

JOEL VELASCO

Joel D. Velasco
Box 43092
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-3092
<http://joelvelasco.net>

CV 1-1-17
Cell: (770) 403-4363
joel@joelvelasco.net

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Texas Tech University
Assistant Professor in Philosophy, 2013-
California Institute of Technology
Ahmanson Postdoctoral Instructor in Philosophy, 2011-2013
Cornell University
Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy, 2010-2011
Stanford University
Humanities Fellow and Lecturer in Philosophy, 2008-2010

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Logic, Metaphysics, Epistemology

EDUCATION

Ph. D. Philosophy	2008	University of Wisconsin-Madison
M.A. Philosophy	2004	University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.A. Philosophy	2001	University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.A. Mathematics	2001	University of Wisconsin-Madison

DISSERTATION

Philosophy and the Tree of Life: The Metaphysics and Epistemology of Phylogenetic Systematics Chair: Elliott Sober (Philosophy)

PUBLICATIONS (available at <http://joelvelasco.net>)

16. Updating on the Credences of Others: Disagreement, Agreement, and Synergy (with Kenny Easwaran, Christopher Hitchcock, and Luke Fenton-Glynn) *Philosopher's Imprint* **16**(11) (2016) pp. 1-39.
15. Axiomatic Opportunities and Obstacles for Inferring a Species Tree from Gene Trees (with Mike Steel) *Systematic Biology* **63**(5) (2014) 772-778
14. Evolutionary and Newtonian Forces (with Christopher Hitchcock) *Ergo* **1**(2) (2014) pp. 39-77

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

13. Deep Conventionalism about Evolutionary Groups (with Matthew Barker)
Philosophy of Science **80**(5) (2013) pp. 971-982
12. “Philosophy and Phylogenetics” *Philosophy Compass* **8**(10) (2013) pp. 990-998
11. “Phylogeny as Population History” *Philosophy and Theory in Biology* (2013) 5:e402
10. “The Tree of Life”
In Michael Ruse (ed.) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Darwin and Evolutionary Thought*. Cambridge University Press (2013) 340-345
9. “The Future of Systematics: Tree-Thinking Without the Tree”
Philosophy of Science **79** (2012) 624-636
8. “Objective and Subjective Probability in Gene Expression”
Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology **110** (2012) 5-10
7. “Species, genes, and the tree of life”
British Journal for the Philosophy of Science **61** (2010) 599-619
6. “Testing for treeness: Lateral gene transfer, phylogenetic inference, and model selection” (with Elliott Sober) *Biology & Philosophy* **25** (2010) 675-687
5. “When monophyly is not enough: Exclusivity as the key to defining a phylogenetic species concept” *Biology & Philosophy* **24** (2009) 473-486
4. “Species concepts should not conflict with evolutionary history, but often do”
Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences **39** (2008) 407–414
3. “The prior probabilities of phylogenetic trees”
Biology & Philosophy **23** (2008) 455–473
2. “The internodal species concept: a response to “The tree, the network, and the species” *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* **93** (2008) 865–869
1. “Why non-uniform priors on clades are both unavoidable and unobjectionable”
Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution **45** (2007) 748–749

BOOK REVIEWS

2. Review of *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Biology*. ed. Michael Ruse,
Metascience **21** (2012) 359-362
1. Review of *The Species Problem* by Richard Richards. *The Philosophical Review* **120** (2011) 598-602

PRESENTATIONS (peer reviewed marked with “**PR**”)

55. “Universal Common Ancestry, LUCA, and the Tree of Life: Three Distinct Hypotheses about the Evolution of Life”
PR - Philosophy of Science Association meeting (Atlanta, CA Nov 2016)
54. “The Principles of Rationality: Deciding What to Believe and How to Reason”
- Texas Tech Alumni College (October, 2016)
- 53-52. “Updating on the Credences of Others” (written with Kenny Easwaran, Luke Glynn, and Chris Hitchcock)
- Texas Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference, (April, 2016)
PR - Formal Epistemology Workshop, WUSTL, (May, 2015)
51. “Judgment Aggregation and Phylogenetics”
PR - International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (Montreal, July 2015)
50. “A Disunified Account of Probability in Biology”
PR - International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (Montreal, July 2015)
49. “The Hypothetical Imperative as a Rule of Inference” (with Jeremy Schwartz)
PR - St. Louis Conference on Reasons and Rationality, St. Louis (May, 2015)
48. “Conditionals and Actions” (comments on a paper by Hanti Lin)
- Formal Epistemology Workshop, USC, (June, 2014)
- 47-44. “The Tree of Life: Metaphors, Models, and Reality”
- Metaphors and Analogies in Biology, Bristol, UK, (June 2014)
- Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil (October, 2013)
- Texas Tech University (May, 2013)
- California Institute of Technology (April, 2013)
43. “Evolutionary and Newtonian Forces” (written with Chris Hitchcock)
- Texas Tech University (May, 2013)
PR - APA Pacific Division (San Francisco, April 2013)
- 42-41. “Deep Conventionalism about Evolutionary Groups” (with Matt Barker)
PR - Philosophy of Science Association meeting (San Diego, CA Nov 2012)
PR - Philosophy of Biology at Madison (Madison, Wisconsin, May 2012)
- 40-36. “The Future of Systematics: Tree-Thinking Without the Tree”
- University of Michigan (September, 2012)
- Texas Tech University (February, 2012)

