

# James Nguyen

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy  
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### Specialisation

AOS Philosophy of Science

AOC Aesthetics, Philosophy of Language, Logic, Rational Choice Theory (including Formal Epistemology)

### Academic Appointments

2018– **Jacobsen Fellow**, *Department of Philosophy*, University College London (UCL), and *Institute of Philosophy*, University of London.

2016– **Research Associate**, *Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science*, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

2016–2018 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, *History and Philosophy of Science Program*, University of Notre Dame.

### Education

2012–2016 **PhD Philosophy**, LSE, Thesis: How Models Represent.

Supervisor: Roman Frigg. Examiners: Catherine Z. Elgin (Harvard) and Phyllis Illari (UCL).

2010–2011 **MA Philosophy**, King's College London (KCL).

2007–2010 **BA Philosophy**, Girton College, University of Cambridge.

### Publications (co-authored work is fully collaborative unless indicated otherwise)

#### Book

2020 *Modelling Nature: An Opinionated Introduction to Scientific Representation* (with Roman Frigg), Synthese Library - Studies in Epistemology, Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science, Cham: Springer

#### Journal Articles

Forthcoming Do Fictions Explain?, *Synthese*

— Mathematics is not the only Language in the Book of Nature (with Roman Frigg, James Nguyen is first author), *Synthese*

2021 Mirrors without Warnings (with Roman Frigg), *Synthese*, 198 pp. 2427-2447

- 2020 Judgement Aggregation in Scientific Collaborations: The Case for Waiving Expertise (with Alexandru Marcoci), *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 84 pp. 66-74
- Unlocking Limits (with Roman Frigg, James Nguyen is first author), *Argumenta* 6(1) pp. 31-45
  - It's Not a Game: Accurate Representation with Toy Models, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 71(3) pp. 1013-1041
  - Why Surplus Structure is not Superfluous (with Nicholas J. Teh and Laura Wells), *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 71(2) pp. 665-695
- 2019 The Limitations of the Arrovian Consistency of Asymmetric Domains, *Theory and Decision* 87(2) pp. 183-199
- Objectivity, Ambiguity, and Theory Choice (with Alexandru Marcoci), *Erkenntnis* 84(2) pp. 343-357
- 2018 The Turn of the Valve: Representing with Material Models (with Roman Frigg), *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 8(2) pp. 205-224
- 2017 Scientific Representation and Theoretical Equivalence, *Philosophy of Science* 84(5) pp. 982-995
- 2016 On the Pragmatic Equivalence between Representing Data and Phenomena, *Philosophy of Science* 83(2) pp. 171-191
- The Fiction View of Models Reloaded (with Roman Frigg), *The Monist* 99(3) pp. 225-242

### Book Chapters

- 2021 Seven Myths About the Fiction View of Models (with Roman Frigg), in A. Cassini and J. Redmond (eds.) *Models and Idealizations in Science*, Cham: Springer, pp. TBC
- 2020 Models and Denotation (with Fiora Salis and Roman Frigg, Fiora Salis is first author), in J. Falguera and C. Martínez-Vidal (eds.) *Abstract Objects: For and Against*, Cham: Springer, pp. 197-219
- 2017 Scientific Representation is Representation as (with Roman Frigg), in H-K. Chao and J. Reiss (eds.) *Philosophy of Science in Practice: Nancy Cartwright and the Nature of Scientific Reasoning*, Cham: Springer, pp. 149-179
- Scientific Rationality by Degrees (with Alexandru Marcoci), in M. Massimi, J-W. Romeijn, and G. Schurz (eds.) *EPSA15 Selected Papers*, Berlin and New York: Springer, pp. 321-333
  - Of Barrels and Pipes: Representation As in Art and Science (with Roman Frigg), in O. Bueno, G. Darby, S. French, and D. Rickles (eds.) *Thinking about Science and Reflecting on Art: Bringing Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Science Together*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 41-61. Reprinted in (2019) S. Wuppuluri and D. Wu (eds.) *On Art and Science: Tango of an Eternally Inseparable Duo*, Cham: Springer, pp. 181-202

### Surveys

- 2017 Models and Representation (with Roman Frigg), in L. Magnani and T. Bertolotti (eds.) *Springer Handbook of Model-Based Science*, Cham: Springer, pp. 49-102
- 2016 Scientific Representation (with Roman Frigg), in E-N. Zalta (ed.) *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2016 Edition, minor correction Spring 2020 Edition)

