

# Christian Wüthrich

## Curriculum Vitæ

Department of Philosophy  
9500 Gilman Drive, 0119  
La Jolla, CA 92092, USA  
☎ +1-858-534-3070

✉ [wuthrich@ucsd.edu](mailto:wuthrich@ucsd.edu)

<http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/>

## Primary Academic Positions

- since 2007 **Assistant Professor** of Science Studies, *University of California, San Diego*.
- since 2006 **Assistant Professor** of Philosophy (tenure track), *University of California, San Diego*.

## Other Academic Positions

- since 2007 **Adjunct Fellow** in History and Philosophy of Science, *University of Bern*.
- 2007-2009 **Collaborateur Scientifique** in Philosophy for the Swiss National Science Foundation Project "Properties and Relations", *University of Geneva*.
- 2004-2006 **Lecturer** in History and Philosophy of Science, *University of Bern*.
- 2002-2003 **Teaching Fellow** in History and Philosophy of Science, *University of Pittsburgh*.
- 2001-2002 **Teaching Assistant** in History and Philosophy of Science, *University of Pittsburgh*.
- 1995-1999 **Teaching Assistant** in Theoretical Physics, *University of Bern*.

## Education

- 2006 **PhD in History and Philosophy of Science**, *University of Pittsburgh*.  
Advisor: John Earman  
Title: *Approaching the Planck scale from a generally relativistic point of view: a philosophical appraisal of loop quantum gravity*
- 2005 **MA in Philosophy**, *University of Pittsburgh*.
- 2000 **MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science**, *University of Cambridge*.
- 1999 **MSc in Theoretical Physics**, *University of Bern*.

## Areas of Research and Teaching

- Specialization Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Science
- Competence Metaphysics, Epistemology, History of Science, Logic

## Fellowships, Honours, and Awards (Selection)

- 2008 **Research Assistantship** to hire graduate student, *University of California, San Diego*.
- 2007-2009 **Research Grant**, Swiss National Science Foundation (Project 113688, "Properties and Relations").
- 2005-2006 **Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship**, *University of Pittsburgh*.
- 2003-2004 **Fellowship for Prospective Researchers**, Swiss National Science Foundation.
- 2003-2005 **Dean's Tuition Scholarships**, *University of Pittsburgh*.
- 2000-2001 **Andrew Mellon Scholarship** for graduate study, *University of Pittsburgh*.
- 1999-2000 **Arnold Gerstenberg Studentship** for graduate study in philosophy, *University of Cambridge*.
- 1999-2000 **Cambridge Overseas Trust Bursary**, *University of Cambridge*.

**Travel grants** from the European Science Foundation, United States National Science Foundation, Swiss National Science Foundation, Hungarian National Foundation; University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University, Ohio State University, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of California, San Diego, Concordia University of Montreal, McMaster University, University of Florence, University of Bern, University of Geneva, University of Lausanne.

---

## Articles

- 'Challenging the spacetime structuralist'. *Philosophy of Science* (forthcoming). Preprint <http://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/archive/00004239/>
- 'Do the laws of physics forbid the operation of time machines?'. *Synthese* (in print, with J. Earman and C. Smeenk). Penultimate draft <http://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/archive/00004240/>
- 'A twist in the geometry of rotating black holes: seeking the cause of acausality'. *General Relativity and Gravitation* **40** (2008): 1809-1823 (with H. Andréka and I. Némethi). Earlier preprint <http://arxiv.org/abs/0708.2324/>
- 'Zeitreisen und Zeitmaschinen' (in German). In T. Müller (ed.), *Philosophie der Zeit: Neue analytische Ansätze*, Vittorio Klostermann (Frankfurt a.M., 2007), 191-219.
- 'To quantize or not to quantize: fact and folklore in quantum gravity'. *Philosophy of Science* **72** (2005): 777-788. Preprint <http://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/archive/00001972/>
- 'Time Machines'. In E.N. Zalta (ed.), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2004 Edition). <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/time-machine/> (with J. Earman).
- 'Generic incomparability of infinite-dimensional entangled states'. *Physics Letters A* **303** (2002): 121-124 (with R. Clifton and B. Hepburn). Preprint <http://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0205063/>
- 'Henri Laueners offener Transzendentalismus' (in German). *Information Philosophie* **28/5** (2000): 34-41 (with P. Keller, S. Leuenberger and N. Nussbaum).

