

Jessica Collins

Associate Professor

Department of Philosophy
Columbia University

jessica.collins@columbia.edu
<https://jessica-collins.co>
she/her/hers

Mail Code 4977
1150 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10027 USA

Education

Princeton University

Ph.D in Philosophy 1991. Supervised by David Lewis

University of Sydney

B.A. with First Class Honours in Pure Mathematics and
First Class Honours and the University Medal in Philosophy 1982.

Employment

Columbia University

Associate Professor with tenure 2000–present
Associate Professor 1996–2000
Assistant Professor 1990–1996

University of Pennsylvania

Visiting Lecturer 1989–1990

Monash University

Visiting Senior Lecturer 1992–1995
Visiting Lecturer 1990–1991
Tutor 1986–1989

Research

Decision theory, formal epistemology, philosophical logic.

Current

Manuscripts in preparation

“Manufacturing Consensus: Epistemology of the Blockchain”, invited
lead article for a special issue on “Digital Ontology” commissioned by
the *Australasian Philosophical Review* and edited by Andrew M. Bailey
and Bradley Rettler. Forthcoming.

Current **Manuscripts in preparation (continued)**

“Imaging is Alpha + Aizerman”

“The Deliberative Stance”

“Decision Instability and Credence Gaps”

Published **Edited Book**

Causation and Counterfactuals, with Ned Hall and L.A. Paul (eds),
Bradford Books, The MIT Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts (2004).

Articles and Reviews

“Simple Belief”, in Marianna Antonutti and Pierluigi Graziani (eds.)
The Legacy of David Lewis, Synthese (2018) 10.1007/s11229-018-1746-3

“Neophobia”, *Res Philosophica* Vol. 92, No.2 (2015) pp. 283–300.

Review of Lara Buchak’s *Risk and Rationality*, Oxford University Press
(2013) in the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* Vol.93, Issue 4 (2015).

“Decision Theory After Lewis”, in *The Blackwell Companion to David Lewis*
edited by Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer, Wiley-Blackwell
(2015) pp. 446–458.

Foreword to the Special Issue on Epistemic Norms (with Christopher
Peacocke), *The Journal of Philosophy* (2008) pp. 441–452.

“Lotteries and the Close Shave Principle”, in *Aspects of Knowing: Epistemological Essays*,
edited by Stephen Hetherington, Elsevier
(2006) pp. 83-96.

“Counterfactuals, Causation, and Preemption”, in Dale Jacquette (ed.)
Handbook of the Philosophy of Logic, North Holland Press (2006)
pp. 1019-1035. Volume 5 in Dov Gabbay, Paul Thagard, and John Woods (eds.)
Handbook of the Philosophy of Science series.

- Published “Counterfactuals and Causation: History, Problems, and Prospects”, with Ned Hall and L.A. Paul. In *Causation and Counterfactuals* Collins, Hall, and Paul (eds.) Bradford Books, the MIT Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts (2004) pp. 1–58.
- “Unsharpenable Vagueness” (with Achille Varzi), *Philosophical Topics* Vol. 28, No.1, (2001) pp.1-10.
- “Around the World”, *Topoi* Vol. 20, No. 2 (2001) pp. 213–216.
- “Newcomb’s Problem”, in Neil Smelser and Paul Baltes (eds), the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Elsevier Science (2001) pp. 10634–10638.
- “Counterfactual Reasoning, Qualitative: Philosophical Aspects”, in Neil Smelser and Paul Baltes (eds), the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Elsevier Science (2001) pp. 2867–2872.
- “Preemptive Prevention”, *The Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 97, No. 4, Special Issue: Causation (2000) pp. 223-234. Reprinted as Chapter 4 of Collins, Hall and Paul (eds.) *Causation and Counterfactuals*, Bradford Books, the MIT Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts (2004), pp. 107–117.
- “Indeterminacy and Intention”, in *The Philosophy of Donald Davidson* Lewis Hahn (ed.), The Library of Living Philosophers, Open Court (1999) pp. 501–528.
- “Desire-as-Belief Implies Opinionation or Indifference” (with Horacio Arló Costa and Isaac Levi) *Analysis*, Vol. 55, No.1 (1995) pp. 2–5.
- “The Big Bad Bug: What are the Humean’s Chances?” (with John Bigelow and Robert Pargetter) *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, Vol 44, No. 3 (1993) pp. 443–462
- “Colouring in the World” (with John Bigelow and Robert Pargetter), *Mind*, Vol.99, No.394 (1990) pp. 279–288.
- “Belief, Desire, and Revision”, *Mind*, Vol. 97, no.387 (1988) pp. 333–342.

Published Review of Campbell and Sowden (eds.) *Paradoxes of Rationality and Cooperation*, in the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 65, No.3 (1987).

“Jeffrey Conditionalization - A Convergence Proof”, in Nicholas Rescher (ed.) *Scientific Inquiry in Philosophical Perspective*, Lanham, MD, University Press of America, (1987).

Talks Comments on Calum McNamara’s “Bringing About the Good” at FARM, (Formal Aspects of Rationality and Meaning) the University of Maryland College Park, October 11, 2025.

“Imaging is Alpha + Aizerman” for the Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center. April 15, 2024.

“Imaging is Alpha + Aizerman” for the Pittsburgh Formal Epistemology Workshop, Carnegie Mellon University. March 15, 2024.

“The Combinatorics of Fear: on Miklós Jancsó’s Film *Szegénylegények / The Round-Up* (1966)”. For *Fear and Loathing at the Movies*, Princeton University, May 24, 2023. Part of a joint session on Jancsó’s film with Matt Strohl (Montana).

“Belief Change: Qualitative Approaches”, at PIKSI-Logic 2022, Northeastern University, Boston. July 25, 2022. Part of a day-long joint session on Belief Change with Lisa Cassell (Maryland).

Invited presentation to Sara Bernstein’s graduate seminar on David Lewis’s Letters: the Red Book # 84 & 167; the Green Book # 694, on Humean supervenience and the Big Bad Bug. Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame. April 19, 2022.

“Learning True and Making True”, for the Society of Women in Philosophy’s SWIP-Analytic series, CUNY Graduate Center, November 21, 2019.

“Learning True and Making True”, for *Ways of Knowing*: a workshop co-sponsored by the Columbia Department of Philosophy and the School of Philosophy, Renmin University, Beijing. Columbia University. October 5, 2018

“Silence, Absence, and Void”, at the 2018 Bombay Beach Biennale, Bombay Beach, California, March 17, 2018.

Talks

“Imaging and the Deliberative Stance” to the Rutgers Seminar on the Foundations of Probability, November 6, 2017.

Introductory Comments for the panel on Education and Women’s Epistemic Authority, 1500-1800 with Marguerite Deslauriers, Lisa Shapiro, Karen Detlefsen, and Sandrine Berges. Conference on Rethinking Philosophy’s Past. Columbia University, February 18, 2017.

Comments on John McCoy, L.A. Paul and Tomer Ullman “Modal Imagination”. Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, White Stallion Ranch, Tucson Arizona, January 26, 2017.

“Neophobia”, invited keynote paper for the Res Philosophica Conference on Transformative Experience at Saint Louis University September 19-20, 2014.

“The Stability Problem for Causal Decision Theory”, invited presentation to the Tribute to Horacio Arlo-Costa, SADAF (the Argentine Society for Philosophical Analysis) Buenos Aires, August 2–4 2012.

“Component Dispositions”, University of Texas, Austin, Philosophy Colloquium, January 20, 2012.

“Component Dispositions”, invited keynote paper for: Another World is Possible: a Conference on the Work of David Lewis at the University of Urbino, Italy, June 16–18, 2011.

“Computation with Closed Timelike Curves”, invited presentation to the Mirror Lake Workshop on Philosophy and Physics, Lake Placid, NY, March 17, 2010.

“Decision Theory for Simple Belief”, invited paper presented at the Second Formal Epistemology Festival: Causal Decision Theory and Scoring Rules, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 29, 2009.

“The Perils of Time Travel”, Columbia University Philosophy Department, March 27, 2009.

“Scams, Hustles, and Confidence Tricks: Elements of Anti-Social Epistemology”, public lecture at Austin College, Sherman, Texas, March 25, 2008.

Talks. “Formal and Informal Models of Belief”, invited paper presented at the Synthese Annual Conference - Between Logic and Intuition: David Lewis and the Future of Formal Methods in Philosophy, The Carlsberg Academy, Copenhagen, October 3, 2007.

“Is Time Travel Possible?”, Keck Lecture at Austin College. Sherman, Texas, April 12, 2007.

“Two Kinds of Unlikelihood”, The Jerrold Katz Memorial Lecture at the CUNY Graduate Center, February 7th, 2007.

“Peacocke and the Skeptic”, at a Conference on the Work of Christopher Peacocke, Columbia University. October 7, 2004.

“Rationality and Vagueness”, Center for the Decision Sciences, Columbia University, March 13, 2003.

“Belief Revision and Preference”, Meeting in Philosophical Logic and Applications, CUNY Graduate Center. September 27, 2002.

