

CV - FONS DEWULF (°9/10/1991)

Affiliation: Department of Philosophy, Tilburg University

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Area of Specialization: Philosophy of Science, History of Philosophy (Philosophy of science, Neo-Kantian tradition), Philosophy of History

Area of Competence: History of Science, (Analytic and Historical) Epistemology

Employment History

Oct. 2022 Post-Doctoral Fellow; Department of Philosophy, Tilburg University
-Sep. 2025

Oct. 2021 Doctor-Assistent (50%); Higher Institute for Philosophy, KU Leuven
- Sep. 2022

Oct. 2018 Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO);
- Sep. 2021 Department of Philosophy and Moral Science, Ghent University

Oct. 2014 PhD Fellow of the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO);
- Sep. 2018 Department of Philosophy and Moral Science, Ghent University

Education

2014-2018 PhD, Philosophy, Ghent University

Dissertation: A Genealogy of Scientific Explanation, The Emergence of the Covering-Law Model at the Intersection of German Historical and Scientific Philosophy
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Maarten Van Dyck
Committee: Prof. Dr. Alan Richardson, Prof. Dr. Paul Roth, Dr. Christian Damböck, Prof. Dr. Erik Weber

2013-2014 Special Teacher's Program: Philosophy and Moral Science, Magna cum Laude, Ghent University

2013-2014 Master of Arts Literature and Linguistics: Greek, Summa cum Laude, Ghent University

2012-2013 Master of Arts Philosophy, Summa cum Laude, Ghent University

2009-2012 Bachelor of Arts Philosophy, Summa cum Laude, Ghent University

Publications

Journal Articles

- Dewulf, Fons. (2022) "Beyond Hempel: Reframing the Debate about Scientific Explanation." *Philosophy of Science*, 89, 585–603. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psa.2021.45>
- Dewulf, Fons and Roth, Paul. (2022) "Real True Facts: a Reply to Currie and Swaim." *Journal of the Philosophy of History* 16, 207–225. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18722636-12341478>
- Dewulf, Fons and Massimiliano, Simons. (2021) "Positivism in Action: The Case of Louis Rougier" *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science* 11 (2), 461-487. <https://doi.org/10.1086/715873>
- Dewulf, Fons (2021) "The Institutional Stabilization of Philosophy of Science and its Withdrawal from Social Concerns after the Second World War." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 29 (5), 935-953. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2020.1848794>
- Dewulf, Fons. (2020) "The Place of Historiography in the Network of Logical Empiricism." *Intellectual History Review* 30 (2), 321-345. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17496977.2019.1648056>
- Dewulf, Fons. (2018) "Revisiting Hempel's Contribution to Philosophy of History." *Journal of the History of Ideas* 79 (3), 285-406. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jhi.2018.0023>
- Dewulf, Fons. (2017) "Rudolf Carnap's Incorporation of the Geisteswissenschaften in the Aufbau." *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science* 7 (2), 199-225. <https://doi.org/10.1086/693420>

Book Chapters

- Dewulf, Fons. (2022) "The Heuristic and Epistemic Account of Verstehen in 20th century American Philosophy." In: Tuboly, A. and Sivadó, A. (eds), *The History of Understanding in Analytic Philosophy: Before and After Logical Empiricism*. London: Bloomsbury. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350159235.ch-003>
- Dewulf, Fons. (2022) "Leo Apostel and Rudolf Carnap: The Development of Logical Empiricist Ethics in Post-War Europe." In: Tuboly, Adam and Damböck, Christian (eds.), *The Socio-Ethical Dimension of Knowledge*, 127-147. Cham: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-80363-6_7
- Dewulf, Fons (2021) "The Emergence of Scientific Explanation as a Problem for Philosophy of Science: Aristotle, Nagel and Hempel." In: Tuboly, A. and Neuber, M. (eds), *Ernest Nagel: Between Pragmatist Naturalism and Logical Empiricism*, 67-87. Cham: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-81010-8_4
- Dewulf, Fons. (2021) "Carnap's Opposition to Logic of the Geisteswissenschaften." In: Wolters, G. and Damböck, C. (eds), *Young Carnap in an Historical Context: 1918–1935*, 55-73. Cham: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58251-7_3
- Dewulf, Fons. (2017) "The Epistemic Indispensability of Understanding in Historiography." In: Massimi M., Romeijn JW., Schurz G. (eds), *EPSA15 Selected Papers*, 25-36. European

Studies in Philosophy of Science, Vol. 5. Cham: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-53730-6_3

Reviews

Dewulf, Fons. (2020) “Review - Paul A. Roth, The Philosophical Structure of Historical Explanation.” *Oeconomia. History, Methodology, Philosophy* 10 (2): 363-367. <https://doi.org/10.4000/oeconomia.8092>

Dissertation

Dewulf, Fons. (2018) A Genealogy of Scientific Explanation: the Emergence of the Deductive-Nomological Model at the Intersection of German Historical and Scientific philosophy. *PhD Dissertation*. Ghent University. <http://hdl.handle.net/1854/LU-8562228>

Public Engagement

I value contributing to public debates as a philosopher. I have published several op-eds in Flemish newspapers (e.g. *De Standaard* and *De Morgen*), including:

“De wetenschap van waarschijnlijke modellen”, *De Standaard*, 7 juni 2021

“Kritiek vat je niet in één figuur”, *De Standaard*, 23 september 2019

“Terug naar de ivoren toren”, *Rekto Verso*, juni 2019,
<https://www.rektoverso.be/artikel/terug-naar-de-ivoren-toren>

“Egoïstische huurlingen als bakermat van onze samenleving, meent De Wever dat?”, *De Morgen*, 3 augustus 2016

Teaching Experience

2021-2022 *Philosophy (Civil Engineers)*, Primary Instructor, KU Leuven

The epistemology, logic and philosophy of science part of this course was written by myself. The ethics and political philosophy part was taken from the textbook of prof. Stefan Rummens. Approximately 400 students.

Philosophy and Bio-ethics (Bio-Engineers), Primary Instructor, KU Leuven

Introductory course to problems in epistemology, logic, philosophy of science and the relation between science and society. Part of this course was written by myself, another by prof. Pieter Adriaens. Approximately 350 students.

Introduction to Philosophy (Psychology), Primary Instructor, KU Leuven

Introductory course to problems in epistemology, logic, philosophy of science, philosophy of psychology and the relation between science and society. Part of this course was written by myself, another by prof. Pieter Adriaens. Approximately 650 students.

Philosophy (Science, Bio-Engineers, Medicine, Physics), Primary Instructor, KU Leuven (campus Kortrijk)

Introductory course to problems in epistemology, logic, philosophy of science and the relation between science and society. Part of this course was written by myself, another by prof. Pieter Adriaens. Approximately 250 students.

- 2020-2021 *Advanced Survey of Problems in Philosophy of Science*, Primary Instructor, Ghent University
Master's course in Philosophy of Science. Focused reading of texts in Neo-Kantian philosophy of science (Cassirer, Friedman, van Fraassen).
- 2018-2020 *Epistemology I*, Primary Instructor, Ghent University
Introductory course in analytic epistemology for first year philosophy students. This course also serves as an introduction to strategies of argumentation in analytic philosophy (thought experiments, analysis of concepts, the use of counterexamples)
- 2014-2017 *Epistemology I*, Teaching Assistant, Ghent University
Assisted Prof. Dr. Maarten Van Dyck for the course; organized, graded, and provided feedback for an extended assignment on Humes' *Enquiry*; lectured on definitions of knowledge. The structure for the assignment and the method of feedback (using rubrics) which I introduced, is still used today and has served as an exemplar for other courses.

