Best Grad Metaphysics Essay (Columbia)
2001	Columbia University Fellowship (full tuition and fees plus stipend for 4 years)
2000	Graduate Fellowship (Simon Fraser University)
1998	CD Nelson Memorial Scholarship (Outstanding entrants to SFU - \$17K)
1997	DJ Lipkind Memorial Scholarship (Outstanding philosophy student – Calgary)
1996	DJ Lipkind Memorial Scholarship (Outstanding philosophy student – Calgary)
1992	Alexander Rutherford Scholarship (Alberta Gov't)

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**COURSES TAUGHT**
**Graduate Seminars:**

Phil 634: Powers and Dispositions (Fall 2006; Spring 2011)  
 Phil 634: Persistence and Powers (Fall 2013)  
 Phil 555: Events and Dispositions (Summer 2009)  
 Phil 637: Causation (Spring 2008)  
 Phil 520: Natural Kinds (Fall 2009)  
 Phil 579: Metaphysics Bootcamp (Fall 2012)  
 Phil 596: Graduate Dissertation Seminar (Fall of 2008; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14)  
 Phil 637: Graduate Pro-seminar (Fall 2014; 15)  
 Phil 604: Teaching Philosophy (Spring 2015; 16)

**Graduate Tutorials:**

Laws of Nature (Spring 2006)  
 The Problem of Universals (Fall 2007)  
 Possibility (Spring 2008)  
 Causal Powers (Fall 2008)  
 Contemporary Metaphysics (Spring 2009)  
 Persistence and Identity (Spring 2010)  
 Secondary Qualities (Fall 2010)  
 Dispositional Theories of Possibility (Spring 2015)  
 Metaphysics & Ontology (Fall 2015)  
 Kinds and Species (Spring 2016)

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**COURSES TAUGHT** Continued**Undergraduate Courses:**

Phil 420: Natural Kinds (Spring 2008)  
 Phil 398: Philosophy of Colour (Fall 2007; Fall 2010)  
 Phil 329: Metaphysics (Spring 2006; 07; 10; 11; 14; Fall 2008; 15)  
 Phil 321: Philosophy of Science (Spring 2010; 14; Fall 2011)  
 Phil 221: Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (Spring 2006; Fall 2007)  
 Phil 215: Introduction to Deductive Logic (Fall 2005; Fall 2006; Spring 2007)  
 Phil 108: Knowledge and Reality (Fall 2005)

**Undergraduate Tutorials:**

Possible Worlds (Fall 2009)

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**GRADUATE SUPERVISION**

**PhD** Supervisor – 5 Graduated (2010; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015)  
 Committee – 9 Graduated (2010; 2011; 2014; 2014; 2015)  
 – 7 in progress  
**MA** Supervisor – 3 Graduated (2008, 2008, 2009)

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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Society for the Metaphysics of Science  
 American Philosophical Association  
 Canadian Philosophical Association  
 Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science

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**ACADEMIC SERVICE****Journal/Press Referee:**

*Oxford University Press; Routledge Press; Journal of Philosophy; Mind; Australasian Journal of Philosophy; Philosophical Quarterly; American Philosophical Quarterly; Philosophical Studies; Nous; Synthese; Ratio; Philosophy and Phenomenological Research; The Monist; Erkenntnis; Philosophia; Res Publica; Dialectica Analytic Philosophy; Applied Ontology; Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*

**Council Member:**

Society for the Metaphysics of Science (2015-18)

**Research Collaborator:**

—National Center for Biomedical Ontology (NCBO)  
 —NYS Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics Ontology Research Group

**ACADEMIC SERVICE** Continued**Departmental Service:**

UB Philosophy Director of Graduate Studies/Asst Chair (2014-present)  
UB Philosophy Placement Officer (2005-2014)  
UB Philosophy Dept. Executive Committee (2006-2009; 2009-2012; 2013-present)  
UB Philosophy Colloquium (2013-2014)  
UB Philosophy Teaching Quality (2009-2010)  
UB Graduate Program Committee (2005-2007; 2008-2009, 2014-present)  
UB Graduate Admissions (2013-present)  
UB Undergraduate Affairs Committee (2007-2008)

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**REFERENCES**

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST