

Dr. phil. Fabian Hundertmark

Curriculum Vitae

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Areas of Specialization

philosophy of biology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychiatry, philosophy of medicine

Research Focus

biological functions (especially naturalistic theories and their roles in the philosophy of mind and medicine); modal properties (especially dispositions and abilities and their roles in the life sciences); and mental disorders (especially their ontology and their relations to physical illness, mental health, and brain disorders)

Areas of Competence

epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, metaethics, philosophy of religion

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A. Academic Career

Academic Appointments

Universitat de València, Departament de Filosofia Postdoctoral Researcher in the project “Autonomy as Address” (AUSAD) PIs: Josep Corbí and Marc Artiga	09.2025 – present
Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Computational Science & Philosophy Department Adjunct Lecturer	02.2023 – 10.2025
Bielefeld University, Department of Philosophy Postdoctoral Researcher in the project “Complex Biological Dispositions: A Case Study in the Metaphysics of Biological Practice” as part of the research group “Inductive Metaphysics”. PI: Prof. Marie Kaiser	09.2020 – 09.2024
Bielefeld University, Department of Philosophy Postdoctoral Researcher in the research group of Prof. Marie Kaiser (philosophy of science)	01.2019 – 08.2020
Bielefeld University, Department of Philosophy Research Assistant in the project “Advancing Teleosemantics” PIs: Prof. Christian Nimtz and Dr. Peter Schulte	10.2015 – 12.2018
Bielefeld University, Department of Philosophy Research and Teaching Assistant	10.2009 – 09.2015

Academic Visits

Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities “Human Abilities” (Berlin)	07.2023 (one week) 08.2022 (two weeks)
Duke University (Durham, North Carolina), Department of Philosophy Host: Prof. Karen Neander	01.2019 – 03.2019

Education

Bielefeld University	01.2013 – 12.2018
PhD in Philosophy	summa cum laude
Dissertation: “Mind and Functions – Teleosemantics Beyond Selected Effects”	
Supervisors: Prof. Christian Nimtz, Dr. Peter Schulte	
Bielefeld University	05.2009 – 12.2012
M.A. in Philosophy	1.0 (equivalent to A)
completed with a thesis on the extended mind thesis and mental content	
Referees: Dr. Peter Schulte, Prof. Ansgar Beckermann	
Bielefeld University	04.2005 – 05.2009
B.A. in Philosophy and Text Technology	1.5 (equivalent to A-)
Completed with a thesis on the extended mind thesis and functionalism	
Referees: Dr. Holger Lyre, Dr. Peter Schulte	

Career Breaks

Parental leave	04.2017 – 06.2017
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B. Publications and Presentations

Edited Volumes

(under contract) *Psychiatric Disorders: Advances in Ability-Based Approaches*, co-edited with Garson Leder, Sanja Dembić, and Tadeusz Zawidzki. Springer

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- (2026) “What Health Is: The Blueprint View”. *Philosophy of Medicine* 7 (1): 1–25.
<https://doi.org/10.5195/pom.2026.260>
- (2026) “Moving Past Ahistorical Theories of Function and Malfunctioning” with James Turner. *Biology & Philosophy* 41, article 5. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-026-10010-2>
- (2025) “Swampman Goes to the Doctor” with James Turner. *Mefisto* 9 (2): 163–182.
<https://doi.org/10.4454/mefisto.9-2.1501>
- (2025) “What are the Causal Bases of Dispositions?” with María Ferreira Ruiz. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 103 (3): 814–831. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00048402.2024.2408689>
- (2024) “Biological Functions and Dysfunctions: A Selected Dispositions Approach” with Marlene van den Bos. *Biology & Philosophy* 39, article 8. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-024-09944-2>
- (2024) “The Dilemma of Ahistorical Teleosemantics”. *Philosophy of Science* 91 (1): 58–71.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/psa.2023.98>
- (2024) “Partial realization and biological normality: Jefferson’s account of brain dysfunction reinterpreted”. *Philosophical Psychology* 37 (3): 596–605.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2023.2217210>
- (2023) “The precision of content characterizations”. *Philosophical Psychology* 36 (3): 678–694.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2022.2089103>
- (2021) “Making a difference in virtue epistemology” with Steven Kindley. *Synthese* 199: 11213–11229.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-021-03286-2>
- (2019) “Explaining how to perceive the new: causal-informational teleosemantics and productive response functions”. *Synthese* 198: 5335–5350. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-019-02406-3>

