

William Stafford

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AOS: Philosophy of mathematics and logic, Philosophy of language, Mathematical logic

AOC: Kant, History of analytic philosophy, Rational choice theory

Education

2017-21 PhD in Philosophy, University of California, Irvine

Advisors: Sean Walsh and Kai Wehmeier Committee: Toby Meadows

Title: *Something Valid This Way Comes: A Study of Neologicism and Proof-Theoretic Validity*

Abstract: The dissertation explores two attempts to explain the oft-claimed special character of mathematical and logical knowledge. These projects are logicism in the philosophy of mathematics and proof-theoretic validity in the philosophy of logic. It contains three chapters exploring the limits of these two projects. In both cases we find the formal results offer a mixed blessing to the philosophical projects. In the first chapter, I explore logicism and a response to the ontologically inflationary nature of their distinctive definitions by making a connection to modern work on the potentially infinite. The next two chapters address proof-theoretic validity. The second chapter examines the consequences of recent results which show that proof-theoretic validity isn't a semantics for intuitionistic logic. The third chapter shows that it is, in fact, a semantics for generalised inquisitive logic.

2015-17 MA in Philosophy, University of California, Irvine

2013-15 MPhil in Philosophy, University of Warwick

2009-13 BA (HONS) in Philosophy, University of Stirling (First class)

Appointments

2022-24 MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER University of Bristol, UK

Project: *Truth in Proof-Theoretic Semantics*

2021-22 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

Project: *Meaningful Formalism: A Philosophy of Mathematics for Type Theory*

A20,Su-A19 TEACHING ASSOCIATE University of California, Irvine, USA

Publications

Stafford, W. Proof-Theoretic Semantics and Inquisitive Logic. *J Philos Logic* **50**, 1199–1229 (2021).

Stafford, W. The Potential in Frege's Theorem. *Review of Symbolic Logic* 1-25 (2020 online).

Works in Progress

Drafts available on request.

Proof-Theoretic Validity and Prawitz's conjecture (under review)

Analyticity of Logic and Proof-Theoretic Semantics (under review)

The Decidability of Proof-Theoretic Validity (under review)

Generalised Proof-Theoretic Validity for Intuitionistic Logic (in preparation)

Genus as a Measure of Complexity of Proof with Andy Arana (in preparation)

The Untyped λ -Calculus as a Foundation for Natural Language Semantics (in preparation)

Prizes and Awards

2020-21 *LPS Service Award*-Award recognising outstanding service to department and its graduate program.

2020 *A. Kimball Romney Award for Outstanding Graduate Paper*

2013 *Murray MacBeath Prize*- Awarded for achieving the best First Class Honours performance in Philosophy

Fellowships and Scholarships

2022-24 *Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship*

Winter 2021 *Werner Fellowship*-Prestigious fellowship from estate of Christian Werner funding research pursuits of the UCI Social Science's top graduate students

Spring 2020 *Otto W. Shaler Scholarship*- Financial support to international graduate students who demonstrate outstanding past academic achievement as well as future promise

W20,S19,W18 *Associate Dean Fellowship*

2015-21 *School of Social Sciences Merit Fellowship*

2013-15 *Arts and Humanities Research Council Research preparation masters studentship*

Talks

- June 2022 Postgraduate Session of the Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind,
Following all the rules; Intuitionistic completeness for generalised proof-theoretic validity
- Dec 2021 the 3rd Workshop on Proof Theory and its Applications: Fuchal,
Decidability and Finitary Character of Proof-Theoretic Validity
- Sep 2021 Logica 2021: Hejnice, *Decidability and Finitary Character of Proof-Theoretic Validity*
- July 2021 Association of Symbolic Logic European Summer Meeting (Logic Colloquium): online/Poznań,
Completeness of intuitionistic logic for generalised proof-theoretic semantics
- June 2021 Australasian Association of Logic 2021: online, *Analyticity of Logic and Proof-Theoretic Semantics*
- Apr 2021 Logic Super Group: online, *In Defence of Proof-Theoretic Semantics*
- Apr 2021 APA Pacific Division: online, *Frege's Theorem and the Potential Infinite*
- Feb 2021 Seminars of the Department of Logic, Czech Academy of Sciences: online,
In Defence of Proof-Theoretic Semantics
- Nov 2020 Midwest PhilMath Workshop: online, *Genus as a Measure of Complexity of Proof*
- July 2020 MCMP Colloquium in Mathematical Philosophy: Logic and Language: online,
The Logic of Proof-Theoretic Validity
- July 2020 Orange County and Inland Empire History and Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic: online,
The Logic of Proof-Theoretic Validity
- Mar 2019 Third Tübingen Conference on Proof-Theoretic Semantics: Tübingen,
An Inquisitive Proof-Theoretic Semantics
- July 2018 Association of Symbolic Logic European Summer Meeting (Logic Colloquium): Udine,
An Analysis of Property Theory with Currying Types as an Intensional Semantics
- Aug 2017 Association of Symbolic Logic European Summer Meeting (Logic Colloquium): Stockholm,
Genus as a Measure of Complexity of Proof
- July 2016 Association of Symbolic Logic European Summer Meeting (Logic Colloquium): Leeds,
The Modal Analogue of Frege's Theorem

Teaching

Instructor, UCI: Critical Reasoning, Making of Modern Science, Introduction to Logic

Teaching Assistant, UCI: Metalogic, Making of Modern Science, Naturalised Epistemology, Introduction to Symbolic Logic, Introduction to Inductive Logic, Introduction to Linguistics (within Language Sciences), Introduction to Psychology (within Psychology)

Teaching Assistant, Warwick: Introduction to Logic

Professional Service

2018-19 Graduate Representative for the Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, UCI

Public Outreach

2021 Co-organiser WonderPhilosophy - workshop on applying to graduate school for first-generation students

2019 Ask a Philosopher - booths in public places where anyone can discuss philosophical questions

2014-15 Philosophy in Schools, The Philosophy Foundation - guided discussions in schools

Graduate courses taken

- Logic: Proof Theory: S. Walsh
- Martin-Löf Type Theory: S. Walsh
- Intensional Logic: S. Walsh
- Formal Theories of Truth: S. Walsh
- Logic Seminar 2016-20: J. Heis, R. Mendelsohn, S. Walsh, K. Wehmeier, T. Meadows
- Logic III: Incompleteness: W. Dean
- Logic II: Metalogic: W. Dean
- Mathematics: Mathematical Logic A,B,C: M. Zeman and N. Trang
- Set Theory A, B: M. Zeman
- Philosophy of Maths: Philosophy of Set Theory: P. Maddy
- Philosophy of Mathematics: P. Maddy
- Probability and Randomness: J. Barrett, S. Huttegger, S. Walsh
- History: History of Analytic Philosophy: J. Heis
- Vision Theory: P. Maddy
- Kant: J. Heis
- Wittgenstein: P. Maddy
- Descartes' Meditations: G. Longworth, M. Soteriou
- Philosophy of Science: Probability and Determinism: J. Manchek
- Game Theory: S. Huttegger, J. Barrett
- Quantum Physics: J. Barrett
- Signalling Games: B. Skyrms
- Other: Topics in the Philosophy of Mind & Language: N. Eilan J. Roessler
- Self-knowledge: Q. Cassam