

Curriculum vitae

Damian Fernandez-Beanato

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QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Philosophy (specialism: Philosophy of Science) - No Corrections, 2022

University of Bristol, UK

Title: "A Working Scientific Demarcation"

Supervisors: Prof. James Ladyman and Prof. Samir Okasha

External Examiner: Prof. Nancy Cartwright

Master's Degree in Epistemology and History of Science, 2017

University of Tres de Febrero, Argentina

Supervisor: Dr. Cristián Carman

Licentiate's Degree in History (specialism: History of Science), 2016

University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Supervisors: Prof. Leonardo Levinas and Dr. Aníbal Szapiro

Teaching Certification as Licentiate, University of Buenos Aires

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (course for teachers), University of Bristol

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

SADAF – Argentine Society for Philosophical Analysis

EPSA – European Philosophy of Science Association

UBACyT – University of Buenos Aires Science and Technology projects (2016–2018)

FUNDING

Up to £174,000 – British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship application via Birkbeck College, University of London (institutionally approved, currently under assessment by the BA)

Amount not specified – St John's College Research Fellowships 2024, University of Cambridge (currently under assessment)

£4,890 – Fundación Beca scholarship (2018–2022)

£10,000 – University of Bristol’s Faculty of Arts Alumni Bursary (2018)

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph project, “A Working Scientific Demarcation”, full manuscript under review at Springer.

Fernandez-Beanato, D. (2023), “Studies on Cosmology and Biology in Ancient Philosophy”, *Metascience* 32(2). DOI: 10.1007/s11016-023-00884-3.

Fernandez-Beanato, D. (2023), “Apocalyptic Pseudoarchaeology”, *Skeptical Inquirer* 47(2).

Fernandez-Beanato, D. (2021), “Feng shui and the Demarcation Project”, *Science & Education* 30(6), 1333–1351. DOI: 10.1007/s11191-021-00240-z (impact factor: 3.0).

Fernandez-Beanato, D. (2020b), “The Multicriterial Approach to the Problem of Demarcation”, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 51(3), 375–390. DOI: 10.1007/s10838-020-09507-5 (impact factor: 1.0). Erratum: Fernandez-Beanato, D. (2020c), “Correction to: The Multicriterial Approach to the Problem of Demarcation”, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 51(3), 391. DOI: 10.1007/s10838-020-09518-2.

Fernandez-Beanato, D. (2020a), “Cicero’s Demarcation of Science: A Report of Shared Criteria”, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A* 83, 97–102. DOI: 10.1016/j.shpsa.2020.04.002 (impact factor: 1.38).

Fernandez-Beanato, D. (2019). “Review of The Metaphysics of Science and Aim-Oriented Empiricism, by Nicholas Maxwell”, *Principia* 23(3), 529–33. DOI: 10.5007/1808-1711.2019v23n3p529.

Mentions in reference works

Pigliucci, M. (2023), “Pseudoscience and the Demarcation Problem”, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<https://iep.utm.edu/pseudoscience-demarcation>).

Hansson, S. O. (2021), “Science and Pseudo-Science”, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2021 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.) (<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2021/entries/pseudo-science>).

RESEARCH STRATEGY

I plan to complete several outputs over the next four years, most of which will be part of a new and ongoing research programme (described below) that I developed in 2023 after completing my PhD investigation. Whilst I am bidding for funding to complete this work, my work does not require it, which means that I will be able to publish regardless (though the scope of the research is likely to

differ). I have submitted a bid to the British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships scheme through the University of London (which is under assessment) and aim to submit a bid to the Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships scheme for the execution of my research proposal, which is as follows:

“Understanding the Dynamics of Unwarranted Beliefs”: This investigative project seeks to empirically examine and allow us to predict the origins and dynamics of “post-truth” phenomena such as belief in unwarranted conspiracy theories, unjustified denialisms, debunked fake news, and pseudosciences, which are in their heyday and are dangerous for democracy and our world. I aim to uncover the underlying logical, epistemic, psychological, and sociological mechanisms that contribute to the formation, spread, and persistence of such beliefs.

I will build on recent cutting-edge research to explore the viability of interpreting these phenomena as complex systems involving three main elements:

- 1) social dynamics typical of communities of faith, in the form of collective reinforcement and social interactions that shape and perpetuate unwarranted beliefs;
- 2) epistemic immunising strategies, which protect those beliefs from critical scrutiny; and
- 3) doctrinal components, which provide a structured belief system. This research will examine and shed light on the intriguing connections between these three elements, which differentiate belief in debunked fake news, denialisms, unwarranted conspiracy theories, and pseudoscience from belief in reliable sources of knowledge such as science and common sense.