Other Articles

- (forthcoming) “The Modal Theory of Function” in *The Philosophy of Biological Functions*, ed. Zdenka Brzović, Justin Garson and Predrag Šustar. Routledge.
- (forthcoming) “Selektion und Disposition – Über die Existenz und Natur biologischer Funktionen und Dysfunktionen” in *Wissenschaft und Metaphysik*, ed. Michael te Vrugt. Nomos
- (2025) “Causal Bases of Potentialities in the Life Sciences: Extrinsicity, Multi-levelness, and Processuality” with María Ferreira Ruiz, Marie I. Kaiser, Javier Suárez Díaz, in *Inductive Metaphysics*, ed. Andreas Hüttemann and Gerhard Schurz, 295–314. Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003514404-21>
- (2019) “Teleosemantik weitergedacht. Über Grundlagen, Probleme, neue Entwicklungen” with Peter Schulte. *Information Philosophie* 47 (3): 18–31. <https://www.information-philosophie.de/?a=1&t=8819&n=2&y=4&c=140>

- (2016) “Mentale Gehalte und erweiterter Geist: Warum das Argument der Nichtabgeleitetheit scheitert” in *Ist der Geist im Kopf?: Beiträge zur These des erweiterten Geistes*, ed. Jan G. Michel, Kim J. Boström, and Michael Pohl, 133–160. Münster: mentis.
https://doi.org/10.30965/9783957430397_008

Encyclopedia Entries

- (2017) “Fehlrepräsentation”, *Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft* (Online), ed. Christoph Demmerling, Pirmin Stekeler-Weithofer et al., Berlin: De Gruyter.

Book Reviews

- (2026) “Wenn Pigmente handeln. Bewusstsein und Freiheit im Zustandsmodell”. *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie* 74 (2): 214–219. <https://doi.org/10.1515/dzph-2026-0018>

Translations

- (2019) Herman Philipse “Das Problem des Religiösen Pluralismus” with Hannah Altehenger. In: *Glaube und Rationalität: Gibt es gute Gründe für den (A)theismus?*, editors Peter Schulte and Romy Jaster. Mentis. https://doi.org/10.30965/9783957437891_007

Blog Posts

- (2024) “Selection is Inescapable Part 1: Do We Need to Rethink Biological Functions?” with Jakob Roloff and Francesca Bellazzi, at *The Brains Blog*.
<https://philosophyofbrains.com/2024/12/10/selection-is-inescapable-part-1-do-we-need-to-rethink-biological-functions.aspx>
- (2024) “Selection is Inescapable Part 2: Re-rethinking Biological Functions” with Jakob Roloff and Francesca Bellazzi, at *The Brains Blog*.
<https://philosophyofbrains.com/2024/12/12/selection-is-inescapable-part-2-re-rethinking-biological-functions.aspx>

Upcoming Presentations

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| “In Defense of Realism about Self-Illness Ambiguity” | 10.2026 |
| 27 th International Network of Philosophy and Psychiatry Conference, Nijmegen | |
| “AI Frogs, Proper Functions, and Internal Representations” (with James Turner) | 08.2026 |
| 12 th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Madrid | |
| “Proper Functions as an Etiological Kind: Core and Modules” (with Marc Artiga) | 08.2026 |
| 12 th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Madrid | |

Invited Presentations

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| “The Dual Role of Proper Functions: In Defense of Pluralist Contextualism” | 07.2026 |
| Functions and Classification in Biomedicine, Rijeka | |
| “Etiological Service Functions for Teleosemantics” | 05.2026 |
| Representation and Affect in Cognitive Science, Universitat de Barcelona | |

<i>"Revisiting dysfunction in disorders: Degrees, diversity, and distality"</i> Templeton-Sowerby Joint Workshop: Function and Dysfunction in Medicine and Psychiatry, King's College London	02.2024
<i>"Mind and Function: On the Role of Selected Dispositions in the Philosophy of Mind and Psychiatry"</i> 1st Recife's Virtual Conference on Philosophy of Mind, online	12.2023
<i>"Mental Disorders – On psychological dispositions, individuation and the disorder role"</i> Philosophy and Psychiatry Talk Series 2023, online	06.2023
<i>"Biological Functions as Selected Dispositions"</i> (with Marlene van den Bos) Empirical Philosophy Workshop, Bielefeld	03.2023
<i>"Dysfunctions, Dispositions, Defects and Disorders"</i> The ThUMB 2022 Meeting on Functions in Biology and the Biomedical Sciences, Rijeka	09.2022
<i>"Warum Mary nicht weiß, dass sie Qualia hat"</i> Arbeitskreis Bewusstsein, Münster	07.2016
<i>"Content Determinacy Challenges"</i> (with Peter Schulte) Teleosemantics – The Natural and the Normative, Fribourg	07.2013

