

Oliver John Watson Matthewson (John)

Date of Birth: 08/11/73
Nationality: New Zealand

C/O Philosophy Program
Research School of Social Sciences
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Profile

PhD student at the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. Expected completion date: April 2009.

Areas of Specialisation: Philosophy of science, Philosophy of biology
Areas of Competence: Critical thinking, Logic, Epistemology

Current principle areas of research interest include model-based science, particularly in population biology, “new” mechanistic explanation and medical sciences.

Education

(September 2005 - 2009) Doctoral Candidate in Philosophy, Australian National University, Canberra

Topic: Trade-offs, generality, and limits in model-based science
Supervisors: Kim Sterelny, Peter Godfrey-Smith, Alan Hájek

2004 Bachelor of Arts (Hons 1st class), Philosophy, Victoria University of Wellington

1999 Bachelor in Clinical Medicine and Surgery, (MBCHB) Otago University

1999 Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, Otago University

Scholarships and awards

2005-2008 ANU Endowment for Excellence Graduate Scholarship

2005 J L Stewart Scholarship (Victoria)

2005 Victoria Postgraduate Scholarship (Master's level)

2004 Victoria Graduate Award

1998 Distinction, Medical Skills and Knowledge (Otago)

1996 Pavel Tichy prize, best student in logic (Otago)

Publications

Forthcoming, ‘The structure of tradeoffs in model building’, *Synthese* (With Michael Weisberg)

2007 Book review of ‘Ecological Orbits’ by Lev Ginzberg and Mark Colyvan, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 85, Issue 4, Pages 697 – 700

Under Review

‘Mechanistic Explanation Without Mechanisms’ (With Brett Calcott)

Presentations: Philosophy

2008 “The Heterogeneity of Biological Systems”, NZAAP, Christchurch

2008 “Tradeoffs in Model Building: a More Target-Oriented Approach” **[Invited speaker]**, Model-Based Representation in Scientific Practice workshop, National University of Singapore

2008 “Types of Generality” Australasian Association of Philosophy conference (AAP), Melbourne

2008 “Explanation and Generality” Student seminar series, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

2008 “Modelling Generality” Tempo and Mode Seminar Series, Canberra

2007 “Tradeoffs and Explanation” RSSS PhilSoc seminar, Canberra

2007 "Three Kinds of Generality" Philosophy of Biology Graduate Conference, Kioloa
2007 "Modelling Tradeoffs and Scientific Explanation" International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology biennial conference, Exeter, UK
2007 "Explaining with Mathematical Models" ANU postgraduate conference, Kioloa
2007 "Model Tradeoffs – Motivating the Issues" Tempo and Mode Seminar series, Canberra
2006 "Model Mechanisms" (With Brett Calcott) AAP New Zealand meeting, Wellington
2006 "Trade-offs in Model-Based Science" RSSH PhilSoc seminar, Canberra
2006 "Models and Mechanistic Science" PBDB1 workshop, NSW Australia
2006 "Trading Generalities" AAP, Canberra
2006 "Model Mechanisms" (With Brett Calcott) RSSH PhilSoc seminar, Canberra
2005 "A Puzzle about Generality" AAP New Zealand meeting, Dunedin

**Selected Presentations:
Other**

2005 Co-Author with Firestone, R. T. & Gander, P. H. Factors affecting access to services for the assessment of sleep apnoea symptoms in taxi drivers. Poster Presentation to the Associated Professional Sleep Societies, Denver, CO
2003 "Young Stroke: Causes and Diagnosis", awarded 2nd Place, best presentation by medical registrar for the year, Hutt Hospital Wellington NZ

Employment

**2008 Guest Lecturer
Victoria University
PHIL 104** Argument and Analysis

**2006 Assistant Lecturer
Victoria University
PHIL 111** Introduction to Logic
PHIL 208/308 Philosophy of Science

**2005 Tutor
Victoria University
PHIL 123** Critical Thinking
PHIL 111 Introduction to Logic
PHIL 104 Argument and Analysis

**2004-2005 Research Assistant,
Massey University Sleep/Wake Centre**

**1999-2003, 2005 Medical Doctor; House Surgeon and Medical Registrar levels.
Wellington, Masterton, Hutt and Kenepuru Hospitals**

Professional Service

Referee for *Biology and Philosophy*
 Project grant assessor for the Australian National Medical Research Council
2008 Convener, Tempo and Mode series B seminars, ANU
2007 Convener, PhilSoc departmental seminar series, RSSH, ANU
2007 Founder and convener, Explanation reading group, ANU
2006 Organiser, Australasian Post Graduate Philosophy of Biology Conference, Kioloa Campus
2005 Founder and convener, Philosophy of Biology reading group, Victoria University

Professional Affiliations

Current member of the Australasian Association of Philosophy
 Current member of the American Philosophical Association
 Current postgraduate associate of the Australian Research Network in the Philosophy and History of Molecular, Ecological and Evolutionary Biosciences
 Current member of the Tempo and Mode Centre for Studies in Macroevolution and Macroecology