

Marius Stan

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Appointments

2017 –	Associate professor, Boston College (early tenure)
2017 – 18	Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies
2012 – 17	Assistant professor, Boston College
2009 – 12	Mellon postdoctoral fellow, Caltech

Degrees

PhD, Philosophy – Johns Hopkins University (2009): with distinction.

Areas of research

History and philosophy of physics; Early modern philosophy.

Areas of competence

Metaphysics; Ancient philosophy; Bioethics.

Books

Philosophical Mechanics in the Age of Reason. [with Katherine Brading]
Oxford University Press. (2023)

Reviews: *Choice* 61 (2024); *The Leibniz Review* 33 (2023); *British Journal for Philosophy of Science* (2025); *HOPOS: Journal of the International Society for History of Philosophy of Science* (2025); *Centaurus* (2025).

Kant's Natural Philosophy. Cambridge University Press. (2025)

Edited volumes

The History and Philosophy of Science, 1450–1750. Bloomsbury. (in press)

Theory, Evidence, Data. [with Chris Smeenk] Boston Studies in
Philosophy and History of Science, vol. 343. Springer. (2023)

‘Mechanics and mixed mathematics.’ Part of *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences*, general eds. D. Jalobeanu and Ch. Wolfe. Springer, 2022.

Articles

- Kant’s philosophy of science. [with Eric Watkins; substantial rewrite] *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. E.N. Zalta. (Nov 2023)
- How physics flew the philosopher’s nest. [with Katherine Brading] *Studies in History & Philosophy of Science* 88: 312–20. (2021)
- Absolute time: the limit of Kant’s idealism. *Noûs* 53: 433–61. (2019)
- Emilie du Châtelet’s metaphysics. *Journal for the History of Philosophy* 56: 477–496. (2018)
- Huygens on inertial structure and relativity. *Philosophy of Science* 83: 277–98. (2016)
- Kant and the object of determinate experience. *Philosophers’ Imprint* 15. (2015)
- Kant’s response to Newton: absolute space and the riddle of rotation. *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 7: 257–308. (2015)
- Unity for Kant’s natural philosophy. *Philosophy of Science* 81: 423–443. (2014)
- Kant’s philosophy of science. [with Eric Watkins] *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. Edward N. Zalta. (2014)
- Kant’s third law of mechanics: the long shadow of Leibniz. *Studies in History & Philosophy of Science* 44: 493–504. (2013)
- Newton and Wolff. *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 50: 459–81. (2012)
- Kant’s early theory of motion. *The Leibniz Review* 19: 29–60. (2009)

Chapters

- Mechanics from Galileo to Lagrange. *The History and Philosophy of science, 1450–1750*, ed. M. Stan. Bloomsbury (in press)
- Doctrines of force in the Enlightenment. *Oxford Handbook of the Enlightenment*, ed. A. Garrett. Oxford (forthcoming)

From metaphysical principles to dynamical laws. *Cambridge History of Philosophy of the Scientific Revolution*, eds. D.M. Miller & D. Jalobeanu, 387–405. Cambridge (2022)

Rationalist foundations and the science of force. *Oxford Handbook of 18th-century German Philosophy*, ed. C. Dyck. (forthcoming 2024)

Euler, Newton, and foundations for mechanics. *Oxford Handbook of Newton*, eds. Ch. Smeenk and E. Schliesser. (online first, 2018)

Space, construction, and mathematizing motion. *Critical Guide to Kant's Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science*, ed. M.B. McNulty, 80–97. Cambridge (2022)

Metaphysical foundations of neoclassical mechanics. *Kant and the Laws of Nature*, eds. Michela Massimi & Angela Breitenbach, 214–34. Cambridge (2017).

Newton's concepts of force among the Leibnizians. *Reading Newton in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Mordechai Feingold & E.A. Boran, 244–89. Brill (2017).

From general to special metaphysics of nature. [with Bennett McNulty] *The Palgrave Kant Handbook*, ed. Matthew Altman, 493–513. (2017)

Kant's philosophy of mechanics in 1758. *Rethinking Kant*: vol. III, ed. Oliver Thorndike, 158–179 (Cambridge, 2011).

Shorter pieces

Time as form: receptivity and topology. *Kant's Fundamental Assumptions*, eds. C. Marshall and C. McLear. Oxford. (in press)

Evidence and explanation in Kant's doctrine of laws. *Studi Kantiani* 34: 141–49 (2021)

Absolute and relative motion. *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences*, eds. Ch. Wolfe and D. Jalobeanu. Springer. (2020)

Newton and the French: a critical study. *Annals of Science* 76: 347–54. (2019)

Perpetuum mobiles and the world's eternity. *Eternity: the History of a Concept*, ed. Y. Melamed, 173–78. Oxford. (2016)

Kant's natural-scientific output. *Metascience* 23: 65–70. (2014)

Kant and Newton. *Metascience* 23: 233–42. (2014)

In preparation

D'Alembert. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Huygens and Newton. [with Chr. Smeenk] *Oxford Handbook of Newton*.

Newton's perturbation theory in Europe: Varignon to du Châtelet. *The Reception of Newton's Science*, ed. M. Feingold.

Reviews

E. Schliesser, *Newton's Metaphysics*. *Journal for the History of Philosophy* (2024), 157–59.

A. Janiak, ed. *Space: A History*. *Journal for the History of Philosophy* (2021), 343–44.

E. Slowik, *The Deep Metaphysics of Space*. Springer, 2016. *British Journal for Philosophy of Science* (2018)

S. Ducheyne, *Newton's Methodology*. *NDPR* (June 2012).

M. Massimi, *Kant & Philosophy of Science Today*. *HOPOS* (2011), 364–7.

P. Hoffman, *Essays on Descartes*. [with G. Manning] *Mind* (2011), 531–4.

Fellowships

ACLS collaborative fellowship, 2017–19. With Katherine Brading (Duke).

Visiting fellow, Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Summer 2011.

Mellon postdoctoral fellow, Rice University, 2012 – 2014 (declined).

Fellow, NEH Seminar *Descartes, Galileo, Hobbes: Philosophy and Science, Politics and Religion in the Scientific Revolution* (Princeton): July 2010.

Recent presentations

(* marks refereed papers):

Patterns of confirmation in post-Newtonian mechanics.

Keynote Address, &HPS10: *The Integrated History and Philosophy of Science Conference*, Caltech, March 2025. Keynote Address, *Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics, and Physics Graduate Conference*, Univ. of Western Ontario, June

2024. Conference *Knowledge and Certainty*, Univ. of Paris X-Nanterre, Sept
2023. *HOPOS*: Biennial Conference in History and Philosophy of Science, UC
Irvine, June 2022.

Newton's perturbation methods in Europe: Varignon to Du Châtelet.

Conference *Isaac Newton: Foes, Friends, and Followers*, Caltech, Apr. 2024.

Kant's Balance Argument: structure and warrant.

Conference *Kant's Dynamic Theory of Matter*, Free University of Brussels,
March 2024.

Time as a form of sense in Kant: receptivity and topology.

Workshop on *Kant's Fundamental Assumptions*, Univ. of Washington, August
2021.

How physics flew the philosophers' nest. [with Katherine Brading]

Bucharest-Princeton Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy (June 2020).

From metaphysical principles to dynamical laws.

Dept of Logic and Philosophy of Science, UC Irvine (Nov 2019). Dept of
Philosophy, Princeton University (April 2019). Division of Humanities, Caltech
(April 2019). Conference *Revolutions in Early Modern Philosophy and Science*,
Dept of Philosophy, Iowa State University (July 2018)

Space, construction, and mathematizing motion in Kant.

University of Texas, Austin (March 2019)

The epistemology of Kant's metaphysics of nature.

APA Annual Conference, Central Division, Boulder CO (February 2019)

Absolute time in Kant's idealism.

HOPOS 2016, University of Minnesota (June 2016). * Dept of Philosophy,
Brown University (September 2017)

Emilie du Châtelet: between Leibniz and Newton?

Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Reno (February 2017). *
Dept of Philosophy, Boston University (July 2016). Dept of Philosophy,
Columbia (June 2016). Dept of History and Philosophy of Science, Notre
Dame (November 2014)

Huygens on Inertial Structure and Relativity.

Max Planck Institute for History of Science (July 2015). The Early Modern
Interest Group, University of Minnesota (April 2015)

Kant and the Object of Classical Physics.

Wing-Chun Memorial Lecture, Towson University (October 2015). Dept. of Philosophy, University of Minnesota (April 2015). Workshop Kant and the Laws of Nature, Cambridge, UK (June 2014). *HOPOS 2014*, Ghent (July 2014)*

Kant, Leibnizian Science, and the Mechanical Philosophy.

‘Author Meets Critics’ panel on M. Friedman’s *Kant’s Construction of Nature*, New England Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Brown Univ (May 2014).

Unity for Kant’s Natural Philosophy.

Philosophy Dept, Harvard (December 2013). Philosophy Dept, University of Toronto (January 2014)

Teaching

Graduate / advanced undergraduate courses:

Boston College: *Kant’s First Critique; Space & Time from Aristotle to Einstein; Space, Time, and Matter: Descartes to Kant; The Nature of Science.*

Caltech: *Early Modern Natural Philosophy; Kant on Science and Philosophy; Leibniz & Clarke.*

Undergraduate courses:

Boston College: *History and Philosophy of Science, I–II* (core course, two semesters); *Senior Honors Seminar* (2021–25); *Perspectives on Western Philosophy, I and II* (two semesters, 12 credits).

Caltech: *Knowledge and Reality; Right and Wrong.*

Johns Hopkins: *Political Philosophy.*

Service

Referee, *Noûs*; *Philosophy of Science*; *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*; *Erkenntnis*; *Annals of Science*; *Journal of the History of Philosophy*; *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*; *History of Science*; *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*; *Philosophers’ Imprint*; *Synthese*; *American Journal of Physics*; *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy*; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; *Journal of Philosophical Research*; *Kantian Review*; *Perspectives on Science*; *Foundations of Science*; *HOPOS: Journal of the Society for History of Philosophy of Science*; *Science and Education.*

Member, Program committee “Kant and Before,” *HOPOS 2016: Eleventh Congress of International Society for History of Philosophy of Science*.

Editor, PhilPapers areas ‘Kant: Science, Logic & Mathematics’ and ‘Chr. Wolff.’

Manuscript referee, Cambridge UP; Oxford UP; MIT Press; Palgrave Macmillan.

Co-founder, *The Early Modern Circle of Southern California*.

Service to the College:

Member, the Undergraduate Educational Policy Committee (2019–21).

Service to the Department:

Director of Undergraduate Studies (2024–27). Member, the Undergraduate Committee (2019–24). Member, the Graduate Committee (2016–18). Member, the Graduate Admissions Committee (2018, 2022). Member, Faculty Search Committee for position in Science and Values. Member, the LaBrecque Endowed Lectures planning committee.

Graduate proposal and dissertation committees

Dissertation committees:

At Boston College: Nicholas Westberg (second reader; defended Nov. 2023); Nicholas Porter (second reader; defended Oct. 2023); Juan Carlos Rivera, SJ (advisor; defended 2022); Evan Clarke (third reader; defended 2013); Colin Connors (second reader; defended 2012); John Enslin, (third reader; defended 2014).

At University of Ottawa: Xavier Corsius (second reader, defended Nov. 2019).

Proposal committees:

At Boston College: Violetta Lato (admitted to candidacy, May 2025); Nicholas Westberg (admitted to candidacy, May 2021); Nicholas Porter (admitted to candidacy, September 2019); Juan Rivera Castro, SJ (admitted to candidacy, May 2019); Vicente Muñoz-Reja (admitted to candidacy, April 2017).

Research languages

German; French; Latin; Italian; Spanish; Ancient Greek.

References

Katherine Brading, *Duke* (kbrading@duke.edu);
Christopher Smeenk, *Western Ontario* (csmeenk2@uwo.ca);
Eric Watkins, *UC San Diego* (ewatkins@ucsd.edu)
Jeffrey McDonough, *Harvard* (jkmcdon@fas.harvard.edu);
Desmond Hogan, *Princeton* (deshogan@princeton.edu);
Sheldon Smith, *UCLA*, emeritus (sheldonrsmith@gmail.com).