Other Presentations

<i>"Four Questions about Dysfunctions in Medicine and Psychiatry"</i> Functions and Dysfunctions in Medicine and Psychiatry, València	06.2026
<i>"In Defense of Realism about Self-Illness Ambiguity"</i> 2026 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry (AAPP), online	05.2026
<i>"The Mind's Blueprint – Mental Health, Design, and Rational Ability"</i> GAP.12 Pathways to Truth, Düsseldorf	09.2025
<i>"The Mind's Blueprint – Mental Health, Rational Ability, and Design"</i> 26 th INPP Conference, Leipzig	05.2025
<i>"Mental Representation and Proper Function for Artificial Neural Networks"</i> (with James Turner) XXVI. Congress of the German Society for Philosophy, Münster	09.2024
<i>"Biological Functions as Selected Dispositions"</i> Millikanfest, University of Connecticut	10.2023
<i>"Causal Bases in the Life Sciences"</i> Inductive Metaphysics: Insights, Challenges and Prospects, Düsseldorf	08.2023
<i>"Mental Disorders – On psychological dispositions, individuation and the disorder role"</i> Mental Disorders and Modal Properties, Berlin	06.2023
<i>"Multi-track Pluralism"</i> GAP.11, Berlin	09.2022

<i>"Causal Bases in the Life Sciences"</i> (with Javier Suárez Díaz) Dispositions in the Life-Sciences. Contemporary and Historical Perspectives, Trier	06.2022
<i>"What are the Causal Bases of Dispositions?"</i> (with María Ferreira Ruiz) Dispositions and the life-sciences, Bielefeld	09.2021
<i>"Produktive Biologische Funktionen"</i> XXV. Congress of the German Society for Philosophy, Erlangen-Nuremberg	09.2021
<i>"Varitel Semantics and Analog Productivity"</i> Representation in Cognitive Science, Bochum	02.2020
<i>"Generics in Theories of Function"</i> Biological Functions – From Zebra Stripes to Synapses, Bielefeld	01.2020
<i>"Knowledge, Cognitive Abilities, and Sufficient Causes"</i> (with Steven Kindley) GAP.10, Cologne	09.2018
<i>"Perceptual Contents and Biological Response Functions"</i> The Future of Teleosemantics, Bielefeld	09.2018
<i>"Ein ätiologisch-epistemisches Argument für den ontologischen Naturalismus"</i> XXIV. Congress of the German Society for Philosophy, Berlin	09.2017
<i>"Explaining How to Perceive the New"</i> Teleosemantics and the Nature of Functions, Bielefeld	09.2017
<i>"Teleosemantics and Selected Dispositions"</i> 8th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Munich	08.2017
<i>"Productive Functions and Etiological Disposition Theory"</i> European Advanced School in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences 2016, Vienna	09.2016
<i>"Produktivität als Problem für die Teleosemantik"</i> GAP.9, Osnabrück	09.2015
<i>"Die logische und evidenzielle Version des Fine-Tuning-Arguments"</i> Was spricht für die Existenz Gottes oder anderer natürlicher Kräfte?, Bielefeld	07.2014
<i>"Nichtabgeleitete Repräsentationen und die These des erweiterten Geistes"</i> SOPhiA 2012 – Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy, Salzburg	09.2012

C. Service to the Profession

Organization of Events

International Teleosemantics Work-in-Progress Group 11.2025 – present
Online pre-read work-in-progress group; founder and organizer

Authors whose work has been discussed: Johan Heemskerk (Warwick University), Fabian Hundertmark (University of València), James Turner (Umeå University), Andrew Rubner (University of North Carolina), Stephen Mann (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology), Adex Izquierdo (University of València), Sérgio Farias de Souza Filho (Federal Rural University of Pernambuco)

Mental Disorder and Responsiveness to Reasons 02.2027
Forthcoming workshop, Universitat de València; co-organized with Aida Roige and Ed Armitage

Other Speakers: Aarón Álvarez-González (University of València), Asbjørn Steglich-Petersen (Aarhus University), Andrew Latham (Aarhus University), Anna Golova (University of Birmingham), Carolina Flores (University of Lisbon), Daniel Telech (University of the Fraser Valley), Lisa Bortolotti (University of Birmingham), Mohamad Hadi Safaei (Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences), Juliette Vazard (University of Zurich), Sanja Dembić (Humboldt University of Berlin), Sophie Keeling (UNED, Madrid), Somogy Varga (Aarhus University)

Grounding Representational Content in Artificial Neural Networks 08.2026
Forthcoming symposium at the 12th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Complutense University of Madrid; co-organized with James Turner

Invited Speakers: Iwan Williams (University of Copenhagen), Fintan D. Mallory (Durham University), Jessica Heine (Auburn University)

Functions and Dysfunctions in Medicine and Psychiatry 06.2026
Workshop, Universitat de València; co-organized with Virginia Ballesteros and James Turner

Other Speakers: Jerome Wakefield (NYU), John Matthewson (Massey), Marko Jurjako (Rijeka), Ema Sullivan-Bisset (Birmingham), Harriet Fagerberg (Cambridge), Henrik Røed Sherling (Cambridge), Francesca Bellazzi (Durham), Miguel Núñez de Prado-Gordillo (Granada)

Bielefeld Colloquium on the Philosophy of Psychiatry 04.2021 – 04.2025
Regular pre-read colloquium, Bielefeld University and online; founder and organizer

Participating Contributors: Lena Kästner (Bayreuth), Sanja Dembić (Berlin), Anneli Jefferson (Cardiff), Lara Keuck (Bielefeld), James Turner (Sheffield), Harriet Fagerberg (New York), Justin Garson (New York), Sascha Fink (Erlangen), Awais Aftab (Cleveland), Roberta Locatelli (Tübingen), Drew Johnson (Oslo), Jacob Stegenga (Cambridge), Elly Vintiadis (Deree College), Tad Zawidzki (Washington D.C.), Marko Jurjako (Rijeka), Ema Sullivan-Bissett (Birmingham), Jonida Kodra (Osnabrück), Hannah Altehenger (Konstanz),

Sander Werkhoven (Utrecht), Miriam Elisabeth Niemöller (Bielefeld), Tuomas Vesterinen (Stanford), David Lambert (Bielefeld), Ilir Isufi (Cincinnati), Craig French (Nottingham), Sophie Kikkert (Munich), Marlene van den Bos (Bielefeld), Pablo Hubacher Haerle (Cambridge), Cristina Amoretti (Genoa), Daniel Montero Espinoza (Hannover), Vladimir Markovic (Hannover)

Bielefeld Workshop on Philosophy of Psychiatry 2024

05.2024

Workshop, Bielefeld University; co-organized with David Lambert and Daniel Montero

Other Speakers: Florence Adams (Cambridge), Sanja Dembić (Berlin), Cornelia Elke (Bielefeld), Anna Hagemann (Bielefeld), Jonas Hartmann (Bielefeld), Roberta Locatelli (Tübingen), Lara Keuck (Bielefeld), Vladimir Markovic (Hannover), Caroline Stankozki (Bochum), James Turner (Sheffield)

Mental Disorders and Modal Properties

06.2023

Workshop, Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities "Human Abilities", Berlin; co-organized with Sanja Dembić

Invited Speakers: Kristina Engelhard (Trier), Jonathan Fuller (Pittsburgh), John T. Maier (Cambridge), Garson Leder (Milwaukee), Sophie Kikkert (Berlin), Tadeusz Zawidzki (Washington DC)

Dispositions in the Life-Sciences. Contemporary and Historical Perspectives

01.2022

Workshop, Trier University; co-organized with Kristina Engelhard, Lorenzo Spagnesi, Marie Kaiser, María Ferreira Ruiz and Javier Suárez Díaz

Other Speakers: Rani Lill Anjum (Ås), Christopher J. Austin (Durham), Andrea Gambarotto (Leuven), Alan Love (Minnesota), James Messina (Madison), Gil Santos (Lisbon), Davide Vecchi (Lisbon)

Dispositions and the life-sciences – A Microworkshop

09.2021

Workshop, Bielefeld University

Other Speakers: Barbara Vetter (Berlin), Marie Kaiser (Bielefeld), Javier Suárez Díaz (Bielefeld), María Ferreira Ruiz (Bielefeld)

Biological Functions – From Zebra Stripes to Synapses

01.2020

Book symposium with Justin Garson, Bielefeld University; co-organized with Behzad Nematipour

Commentators: Ulrich Krohs (Münster), Joe Dewhurst (Munich), Peter Schulte (Zürich), Behzad Nematipour (Münster), Fabian Hundertmark (Bielefeld) and students from Münster and Bielefeld.

