

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family name, First name: Psillos, Efstathios (Stathis) | **Date of birth:** 22 June 1965

Nationality: Hellenic | **URL for personal web site:** <http://users.uoa.gr/~psillos/index.html>

Most important research achievements to date

Between 1994 and 2022, I have developed an original account of scientific realism and have defended it against various objections. I have developed a distinctive line of argument against the pessimistic induction—the claim that the history of science, being a history of false theories, undermines the realist view that current theories are true—based on what I've called the *divide et impera* move. I have combined this with an account of abduction—*aka* inference to the best explanation (IBE)—and I defended the use of IBE in the no miracles argument for realism against the charge of vicious circularity. In the 2000s, I took issue with structural realism, as well as, various forms of realism which aimed to draw a sharp and principled line between those aspects of the unobservable world which are knowable and those which are not. I also argued against various forms of instrumentalism and idealism. In the same period, I moved into issues related to the metaphysics of science, developing an influential objectivist empiricist account of laws of nature. I developed an original position, called scientific realism with a Humean face. In the 2010s, I shifted my attention towards important issues in the history of philosophy of science, developing an influential account of the emergence of the law-governed conception of nature and in metaphysics, advancing an original account of mechanisms in science as a methodological view.

EDUCATION (highest degree)

1990-94 Ph.D. degree in Philosophy of Science, University of London

CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2020-** Adjunct Research Professor of Philosophy, Dept of Philosophy, University of Western Ontario (UWO), Canada
- 2009-** Professor of Philosophy of Science and Metaphysics, Dept of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Athens (UoA), Greece
- 2013-** Member of the Rotman Institute of Philosophy-Engaging Science, University of Western Ontario (UWO), Canada
- 1998-** Research Associate of the Centre for the Philosophy of the Natural and Social Sciences, London School of Economics (LSE)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS (selected)

- 2013-15** Rotman Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Science, UWO, Canada
- 1999-2008** Lecturer (1999-2004) & Associate Professor (2004-2008), University of Athens
- 1995-98** British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dept of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, LSE

ACADEMY MEMBERSHIPS

- 2015-** Member of Academia Europea — The Academy of Europe
- 2008-** Member of the Academie Internationale de Philosophie des Sciences

AWARDS (selected)

- 2013** Mercier Lecturer in Philosophy, Université Catholique de Louvain, March - May 2013
- 2004** The BSPS Past Presidents' Prize for the book Causation and Explanation

VISITING APPOINTMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (selected)

- 2015-20** Visiting Professor, Dept of Philosophy, UWO
- 2012** William Evans Visiting Professor, University of Otago, New Zealand, July 2012
- 2007** Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai, India, February 2007
- 1995-98** British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship

SUPERVISION OF PhD STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS (selected)

- 2016-21** | 11 Postdoctoral fellows, Dept of Philosophy and History of Science, University of Athens

2005-21 13 PhD Students, (successful completion) Dept of Philosophy and History of Science, University of Athens, Greece; 9 PhD Advisory Committees

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES/DUTIES (selected)

2015- Editor: The Western Ontario Series in Philosophy of Science, Springer

2009-14 Editor: Metascience

2007-09 President of the European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA)

1993-98 Assistant & Deputy Editor: The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science

EDITORIAL BOARDS (selected)

2007- Member of the Editorial Board of the series *New Directions in the Philosophy of Science*, Palgrave-MacMillan

2009- *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*

2008- *Balkan Journal of Philosophy*

2007- *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

1993-20 UoA, UWO, University of Patras, LSE, King's College. Postgraduate: 25 distinct courses; Undergraduates: 23 distinct courses & seminars

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS & PROGRAMME COMMITTEES (selected)

2021 EPSA 2021 Program Committee, University of Turin, September 2021

2019 EPSA 2019 Program Committee, University of Geneva, September 2019

2018 11th MuST (Munich-Sydney-Tilburg/Turin) conference "Models of Explanation"

