

Branden Fitelson
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Curriculum Vitae (04/22/08)
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Personal Information

- **Born:** August 17, 1969 in Syracuse, NY
- **Citizenship:** United States
- **Family:** Married to **Tina Eliassi-Rad** (since 1994), no children.
- **Erdős Number:** 4

Education

- **University of Wisconsin–Madison**
PhD., Philosophy 1992–2001
- **University of Wisconsin–Madison**
M.A., Philosophy 1992–1997
- **University of Wisconsin–Madison**
B.S., Mathematics & Physics 1988–1992

Academic Positions

- **Department of Philosophy, University of California–Berkeley**
Associate Professor (with tenure) 2007–
– Also a member of the *Group in Logic and the Methodology of Science*, the
Institute for Cognitive & Brain Sciences, and the *Cognitive Science Core Faculty*
- **Department of Philosophy, University of California–Berkeley**
Assistant Professor (tenure-track) 2003–2007
- **Department of Philosophy, San José State University**
Assistant Professor (tenure-track) 2002–2003
- **Department of Philosophy, Stanford University**
Acting Assistant Professor 2001–2002

Areas of Specialization

- Philosophy of Science, Logic (formal, philosophical, computational, and cognitive aspects thereof), Epistemology (formal and traditional), Decision Theory, Computing & Philosophy, and Metaphysics

Honors and Awards

- Mellon Research Grant, University of California–Berkeley, 2007–2011
- Humanities Research Fellowship, University of California–Berkeley, 2005–2006
- Junior Faculty Research Grant, University of California–Berkeley, 2004–2005
- Best Essay by a Graduate Student: Philosophy of Science Association Contest (2000)
- Philosophy of Science Association/NSF Travel Grant (for *PSA 2000*), October 2000
- Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Fellowship (UW–Madison), Fall 1998
- Philosophy of Science Association/NSF Travel Grant (for *PSA '98*), October 1998
- The Oliver Prize (for best essay by a graduate student @ UW–Madison), May 1998

Publications

Commissioned:

1. “Contrastive Bayesianism,” commissioned for M. Blaauw (ed.), *Contrastivism in Philosophy*
2. “Confirmation,” commissioned for *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, E.N. Zalta (ed.)

Forthcoming:

3. “A Decision Procedure for Probability Calculus with Applications”, to appear in the *Review of Symbolic Logic*.
4. “Goodman’s ‘New Riddle’”, to appear in the *Journal of Philosophical Logic*.
5. “Bayesians Sometimes Cannot Ignore even Very Implausible Theories (even ones that have not yet been thought of)” (with Neil Thomason), to appear in the *Australasian Journal of Logic*.
6. “Probability, Confirmation, and the ‘Conjunction Fallacy’” (with V. Crupi and K. Tentori), to appear in *Thinking and Reasoning*
7. “How Bayesian confirmation theory handles the Paradox of the Ravens” (with J. Hawthorne), to appear in *Probability in Science*, E. Eells and J. Fetzer (eds.), Open Court

2007:

8. “Logical Foundations of Evidential Support”, *Philosophy of Science* **73**: 500–512.
9. “Steps Toward a Computational Metaphysics” (with Ed Zalta), *Journal of Philosophical Logic* (2007) **36**: 227–247.
10. “Likelihoodism, Bayesianism, and Relational Confirmation”, *Synthese* (2007) **156**: 473–489.
11. “Relational Confirmation and the Quine–Duhem Problem: A Rejoinder to Strevens” (with A. Waterman), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (2007) **58**: 333–338.

2006:

12. “The Paradox of Confirmation,” *Philosophy Compass* (online), Blackwell, B. Weatherson (ed.), URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2005.00011.x>.

2005:

13. “Bayesianism and Auxiliary Hypotheses Revisited: A Reply to Strevens” (with A. Waterman), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* **56**: 293–302.
14. Review of *Subjective Probability: The Real Thing*, by Richard Jeffrey (CUP), *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (online), October 2005, URL: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=4401>.
15. “Probability,” (with A. Hájek and N. Hall) *Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia*, Routledge, J. Pfeifer & S. Sarkar (eds.), Routledge, 2005.
16. “Inductive Logic,” *Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia*, J. Pfeifer & S. Sarkar eds., Routledge, 2005.
17. Review of *Bayesian Epistemology* (Oxford University Press) by L. Bovens and S. Hartmann, *Mind* **114**: 394–400.

2004:

18. “Re-Solving Irrelevant Conjunction with Probabilistic Independence” (with J. Hawthorne), *Philosophy of Science*, **71**: 505–514.
- 2003:**
19. Comments on James Franklin’s ‘Hidden Priors and Bayesian Heuristics’, *Law, Probability, and Risk*, **2**: 201–204.
20. Review of *Bayes’s Theorem*, edited by Richard Swinburne (OUP), *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (online), November 2003, URL: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=1307>.
21. Review of *An Introduction to Probability and Inductive Logic*, by Ian Hacking (Cambridge University Press), *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* **9**: 506–508.
22. “A Probabilistic Theory of Coherence,” *Analysis* **63**: 194–199.
23. “Monty Hall, Doomsday, and Confirmation,” (with D. Bradley), *Analysis* **63**: 23–31.
24. Review of *Interpreting Probability*, by David Howie (Cambridge University Press), *Philosophy of Science* **70**: 643–647.
25. Review of *The Foundations of Causal Decision Theory*, by James Joyce (Cambridge University Press), *Mind* **112**: 545–551.
- 2002:**
26. “Shortest Axiomatizations of Implicational S4 and S5,” (with Z. Ernst, K. Harris, and L. Wos), *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, **43**: 169–180.
27. “Putting the Irrelevance Back Into the Problem of Irrelevant Conjunction,” *Philosophy of Science* **69**: 611–622.
28. “Symmetries and Asymmetries in Evidential Support” (with E. Eells) *Philosophical Studies* **107**: 129–142.
29. “Vanquishing the XCB Question: The Methodological Discovery of the Last Shortest Single Axiom for the Equivalential Calculus,” (with L. Wos and D. Ulrich), *Journal of Automated Reasoning* **29**: 107–124.
30. “Short Single Axioms for Boolean Algebra” (with W. McCune, R. Veroff, K. Harris, A. Feist, L. Wos), *Journal of Automated Reasoning* **29**: 1–16.
31. “Too Odd (not) to Be True? A Reply to Erik J. Olsson: ‘Corroborating Testimony, Probability and Surprise’,” (with L. Bovens, S. Hartmann, and J. Snyder), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* **53**: 539–563.
32. “The Automation of Sound Reasoning and Successful Proof Finding” (with L. Wos) in *The Blackwell Companion to Philosophical Logic*, D. Jacquette, (ed.), Blackwell, 2002.
- 2001:**
33. “A Bayesian Account of Independent Evidence with Applications” *Philosophy of Science* **68**: S123–40.
34. “A Concise Axiomatization of \mathbf{RM}_- ” (with Z. Ernst, K. Harris, and L. Wos), *Bulletin of the Section of Logic* (University of Lodz) **30**: 191–194.
35. “Finding Missing Proofs with Automated Reasoning,” (with L. Wos) *Studia Logica* **68**: 329–356.
36. “Distributivity in \mathbf{L}_{\aleph_0} and Other Sentential Logics,” (with K. Harris) *Journal of Automated Reasoning* **27**: 141–156.

37. “Comments on Some Completeness Theorems of Urquhart and Méndez & Salto,” (with K. Harris) *Journal of Philosophical Logic* **30**: 51–55.
- 2000:**
38. “Measuring Confirmation and Evidence” (with E. Eells), *Journal of Philosophy* **XCVII**: 663–672.
- 1999:**
39. “The Plurality of Bayesian Measures of Confirmation and the Problem of Measure Sensitivity,” *Philosophy of Science* **66** (Proceedings): S362–78.
40. “How Not to Detect Design: A Review of William Dembski’s *The Design Inference*,” (with C. Stephens and E. Sober), *Philosophy of Science* **66**: 472–488. Reprinted in R. Pennock (ed.), *Intelligent Design Creationism and its Critics*, MIT Press, 2003.
- 1998:**
41. “Plantinga’s Probability Arguments Against Evolutionary Naturalism,” (with E. Sober) *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* **79**: 115–129. Reprinted in R. Pennock (ed.), *Intelligent Design Creationism and its Critics*, MIT Press, 2003.
42. “Using Mathematica to Understand the Computer Proof of the Robbins Conjecture,” *Mathematica in Education and Research* **7**: 17–26.
- 1997:**
43. “‘Models and Reality,’ Review of Brian Skyrms’s *Evolution of the Social Contract*,” (with M. Barrett, E. Eells, E. Sober) *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research* **59**: 237–242.
- 1996:**
44. “Wayne, Horwich, and Evidential Diversity,” *Philosophy of Science* **63**: 652–660.

Talks

1. “Confirmation Theory and The Wason Selection Task”
 - *Probability, Confirmation and Fallacies*, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven Belgium, April 2008.
 - Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Philosophy, March 2008.
2. “Epistemological Critiques of ‘Classical’ Logic: Two Case Studies”
 - Invited Symposium at the *Annual Meeting of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science (BSPS 2008)*, University of St. Andrews, July 2008.
 - Jowett Society, Oxford University, June 2008.
 - Invited Symposium on Formal Epistemology, Central APA, Chicago, April 2008
 - University of Southern California, Department of Philosophy, October 2007
 - *Reasoning about Probabilities & Probabilistic Reasoning Conference*, University of Amsterdam, May 2007
 - *Why Formal Epistemology? Conference*, University of Oklahoma, April 2007
 - Mind, Language, Etc. Seminar (organized by Jim Pryor and Hartry Field), Philosophy Department, New York University, March 2007
 - *Mathematical Methods in Philosophy Workshop*, Banff International Research Station (BIRS), February 2007

- Logic Colloquium, Group in Logic and the Methodology of Science, University of California–Berkeley, February 2007
3. “Argument Diagrams, Bayes Nets, and Independent Evidence,” *Graphic and Visual Representations of Evidence and Inference in Legal Settings* Conference, Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, January 2007
 4. “Likelihoods, Counterfactuals, and Truth-Tracking,” *Philosophy of Science Association* meetings (PSA 2006), Vancouver, November 2006
 5. Comments on Jill North’s “Symmetry and Probability,” *Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference (BSPC 2006)*, Western Washington University, August 2006
 6. “Comparative Probability, Comparative Confirmation, and the ‘Conjunction Fallacy’” (with Vincenzo Crupi and Katya Tentori)
 - *Confirmation, Induction and Science Conference*, LSE, March 2007
 - Stanford University, Symbolic Systems Program Forum, January 2007
 - AI Center, SRI International, November 2006
 - *Bayesianism, Fundamentally Workshop*, University of Pittsburgh, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, October 2006
 - Townsend Center Working Group in Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy Department, UC–Berkeley, October 2006
 - University of California–San Diego, Philosophy Department, September 2006
 - *Conference in honor of Patrick Suppes*, Stanford University, May 2006
 7. “Kim on the Unconfirmability of Disjunctive Laws”, *Society for Exact Philosophy (SEP 2006)*, University of California–San Diego, May 2006
 8. “Goodman’s ‘New Riddle’”
 - *Studia Logica International Conference*, Toruń Poland, September 2006
 - Caltech, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, May 2006
 - Stanford University, Berkeley–Stanford Logic Workshop, May 2006
 - Invited symposium at the *APA Central 2006*, Chicago, April 2006.
 9. “Confirmation Theory: A Historical Introduction”, *Probability Conference*, Australian National University (Philosophy RSSS), March 2006
 10. “Some Remarks on the ‘Intelligent Design’ Controversy”, *First Annual Missouri Philosophy of Religion Conference*, University of Missouri–Columbia, Department of Philosophy, January 2006.
 11. “Confirmation Theory as a Branch of Inductive Logic: Some Historical and Philosophical Reflections”, invited symposium at the *APA Eastern 2005*, New York, December 2005.
 12. “Judgment under Uncertainty Revisited: Probability vs Confirmation”
 - University of Trento, Department of Cognitive Science and Education, May 2006
 - Australian National University, Philosophical Society Colloquium (Philosophy RSSS), March 2006
 - Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Center for Advanced Scientific Computing (LLNL–CASC), February 2006
 - University of Pennsylvania, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science (IRCS), November 2005

13. "Old Evidence, Logical Omniscience, and Bayesianism"
 - University of Sydney, Department of Philosophy/Centre of Time, March 2006
 - University of California-Berkeley, Working Group in the History and Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics, and Science (HPLMS), October 2005
 - *Epistemic and Probabilistic Updating Workshop*, Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), University of Amsterdam, September 2005
14. "Some Automated Reasoning Techniques for Problems in Non-Classical Modal Logics"
 - *Computing and Philosophy Conference (CAP 2005 @ OSU)*, Oregon State University
 - *Argonne Workshop on Automated Reasoning and Deduction*, Argonne (ANL), August 2005
15. Comments on Clark Glymour's "Questions", presented at the *Most Important Unsolved Problems in the Philosophy of Science Conference*, UCSB, February 2005.
16. "Relational and Non-Relational Conceptions of Evidential Support", *Philosophy, Probability, and Modeling Symposium*, University of Konstanz, July 2004.
17. "Probabilistic Coherence From a Logical Point of View" and "Some Recent Fallacies of Approximation in Bayesian Confirmation Theory", *Bayesian Epistemology Conference*, LSE, June 2004
18. "The Paradox of Confirmation"
 - Australian National University (Philosophy RSSS), *Probability Conference*, March 2006
 - Stanford University, Logical Methods in the Humanities, February 2006
 - University of Missouri-Columbia, Department of Philosophy, January 2006
 - University of Pennsylvania, Department of Philosophy, November 2005
 - University of California-Davis, Department of Philosophy, October 2004
 - University of California-Santa Cruz, Department of Philosophy, September 2004
 - Popper Seminar, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, LSE, June 2004
 - Caltech, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, January, 2004
19. "Remarks on the Role of 'Base Rates' in Probabilistic Reasoning"
 - University of California-Berkeley, Institute for Cognitive and Brain Sciences (ICBS), October 2003
 - Stanford University, Center for the Study of Language and Information, May 2002
20. "A Decision Procedure for the Probability Calculus, with Applications"
 - University of San Francisco, Computer Science Department, October 2005
 - University of Bristol, *Meeting of the Luxemburger Zirkel: Logical Methods in Epistemology, Semantics, and Philosophy of Mathematics*, January 2005
 - SRI International, AI Center, November 2004
 - University of California-Berkeley, Logic Colloquium, November 2004
 - *Computing & Philosophy Conference (CAP@CMU 2004)* CMU, August 2004
 - University of Iowa, Computer Science Department, March 2004
 - University of California-Irvine, Logic and Philosophy of Science Department (LPS), January 2004
 - Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Center for Advanced Scientific Computing (LLNL-CASC), October 2003
 - *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division (APA Pacific 2003)*, March 2003
 - Stanford University, Logical Methods in Humanities, March 2003

21. "Logical Foundations of Evidential Support"
 - Invited Symposium, *Philosophy of Science Association Meetings (PSA 2004)*, Austin, Texas, November 2004
 - University of Iowa, Department of Philosophy, March 2004
 - University of Michigan, Department of Philosophy, February 2004
 - Caltech, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, January, 2004
 - University of Oklahoma, Department of Philosophy, October 2003
 - University of California–Berkeley, Philosophy Department, February 2003
22. "Steps Toward Computational Metaphysics," (with Ed Zalta)
 - *European Computing & Philosophy Conference (E-CAP 2004)*, Pavia Italy, June 2004
 - Computing & Philosophy Conference, Oregon State University (*CAP@OSU 2003*), August 2003
23. "Comments on James Franklin's 'Hidden Priors and Bayesian Heuristics'", *Inference, Culture, and Ordinary Thinking in Dispute Resolution Conference*, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, April, 2003. [Published in *Law, Probability, and Risk* — item 19 in *Publications*, above.]
24. "Some Recent Results in Mathematics and Logic, Obtained *via* Automated Reasoning"
 - University of California–Berkeley, Group in Logic and the Methodology of Science, March 2003
 - *Argonne Workshop on Automated Reasoning and Deduction*, Argonne (ANL), July 2002
 - SRI International, AI Center, October 2001
 - Stanford University, Mathematics Department, October 2001
25. "Comments on Kenneth Presting's 'Computability and Newcomb's Problem'", presented at the *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meetings (APA Pacific)*, March 2003.
26. "Three Lectures on Inductive Logic and Bayesian Confirmation," *Summer School on Philosophy and Probability*, University of Konstanz, September 2002.
27. "Some Remarks on the Philosophy of Statistics," Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Center for Advanced Scientific Computing (LLNL–CASC), August 2002.
28. "Rethinking the Problem of Old Evidence":
 - Stanford University, Symbolic Systems Program Forum, April 2002
 - University of Colorado–Boulder, *History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium*, November, 2001
29. "Comments on Tomoji Shogenji's 'The Problem of Independence in Justification by Coherence'," *APA Pacific Division meetings*, March 2002.
30. "Some Recent Uses and Misuses of Probability in Philosophy," Caltech, *Science, Ethics & Public Policy Seminar*, January 2002.
31. "Studies in Bayesian Confirmation Theory"
 - University of California–Santa Barbara, Philosophy Department, January 2003
 - University of California–Berkeley, Working Group in the History and Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics, and Science (HPLMS), October 2002
 - Yale University, Philosophy Department, January 2001
 - Georgetown University, Philosophy Department, January 2001

32. "Putting the Irrelevance Back into the Problem of Irrelevant Conjunction," *History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium*, University of Colorado, Boulder, November, 2001.
33. "A Bayesian Account of Independent Evidence with Applications," *Philosophy of Science Association Meetings (PSA 2000)* in Vancouver, British Columbia, November 2000.
34. "The Plurality of Bayesian Measures of Confirmation and the Problem of Measure Sensitivity," Philosophy of Science Association Meeting (PSA '98) in Kansas City, Missouri, October 1998.
35. "Comments on Patrick Maher's 'Inductive Logic and the Ravens Paradox'," *American Philosophical Association Central Division meetings*, Chicago, May 1998.
36. "Plantinga's Probability Arguments Against Evolutionary Naturalism," (with Elliott Sober) *Naturalism, Theism, and the Scientific Enterprise Conference (NTSE)*, Austin, Texas, February 1997.
37. "Using Mathematica to Understand the Computer Proof of the Robbins Conjecture," *Mathematica Developer Conference*, Champaign, Illinois, October 1997.

Works in Progress

- *Inductive Logic and the Paradoxes of Confirmation*, book project.
- "What is the 'Equal Weight View'?" (with David Jehle), manuscript.

Courses Taught

Berkeley:

- Graduate Seminar on Confirmation (Fall 2007)
- Theory of Knowledge (Spring 2007)
- Graduate Seminar on Timothy Williamson's *Knowledge and its Limits* (with Sherri Roush, Fall 2006)
- Introductory Symbolic Logic (4 semesters)
- Probability and Induction (3 semesters)
- Metalogic (2 semesters)
- Graduate Seminar on Conditionals (Fall 2004)
- Graduate Seminar on Scientific Explanation and Scientific Realism (Spring 2004)
- Metaphysics (Fall 2003)

San José State:

- Logic & Reasoning (Spring 2003)
- Computing & Philosophy (Fall 2002)

Stanford:

- Central Issues in Philosophy of Science (Fall 2001)
- Graduate Seminar on Probability, Counterfactuals, and Causation (Spring 2002)

Dissertations Supervised

- Chair, Kenny Easwaran (Group in Logic and the Methodology of Science, UC-Berkeley), "The Foundations of Conditional Probability" (to be submitted Spring 2008).
- Chair, Mike Titelbaum (Department of Philosophy, UC-Berkeley), "Quitting Certainties: A Doxastic Modeling Framework" (to be submitted Spring 2008).

Professional Service

- Member of the APA Committee on Philosophy and Computers (2005-)
- Co-Organizer of *North American Computing & Philosophy* Conferences (NA-CAP) (2005-)
- Co-Organizer of *Bayesianism, Fundamentally* conference, Pitt/HPS, October 2006
- Co-Organizer of *Confirmation, Induction and Science* conference, LSE, March 2007
- Co-Organizer of the *Formal Epistemology Workshops* (FEW 2004-)
- Member of the Program Committee for the Pacific Division APA Meetings (2005-)
- Member of the Program Committee for PSA 2006 (Philosophy of Science Association)
- Editor of two special issues on Formal Epistemology for *Studia Logica* (2005-2007)
- Member of the Editorial Board of *Studia Logica* (2005-)
- Member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Philosophical Logic* (2008-)
- Subject Editor, *Formal Epistemology*, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2007-)
- Referee for various journals, publishers, and organizations, including: *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Blackwell, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, *Cognition*, CSLI, Cambridge University Press, *Dialectica*, *Disputatio*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *History and Philosophy of Logic*, *Journal of Automated Reasoning*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Mind*, *Mathematical Reviews*, National Science Foundation, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *Noûs*, Open Court, Oxford University Press, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy of Science*, Princeton University Press, *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, Routledge, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Studia Logica*, *Synthese*

References

Professor Craig Callender
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University of Oklahoma
455 West Lindsey Street
Norman, OK 73019-2006
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Professor Elliott Sober
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University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI 53706 USA
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Professor Alan Hájek
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Research School of the Social Sciences
Australian National University
Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia
alanh@coombs.anu.edu.au

Professor Christopher Hitchcock
California Institute of Technology
Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences
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