

SISKA DE BAERDEMAEKER

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: History & Philosophy of Physics (Cosmology & Astrophysics), History & Philosophy of Science

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Biomedical Ethics, Logic & Critical Reasoning

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020-current **Postdoctoral Researcher** – Stockholm University, Philosophy. Project: “Non-Empirical Theory Confirmation in Fundamental Physics”. PI: Richard Dawid.

EDUCATION

2020 **PhD** – University of Pittsburgh, History & Philosophy of Science
Dissertation: “Cosmology: The Impossible Integration?”
Committee: John Norton (chair), Arthur Kosowsky, Sandra Mitchell, James Woodward

2019 **Visiting Graduate Student** – University of Edinburgh, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, under supervision of Michela Massimi (February 10 – March 13)

2013 **M.A.** – KU Leuven, Philosophy

2014 **B.Sc.** – KU Leuven, Physics

2012 **B.A.** – KU Leuven, Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming **Siska De Baerdemaeker** & Nora Boyd. Jump Ship, Shift Gears, or Just Keep on Chugging: Assessing the Responses to Tensions between Theory and Evidence in Contemporary Cosmology. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsb.2020.08.002>

2021 **Siska De Baerdemaeker**. Method-Driven Experiments and the Search for Dark Matter. *Philosophy of Science*. 88 (1). <https://doi.org/10.1086/710055>

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Invited presentations

2021 “Exploratory Observations with Stellar Streams”, Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany (June 23)

2021 Lunch seminar of the Oskar Klein Center, Stockholm, Sweden (June 14)

2021 “Exploratory Observations with Stellar Streams” (lightning talk), Philosophy of Dark Matter Workshop, Bonn, Germany (March 29-30)

2021 “Method-driven Experiments and the Search for Dark Matter”
Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden (March 4)

- Research Seminar, Lichtenberg Group for History and Philosophy of Physics, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany (February 9)
 - Seminars in Philosophy of Science, Laboratoire Astroparticule & Cosmologie, Paris, France (January 14)
- 2020 “What Scale Has to Do with It”, Higher Seminar in the Philosophy of Science, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden (September 17)
- 2020 PHEP 2020: Early Career Conference in Philosophy of Particle and High-Energy Physics, Pittsburgh, USA (November 14 – 15) – *Cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic*
- 2020 “Experiments in Cosmology”, Conference on the Foundations of Cosmology and Quantum Gravity, Abu Dhabi, UAE (January 19 – 21)
- 2019 “Method-driven Experiments in Astroparticle Physics”
- Workshop on Evidence in Astrophysics, Madrid, Spain (June 21)
 - Symposium Series of the CLPS, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium (March 15)
- 2018 “Evidential Integration in Cosmology”, 2nd Leuven – Buenos Aires Workshop in Philosophy of Physics, Leuven, Belgium (July 22 – 23)

Peer-reviewed presentations

- 2021 “Exploratory Observations with Stellar Streams”, Sciences of the Origin: The Challenges of Selection Effects and Biases, Online conference (June 3 – 5)
- 2020 “The Early Universe as the Ultimate Accelerator: A New Cautionary Tale” (poster presentation), 27th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Baltimore, USA – *Postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic*
- 2019 “Jump Ship, Shift Gears, or Just Keep on Chugging: Assessing the Responses to Tensions between Theory and Evidence in Contemporary Cosmology”, with Nora Boyd, Dark Matter and Modified Gravity Conference, Aachen, Germany (February 6 – 8)
- 2018 “Integrating in the Face of Contradiction: Lessons from Cosmology”, 26th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Seattle, WA (November 1 – 4)
- 2018 “Evidential Integration in Cosmology”, &HPS: International Conference on Integrated History and Philosophy of Science, Hannover, Germany (July 5 – 7)
- 2018 “Integrating evidence in cosmology: the search for dark matter”, 7th Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice Biennial Conference, Ghent, Belgium (June 29 – July 1)
- 2016 “Georges Lemaître and the Role of Observations in Early Twentieth Century Relativistic Cosmology”
- 32nd Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science: “Gravity: Its History and Philosophy”, University of Boulder, Boulder, CO (October 30)
 - History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (November 2)