2008 World Congress of Philosophy Co-chair of the P.C. for Philosophy of Science, Seoul, South Korea

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (selected)

2018-22 Chair of the Graduate Programme in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology of the University of Athens

2005-13 & 16-17 & 19-20 Head of the Division of Philosophy and Theory of Science and Technology, UoA

2013-14 Member of the Steering Committee, Rotman Institute of Philosophy, UWO, Canada

COMMISSIONS OF TRUST (selected)

A. External Evaluator

Tenure, Promotion, Professorship, Distinguished Professors Committee

2002-22 **UK:** LSE, University of Durham | **Denmark:** University of Aarhus | **Germany:** Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize | **Finland:** University of Helsinki | **Italy:** Italian Research & University Evaluation Agency | **Cyprus:** University of Cyprus | **USA:** Ohio State University, University of California-Irvine, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania, Rhodes College, the University of Texas-Dallas | **Canada:** Canada Research Chairs Tier II Committee, University of Alberta | **Australia:** The University of Melbourne | **New Zealand:** the Distinguished Research Medal of the University of Otago | **Taiwan:** Institute of European and American Studies of Academia Sinica

B. Evaluator of Research Grants Proposals

2000-20 Academy of Finland | Leverhulme Trust | Swiss Research Foundation | Netherlands Research Foundation; Research Foundation – Flanders | Korea Research Foundation | German Research Foundation | Austrian Science Fund | National Science Foundation | SSHRC Canada.

C.	Referee
	All major philosophy journals & Publishing Houses
D.	Ph.D Examination
	Examination of 32 PhD Dissertations in 9 Countries (Greece, UK, Holland, Finland, Sweden, USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia)
MAJOR COLLABORATIONS	
Member of POND Philosophy of Science Around the Mediterranean Network (2016-) Member of the European Research Network (funded by ESF) “The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective” Research Networking Programme (PSE) (2008-2013) Member of Research Project “Metaphysics of Science” Project, University of Bristol (AHRC funded) (2007-2010)	
RESEARCH GRANTS (selected)	
2022-24	Principal Investigator, Research Project: Laws and Powers in the Metaphysics of Science Elidek. Duration: 30 months, €150,000
2017-19	Principal Investigator, Research Project: <i>Relations and Powers in Philosophy and Science</i> ESPA 2014-2020 ‘Support of Researchers with emphasis on young researchers’. € 46,900
2012-15	Principal Investigator, Research Program: Aspects and Prospects of Realism in the Philosophy of Science and Mathematics (APRePoSMA)—Funded by the EU sponsored research programme Thales II. € 600,000
2005-08	Principal Investigator Research Program on <i>Philosophical Realism</i> Pythagoras II (2005-08). € 70,000
CITATIONS	
author-level H-index: 36	
metric i10-index: 80 Google Scholar; Citations: 7591	
PUBLICATIONS	
Books	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Metaphysics and Method</i>, Springer forthcoming 2022 <i>Karl Marx: the Metaphysics of Method</i> (in Greek), Ekkremes, 2022 <i>Mechanisms in science: method or metaphysics?</i> (With Stavros Ioannidis) (forthcoming Jun 2022) Cambridge University Press <i>Reconsidering Causal Powers: Historical and Conceptual Perspectives</i> (edited with Henrik Lagerlund and Benjamin Hill), Oxford University Press, 2021 <i>The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Science</i> (with Martin Curd) Second Revised and Expanded Edition, Routledge 2013 <i>Knowing the Structure of Nature: Essays on Realism and Explanation</i>, MacMillan-Palgrave, 2009 <i>Science and Truth</i>, Okto Publishers 2008 (in Greek) <i>The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Science</i> (with Martin Curd) Routledge 2008—Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2008 <i>Philosophy of Science A-Z</i>, Edinburgh University Press, 2007 <i>Logic: The Structure of Argument</i> (with Demetris Portides and D A Anapolitanos), Nefeli 2007 (in Greek) <i>Causation and Explanation</i>, Acumen (2002) & McGill-Queens University Press (2003) Prize of the Presidents of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science for the best textbook in the Philosophy of Science <i>Scientific Realism: How Science Tracks Truth</i>, 1999, London & New York: Routledge 	
Papers: Total 139 papers; 32 book reviews	
Talks: over 215 talks in conferences and seminars since 1992	