- Gustavus Adolphus College (February, 2012)
 - Ohio State University (January, 2012)
 - California Institute of Technology (January, 2012)
35. “Objective and Subjective Probability”
Chance at the Heart of the Cell (Lyon, France, Nov 2011)
34. **PR** “Why Context Matters: An Inference Relative Understanding of Clade”
International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of
Biology (Salt Lake City, Utah, July 2011)
- PRESENTATIONS (continued)**
- 33-30. “Tree-Thinking Without the Tree”
- PR** - Philosophy of Science Association meeting (Montreal, Quebec, Nov 2010)
 - Reason with Diagrams Workshop (Stanford University, May 2010)
 - Bristol University (January 2010)
 - London School of Economics (December 2009)
29. “Prospects for a Universal Phylogeny”
Questioning the Tree of Life (London, UK, July 2010)
28. **PR** “The Last Universal Common Ancestor: Ontology, Semantics, and
Epistemology” Philosophy of Biology at Madison (Madison, Wisconsin,
May 2010)
- 27-25. “Species, Genes, and the Tree of Life”
- PR** - APA Pacific Division (San Francisco, April 2010)
 - Stanford Humanities Fellows (May 2009)
 - California Academy of Sciences (February 2009)
24. **PR** “Mathematics and Leibnizian Necessity”
APA Central Division (Chicago, February 2010)
23. **PR** “The Tree of Life: From Darwin to Today”
150 years after *Origin*: Biological, Historical, and Philosophical
Perspectives, Toronto, November 2009)
22. “Inferring Phylogenetic Networks”
Perspectives on the Tree of Life (Halifax, July 2009)
21. **PR** “Parsimony and Model Selection in Phylogenetic Networks”
Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice (Minneapolis, June 2009)
- 20-19. “The Meaning of Phylogeny”
- University of Minnesota (May 2009)
 - Bay Area Biosystematists meeting (April 2009)

18. **PR** “Developing a Phylogenetic Species Concept”
APA Pacific Division (Vancouver, April 2009)

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- 17-9. “The Consequences of Tree-Thinking: A Phylogenetic Perspective on the Species Problem”
- California State University – Los Angeles (January, 2012)
 - Concordia University (February 2011)
 - Virginia Tech (January 2011)
 - George Mason University (February 2010)
 - Cornell University (January 2010)
 - Stanford University (February 2009)
 - University of Western Ontario (February 2008)
 - Southern Methodist University (February 2008)
 - Florida State University (February 2008)
8. **PR** “What Species Trees Cannot Be”
Philosophy of Science Association meeting (Pittsburgh, November 2008)
7. **PR** “The Biological Species Concept and Evolutionary History”
APA Central Division (Chicago, April 2008)
- 6-3. “The Prior Probabilities of Phylogenetic Trees”
- University of Washington, Seattle (January 2008)
 - University of California, Irvine (January 2008)
- PR** - International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (Exeter, July 2007)
- PR** - Formal Epistemology Workshop (Carnegie Mellon University, June 2007)
2. “What is the Tree of Life? Phylogenetic Classification and the Species Problem” Philosophy Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison (December 2007)
1. “Bayesian Phylogenetics and the Yule Birth Process”
Evolution Seminar Series, University of Wisconsin, Madison (September 2007)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2016 Humanities Fellowship at Texas Tech University

Network member of “Questioning the Tree of Life”

An international network of philosophers and biologists, which is the recipient of a £70,000 grant from the Leverhulme Trust (2009-2011)

Travel Grant from the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (July 2007) Funds for conference travel

Travel Grant from Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies (July 2007) Funds for conference travel

Travel Award, Philosophy Department, Carnegie Mellon University (May 2007)
Funds for conference travel

University Dissertation Fellowship (Spring 2007)
Highly competitive funding from UW for dissertation research

Vilas Travel Fellowship, UW-Madison (2006)
Competitive university award to dissertators for conference travel expenses

Letters and Science Teaching Fellowship (2006) [nominated]
Lone department nominee for university-wide competition

