

Aaron Novick

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Areas of specialization

Philosophy of biology, philosophy of science

Areas of competence

Ancient philosophy, classical Chinese philosophy, history of biology

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Washington - Assistant Professor

September 2020 – present

Purdue University - Assistant Professor

August 2019 – May 2020

Dalhousie University - Postdoctoral fellow

September 2018 – July 2019

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh

August 2012 – September 2018

Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science

The College of Wooster

August 2008 – May 2012

B.A. in Philosophy and Biology

PUBLICATIONS

- 1) Novick, Aaron, Adrian M. Currie, Eden W. McQueen, and Nathan L. Brouwer. 2020. "Kon-Tiki Experiments." *Philosophy of Science* 87(2). <https://doi.org/10.1086/707553>
- 2) Novick, Aaron and Raphael Scholl. 2020. "Presume it Not: True Causes in the Search for the Basis of Heredity." *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 71(1):59-86. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axy001> [received **Editors' Choice** designation]
- 3) Novick, Aaron and W. Ford Doolittle. 2020. "Horizontal Persistence and the Complexity Hypothesis." *Biology & Philosophy* 35:2. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-019-9727-6>
- 4) Wideman, Jeremy, Aaron Novick, Sergio A. Muñoz-Gómez, and W. Ford Doolittle. 2019. "Neutral Evolution of Cellular Phenotypes." *Current Opinion in Genetics and Development* 59:87-94. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gde.2019.09.004>
- 5) Novick, Aaron and W. Ford Doolittle. 2019. "How Microbes 'Jeopardize' the Modern Synthesis." *PLoS Genetics* 15(5):e1008166. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1008166>
- 6) Novick, Aaron. 2019. "Cuvierian Functionalism." *Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology*. 11:5. <https://doi.org/10.3998/ptpbio.16039257.0011.005>

PUBLICATIONS (CONT'D)

- 7) Novick, Aaron. 2019. "A Reappraisal of Charles Darwin's Engagement with the Work of William Sharp Macleay." *Journal of the History of Biology* 52(2):245-270. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10739-018-9541-z>
- 8) Novick, Aaron. 2018. "The Fine Structure of 'Homology'." *Biology and Philosophy* 33:6. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-018-9617-3>
- 9) Novick, Aaron. 2017. "Metaphysics and the *Vera Causa* Ideal: The Nun's Priest's Tale." *Erkenntnis* 82(5):1161-1176. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-016-9863-1>
- 10) Novick, Aaron. 2016. "On the Origins of the Quinarian System of Classification." *Journal of the History of Biology* 49(1):95-133. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10739-015-9419-2>
- 11) Lehtinen, Richard M., Travis L. Calkins, Aaron M. Novick, and Jessica L. McQuigg. 2016. "Re-assessing the Conservation Status of an Island Endemic Frog." *Journal of Herpetology* 50(2):249-255. <https://doi.org/10.1670/14-161>

BOOK REVIEWS & EDITORIALS

- 1) Novick, Aaron. 2020. Review of *Cuvier's History of the Natural Sciences: Twenty Lessons from the First Half of the Eighteenth Century*. Collection Archives. Edited and annotated by Theodore W. Pietsch; Foreword by Pietro Corsi; translated by Fanja Andriamialisoa. *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 95 (2):131. <https://doi.org/10.1086/709095>

PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations

- 1) "'Species' without Species." *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*, Oslo, Norway, July 11, 2019.
- 2) "Cuvierian Functionalism." *Philosophy of Science Association*. Seattle, WA, November, 2018.
- 3) "The Prodigal Genetics Returns." *Society for the Philosophy of Science and Practice*, Ghent, Belgium, June 2018.
- 4) "The Geometry of Life." *Models and Simulations 8*, Columbia, SC, March 16, 2018.
- 5) "A Reappraisal of Charles Darwin's Engagement with the Work of William Sharp Macleay." *History of Science Society*, Atlanta, GA, November 06, 2016.
- 6) "Presume it Not: True Causes and Unconceived Alternatives in the Search for the Basis of Heredity." *Society for the Philosophy of Science and Practice*, Glassboro, NJ, June 19, 2016.
- 7) "Metaphysics and the *Vera Causa* Ideal: The Nun's Priest's Tale." *North Carolina Philosophical Society*, Boone, NC, February 27, 2016.
- 8) [Co-author] "Presume it Not: True Causes and Unconceived Alternatives in the Search for the Basis of Heredity." *The History of Science and Contemporary Scientific Realism*, Indianapolis, IA, February 21, 2016.
- 9) "On the Origins of the Quinarian System of Classification." *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*, Montréal, Canada, July 07, 2015.

Invited presentations

- 1) "How Biologists Argue." Annual Philosophy Honor Society Lecture, The College of Wooster, February 28, 2019.
- 2) "Horizontal Persistence and the Complexity Hypothesis." History of Human Sciences Workshop, University of Chicago, February 20, 2019.
- 3) "Theory change in biology during the long 20th century." *Science and Technology in the Long 20th century*, West Lafayette, IN, November 16, 2019.

PRESENTATIONS (CONT'D)

Invited presentations (cont'd)

- 4) "Horizontal Persistence and the Complexity Hypothesis." Dalhousie University, May 17, 2019.
- 5) "Ontologically Cumulative Kuhnian Revolutions." Dalhousie University, March 29, 2019.
- 6) "Cuvierian Functionalism." Purdue University, January 16, 2019.
- 7) "Cuvierian Functionalism." Dalhousie University, November 23, 2018.
- 8) "The Fine Structure of 'Homology'." Dalhousie University, July 16, 2018.
- 9) Commentary on Bloch-Mullins, "Soups, sparks, and contrast classes: Stability and dynamism in the concept 'synapse'." *Investigating Life: A Celebration of the Career of James G. Lennox*, Pittsburgh, PA, April 21, 2018.
- 10) "Structuralism and Functionalism in Evolutionary Theory." The College of Wooster, September 07, 2017.
- 11) "Structuralism and Functionalism in Evolutionary Theory." University of Pittsburgh Biological Sciences Department, September 06, 2017.
- 12) "How Not (and How) to Construct an Argument for Scientific Realism." The College of Wooster, October 03, 2013.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 1) Organizer, Epistemology of Science conference, University of Pittsburgh, September 2019
- 2) Unofficial advisor for an undergraduate honors thesis on a topic in philosophy of biology, University of Pittsburgh, 2017-2018
- 3) Graduate student representative to the faculty, HPS department, University of Pittsburgh, 2016
- 4) Committee to select speakers for the HPS annual lecture series, 2016
- 5) Organizer of graduate student work-in-progress talks, HPS department, University of Pittsburgh, 2015

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 1) (*forthcoming*) "Structure and Function." *Biomusings*. ([link forthcoming](#))
- 2) (09/2020) "Free and Easy Conversing." Animated video ([link 1](#); [link 2](#))
- 3) (04/2020) "Free and Easy Conversing." Co-authored with Liam Bright ([link](#))
- 4) (11/2019) Guest on the *Embrace the Void* podcast ([link](#))
- 5) (01/2018) "Zhengming." Co-authored with Liam Bright ([link](#))

REVIEWING

Philosophy of Science (x4); *British Journal for Philosophy of Science* (x3); *Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology* (x2); *Biology & Philosophy* (x1); *Erkenntnis* (x1); *Synthese* (x1); *BioScience* (x1); *Journal of Morphology* (x1)

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 1) Philosophy of Science Association
- 2) International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology