

# ◆ J.T. ISMAEL, Ph.D. ◆

Email: [jismael1@JHu.edu](mailto:jismael1@JHu.edu) • Website: [www.jenanni.com](http://www.jenanni.com)

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## ◆ AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Philosophy of Physics • Metaphysics • Cognitive Science • Philosophy of Science • Philosophy of Mind • Philosophy of Social Science

## ◆ EMPLOYMENT

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<b>William H. Miller III Professor of Philosophy</b>	2022–present
<i>Johns Hopkins University</i>	
<b>Professor</b>	2018–2022
<i>Columbia University • Affiliate, Zuckerman Institute</i>	
<b>Assistant, Associate, then Full Professor</b>	1996–2018
<i>University of Arizona • Joint appointment in Cognitive Science</i>	
<b>Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellow, Centre for Time</b>	2005–2010
<i>University of Sydney</i>	
<b>Visiting Professor and Mellon Fellow</b>	1996–1998
<i>Stanford University</i>	

## ◆ EDUCATION

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<b>Ph.D., Philosophy</b>	1997
<i>Princeton University</i>	
<i>Advisors: Bas van Fraassen (Primary), David Albert, and Paul Benacerraf</i>	
<i>Dissertation: "Some Essays on Symmetry"</i>	
<b>M.A., Philosophy</b>	1994
<i>Princeton University</i>	
<b>B.A.</b>	
<i>Reed College</i>	

## ◆ BOARDS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Co-director and co-founder Natural Philosophy Forum, Johns Hopkins University,  
<https://www.naturalphilosophyhopkins.org/>

American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2025)

Santa Fe Institute, Science Board

FQXi (Foundational Questions Institute), Scientific Advisory Board  
Journal of Philosophy, Editorial Board  
Philosophy of Physics, Editorial Board  
Journal of Contemporary Iraq and the Arab World, Co-editor  
Philosophical Outsiders book series, Oxford University Press, Editorial Board  
International Academy of Philosophy of Science, Corresponding Member  
American Philosophical Association  
Philosophy of Science Association

## ❖ FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- Guggenheim Fellowship 2024
- Sanders Media Fellow 2022
- FQXi (Foundational Questions Institute) Grant (\$103,000) 2019-2020
- Templeton Grant (\$122,300) 2017-2018
- Scotts Philosophical Association Fellow (2015)
- CASBS (Center for Advanced Study in Social and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford) 2014-2015
- Stanford Humanities Center (Declined) 2014-2015
- National Humanities Center (Declined) 2014-2015
- Varieties of Understanding, Templeton (\$99,800) 2014 – 2015
- Big Questions in Free Will Grant, Templeton (\$86,000)
- Queen Elizabeth II research fellowship, Australian Research Council (\$610,000)
- NEH Research fellow, National Humanities Center (2004-2005)
- Stanford Humanities Center (2004, declined)
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship (2004, declined)
- SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (2004, declined)
- Scholarly Conversation Grant, National Humanities Center (\$12,000)
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science Essay Prize ("What Chances Could Not Be")

## ❖ BOOKS

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*Time: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2021.

*How Physics Makes Us Free*, Oxford University Press, 2016, 2019.

*The Situated Self*, Oxford University Press, 2007, 2009.

*Essays on Symmetry*, Garland, Routledge, 2001, 2014.

## ❖ PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING PAPERS

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Forthcoming. "Simplicity as a Guide to Scientific Metaphysics." In *Inductive Metaphysics: Insights, Challenges and Prospects*, edited by Maria Sekatskaya and Gerhard Schurz. Routledge.