### Popular

- 2021 What are ‘scientific models’, and how much confidence can we place in them? (with Roman Frigg), *LSE Festival 2021*, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/covid19/2021/02/10/what-are-scientific-models-and-how-much-confidence-can-we-place-in-them/>
- 2018 Modelling Life in Art and Science, *Institute of Arts and Ideas*, <https://iainews.iai.tv/articles/modelling-life-in-art-and-science-auid-1185>

### Teaching (GTA = full responsibility for weekly classes and marking formative and summative work.)

- Spring 2021 External PhD Examiner, University of Bristol
- Fall 2019 Primary Instructor, Art and Value, Birkbeck  
— Joint Primary Instructor (with Tim Button), Senior Seminar, UCL
- Spring 2018 Primary Instructor, Philosophy of Science, Notre Dame
- Fall 2017 Primary Instructor, Further Topics in the Philosophy of Science, Notre Dame  
— “Hours” Mentor, Masters of Fine Art Program, Notre Dame
- Spring 2017 Primary Instructor, Models and Representation, Notre Dame  
— Independent study on Representation in Science and Art, Notre Dame
- Fall 2016 Primary Instructor, Philosophy of Science, Notre Dame
- 2015 Guest Lecturer, Philosophy of Science, LSE
- 2014–15 GTA, Philosophy of Science (Bryan Roberts), LSE
- 2012–16 GTA, Introductory Logic (John Worrall), LSE
- 2013 GTA, Philosophy of Biology (Armin Schulz), LSE

### Awards

- 2019 British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award  
— Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park Postdoctoral Award
- 2018 Jacobsen Fellowship, University of London  
— Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, University of Barcelona (declined in favour of the Jacobsen)
- 2016 Popper Prize (the prize is awarded biennially to an LSE graduate student for distinguished work in an area in which Karl Popper made significant contributions), LSE  
— Class teacher award (for excellence in class teaching), LSE
- 2015 Honourable commendation for excellence in class teaching, LSE

- Graduate travel grant, 8th MuST Conference on Objectivity in Science, Tilburg
- 2014–16 Postgraduate travel fund (multiple), LSE
- 2014 BSPS Graduate travel bursary
- 2012–15 AHRC Doctoral Awards Scheme, LSE
- 2010–11 AHRC Research Preparation Master’s Scheme, KCL

## ■ **Activities** (selected)

- 2020 Co-organiser, Philosophy and Conservation Meet Workshop, University of London
- 2019 Convener, Seminar series on Epistemological Pluralism, University of London
- 2018 Convener, Reading group on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Science, Notre Dame
- 2016 Co-organiser, The Hole Shebang: New Perspectives on the Hole Argument, LSE
  - Co-convener, All London HPS reading group on the Applicability of Mathematics
  - Co-organiser, Explanation, Normativity, and Uncertainty in Economic Modelling, LSE
- 2015 Co-organiser, Symposium on Theory Choice meets Social Choice with Wulf Gaertner, Michael Morreau, Samir Okasha, Nicolas Wüthrich, EPSA15
  - Co-organiser, Eighth Workshop in Decisions, Games and Logic, LSE
- 2014 Co-organiser, Fourth Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Probability, LSE

## ■ **Presentations**

### **Invited** (selected)

- 2021 February, Cognition, Values, Behaviour Lab Meeting, University of Munich (online)  
Modelling a Crisis
- 2020 December, Colloquium, Institute of Philosophy, University of Bern (online)  
Learning From (Literary) Fiction
  - October, FraMEPhys Idealized Models Workshop, University of Birmingham (online)  
Why (At Least Some) Idealisations Aren’t False
  - May, History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of Leeds (online)  
How Fictions Explain
- 2019 September, Philosophy of Science Today: Celebrating 60 years of the BSPS & 70 years of the BJPS, LSE  
The Future of Philosophy of Science (Roundtable Participant)
  - September, Mathematics and its Applications: Philosophical Issues, University of Leeds  
Modelling and Mathematics
  - February, CamPoS Seminar, University of Cambridge  
Non-literal Model Interpretations

- 2018 November, Philosophy of Physics Thursday Seminar, University of Oxford  
Interpreting Models: A Suggestion and its Payoffs
- October, Lakatos Award Workshop, LSE  
Data, Models, and Data Models
- 2017 July, Models and Explanations in Economics, University of Rostock  
Mathematics is not the only Language in the Book of Nature
- 2016 June, Models and Explanations in Economics, University of Innsbruck  
Models, Fictions, and Scientific Representation (with Roman Frigg)
- June, Bristol-LSE Formal Epistemology Workshop, University of Bristol  
Moving Beyond Arrow's Theorem: Social Choice and Theory Choice
  - May, Choice Group, LSE  
Moving Beyond Arrow's Theorem: Social Choice and Theory Choice
- 2015 June, Describing the Abstract and Representing the Real, Cyprus  
Scientific Representation, Structuralism, and Pragmatics (with Roman Frigg)