Selected papers

1. 'The Problem of Induction' (with C. Stergiou) Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2022 <https://iep.utm.edu/problem-of-induction/>
2. 'From the evidence of history to the history of evidence: Descartes, Newton and beyond', in T. Lyons and P. Vickers (eds) *Contemporary Scientific Realism and the Challenge from the History of Science*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp.70-98, 2021
3. 'On the Inherence and Directedness of Powers' in Hill at al. (eds) *Reconsidering Causal Powers: Historical and Conceptual Perspectives*, Oxford University Press pp. 45-67, 2021
4. 'No Laws and (Thin) Powers In, No (Governing) Laws Out', (with Stavros Ioannidis & Vassilios Livanios) *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 11, 6, pp.1-26, 2021
5. 'What Powers are Not', (with E. Pechlivanidi). In A. S. Meincke (ed.) *Dispositionalism. Perspectives from Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science*, Synthese Library, Dordrecht: Springer: pp.131-149, 2020
6. 'Principles of Motion and the Absence of Laws of Nature in Hobbes's Natural Philosophy', (with Eirini Goudarouli), *HOPOS*, 9: 93-119, 2019
7. 'Laws and Powers in the Frame of Nature'. In Patton, L. & Ott, W. (eds) *Laws of Nature*. Oxford University Press, pp.80-107, 2018
8. 'Realism and Theory Change in Science', *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 3 May 2018
9. 'World-Involving Scientific Understanding' *Balkan Journal of Philosophy*, Vol.9, Issue 1, pp. 4-21, 2017
10. 'In Defence of Methodological Mechanism: The case of Apoptosis', (with S. Ioannidis), *Axiomathes*, Volume 27, pp. 601-619, 2017
11. 'Broken Structuralism', *Metascience* 25, 163-171, 2016
12. 'Evidence: Wanted, alive or dead', *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 45, No. 3, 357-381, 2015
13. 'Regularities, Natural Patterns and Laws of Nature', *Theoria*, 79, 9-27, 2014
14. 'Semirealism or Neo-Aristotelianism?', *Erkenntnis*, 78, 29-38, 2013
15. 'Adding Modality to Ontic Structuralism: An Exploration and Critique', in E. Landry and D. Rickles (eds), *Structure, Object, and Causality*, Dordrecht: Springer, pp.169-185, 2012
16. 'Moving Molecules Above the Scientific Horizon: On Perrin's Case for Realism', *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 42, 339-363, 2011
17. 'Living with the Abstract: Realism and Models', *Synthese* 190, 3-17, 2011
18. 'Scientific Realism: Between Platonism and Nominalism', *Philosophy of Science* 77, 947-958, 2010
19. 'Regularity Theories'. In *Oxford Handbook of Causation*, H. Beebe, P. Menzies & C. Hitchcock (eds) Oxford University Press, pp.131-157, 2009
20. 'The Structure, the Whole Structure and Nothing but the Structure?', *Philosophy of Science* 73, 560-570, 2006
21. 'What do powers do when they are not manifested?' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 72, 135-156, 2006
22. 'Scientific Realism and Metaphysics', *Ratio* 18, 385-404, 2005
23. 'A Glimpse of the Secret Connexion: Harmonising Mechanisms with Counterfactuals', *Perspectives on Science* 12: 288-319, 2004
24. 'Simply the Best: A Case for Abduction' in *Computational Logic: From Logic Programming into the Future*, (eds A. C. Kakas & F. Sadri), Berlin-Heidelberg: Springer, pp.605-25, 2002