2025. "A participatory Universe in the Realist Mode: On the Separation of Observational and Agentive Perspectives in Classical and Quantum Mechanics." *Foundations of Physics*.
2025. "The Open Universe: Totality, Self-reference and Time." *Australasian Philosophical Review*, Vol. 8, Issue 3, 1–16. Lead article in special issue (8 invited and submitted commentaries and a response to commentaries).
2023. "Reflections on the Asymmetry of Causation." *Interface Focus* 13: 20220081.  
<https://doi.org/10.1098/rsfs.2022.0081>.
2023. "The Neuroconnectionist Research Programme." With Doerig, A., Sommers, R.P., Seeliger, K., et al. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience* 24, 431–450. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41583-023-00705-w>.
2023. "Rethinking Time and Determinism: what happens to determinism when you take relativity seriously." In *Time and Science*, edited by Remy Lestienne and Paul Harris. World Scientific Publishing.
2023. "Humean Disillusion." In *Humean Laws for Humean Agents*, edited by Christian Low, Michael Hicks and Sigfried Jaag. Oxford University Press.
2022. "Why Physics Should Care about the Mind, and How to Think About it Without Worrying About the Mind-Body Problem." In *Quantum Mechanics and Consciousness*, edited by Shan Gao. Oxford University Press.
2022. "Time and the Visual Imagination: from physics to philosophy." *Oxford Studies in the Philosophy of Mind*, Vol. 2, edited by Uriah Kriegel. Oxford University Press.
2021. "Symmetry and Superfluous Structure: lessons from history and tempered enthusiasm." In *Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Physics*, edited by Eleonor Knox and Alastair Wilson. Routledge.
2021. "Do you See Space? How to recover the visible and tangible reality of space (without space)." In *Philosophy Beyond Space-time 2*, edited by Christian Wuthrich and Nick Huggett. Oxford University Press.
2020. "Space, Quantum Mechanics, and Bohm's Fishtank." In *The Foundation of Reality: Fundamentality, Space and Time*, edited by David Glick and Anna Marmodoro. Oxford University Press.
2020. "On Chance: or Why I am (only) Half-Humean." In *Current Controversies in Philosophy of Science*, edited by Shamik Dasgupta. Routledge.
2019. "Experience, Transformation and Imagination." *Internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia* 10(3): 330-338.
2019. "Determinism, Counterpredictive Devices, and the Impossibility of Laplacean Intelligences." *The Monist*, Special Issue edited by Gordon Belot.
2019. "Causation: an Overview of our Emerging Understanding." In *Time and Causality across the Sciences*, edited by Samantha Kleinberg. Cambridge University Press.
2018. "Causal Content and Global Laws." In *The Experimental Side of Modeling*, edited by Isabelle F. Peschard and Bas C. van Fraassen. University of Minnesota Press.
2017. "Why Study the Humanities? The view from science." In *New Essays on the Philosophy of Understanding*, edited by Stephen Grimm. Oxford University Press.
2017. "Passage, Flow, and the Logic of Temporal Perspectives." In *The Nature of Time, The Time of Nature*, edited by Christophe Bouton and Phillippe Hunemann. University of Chicago Press.
2016. "Quantum Holism: Nonseparability as Common Ground." With Johnathan Schaffer. *Synthese*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-016-1201-2>.
2016. "A Philosopher of Science Looks at Ideal Theory." *Social Philosophy and Policy* 33:1-2, 11-31.
2016. "Which Curie's Principle." With Elena Castellani. *Philosophy of Science* 83(5): 1002–1013.

2016. "An Empiricist's Guide to Objective Modality." In *Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science*, edited by Zanja Yudell and Matthew Slater. Oxford University Press.
2016. "How Do Causes Depend On Us? The Many Faces of Perspectivism." *Synthese* 193:2.
2016. "From Physical Time to Human Time." In *Cosmological and Psychological Time*, edited by Yuval Abrams. Springer.
2015. "On Whether the Atemporal Conception of the World is also Amodal." *Analytic Philosophy* 56(2): 142-157.
2015. "How to be Humean." In *A Companion to David Lewis*, edited by Barry Loewer and Johnathan Schaffer, 188-205. Wiley Blackwell.
2015. "In Defense of the Chance-Mixing Principle: Response to Pettigrew." *Nous* 49:1, 197-200.
2015. "Quantum Mechanics." *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2021 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.). <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2021/entries/qm/>.
2014. "On Being Some-One." In *Surrounding Free Will*, edited by Al Mele, 274-297. Oxford University Press.
2014. "Metaphysics on the Sydney Plan." In *Philosophical Methodology; the Armchair or the Laboratory*, edited by Mathew Haug, 86-103. Routledge.
2012. "Causation, Free Will, and Naturalism." In *Scientific Metaphysics*, edited by Harold Kincaid, James Ladyman, and Don Ross, 208-236. Oxford University Press.
2012. "Immunity to Error as an Artefact of Transition Between Representational Media." In *Immunity to Error through Misidentification: New Essays*, edited by Simon Prosser and François Recanati, 62-80. Cambridge University Press.
2011. "Reflexivity, Fixed points, and Semantic Descent; How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Reflexivity." *Acta Analytica* 26(4): 295-310.
2011. "Decision and the Open Future." In *The Future of the Philosophy of Time*, edited by Adrian Bardon, 149-168. Routledge.
2011. "A Modest Proposal About Chance." *Journal of Philosophy* 108(8): 416-442.
2011. "Precis for Symposium on The Situated Self." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 82(3): 733-748.
2011. "Replies to Symposiaists." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 82(3): 752-758.
2011. "Self-Organization and Self-Governance." *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 41(3): 327-351.
2010. "Temporal Experience." In *Oxford Handbook on Time*, edited by Craig Callender. Oxford University Press.
2009. "Probability in Deterministic Physics." *Journal of Philosophy* 106(2): 89-108.
2008. "Raid! The Big, Bad Bug Dissolved." *Nous*, Volume 42, Number 2.
2008. "An Objectivist Argument for Thirdism." With the OSCAR seminar. *Analysis* 68(2): 149-155.
2008. "Me, again." In *Topics in Contemporary Philosophy, Volume 6: Time and Identity*, edited by Keirn-Campbell, O'Rourke, and Shier. MIT Press.
2007. "Freedom, Compulsion, and Causation." *Psyche* 13/1, April.
2006. "The Ethical Importance of Death." In *Death And Anti-Death, Volume 4: Twenty Years After De Beauvoir, Thirty Years After Heidegger*, edited by Charles Tandy. Ria University Press. Reprinted in *Introduction to Philosophy: Contemporary Readings*, edited by John Perry, Michael Bratman, John Martin Fischer. Oxford University Press (2012, 2018).
2006. "Doublemindedness; a model for a dual-content cognitive architecture." *Psyche*, Vol. 12.

2006. "Saving the Baby: Dennett on Autobiography, Agency, and the Self." *Philosophical Psychology* 19:3, 345-360. DOI: 10.1080/09515080600690565.
2004. "Nolipsism: So You Think You Exist, Do You?" With John Pollock. In *Knowledge and Reality: Essays in Honor of Alvin Plantinga*, edited by Thomas Crisp, Matthew Davidson, and David Vander Laan. Springer Verlag.
2003. "How to Combine Chance and Determinism: Thinking About the Future in an Everett Universe." *Philosophy of Science* 70(4): 776-790.
2003. "Symmetry as a Guide to Superfluous Theoretical Structure." With Bas van Fraassen. In *Symmetries in Physics: Philosophical Reflections*, edited by Elena Castellani and Katherine Brading. Cambridge University Press.
2002. "Closed Causal Loops and the Bilking Argument." *Synthese* 136(3): 305-320.
2001. "Remembrances, Mementos, and Time Capsules." In *Time, Reality, and Experience*, edited by Craig Callender. Cambridge University Press.
1999. "Science and the Phenomenal." *Philosophy of Science* 66(3): 351-369.
1997. "Curie's Principle." *Synthese* 110(2): 167-190.  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023/A:1004929109216>.
1996. "What Chances Could Not Be." *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 47(1): 79-91.  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1093/bjps/47.1.79>.

## ❖ BOOK REVIEWS

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- Review of Patchen Barss, *The Impossible Man: Roger Penrose and the Cost of Genius*, *Times Literary Supplement* (cover), Feb. 21, 2025
- Review of Marcelo Gleiser, Adam Frank and Evan Thompson's *The Blind Spot*, *Nature Physics* 20, 681, 2024
- Review of Sabine Hossenfelder's *Existential Physics*, *Times Literary Supplement*, July 14, 2023
- Review of Carlo Rovelli's *Helgoland*, *Times Literary Supplement*, 20212016. "Review of Mathias Frische's *Causal Reasoning in Physics*." *Philosophical Review* 125(3): 431-435. DOI: 10.1215/00318108-3517021.
2015. "Essay Review of David Wallace's *The Emergent Multiverse*." With Guido Bacciagaluppi. *Philosophy of Science* 82(1): 129-148.