---

## Articles in Preparation

- 'The many lives of presentism'.
- 'Probabilities, causality, determinism'. To appear in C. Beisbart and S. Hartmann (eds.), *Probabilities in Physics*, Oxford University Press (Oxford, 2009).
- 'Time travel and time machines'. To appear in C. Callender (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Time*, Oxford University Press (Oxford, 2009).
- 'The problem of time in canonical quantum gravity'. To appear in *Philosophy Compass*.
- 'On the philosophy of quantum gravity' (TBC). To appear in 2009 in a special edition of *Matière Première, Revue d'Épistémologie et d'Études Matérialistes* edited by Soazig Le Bihan.

---

## Book Reviews

- Review of Katherine Brading and Elena Castellani (eds.), *Symmetries in physics: philosophical reflections*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* **36** (2005): 576-582.
- Review of Nick Bostrom, *Anthropic Bias: Observation Selection Effects in Science and Philosophy*, New York: Routledge, 2002. *Philosophy of Science* **71** (2004): 230-232.
- Review of Helena Eilstein (ed.), *A Collection of Polish Works on Philosophical Problems of Time and Spacetime*, Dordrecht: Kluwer, 2002. *Erkenntnis* **60** (2004): 265-270.

---

## Presentations

- 8 November 2008 'Challenging the spacetime structuralist', 21st Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Pittsburgh.
- 6 October 2008 'Who wants to take a ride on a time machine?', Science Studies colloquium, University of California, San Diego.
- 3 September 2008 'Conceivability and possibility: a tutorial', 8th eidos workshop, University of Geneva.
- 19 August 2008 'Demarcating a position: is presentism really distinct from eternalism?' 7th eidos workshop, University of Geneva.
- 1 August 2008 'Einstein's nemesis conquered at last?', Geneva Summer School in the Philosophy of Physics, Arolla (Switzerland).
- 31 July 2008 'Let's take a ride on a time machine', Geneva Summer School in the Philosophy of Physics, Arolla (Switzerland).
- 15 July 2008 'The many lives of presentism', eidos Metaphysics Conference, Geneva.
- 14 June 2008 'No presentism in quantum gravity', Third International Conference on the Nature and Ontology of Spacetime, Concordia University, Montréal.
- 21 March 2008 Comment on Bradford Skow's 'Local and global relativity principles', Pacific APA, Pasadena.
- 21 December 2007 'Challenging the spacetime structuralist', 3rd eidos workshop, University of Geneva.
- 12 September 2007 'The end of time', 2nd eidos workshop, University of Geneva.
- 28 January 2007 'Loop quantum big bang', Southern California Group in the Philosophy of Physics, UC Irvine.
- 30 June 2006 'Presentism, Becoming, and the Rietdijk-Putnam Argument Reconsidered', Department of Philosophy, University of Florence.
- 17 June 2006 'Albert Einstein's *annus mirabilis* of 1905 in Bern and its implications for the world', Sigma Xi, Swiss Chapter, Bern.
- 24 March 2006 'Challenging the spacetime structuralist', Philosophy of Physics Meeting, Centre Romand for Logic, History and Philosophy of Science, University of Lausanne.
- 27/30 January 2006 'Approaching the Planck scale from a generally relativistic point of view', Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Indiana University; Department of Philosophy, Ohio State University.
- 26 January 2006 'Singularities, time machines, and the future of gravity', Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Indiana University.
- 13 January 2006 'Quantum gravity from a generally relativistic point of view', Colloquium in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Bern.
- 18 November 2005 'Mit Einstein auf Zeitreisen' (in German), Naturwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft (Society of Natural Sciences), Winterthur.
- 10 November 2005 'Das Schiffsmastexperiment—eines der wichtigsten Gedankenexperimente der Physik der frühen Neuzeit' (in German), Cantonal Meeting of College Teachers of Information Science, Mathematics, and Physics, Thun.
- 4 September 2005 'General covariance in quantum general relativity', Philosophical and Foundational Issues in Quantum Theory, European Science Foundation Scientific Network Conference, Budapest.
- 8 August 2005 'Misner spacetime as a counterexample against Krasnikov's no-go theorem?' Logic in Hungary, Budapest.
- 5 August 2005 'Let's build a time machine', Logic in Hungary, Budapest.
- 30 July 2005 'Foundational issues in loop quantum gravity', New PhDs' Seminar in Physics and Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of Illinois at Chicago.
- 15 July 2005 'Costs and gains of a Hamiltonian formulation of general relativity', Philosophy, Probability and Physics Lecture Series, University of Konstanz.
- 30 June 2005 'Die Bedeutung von Albert Einsteins *Annus mirabilis* 1905 für Bern—und für die Welt' (in German), Chambre of Commerce and of Industry of the Canton of Bern.
- 5 April 2005 'Einstein und de Sitter: Grenzen der Mathematik oder viel Lärm um nichts?' (in German), Astronomical Society Bern.

