

James Alexander Mabyn Read

Address:

Pembroke College
St. Aldate's
Oxford
OX1 1DW

Email:

james.read@philosophy.ox.ac.uk

Phone: (+44) 07541 623043

Employment

2018 - **Associate Professor**, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford
Tutorial Fellow, Pembroke College, University of Oxford

Education

- 2018 **D.Phil. Doctor of Philosophy** (Pass with no corrections.)
Hertford College, University of Oxford, UK
Supervisors: Prof. Harvey R. Brown and Dr. Oliver Pooley
Examiners: Dr. Adam Caulton and Dr. Jeremy Butterfield
- 2016 **B.Phil. Bachelor of Philosophy** (First in cohort.)
Merton College, University of Oxford, UK
Supervisor: Dr. Oliver Pooley
- 2014 **M.A.St. Master of Advanced Study in Mathematics (Part III)**
Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2013 **M.Phys.Phil. Master of Physics and Philosophy** (First in cohort.)
Oriental College, University of Oxford, UK

Awards and Scholarships

2018 **The Robert K. Clifton Memorial Prize** for best presented paper at the Logic-Math-Physics conference, Western University, London, Canada

- 2017 **Space and Time After Quantum Gravity Visiting Fellowship**, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 2016 **The Hanneke Janssen Memorial Prize** for best thesis in the History and Foundations of Physics (International award)
The Gilbert Ryle Prize for highest distinction in the B.Phil. in Philosophy, University of Oxford
The Michael Ferrar Senior Scholarship, Hertford College, University of Oxford
- 2014 **AHRC Scholarship** for the B.Phil. and D.Phil. in Philosophy, University of Oxford (2014-2018)
- 2013 **Studentship in Mathematics**, Trinity College, University of Cambridge
Gibbs Prize for best performance in Physics in the Honour School of Physics and Philosophy, University of Oxford
The John Thresher Prize for best M.Phys. project in Particle Physics, University of Oxford
- 2012 **Gibbs Prize** for best performance in Philosophy in the Honour School of Physics and Philosophy, University of Oxford
- 2011 **Physics Department Book Prize** for speaking, University of Oxford
- 2010 **Undergraduate Scholarship**, Oriel College, University of Oxford
College Collection/Essay Prizes ×10, Oriel College, University of Oxford (2010-2012)

Publications

Edited Volumes

1. James Read, Bryan W. Roberts and Nicholas J. Teh (eds.), *The Philosophy and Physics of Noether's Theorems*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. (Under contract.)

Papers in Peer-Reviewed Collections or Journals

2. Yang-Hui He, John McKay and James Read, "Modular Subgroups, Dessins d'Enfants and Elliptic K3 Surfaces", *LMS Journal of Computation and Mathematics* 16, pp. 271-318, 2013.
3. Yang-Hui He and James Read, "Dessins d'Enfants in $\mathcal{N} = 2$ Generalised Quiver Theories", *Journal of High Energy Physics* 85(8), 2015.
4. Yang-Hui He and James Read, "Hecke Groups, Dessins d'Enfants and the Archimedean Solids", *Frontiers in Physics* 3(91), 2015.
5. James Read, "The Interpretation of String-Theoretic Dualities", *Foundations of Physics* 46(2), pp. 209-235, 2016.
6. Harvey R. Brown and James Read, "Clarifying Possible Misconceptions in the Foundations of General Relativity", *American Journal of Physics* 84(5), pp. 327-334, 2016.
7. Harvey R. Brown and James Read, "The Dynamical Approach to Spacetime Theories", forthcoming in E. Knox and A. Wilson (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Physics*, London: Routledge, 2018.
8. James Read, "In Defence of Everettian Decision Theory", *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 63, pp. 136-140, 2018.
9. Yang-Hui He, Zhi Hu, Malte Probst and James Read, "Yang-Mills Theory and the ABC Conjecture", *International Journal of Modern Physics A* 33(13), 2018.
10. James Read, Harvey R. Brown and Dennis Lehmkuhl, "Two Miracles of General Relativity", *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 64, pp. 14-25, 2018.
11. Tushar Menon, Niels Linnemann and James Read, "Clocks and Chronogeometry: Rotating Spacetimes and the Relativistic Null Hypothesis", forthcoming in *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2018.
12. James Read and Nicholas J. Teh, "The Teleparallel Equivalent of Newton-Cartan Gravity", *Classical and Quantum Gravity* 35, 18LT01, 2018.
13. Baptiste Le Bihan and James Read, "Duality and Ontology", *Philosophy Compass* 13, e12555, 2018.

14. James Read, "On Miracles and Spacetime", *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 65, pp. 103-111, 2019.
15. James Read and Tushar Menon, "The Limitations of Inertial Frame Spacetime Functionalism", forthcoming in *Synthese*, 2019.
16. Patrick Dürr and James Read, "Gravitational Energy in Newtonian Gravity—A Response to Dewar and Weatherall", *Foundations of Physics* 49, pp. 1086-1110, 2019.
17. James Read, "Functional Gravitational Energy", *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 71, pp. 205-232, 2020.
18. James Read, "Explanation, Geometry, and Conspiracy in Relativity Theory", forthcoming in C. Beisbart, T. Sauer and C. Wüthrich (eds.), *Thinking About Space and Time: 100 Years of Applying and Interpreting General Relativity*, Einstein Studies series, vol. 15, Basel: Birkhäuser, 2020.
19. James Read and Thomas Møller-Nielsen, "Motivating Dualities", *Synthese* 197, pp. 263-291, 2020.
20. James Read and Emily Qureshi-Hurst, "Getting Tense About Relativity", forthcoming in *Synthese*, 2020.
21. James Read and Thomas Møller-Nielsen, "Redundant Epistemic Symmetries", *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 70, pp. 88-97, 2020.
22. Niels C. M. Martens and James Read, "Sophistry About Symmetries?", forthcoming in *Synthese*, 2020.
23. James Read, "Geometrical Constructivism and Modal Relationalism: Further Aspects of the Dynamical/Geometrical Debate", forthcoming in *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, 2020.
24. Neil Dewar and James Read, "Conformal Invariance of the Newtonian Weyl Tensor", forthcoming in *Foundations of Physics*, 2020.

Papers Submitted to Peer-Reviewed Collections or Journals

25. James Read and Baptiste Le Bihan, "The Landscape and the Multiverse: What's the Problem?", submitted to *Synthese*, 2020.

26. James Read, “Geometric Objects, Natural Kinds, and Fragmentalist Philosophy”, submitted to J. Read, B. Roberts and N. Teh (eds.), *The Philosophy and Physics of Noether’s Theorems*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
27. James Read and Nicholas J. Teh, “Newtonian Equivalence Principles”, submitted to *Philosophy of Science*, 2020.
28. Bryan Cheng and James Read, “Why not a Sound Postulate?”, submitted to *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 2020.
29. Niels Linnemann and James Read, “On the Status of Newtonian Gravitational Radiation”, submitted to *Foundations of Physics*, 2020.
30. Niels Linnemann and James Read, “Curvature Coupling, Electromagnetic Wave Propagation, and the Consistency of the Geometrical Optics Limit”, submitted to *Classical and Quantum Gravity*, 2020.

Grants

1. **A New Philosophy of Symmetry: Gauge, Composition, and Empirical Content**, John Templeton Foundation. Co-PI: Prof. Nicholas J. Teh (Notre Dame). Value: \$230,503. July 2020 to July 2022.

Speaking

- 2020 **Warsaw Philosophy of Spacetime Colloquium**, University of Warsaw, Poland. Title: “Shifts and Reference”. (Invited talk.)
- Black Hole Institute Foundations of Physics Seminar**, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Title: “On the Null Propagation of Electromagnetic Waves”. (Invited talk.)
- Black Hole Institute Foundations of Physics Seminar**, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Title: “Constructive Axiomatics for General Relativity”. (Invited talk.)
- Trinity Term Philosophy of Physics Graduate Seminar**, University of Oxford, UK. Title: “Geometric Objects, Natural Kinds, and Fragmentalist Philosophy”.

- BBLOC Seminar**, King's College, London, UK. Title: "Newtonian Equivalence Principles". (Invited talk.)
- Pembroke College Physics Society**, Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK. Title: "The Conventionality of Geometry". (Invited talk.)
- The Foundations of Cosmology and Quantum Gravity**, New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE. Title: "Background Independence and Quantum Gravity". (Invited talk.)
- 2019 **Goldsmiths' Sutherland Centre for Philosophy and World Religions Launch**, University of Manchester, UK. Title: "Modern Physics and the Philosophy of Time". (Invited talk.)
- Philosophy Society**, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford, UK. Title: "'To Limn a Gauge-Free Reality': Recent Debates in the Philosophy of Symmetries". (Invited talk.)
- First Oxford-Notre Dame-Bonn Workshop in the Foundations of Spacetime Theories**, Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK. Title: "Newton-Cartan, Weyl Geometry, and Teleparallelisation: Joining the Dots in the Space of Spacetime Theories".
- Oriel College Philosophy Society**, Oriel College, University of Oxford, UK. Title: "Getting Tense About Relativity". (Invited talk.)
- 2018 **Philosophy of Science Association**, Seattle, Washington, USA. Title: "Inertia and Teleparallelization".
- Fourth Cambridge Simplex Meeting**, University of Cambridge, UK. Title: "Sophistry About Symmetries?" (Invited talk.)
- Philosophy of Logic, Math and Physics Conference**, Western University, London, Ontario, Canada. Title: "On Miracles and Spacetime".
- Third Cambridge Simplex Meeting**, University of Cambridge, UK. Title: "Geometry and Conspiracy in Relativity Theory". (Invited talk.)
- Modality in Physics**, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. Title: "Geometry and Conspiracy in Relativity Theory".
- First Cambridge Simplex Meeting**, University of Cambridge, UK. Title: "The Limitations of Inertial Frame Spacetime Functionalism". (Invited talk.)
- Sigma Club**, London School of Economics, London, UK. Title: "Geometry and Conspiracy in Relativity Theory". (Invited talk.)
- Graduate Philosophy of Physics Workshop**, Notre Dame University,

- South Bend, Indiana, USA. Title: "On Miracles and Spacetime". (Invited talk.)
- Workshop on Spacetime Functionalism**, Université de Genève, Switzerland. Title: "Euclidean Spacetime Functionalism".
- Philosophy Club**, University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois, USA. Title: "Spacetime: What is it Good For?". (Invited talk.)
- Philosophy of Physics Seminar**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Title: "On Miracles and Spacetime". (Invited talk.)
- 2017 **Spacetime: Fundamental or Emergent?**, Universität Bonn, Germany. Title: "On Miracles and Spacetime". (Invited talk.)
- 100 Years of Applying and Interpreting General Relativity**, Universität Bern, Switzerland. Title: "Two Miracles of General Relativity".
- European Philosophy of Science Association**, University of Exeter, UK. Title: "Two Miracles of General Relativity".
- European Conference for Analytic Philosophy**, LMU Munich, Germany. Title: "Motivating Dualities".
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science**, University of Edinburgh, UK. Title: "Background Independence".
- Symmetries and Asymmetries in Physics**, Leibniz Universität Hanover, Germany. Comments on Erik Curiel, "The Problem of Approximate Symmetries in General Relativity". (Invited commentary.)
- Philosophical Foundations of Quantum Gravity**, Université de Genève, Switzerland. Comments on Mark Shumelda, "A Tale of Two Machs: Relationalism in Quantum Gravity". (Invited commentary.)
- 2016 **The Hanneke Janssen Prize Award Ceremony**, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands. Title: "Background Independence". (Invited talk.)
- Michaelmas Term Philosophy of Physics Graduate Seminar**, University of Oxford, UK. Title: "Two Miracles of General Relativity".
- Space and Time After Quantum Gravity Summer School**, Williams Bay, Wisconsin, USA. Title: "Singular Spacetimes and Black Holes".
- Quantum Gravity Seminar**, University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois, USA. Title: "Background Independence and Holography".
- 2015 **Michaelmas Term Philosophy of Physics Graduate Seminar**, Univer-

sity of Oxford, UK. Title: “Decision Theory and Subjective Probability in Everettian Quantum Mechanics”.

Trinity Term Philosophy of Physics Graduate Seminar, University of Oxford, UK. Title: “The Interpretation of String-Theoretic Dualities”.

DPG Working Group in Philosophy of Physics, TU Berlin, Germany. Title: “Gravitational Energy in General Relativity”.

2011 **Physics Speaking Series Finals**, University of Oxford, UK. Title: “Speculative Spacecraft Propulsion Systems”.

University Teaching and Mentoring

University of Oxford: Faculty Lecturing

- **Advanced Philosophy of Physics** (MT18, MT19, MT20).
- **Intermediate Philosophy of Physics: Special Relativity** (HT19, HT20, HT21).
- **The Foundations of General Relativity** (TT18).

University of Oxford: Graduate Thesis Supervision

1. Jack Johnson — M.Phys.Phil. (2019).
Probability and Coincidence in Time Travel Scenarios.
2. Francesco Moiraghi — B.Phil. (2020).
Explanation Through Functionalism.
3. Patrick Dürr — D.Phil. (2020).
Gravitational Energy and Energy Conservation in General Relativity and Other Theories of Gravity.
4. Catherine Ashworth — M.Phys.Phil. (2021).
Subjective and Objective Probability in Everettian Quantum Mechanics.
5. Marta Bielińska — B.Phil. (2021).
The Philosophy of Right and Left.
6. Caspar Jacobs — D.Phil. (2021).
Gauge and Explanation: Are Gauge-Quantities Explanatory?

7. George Webster — D.Phil. (2021).

Deleuze and Structural Realism.

University of Oxford: Graduate Teaching

- **Philosophy of Physics** for the M.St. in Philosophy of Physics and B.Phil. in Philosophy (MT18, HT19, MT19, HT20, MT20).
- **Philosophy of Science** for the M.St. in Philosophy of Physics and B.Phil. in Philosophy (HT19, HT20, TT20, MT20).

University of Oxford: Undergraduate Tutorial Teaching

- **Introduction to Logic:** Lady Margaret Hall (MT15, HT16), Hertford College (MT16, HT17, TT17), Keble College (MT16), Pembroke College (MT18, TT19, MT19, HT20, MT20).
- **Elements of Deductive Logic:** Hertford College (HT17, TT17), Oriel College (TT17), Pembroke College (TT18, HT19, TT19, HT20, TT20).
- **General Philosophy:** Pembroke College (MT18, HT19, TT19, MT19, HT20, MT20).
- **The Leibniz-Clarke Correspondence:** Hertford College (TT17), Pembroke College (TT19, TT20).
- **102 Knowledge and Reality:** Pembroke College (MT18, HT19, TT19, MT19, HT20, TT20, MT20).
- **108 Philosophy of Logic and Language:** Pembroke College (TT19).
- **120 Intermediate Philosophy of Physics:** Pembroke College (MT18, HT19, TT19, MT19, HT20, TT20, MT20).
- **121 Advanced Philosophy of Physics:** Pembroke College (MT20, HT21).
- **124 Philosophy of Science:** Hertford College (HT17, TT17), Lady Margaret Hall (TT18), Pembroke College (MT18, HT19, TT19, MT19, HT20, TT20, MT20).
- **127 Philosophical Logic:** Lady Margaret Hall (HT15, TT15, HT16, TT16, TT17, TT18), Hertford College (TT15), Balliol College (HT16), Oriel College (TT16), Pembroke College (MT18, HT19, TT19, HT20, TT20).

King's College London

- **Philosophy of Physics I: Space and Time** (Spring 2017).
- **Philosophy of Physics II: Quantum Mechanics** (Spring 2017).

Other

- **Philosophy of Space and Time:** Biennial Midwest Summer School in Philosophy of Physics, Chicago, USA (Summer 2018, Summer 2020).
- **Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics:** Extracurricular Class Series, Oxford University Physics Society (MT20).

Service

- Honorary Treasurer, British Society for the Philosophy of Science, 2020-24.
- Reviewer for journals: *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Ergo*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Foundations of Physics*, *Foundations of Science*, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of Mathematical Physics*, *Mathematical Reviews*, *Mind*, *Modern Physics Letters A*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*.
- Reviewer for edited volumes:
 - N. Huggett, B. Le Bihan and C. Wüthrich (eds.), *Philosophy Beyond Spacetime*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. (Forthcoming.)
 - N. Huggett, K. Matsubara and C. Wüthrich (eds.), *Beyond Spacetime: The Foundations of Quantum Gravity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
 - C. Beisbart, T. Sauer and C. Wüthrich (eds.), *Thinking About Space and Time: 100 Years of Applying and Interpreting General Relativity*, Einstein Studies series, vol. 15, Basel: Birkhäuser, 2020.
- Reviewer for grant-awarding bodies: Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study.

- Program committee: *British Society for the Philosophy of Science* (Durham University, 2019), *Alternative Approaches to Scientific Realism* (LMU Munich, 2020).
- Event organiser: *First Oxford-Notre Dame-Bonn Workshop in the Foundations of Spacetime Theories*.
- Undergraduate admissions interviewer, University of Oxford: Hertford College (MT16), Lady Margaret Hall (MT16), Pembroke College (MT18, MT19, MT20).
- Convenor of seminar series: Philosophy of Physics Seminar, University of Oxford (HT19, TT19, MT20); Pembroke College Philosophy Club, University of Oxford (MT18, HT19, MT19, HT20, MT20); Philosophy of Physics Graduate Seminar, University of Oxford (MT16, HT17, TT17).
- Member of Governing Body, Pembroke College, University of Oxford.
- Member of Academic Committee, Pembroke College, University of Oxford.

Other Information

- Languages: Spanish, Nepali.
- Translator (from Nepali, with Sumana Sharma) of Mayadevi Sharma, *Urmila*, Nepal, 2014.
- Miscellaneous: Cycling, running, hiking, painting, photography.