

# Michael T. Stuart, Ph.D.

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## Academic Appointments

- 2016-18 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2015-16 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh

## Education

- 2010-15 Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto  
**Dissertation:** *Thought Experiments in Science*  
**Committee:** Yiftach Fehige, James R. Brown, Joseph Berkovitz, Catherine Elgin
- 2009-10 M.A. in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto
- 2007-8 M.A. in Philosophy, York University
- 2003-7 B.A. in Philosophy, York University, summa cum laude

## Publications

### Edited volumes

- 2018 [\*The Routledge Companion to Thought Experiments\*](#). London: Routledge (with Y. Fehige and J. Brown).
- 2014 [\*Thought Experiments\*](#), special issue of *Perspectives on Science* 22:2 (with Y. Fehige).

## Journal articles

- 2017      [“Imagination: A Sine Qua Non of Science.”](#) *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* Vol. XVII, No. 49: 9-32.
- 2016      [“Norton and the Logic of Thought Experiments.”](#) *Epistemologia* 26: 451–466.
- [“Taming Theory with Thought Experiments: Understanding and Scientific Progress.”](#) *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science* 58: 24-33. ([Highlighted in Nature Physics 12: 723](#))
- 2014      [“Cognitive Science and Thought Experiments: A Refutation of Paul Thagard.”](#) *Perspectives on Science* 22: 98-121.
- [“On the Origins of the Philosophy of Thought Experiments: The Forerun.”](#) *Perspectives on Science* 22: 13-54 (with Y. Fehige).
- [“Introduction to the Special Issue on Thought Experiments.”](#) *Perspectives on Science* 22: 1-12 (with Y. Fehige).

## Book chapters

- Forthcoming      “The Role of Imagination in Social Scientific Discovery: Why Machine Discoverers Will Need Imagination Algorithms.” In M. Addis et al. (eds.), *Scientific Discovery in the Social Sciences*. Springer Synthese Library.
- “The Content-Dependence of Imaginative Resistance.” In F. Cova and S. Rénhault (eds.), *Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Aesthetics* (with H. Kim and M. Kneer).
- 2018      [“How Thought Experiments Increase Understanding.”](#) In M. Stuart et al. (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Thought Experiments*. London: Routledge.
- [“Thought Experiments: The State of the Art.”](#) In M. Stuart et al. (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Thought Experiments*. London: Routledge.
- 2015      [“Philosophical Conceptual Analysis as an Experimental Method.”](#) Pp. 267-292 in Gamerschlag et al. (eds.), *Meaning, Frames and Conceptual Representation*. Düsseldorf: Düsseldorf University Press

## Book Reviews

- 2013      [“Review: Ierodiakonou, K. and Roux, S. \(eds.\), Thought Experiments in Methodological and Historical Contexts.”](#) *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science* 3: 154-57 (with J. Brown).
- 2012      [“Review: James R. Brown, Laboratory of the Mind.”](#) *Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science* 6: 237-241.

## Blog posts

- 2017      TBA. Written for [Auxiliary Hypotheses](#), a blog by the *British Journal for Philosophy of Science* (post forthcoming).
- [“Using Imagination to Empathize with Space Robots, Demons, and Other Weird Stuff.”](#) Written for [The Junkyard of the Mind](#), a blog on the imagination curated by Amy Kind of Claremont McKenna College.
- 2016      [“Better Science Policy in Canada.”](#) Written for [The Bubble Chamber](#), a blog on the history and philosophy of science.

## Awards, fellowships and grants

- 2017      Aristotelian Society Conference Grant (\$530)
- Mind Association Major Conference Grant (\$2 305)
- British Society of Aesthetics small conference grant (\$2 595)
- 2016      Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh (\$54 830)
- 2015      IHPST Travel Award (\$1 500)
- Faculty of Arts and Science Conference Fund (\$500)
- 2014      University of Toronto Doctoral Completion Award (\$15 718)
- IHPST Travel Award (\$1 500)
- 2013-14    Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15 000)
- 2009-14    University of Toronto Fellowship (\$112 00)
- 2013      IHPST Travel Award (\$1 300)

- School of Graduate Studies Research Travel Grant (\$3 250)
- Visiting scholar at University of Bielefeld, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Science Student Award: Germany/Europe Research Fund (\$2 760)
- 2012-13 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15 000)
- 2011 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Travel Grant, provided by the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (\$112)
- School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant (\$270)
- 2010 University of Toronto Travel Grant (\$1 200 and \$752)
- York University Professional Development Grant (\$500)
- 2008 Elizabeth Bentham Prize for highest mark in Theoretical Philosophy Exam, York University (\$500)
- 2009 York University Graduate Scholarships (\$1 334 and \$1 333)
- 2008 York University Graduate Scholarships (\$1 334)
- 2007 York University Undergraduate Bursary (\$1 510)
- 2006 York University Undergraduate Bursary (\$1 510, \$360 and \$175)
- 2006 Ontario Student Opportunity Grant (\$3 886)
- 2005 York University Undergraduate Bursaries (\$355)
- York University Continuing Student Scholarship (\$884)

## Research talks

- 2018 TBA. Leeds HPS seminar. March 7 (scheduled).
- How Scientists Use Imagination to Learn about the World. Lecture for the Royal Institute of Philosophy. St. Mary's University. February 27 (tentative date).
- 2017 A Different Use for Scientific Thought Experiments. Aarhus colloquium. November 8.
- Epistemology in Two Minds: Should we Bother with a Dual Systems Account of Imagination? Imagination and Knowledge Workshop. University of Konstanz, September 28-29.

Desiderata for Epistemic Representations: Results from an Ethnographic Study of a Computational Systems Biology Lab. UK Integrated HPS workshop, Nottingham, June 22.

Thought Experiments and Computer Simulations are Metaphorical Experiments. University of Geneva, June 8-9.

“A Diagram Is a [Computer] Model”: Imagination as a Mediator between Visual and Formal. Imagination in Science Conference. University of Leeds, June 6.

An Account of Imagination for Epistemology of Thought Experiments. Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik, April 24-28.

A Framework for Epistemology of the Imagination. Nordic Network for Philosophy of Science, Copenhagen, April 20-21.

Imagining Our Way to Three Kinds of Understanding. University of Iceland, March 8.

A Dual Systems Account of Scientific Imagination. Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics, February 6.

2016 Empirical Philosophy of Imagination. Evidence and Imagination. Graz, November 3-5.

To Formal Models and Back Again. University of Macerata, October 18.

Imagination in the Lab. Quadrennial Fellows Conference of the Center for Philosophy of Science. Lund University, Lund, July 11-13.

Scientific Understanding and the Role of Imagination. Summer Seminar on Understanding, part of the Capstone Conference for the Varieties of the Understanding Project. Fordham University, June 20-25.

Scientists' Attitudes toward Imagination. Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP). Rowan University, Glasboro, June 17-19.

Some Empirical Constraints on the Epistemology of Imagination. Mind and Brain Conference. New College of the Humanities, London, March 25-26.

Empirically Disambiguating Imagination from Supposition. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Louisville, KY, March 10-12.

2015 The Epistemology of the Imagination. University of Pittsburgh, September 29.

Subjective Elements of Scientific Representation: Empathizing with Black Holes. Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik, April 13-17.

Empathy and the Scientific Method. University of Waterloo, Canada. March 4.

- Imagination in Social Scientific Discovery. Conference on Scientific Discovery in the Social Sciences. London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, Jan 30-31.
- 2014      Commentary on Elliot Sober: Evolutionary Theory, Causal Completeness, and Theism – the Case of “Guided” Mutation. University of Toronto, Canada, April 22.
- Imagination: A Sine Qua Non of Science. Conference on Philosophy of Science. Inter-University Centre, Croatia, April 16.
- 2013      A New Role for Thought Experiments. Konstanz University, Germany, June 14.
- Thought Experiments, Kant, and Theory Proliferation. University of Bielefeld, Germany, June 11.
- A Solution to the Problem of Coordination. University of Bonn, Germany, May 28.
- Thought Experiments and the Connection between Theory and Experience. University of Macerata, Italy, May 8.
- 2012      The Cognitive Science of Thought Experiments: Paul Thagard's Skepticism. The Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science. University of Waterloo, Canada, May 26-29.
- Paul Thagard: A Refutation. Thought Experiments in Science: Four Blind Spots - An International Workshop. University of Toronto, Canada, March 23.
- 2011      Can Bayesian Network Modeling Solve Problems in the Philosophy of Science? 14th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science. Nancy University, France, July 19-26.
- What Can Philosophy Learn from the Clock-in-the-Box Thought Experiment? The Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science. University of New Brunswick, Canada, May 29-31.
- The Notion of a ‘Very Generalized Logic’ in Thought Experiments. Philosophy of Science Colloquium. University of Johannesburg, South Africa, January 18.
- 2010      Thought Experiments: Arguing with John Norton. Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference. University of Waikato, New Zealand, December 5 –9.
- The Role of Henri Poincaré and Pierre Duhem in the Establishment of Conventionalism in Modern Philosophy of Science. History of the Philosophy of Science Conference at the Central European University. Budapest, Hungary, June 24-27.
- The Role of Henri Poincaré and Pierre Duhem in the Establishment of Conventionalism in Modern Philosophy of Science. The Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science. Concordia University, Canada, May 28-31.
- 2009      Philosophical Conceptual Analysis: The Move from Use to Meaning. Second