### **Peer Reviewed**

- 2018 November, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle  
Idealisation, Abstraction, and (Mis)Representation
- March, Models and Simulations 8, South Carolina  
It's not a Game: Accurate Representation with Toy Models
  - February, American Philosophical Association Central Division Annual Meeting, Chicago  
Scientific Consensus without Inconsistency
- 2017 October, What to Make of Highly Unrealistic Models Workshop, Helsinki  
It's not a Game: Accurate Representation with Toy Models
- July, British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, Edinburgh  
Scientific Consensus without Inconsistency
- 2016 November, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Atlanta  
Scientific Representation and Theoretical Equivalence
- June, Central European Program in Economic Theory Annual Workshop, Udine  
Arrovian Consistency of Asymmetric Domains
  - May, Models and Simulations 7, Barcelona  
From Hydraulic Machines to Immortal Rabbits
- 2015 December, Modelling and Representation: How to Make World(s) with Symbols, San Sebastián  
Scientific Representation is Representation-As
- September, European Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Düsseldorf  
On the Rationality of Theory Choice (with Alexandru Marcoci)
  - September, European Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Düsseldorf  
Scientific Representation is Representation-As (Poster session)

- June, 8th Munich-Sydney-Tilburg Conference on Objectivity in Science, Tilburg  
Ambiguity of Scientific Virtues in the Social Choice Framework
  - 2014 November, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Chicago  
van Fraassen's Wittgensteinian Move
  - September, First London Philosophy of Science Graduate Workshop, UCL  
Should the Virtue Pluralist fear Arrovian Nihilism?
  - July, British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, University  
of Cambridge  
van Fraassen's Wittgensteinian Move
  - June, Mathematising Science: Limits and Perspectives II, UEA  
Why Data Models do not Provide the Target-end Structures Required by Struc-  
turalist Accounts of Scientific Representation
- Presented by co-authors** (selected)
- 2019 February, Scientific Understanding and Representation, Bordeaux  
Unlocking Limits (presented by Roman Frigg)
  - 2018 November, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle  
Scientific Consensus without Inconsistency (presented by Alexandru Marcoci)
  - November, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle  
Field Dressing Don't Stitch (presented by Nicholas J. Teh)
  - 2017 August, Ninth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Munich  
Why Surplus Structure is not Superfluous (presented by Laura Wells)
  - 2016 May, Models and Simulations 7, Barcelona  
The Turn of the Valve: Representing with Material Models (presented by Roman  
Frigg)
  - 2015 March, Pitt-CMU Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon Univer-  
sity  
On the Rationality of Theory Choice (presented by Alexandru Marcoci)
  - 2014 June, Mathematising Science: Limits and Perspectives II, UEA  
Mathematisation and Representation (presented by Roman Frigg)

## █ **Graduate Coursework** (\* = audited)

- 2017 Philosophy of Physics\*, Nicholas J. Teh, Notre Dame
- 2013 Philosophy of Biology, Armin Schulz, LSE
- 2012–13 Research Seminar in Philosophy of the Natural Sciences, Roman Frigg, LSE
  - Philosophical Problems, Foad Dizadji-Bahmani and Christian List, LSE
- 2012 Philosophy of Economics, Armin Schulz, LSE
- 2010–11 Mathematical Logic, Wilfried Meyer-Viol, KCL
  - Philosophy of Language, Mark Textor and Charles Travis, KCL
  - Philosophy of Science, David Yates, KCL

## █ **Service**

- Referee *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics, Erkenntnis, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science, The Monist, Synthese, Foundations of Physics, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy, Techné, Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics*, Oxford University Press, Bloomsbury, Polity, National Science Foundation (NSF), Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS)
- Programme British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference 2018-2021,  
Committee German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP.10) Best Paper Award 2018,  
Member Fifth LSE Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Probability 2017, Explanation, Normativity, and Uncertainty in Economic Modelling 2016, Third LSE-Bayreuth Student Philosophy Conference 2015, Fourth LSE Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Probability 2014, Second LSE-Bayreuth Student Philosophy Conference 2014
- Departmental Chair of, and PhD student representative on, the Student-Staff Liaison Com-  
Committee mittee of the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method 2015-2016

## References

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### **Prof. Barry Smith**

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### **Associate Prof. Nicholas J. Teh**

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