“Time and the Counterfactual”, University of Sydney, Philosophy Colloquium, August 26, 2002; University of Western Australia (Perth), Philosophy Society, August 21, 2002; Australian National University R.S.S.S. (Canberra), Philosophy Colloquium, August 15, 2002

Comments on Luc Bovens’s “Probabilistic Belief Expansion with Unreliable Information Sources”, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Minneapolis, May 3-5, 2001.

“Rousseau’s Political Philosophy”, for the Columbia University Contemporary Civilization Faculty Seminar, December 6, 2000.

“Crowding Out Prediction”, at the Isaac Levi Conference, Columbia University, October 29, 2000.

“Subjunctivity”, Australian National University R.S.S.S. Canberra, Philosophy Colloquium, June 8, 2000.

“The Parsing of the Possible”, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Philosophy Colloquium, April 14, 2000; Columbia University Philosophy Colloquium, April 13, 2000.

- Talks
- “The Unthinkable”, at A Second Meeting of Italian and American Philosophy: Normativity and Legitimacy, Casa Italiana, New York University, October 13, 1999.
 - “Hume’s Moral Philosophy”, for the Columbia University Contemporary Civilization Faculty Seminar, December 9th, 1998.
 - “Comments on Mariam Thalos’s “The Individuation of Dilemmas”, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia, December 30th, 1997.
 - “Unsharpenable Vagueness” (with Achille Varzi), Conference on Methods in in Philosophy and the Sciences, the New School, New York, December 6th, 1997. CUNY Graduate Center, February 7th, 1996.
 - “Arguments in an Unknown Language”, at A Meeting of Italian and American Philosophy: Between Hermeneutics and Neopositivism, Italian Academy, Columbia University, November 18th, 1997.
 - “Preemptive Prevention”, Princeton University Philosophy Colloquium, March 28th, 1997.
 - “Why Bother to Vote?”, Columbia Philosophy Society, February 19th, 1997.
 - “Supposition and Choice: Why ‘Causal Decision Theory’ is a Misnomer”, “Belief and Degrees of Belief”, Monash University Philosophy Colloquium, August 25 1995.
 - “Comments on Theodore Sider’s ”Naturalness and Arbitrariness” for the Colloquium on Metaphysics at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, March 31st, 1995.
 - “Intrinsic Desire”, Monash University Philosophy Colloquium, July 29th, 1994.
 - “Desire-as-Belief Implies Opinionation or Indifference”(with Horacio Arlo Costa and Isaac Levi), History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, Columbia University, November 30th, 1993.
 - “Comments on Charles Cross’s “Desire-as-Belief and the Discrepancy Analysis of Desire”, for the Colloquium on Epistemology at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Washington D.C., December 28th, 1992.

- Talks
- “Why Do We Know More About the Past Than About the Future?”, CUNY Graduate Center, October 14th, 1992.
 - “The Discrepancy Analysis of Desire”, Department of Psychology Colloquium, Monash University, August 14th, 1992.
 - “The Big Bad Bug”, (with John Bigelow and Robert Pargetter), presented to David Lewis’s seminar on Causation, Princeton University, November 7th, 1990; Philosophy Department Colloquium at Monash University, August 3rd, 1990.
 - “Color Blindness”, Philosophy Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, 5th February 1990.
 - “Motivational Skepticism”, Columbia University, January 18th, 1990.
 - “Updating and Supposing”, Australasian Association of Philosophy, Conference, Canberra, July 5th, 1989; La Trobe University, October 1988.
 - “Colouring in the World”, (with John Bigelow and Robert Pargetter), A.A.P. Conference, Canberra, July 3rd, 1989.
 - “Harvey Friedman’s Program”, series of five seminars for the Monash Logic Group, October–November 1988.
 - “On the Desire-as-Belief Thesis”, Workshop at the A.N.U. Research School of Social Sciences, Canberra, July 1st, 1988.
 - “Knowledge and Temporal Asymmetry”, A.A.P. Conference, Perth, Western Australia, May 17th, 1988.
 - “Belief Revision”, University of Michigan, January 19th, 1988;
 - “Bertrand’s Paradox”, University of Melbourne, July 1987.
 - “Belief Revision”, A.A.P. Conference, Monash University, August 1986.

Ph.D.s Ph.D. dissertations completed under my supervision:

Michael Nielsen (co-supervised with Haim Gaifman), May 2019.

Ph.D.'s Rush Stewart, July 2017.

Zack Al-Witri, May 2016.

Brian Kim, September 2012.

Sejong Kim, May 1998.