Invited discussant or commentator

- 2021 Panelist for closing discussion, Philosophy of Dark Matter Workshop, Bonn, Germany (March 29-30)
- 2019 Comments on “Models in Cosmology: Knowing What to Believe” (John Peacock), Cross-disciplinary Perspectives on Model-Independent Searches, Edinburgh, UK (February 11 – 12)
- 2018 Chair and discussant for “Norton for Everyone? The Material Theory of Induction and Beyond”, Center for Philosophy of Science, Pittsburgh, PA (October 27 – 28)
- 2018 Invited discussant at 22nd Seven Pines Symposium, “What Counts as Evidence?”, Stillwater, MN (May 16 – 20)
- 2017 Invited discussant at 21st Seven Pines Symposium, “Black Holes in the Spotlight”, Stillwater, MN (May 17 – 21)

- 2017 Reading group leader at Philosophy of Cosmology Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center, New York City, NY (May 5)
- 2017 Discussant at “Methodology and Epistemology in Cosmology”, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA (February 10 – 12)
- 2016 Invited discussant at 20th Seven Pines Symposium, “Big Questions. Some Fundamental Problems in Physics”, Stillwater, MN (May 11 – 15)

Summer school

- 2018 Rotman Summer Institute in Philosophy of Cosmology, Ontario, Canada (June 11 – 20)
- 2015 3rd International Summer School in Philosophy of Physics, “The Ontology of Physics”, Saig, Germany (July 20 – 25)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary instructor (Stockholm University)

- 2021 Philosophy of Science I (early Spring)
- 2020 Philosophy of Physics (late Fall)
- 2020 Scientific Method and Research Ethics (co-taught; early Fall)

Primary instructor (University of Pittsburgh)

- 2020 Morality & Medicine: Biomedical Ethics (Spring)
- 2019 Morality & Medicine: Biomedical Ethics (Fall)
- 2018 Space, Time, and Matter: History of Cosmology and Astronomy (Spring)
- 2017 Principles of Scientific Reasoning (Fall)

Teaching assistant (University of Pittsburgh)

- 2016 Mind & Medicine (Spring)
- 2015 Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Fall)

Teaching training

- 2016 – 2018 Achievement in Pedagogy Badge, offered by the Graduate Student Teaching Initiative at the Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pittsburgh
- 2016 AAPT Workshop on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy with a Special Emphasis on Inclusive Pedagogy, University of Pittsburgh (February 4)

SERVICE

Conference organization

- 2021 Co-organizer of a workshop on integrative strategies, Center for Philosophy of Science, Pittsburgh, USA – *Postponed to Spring 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic*
- 2017 Co-organizer of “Super-PAC: Early Career Workshop in Philosophy of Astrophysics and Cosmology”, Center for Philosophy of Science, Pittsburgh, USA (October 27 – 29)
- 2015, 2017 Reviewer for the Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference

Service to the department

- 2021 Co-founder of a Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) chapter at Stockholm University
- 2018 – 2019 Co-organizer of a philosophy of cosmology discussion group with participants from the HPS department and the Physics department at the University of Pittsburgh
- 2018 – 2019 Graduate student representative on the ALS Speaker Nomination Committee

- 2018 HPS Graduate Student Representative
- 2016 – 2017 HPS Representative to the Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization
- 2015 HPS Work In Progress Talks Organizer

Public outreach

- 2019 Public Lecture at the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh: “The Rise and Fall of Anomalies in Science”, Pittsburgh, PA (September 13)
- 2019 Guest on “Let’s Go to the Archives, Episode 2: Harmonia Macrocosmica”, available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bf7z0ME2A>
- 2018 Astro on Tap talk: “You say you want a revolution (in your cosmological theories)?”, Pittsburgh, PA (April 26)
- 2018 Public Lecture at the Allegheny Observatory: “Space Oddities”, Pittsburgh, PA (April 20). With Nora Boyd.
- 2017 Co-creator of an Instant HPS video on the discovery of Brownian motion, “The Botanist and the Sphynx”, available here : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qukJ_gpN_VSY. With William Penn and John Norton.

Reviewer

Philosophy of Science (2017, 2019, 2x2021), British Journal for Philosophy of Science (2020), European Journal for Philosophy of Science (2020), Studies in History and Philosophy of Science (2019), Synthese (2018)

AWARDS, PRIZES & RECOGNITION

- 2021 Seed fellowship from the New Directions in Philosophy of Cosmology research project, funded by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation
- 2020, 2019 Nominee for the A&S GSO Elizabeth Baranger Teaching Award
- 2019, 2018, Wesley C. Salmon Fund, Research grant
- 2016, 2015
- 2018, 2017 Outstanding Presenter Award at Pitt Graduate Student Expo
- 2014 – 2015 Honorary Fellow of the Belgian American Education Fund