Fellowships & Grants

- Sept. 2019 - Dec. 2019 Visiting Fellow at the Center for Philosophy of Science – University of Pittsburgh
- Oct. 2018 - Sep. 2021 Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) at Ghent University
- Oct. 2014- Sept. 2018 PhD Fellow of the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) at Ghent University

Conference Presentations

- “Discipline and Bounding: Identifying Philosophy in the 20th Century”, Paper presented at the workshop “Exiled Empiricist”, Tilburg, August 2022
- “The Emergence of Philosophy of Science as a Discipline: refractions in SPSP, IHPS, STS and HOPOS”, Paper presented at SPSP, Ghent, July 2022
- “The Emergence of Philosophy of Science as a Discipline: Grünbaum and Salmon at Work”, Paper presented at HOPOS, Irvine, June 2022
- “The institutional stabilization of philosophy of science and its withdrawal from social concerns after the Second World War”, Paper presented at TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Conference, University of Tilburg, December 2020
- “Aristotle, Nagel and the Philosophy of Science”, Paper presented at the workshop ‘Ernst Nagel and the Making of Philosophy of Science as a Profession’, Hungarian Academy of Science, October 2019
- “The Emergence of the Covering Law Model and What We Might Learn from It”, Lunch Time Talk at the Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, September 2019

“Leo Apostel and Rudolf Carnap: The Development of Logical Empiricist Ethics”, Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, University of Boston, June 2019

“Cassirer reading Ficino - Foucault Reading Cassirer: In Search of Discourse Restyling Itself”, Paper presented at the workshop ‘Marsilio Ficino’s Cosmology: Sources, Reception, Historiography’, Ca’Foscari University of Venice, May 2019

“Naturalist and Empiricist Theory of History: Diamond, Neurath and von Mises”, Paper presented at INTH (International Network for Theory of History), Stockholm, August 2018

“Conflicts in and over Carl Hempel”, Paper presented at HOPOS 18, Groningen, July 2018

“Rousian History of Philosophy of Science: the Hempel-Neurath debate”, Paper presented at SPSP 2018, Ghent, June 2018

“The Emergence of Historical Explanation as a Philosophical Problem”, Paper presented at ‘Scientific and Historical Explanation: Reexamining the Connection’ Conference, Leuven, June 2018

“The Emergence of Scientific Explanation in the Work of Carl Hempel”, Paper presented at TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Workshop, Tilburg, October 2017

“A Variety of Logics of the Cultural Sciences: Dilthey, Rickert, Carnap”, Paper presented at ‘Der junge Carnap in historischem Kontext: 1918–1935’, workshop, Konstanz, October 2017.

“Conflicts over History in Logical Empiricism”, Paper presented at Making of the Humanities VI, Oxford, September 2017.

“Methodological Developments in Hempel’s Analysis of Science”, Paper presented at ECAP 9, München, August 2017.

“Historicizing Historical Explanation: The Origins of Hempel's Covering Law Model”, Paper presented at INTH (International Network for Theory of History), Ouro Preto, August 2016.

“Historicizing Historical Explanation: The Origins of Hempel's Covering Law Model”, Paper presented at HOPOS 16, Minneapolis, June 2016.

“How Hempel changed the philosophical reflection on the historical sciences”, Paper presented at the workshop Fifty Shapes of Explanation, Ghent, November 2015.

“The Objectivity of the Humanities: Hempel, Carnap and the Case of Lucien Febvre”, Paper presented at the fifth Conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association, Düsseldorf, September 2015.

“The unification of the natural sciences and the humanities in Carnap’s Aufbau”, Paper presented at The Making of the Humanities IV, Rome, October 2014.

Academic Service and Administration

2018-2020	Secretary of the Philosophy Department Board
2017-2018	Temporary Secretary of the Philosophy Department Board

2012-2014 Elected Student Representative, Arts & Philosophy Faculty Board
2012-2013 Elected Vice-President of the Arts & Philosophy Faculty Student Council

Languages

	Reading	Writing	Speaking
Dutch	Native	Native	Native
English	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
French	Excellent	Good	Good
German	Excellent	Fair	Fair
Ancient Greek	Good	/	/