

# PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Department of Philosophy  
The University of Western Ontario

Modern science gives rise to a number of issues that are philosophical in nature. These include conceptual issues concerning the nature of scientific theories, the relations between theories, and the relation between our theories and the natural world. They also include methodological issues concerning evidence and explanation in science. The Philosophy of Science Group at The University of Western Ontario strives to engage these issues in a way that is informed by contact with both contemporary science and scientists, and with the history of science. The group maintains active connections with the departments of Applied Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, Biology, and with the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.

*“So many people today – and even professional scientists – seem to me like someone who has seen thousands of trees but has never seen a forest. A knowledge of the historic and philosophical background gives that kind of independence from prejudices of his generation from which most scientists are suffering. This independence created by philosophical insight is – in my opinion – the mark of distinction between a mere artisan or specialist and a real seeker after truth.”*

— Albert Einstein

## PHILOSOPHERS OF SCIENCE AT WESTERN

### Robert Batterman

*Rotman Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Science*

- Intertheoretic relations, explanation, and emergence; idealizations in physics; philosophy of applied mathematics.

### Louis Charland

- Philosophy of emotion, philosophy of psychiatry, philosophy of cognitive science.

### William Demopoulos

- The impact of developments in logic on general philosophy and on philosophy of science; the impact of philosophical theses on the continuing articulation of the concepts of modern logic.

### Robert DiSalle

*Chair, Philosophy of Science Area Committee*

- History and philosophy of science; philosophical problems of space and time; connections between philosophy of science and analytic philosophy.

### Erin Eaker

- Philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology; philosophy of biology.

### William Harper

- Newton, Kant; decision theory, game theory; history and philosophy of science.

### Ausonio Marras

- Philosophy of mind and foundations of psychology; non-reductive physicalism, multiple realizability, mental causation.

### Wayne Myrvold

*Director, Philosophy of Science Field*

- Philosophy of physics, interpretation of quantum mechanics; confirmation theory; philosophy of biology.

### John Nicholas

- Pragmatist approaches to philosophy of science; statistical inference, induction; perception.

### Kathleen Okruhlik

*Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities*

- 17th- and 18th-century natural philosophy; the Vienna Circle; spacetime; laws of nature; feminist critiques of science; science and values.

### Robert Stainton

- Cognitive science, epistemology and philosophy of mind; philosophy of language; formal semantics of natural language; pragmatics.

### Christopher Viger

- Philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychology, philosophy of cognitive science; logic.

For further information about the Philosophy of Science Research Group, see [www.philscience.uwo.ca](http://www.philscience.uwo.ca)

For information about Graduate Studies at Western, including funding information and application procedures, see [www.uwo.ca/philosophy/graduate](http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/graduate) or e-mail [gradphil@uwo.ca](mailto:gradphil@uwo.ca)



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