Winner of Oliver Prize (2004)
Annual award for best essay by a philosophy graduate student at UW-Madison

University of Wisconsin's Early Excellence in Teaching award (Fall 2003)
[nominated] Lone department nominee for university-wide competition

TEACHING–FULL RESPONSIBILITY

For full teaching details including course descriptions, syllabi, etc. please visit <http://joelvelasco.net/teaching>

At Texas Tech University, Fall 2013-

Seminar in Logic (grad seminar)
Philosophy of Science: Evolution of Cooperation (grad seminar)
Epistemology: Bayesian Epistemology (grad seminar)
Philosophy of Science: Causation, Laws, and Explanation (grad seminar)
Introduction to Philosophy
Logic
Logic (honors)
Science in Society
Philosophy of Science
Philosophy of Biology
Advanced Logic
Epistemology
Independent studies with undergraduates and graduate students in:
Logic, Game Theory, Decision Theory, Epistemology, Causation,
Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Biology, Causation in
Physics

At the California Institute of Technology, Fall 2011-Spring 2013

Philosophy of Biology: Probability, Causation, and Laws in Biology
Probability, Evidence, and Belief
Introduction to Philosophy of Science
Introduction to Philosophy of Biology
Knowledge and Reality (freshman introduction to Humanities) (2x)

At Cornell University, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

Probability and Epistemology (undergraduate/graduate)
Philosophy of Biology
Philosophy and Biological Systematics (graduate seminar)
Introduction to Deductive Logic

At Stanford University, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

Topics in Philosophy - For Education Program for Gifted Youth
Evidence and Evolution (graduate seminar)
Probability and Epistemology (graduate seminar)
Philosophy of Biology (2x)

At the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Spring 2005-Spring 2008

Elementary Logic (2x)
Reason in Communication

Contemporary Moral Issues (2x as writing intensive, 1x as lecture)

OUTREACH

“Universal Common Ancestry” (debate with Paul Nelson)
St. Edward’s University, Austin, TX, October 2016

“The Tree of Life: A Debate about Common Ancestry” (debate with Paul Nelson),
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, March 2014

“The Many Facets of Altruism” – 3 day seminar given at the Telluride House at
Cornell University for the Telluride Association Winter Program (January, 2011)

“Evolution, Creationism, and Evidence” - Presentation at Mt. Horeb high school
(Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin), May, 2006

SERVICE

Served on hiring committees for Texas Tech University (fall 2012 academic year,
fall 2013 academic year, fall 2016 academic year)

Philosophy department faculty awards committee (2016-present)

Philosophy department scholarship committee (2014-present)

Philosophy department colloquium committee (2013-2016)

University Core Curriculum Committee (Philosophy, Language, and Culture
subcommittee) 2015-present

Contemporary Moral Issues Training Instructor, UW-Madison 2005-2006

Trained other graduate students to teach their own writing intensive, applied
ethics course. Discussed topic selection, course organization, and how to teach
writing.

Served on planning committees for:

Darwin Day at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (February, 2007)

Bay Area Biosystematists (2009-2010)

Planned and hosted meetings/workshops:

Soberfest (Wisconsin-Madison, May 2013)

Race in Philosophy and Biology (Stanford, January 2010)

Workshop on Phylogenetic Trees (Stanford, May 2010)

REFEREE FOR:

National Science Foundation

And for:

Journal Articles:

Acta Biotheoretica
Biological Journal of the Linnean Society
Biological Reviews
Biology & Philosophy
Biology Direct
British Journal for the Philosophy of Science
Synthese
Dialogue
Erkenntnis
Episteme
International Studies in the Philosophy of Science
Philosophy and Theory in Biology
Philosophy of Science
Southwest Philosophy Review
Studies in History and Philosophy of Science (Part A)
Studies in History and Philosophy of Science (Part C)
Systematic Biology
The Philosophical Review

Books/ Book Proposals

Palgrave Macmillan Press
MIT Press
Cambridge University Press
University of Chicago Press

REFERENCES

Elliott Sober

Hans Reichenbach Professor &
William F. Vilas Research Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin—Madison
600 N. Park Street
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 263-7478
ersober@wisc.edu

Richard Boyd

Susan Linn Sage Professor
Sage School of Philosophy
Cornell University
Goldwin Smith Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
(607) 255-3687
rnb1@cornell.edu

Samir Okasha

Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
University of Bristol
9 Woodland Rd
Bristol BS8 1TB, U.K
+44 (0)117 928 7610
Samir.Okasha@bristol.ac.uk

Marc Ereshefsky

Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4 Canada
(403) 220-3162
ereshefs@ucalgary.ca

Christopher Hitchcock

MC 101-40
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91125
626-395-3602
cricky@caltech.edu