Outputs: I anticipate that the proposed investigation will generate many valuable research outputs. These will be published as peer-reviewed academic journal articles, which could span multiple publications to adequately capture the depth and breadth of the findings. Furthermore, I envisage the possibility of presenting select material as book chapters. Ultimately, I plan to consolidate the research outcomes into a comprehensive monograph, serving as a definitive resource on the subject. All these outputs will be available for the 2028 REF assessment. I also aim to organise seminars and workshops to engage with the broader community.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

A range of positions up to Senior Associate level, teaching a variety of modules, as follows:

University of Bristol (2019–2023)

Department of Philosophy

- Logic and Critical Thinking (2019–2023)
- Introduction to Philosophy “B” (Ethics/Moral Philosophy) (2022)
- Philosophical Writing & Reading Workshops (2021)
- Thinking Philosophically (2020)
- Introduction to Formal Logic (2019–2020)

Department of History

- Decolonise the Future! (2023)

School of Sociology, Politics, and International Studies

- Political Concepts (2021)

Foundation Year in Arts and Social Sciences

- What Does it Mean to Be Human? (2019–2020)

University of Buenos Aires (2014–2018)

Department of Philosophy

- Philosophy of Science (2017–2018)

Department of History

- Social History of Science and Techniques (2014–2018)

Common Basic Cycle

- Introduction to Scientific Thought (2016–2018)
- Methodology of the Social Sciences (2016–2018)

PEER-REVIEWING

Manuscrito, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Foundations of Science, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, Principia: An International Journal of Epistemology, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science, and Revista Colombiana de Filosofía de la Ciencia.

PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES AND PANELS

2024 25th World Congress of Philosophy, to be held in Rome, Italy, from August 1 to 8. “A Working Scientific Demarcation”.

2021 VIII Congress of the Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences, Mons, Belgium, September 8 to 10. “The Multicriterial Approach to the Problem of Demarcation”.

2018 XI meeting of the Association of Philosophy and History of Science of the Southern Cone, Buenos Aires, Argentina, from June 11 to 15. “Epistemological aspects of the acceptance of the existence of a plurality of observed galaxies in the 1920’s”.

2016 X Philosophy and History of Science Meeting of the Southern Cone, Águas de Lindoia, São Paulo, Brazil, September 12 to 15. “Science and pseudoscience in Antiquity: Demarcationist intuitions in the work of Augustine of Hippo”.

2015 XXVI Philosophy and History of Science Conference, La Falda, Córdoba, Argentina. “Atomism in the *Diversarum hereseon liber* of Philastrius of Brescia”.

2015 IV National Congress of Philosophy, Chilean Association of Philosophy, Santiago, Chile. “The decisive experience and the context of acceptance in the debate about the size of the Universe in the 1920s”.

2015 XVII Congress of the Argentine Philosophical Association, Santa Fe, Argentina. “Historical aspects of the debate about the size of the Universe in the first half of the Twentieth century”.

2014 I International Workshop on Epistemology and History of Astronomy, Quilmes, Argentina, December 1 to 2. “The discovery of the magnitude of scale and distribution of the Cosmos as a modern case of a crucial experience and conceptual change”.

2014 IX Philosophy and History of Science Meeting of the Southern Cone and XXV Conference on Philosophy and History of Science, Los Cocos, Argentina. “The obsolescence of Christianity in the cosmology of Giordano Bruno”.

2013 XIII International Congress on Medieval Studies – XXIII Updating Course in Medieval History, Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 2 to 4. “Bibliographical commentary of the article ‘Political Communication and Political Power in the Middle Ages: A Conceptual Journey’, by Dr. Jan Dumolyn, of Ghent University”.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2023 Summer School: “Current debates in Philosophy of Science: The role of values in scientific knowledge” – Extension and Student Welfare Office, University of Buenos Aires.

2018–2022 Presentations on philosophy at various secondary schools in the Bristol, UK, area.

2020 Senior Associate Teacher for the unit “Thinking Philosophically”, Department of Philosophy, University of Bristol.

2018–2019 “Insights into Philosophy” programme mentor, Faculty Engagement Office, University of Bristol.