The Future of Teleosemantics

09.2018

Workshop, Bielefeld University; co-organized with Dr. Peter Schulte and Christian Nimtz

Invited Speakers: Marc Artiga (València), Frank Hofmann (Luxembourg), Rebekka Hufendiek (Basel), Ruth Millikan (Connecticut), David Papineau (London), Nicholas Shea (London), Ulrich Stegmann (Aberdeen), Markus Wild (Basel).

Teleosemantics and the Nature of Functions

09.2017

Workshop, Bielefeld University; co-organized with Dr. Peter Schulte and Christian Nimtz

Invited Speakers: Marc Artiga (València), Javier González de Prado Salas (Madrid), Justin Garson (New York), Ulrich Krohs (Münster), Brian Leahy (Konstanz), Ema Sullivan-Bisset (Birmingham).

Teleosemantic Perspectives on Perception

10.2016

Workshop, Bielefeld University; co-organized with Dr. Peter Schulte and Christian Nimtz

Invited Speakers: Christopher Gauker (Salzburg), Frank Hofmann (Luxembourg), Mohan Matthen (Toronto), Eva Schmidt (Saarbrücken), Markus Wild (Basel), Sérgio Farias de Souza Filho (London), Thomas Park (Glasgow/Seoul).

Grants and Funding Secured

Funding for the workshop “Bielefeld Workshop on Philosophy of Psychiatry 2024” from the German Society for Philosophy of Science (GWP) and the German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP), funding amount: €1,200. 2024

Funding of a teaching fellowship for Kenneth W. Williford (Arlington, TX) at the International Visiting Lecturer Program of Bielefeld University, funding amount: €7,500. 2021

Funding for the author colloquium “Biological Functions – From Zebra Stripes to Synapses” with Justin Garson from the German Society for Philosophy of Science (GWP) and the German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP), funding amount: €700. 2020

Public Engagement and Outreach

“Freedom and Unfreedom,” lecture for secondary-school pupils during Health Week, Gesamtschule Hüllhorst, 09.2023 and 10.2024.

“What Is Time?”, two extended philosophy workshops for school pupils, LernFerien NRW, Brüggen and Bielefeld, 04.2019.

Journal Refereeing

Reviewer for the journals *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Biology & Philosophy*, *Acta Biotheoretica*, *Erkenntnis*, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *THEORIA*, *Mind & Language*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, *Analysis*, and *Biological Theory*.

Professional Affiliations

Sociedad Española de Filosofía Analítica (SEFA)	2025 – present
European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA)	2023 – present
German Society for the Philosophy of Science (GWP)	2019 – present
German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP)	2009 – present
European Ph.D. Network in Philosophy	2017 – 2018

D. Teaching Experience

Thesis Supervision and Examination

Supervision and examination of 18 B.A. theses and 3 M.A. theses at Bielefeld University.

Lectures

Frankfurt School of Finance and Management

Academic Skills (in German)	09.2024 – 10.2024
Analytical Thinking and Critical Reasoning (in German)	09.2023 – 10.2023
Models, Science & the World (an introduction to epistemology and philosophy of science)	02.2023

Seminars

Bielefeld University

Philosophy of Psychiatry: On the Nature and Classification of Mental Disorders (in German)	Summer term 2024
Virtues and Vices of the Mind (with Kinga Golus)	Summer term 2023
Philosophy of Psychology (in German)	Winter term 2022/23
Scientific Realism (in German)	Summer term 2022
Mind and Biology (in German)	Winter term 2021/22
Irritability, Toxicity, and Fragility: The Puzzling Metaphysics of Dispositions (with María Ferreira Ruiz)	Summer term 2021
Introduction to Epistemology (in German)	Winter term 2020/21
The Study of Mental Illness (in German)	Winter term 2020/21
Writing course: Scientific Explanations (in German)	Summer term 2020
Philosophy of Psychiatry (in German)	Winter term 2019/20
Biological Functions: Natural Normativity and its Philosophical Relevance	Winter term 2019/20
Philosophical Writing: Animal Minds (in German)	Summer term 2019
Introduction to Philosophy of Biology (in German)	Summer term 2019
Introduction to Metaphysics (in German)	Winter term 2017/18
Philosophy of Perception (with Steven Kindley) (in German)	Winter term 2015/16
Varieties of Meaning: Ruth Millikan's Biosemantics (in German)	Summer term 2015
The Existence of God (with Andreas Joecks) (in German)	Summer term 2014