- 12 March 2005 'Einstein's nemesis conquered at last? The fate of singularities in loop quantum cosmology', Seventh International Conference on the History of General Relativity, La Orotava, Tenerife.
- 1 December 2004 'Mit Einstein auf Zeitreisen' (in German), Albert Einstein Colloquium for college teachers, University of Bern.
- 19 November 2004 'To quantize or not to quantize: fact and folklore in quantum gravity', 19th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Austin.
- 14 June 2004 'Quantum gravity and the 3D vs. 4D controversy', Rendez-vous des Thésards, Centre de Physique Théorique, Marseille.
- 12 May 2004 'Quantum gravity and the 3D vs. 4D controversy', International Conference on the Ontology of Spacetime, Concordia University, Montréal.
- 30 January 2004 'Conceptualizing time machines', Séminaire de Travail en Physique Mathématique, Centre de Physique Théorique, Marseille.
- 16 January 2004 'Vorwärts im Lichtkegel und zurück in die Vergangenheit: Zeitreisen und Zeitmaschinen in der modernen Physik' (in German), Colloquium for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Bern.
- 21 November 2003 'Philosophical problems at the Planck scale', Philosophy Colloquium, University of Waterloo.
- 12 April 2003 'Does modern physics permit the operation of time machines?' UCSD Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, University of California at San Diego.
- 5 April 2003 'An early episode in the perennial struggle with singularities', Midwest Junto for the History of Science, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.
- 18 March 2003 'Does modern physics permit the operation of time machines?' Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh.
- 16 March 2002 'No-go theorems for time machines in classical general relativity', Fourth Annual Carnegie Mellon University/University of Pittsburgh Graduate Philosophy Conference.