Conference on Concept Types and Frames in Language, Cognition, and Science at Heinrich Heine University, Germany, August 24-26.

Charity as a Bridge from Use to Meaning. University of Western Interdisciplinary Student Symposium on Language Research, University of Western Ontario, Canada, March 6-7.

## Teaching Appointments

- 2014-15      Instructor: Natural Science and Social Issues (HPS324), University of Toronto
- 2013-14      Instructor: Scientific Revolutions I (HPS210), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Natural Science and Social Issues (HPS324), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Reason and Truth (PHLA10H3), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: History of Evolutionary Biology (JHE353), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Symbolic Logic I (PHLB50H3), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Natural Science and Social Issues (HPS324), University of Toronto
- 2012-13      Teaching Assistant: Modern Symbolic Logic (PHL245), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Scientific Revolutions II (HPS211), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Philosophy (PHL100), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Modern Symbolic Logic (PHL245), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Scientific Revolutions II (HPS211), University of Toronto
- 2011-12      Teaching Assistant: Introductory Philosophy of Science (HPS250), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Philosophy (PHL100), University of Toronto
- Teaching Assistant: Modern Symbolic Logic (PHL245), University of Toronto

- 2010-11 Teaching Assistant: Scientific Revolutions I (HPS210), University of Toronto
- 2008-9 Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL1000), York University

## Professional activities

- Ongoing Referee: *Philosophy of Science*, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science*, *Springer Monographs*, *Dialectica*, *TOPOI*, *Epistemologia*, Canadian Philosophical Association, *Philosophical Papers*.
- 2016-17 Conference organizer (with Fiora Salis): “Bridging the gap: Scientific Imagination meets Aesthetic Imagination,” to be held in October 2017 at the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics.
- 2015-16 Organizer: “Better Science Policy in Canada,” a conference at the University of Toronto, January 23. [Write up here](#).
- One of 18 chosen participants for the Capstone Conference of the Varieties of the Understanding Project.
- Co-organizer: “(Re)Engineering Biology: The Emerging Engineering Paradigm in Biomedical Engineering, Systems Biology, and Synthetic Biology,” a conference at the Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh.
- Member of experimental philosophy lab, University of Pittsburgh.
- Lab member: work with Susan Carey on thought experiments.
- 2013 Co-organizer: Philosophy of Science workshop, September – December 2013, University of Toronto.
- 2010 Invited participant: Science without Data: The Role of Thought Experiments in Empirical Investigations, a conference at Dalhousie University, Halifax.
- Copyeditor: *Spontaneous Generations*, a peer-reviewed journal in the *History and Philosophy of Science*.
- Co-organizer: Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology at the Université de Montréal.
- 2008-9 Co-organizer: “150 Years After Origin: Biological, Historical and Philosophical Perspectives” conference, University of Toronto.
- University of Toronto Museum of Scientific Instruments exhibit, November 21-24.



Research Assistant for Prof. Denis Walsh on the history and philosophy of biology.  
Project: vitalism and epigeneticism

Conference Committee: Second Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference  
Acceptance, June 4-5, 2009, York University.

2007-8      Research assistant for Prof. Jagdish Hattiangadi. Project: skepticism in early  
philosophy of science

## Affiliations

American Philosophical Association (APA), British Society for Philosophy of Science (BSPS),  
British Society of Aesthetics (BSA), Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Canadian  
Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS), History of Philosophy of Science  
(HOPOS), Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Nordic Network for Philosophy of  
Science (NNPS)

## Languages

English (native)  
Spanish (fluent)  
French (conversational, reading and writing)  
German (reading)