---

## Teaching Experience (full responsibility)

- UCSD **Introduction to Philosophy: Metaphysics** (introductory), Winter Quarter 2009.  
[http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2009\\_014.html](http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2009_014.html)
- Introduction to Philosophy: Theory of Knowledge** (introductory), Spring Quarter 2009, Spring 2007.  
[http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007\\_015.html](http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007_015.html)
- Logic and Decision Making** (introductory), Fall Quarter 2007.  
[http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007\\_012.html](http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007_012.html)
- Freshman Seminar: Paradoxes** (introductory), Fall Quarter 2007.  
[http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007\\_087.html](http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007_087.html)
- Philosophy of Science** (intermediate), Spring Quarter 2008, Winter 2007.  
[http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2008\\_145.html](http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2008_145.html)
- Philosophy of Physics: Spacetime** (intermediate), Fall Quarter 2007.  
[http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007\\_146.html](http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007_146.html)
- Philosophy of Physics: Quantum Mechanics** (intermediate), Winter Quarter 2009.
- Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics** (PhD seminar), Spring Quarter 2009.
- Heat, Time, and Roulette Wheels** (PhD seminar, with Craig Callender), Spring 2008.  
[http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2008\\_285.html](http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2008_285.html)
- Philosophy of Space, Time, and Spacetime** (PhD seminar), Spring Quarter 2007.  
[http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007\\_285.html](http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/wuthrich/teaching/2007_285.html)
- Bern **Introduction to Philosophy of Physics** (intermediate), Summer Semester 2006.  
<http://www.philoscience.unibe.ch/lehre/event?id=158>
- Einstein 1905** (intermediate), Summer Semester 2005.  
<http://www.philoscience.unibe.ch/lehre/event?id=119>
- Paradoxes** (intermediate), Winter Semester 2004-2005.  
<http://www.philoscience.unibe.ch/lehre/event?id=116>

- Philosophy of Time and Spacetime** (intermediate), Summer Semester 2004.  
<http://www.philoscience.unibe.ch/lehre/event?id=96>
- Pittsburgh **Problem Solving** (introductory), Spring Term 2003.
- Principles of Scientific Reasoning** (introductory), Fall Term 2002.

---

## Other Educational Experiences

- Summer 2008 **Geneva Summer School in the Philosophy of Physics.**  
 Co-organization, responsible for scientific program  
<http://www.philosophie.ch/eidos/events2008/summerschool.shtml>
- since 2006 **Member of PhD Committee of Ioan Muntean.**  
 University of California, San Diego
- 2004 **Centre de Physique Théorique**, *Centre National de Recherche Scientifique*, Marseille.  
 Visiting scholar (8 months)
- Fall 2003 **Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics and University of Waterloo.**  
 Visiting scholar simultaneously at the Perimeter Institute and at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Waterloo (4 months)
- 2003 **New Teaching Assistant Orientation**, *University of Pittsburgh*.  
 Instructor
- 1998 **Holiday School**, *Recent Developments in Gravitational Physics*, Theoretical-Physical Institute, University of Jena.

---

## Professional Services: Refereeing

- External Reviewer MSc thesis, University of Sydney, September 2008.
- Funding Agencies The United States National Science Foundation (NSF), Swiss National Science Foundation.
- Publishers Thomson Learning, World Scientific.
- Journals *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *Foundations of Physics*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Naturwissenschaften*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*.
- Conferences Third Annual Pittsburgh Graduate Philosophy Conference (2001), Sixth International Pittsburgh Graduate Philosophy Conference (2004).

---

## Other Professional Services

- Member Consulting board of *Dialectica* (since September 2005).  
 Scientific Media Advisory Board of the Forum Einstein 2005 Bern.
- Organizer Southern California Reading Group in Philosophy of Physics (since September 2007).
- Co-organizer First Geneva Summer School in the Philosophy of Physics (2008).  
 Fifth Annual Pittsburgh Graduate Philosophy Conference (2003).

---

## Intramural Service

- Co-organizer Colloquium Series, Department of Philosophy, UCSD (2007-09).
- Member Graduate Program Review Committee, Department of Philosophy, UCSD (Fall 2008).  
 Academic Senate Committee for Administrative Computing and Telecommunications (since July 2008).  
 University Child Care Oversight Committee, UCSD (January 2007-June 2008).
- Faculty Advisor for Science Studies for philosophy students, UCSD (since July 2007).

---

## Professional Memberships

- British Society for the Philosophy of Science (since 2000).
- Philosophy of Science Association (since 2000).
- International Spacetime Society (since 2004).
- American Philosophical Association (since 2005).