

Michael Epperson

Director, Center for Philosophy and the Natural Sciences
California State University Sacramento
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Department of Philosophy
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EDUCATION:

- Ph.D. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO** March 2003
- Dissertation:* “Quantum Mechanics and the Philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead”
(Published 2004, Fordham University Press)
- Committee:* David Tracy (Dissertation Director); Peter Hodgson, Head of the Nuclear Physics Theoretical Group, University of Oxford; John Albright, Professor of Physics and Chemistry, Purdue University; Franklin I. Gamwell, The University of Chicago; John B. Cobb, Jr., Claremont Graduate University (reader)
- M.A. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO** March 1996
Comparative religious ethics
- B.A. SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY** June 1990
Concentrations in Biology and English

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:

- Director & Principal Investigator - Center for Philosophy and the Natural Sciences** 2008 - present
California State University Sacramento (www.csus.edu/cpns)
- Senior Research Fellow – Department of Philosophy & Office of Research Administration** 2007 - present
California State University Sacramento
Courses taught include: Ancient Philosophy, Early Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophical Ethics

CURRENT RESEARCH & GRANTS (2007 – 2010):

“Logical Causality in Quantum Mechanics: Relational Realism and the Evolution of Ontology to Praxiology in the Philosophy of Nature” (Principal Investigator). Funded by a \$209,000 Grant from The Fetzer-Franklin Fund. Co-Investigators: Dr. Henry P. Stapp, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Dr. David Finkelstein, Professor, Department of Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology; Dr. Timothy Eastman, Group Manager, Heliospheric Physics Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. (2008-2010)

“Quantum Mechanical Investigations into the Causal and Logical Orders and the Physical Basis of Possibility” (Principal Investigator). Funded by a \$20,000 Grant from CTNS/Templeton Foundation. Co-Investigators: Dr. Henry P. Stapp, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Dr. David Finkelstein, Professor, Department of Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology; Dr. Timothy Eastman, Group Manager, Heliospheric Physics Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; William Kallfelz, Ph.D. candidate, Committee for Philosophy and the Sciences, Foundations of Physics Group, University of Maryland. (2007)

PUBLICATIONS:**Books:**

Quantum Mechanics and the Philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead. Fordham University Press (2004)

Physics and Speculative Philosophy: The Rehabilitation of Metaphysics in 21st Century Science (ed., with David Ray Griffin and Tim Eastman) (forthcoming, Ontos-Verlag)

Book Chapters and Articles:

“Quantum Mechanics and Relational Realism: Logical Causality and Wave Function Collapse,” *Process Studies*, 38, no.2 (forthcoming, 2010)

“Relational Realism: The Evolution of Ontology to Praxiology,” *World Futures*, 65:1, 19-41. Routledge. (January 2009)

“Whitehead and Modern Physics” in *Handbook of Whiteheadian Process Thought*. Nicholas Rescher, Johanna Seibt, Michel Weber, eds. Ontos-Verlag (2008)

“Process Physics” in *World and Process*. Riccardo Manzotti, ed. Costa & Nolan, Italy (forthcoming)

“The Mechanics of Concrescence: Quantum Theory and Process Metaphysics” in “The Resource Guide to *Physics and Whitehead: Process, Quantum, and Experience*,” Timothy E. Eastman and Hank Keeton, eds, SUNY Press, (2003)

Documentary Films on Ethics and Warfare:

The 11th Day: Crete 1941: (writer – producer). Archangel Films and the Mnimi Foundation (December 2005)
Outpost Harry (writer – producer). Archangel Films and the Mnimi Foundation (in production)

Editorial Board Member

Studies in Ethics, Law and Technology (Berkeley Press), 2007-present

Encyclopedia Articles and Book Reviews:

Review of *Subquantum Kinetics: A Systems Approach to Physics and Cosmology* by Paul LaViolette, in *Process Studies* 33, no. 1 (2004)

Review of *Divine Action & Modern Science* by Nicholas Saunders, in *The Journal of Religion* 84, no. 4 (2004)

Review of *In Whom We Live and Move and Have Our Being: Panentheistic Reflections on God’s Presence in a Scientific World*, Philip Clayton and Arthur Peacocke, eds. in *The Journal of Religion* 85, no. 2 (2005)

“Roman Religions” in *The Encyclopedia of Religion and War*. Palmer-Fernandez, G. ed. New York: Routledge, (2003)

“John Baptist Purcell” in *The Encyclopedia of the Midwest*. Andrew R. L. Cayton et al., eds. Indiana University Press (2004)

INVITED PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS:

June 27-28, 2009 - Brussels - Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science: Symposium - Logical Causality and the Philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead. Other participants include: Jean Paul Van Bendegem, Dean of the Math Faculty at VUB and Director of CLWF; Paul Gochet, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, University of Liège

June 13-20, 2009 - Univ. of Rome (Roma Tre)

Lecture and panel discussion on Logic in Quantum Mechanics: International Conference on Philosophy, Science and Spirituality (Cortona, Italy). Other speakers include: Fritjof Capra, Center for Ecoliteracy, Berkeley, CA; Anne Harrington, Chair, Dept. of History of Science, Harvard University; Stuart Kauffman, University of Calgary, Depts. of Biological Sciences and Physics

August 14-17, 2008 - CSU Sacramento – Center for Philosophy and the Natural Sciences

Workshop: Logical Causality in Quantum Mechanics: David Finkelstein, Dept. of Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology; Henry Stapp, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Timothy E. Eastman, NASA-Goddard

“First Principles and Modern Science: On Description and Explanation in Quantum Theory” – Section Head, “Whitehead, Science, and Theology” – 6th Annual International Whitehead Conference – Salzburg University – July 2006

“Bridging Necessity and Contingency: The Scientific Rehabilitation of Process Metaphysics” - Quantum Physics, Process Philosophy, and Matters of Religious Concern – Panelist with David Ray Griffin, Philip Clayton, Jorge Nobo, John Cobb, Shimon Malin – Claremont School of Theology – October 2005

“Arpad Szakolczai’s ‘World-Rejections and World-Conquests: The Spiraling Dynamics of War and Peace’” – Eranos Conference 2003, “Humans at War, At Peace with Nature” – Ascona, Switzerland (July, 2003)

“The Mechanics of Conrescence: Quantum Theory and Process Metaphysics” – Center for Process Studies, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California (April 23, 2003)

“The Philosophical Implications of Quantum Mechanics” – Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Chicago Group, Chicago, Illinois (March 14, 2002)

“Religion and Medicine, East and West: A Deweyian Look at Ayurveda” – Problems in the History of Religions Colloquium, The University of Chicago (March 10, 1999)

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

My focus is the exploration of the philosophical implications underlying recent innovations in contemporary science, particularly as regards novel interpretations of quantum mechanics, cosmology, and the study of complex adaptive systems. This exploration is, in part, a speculative philosophical enterprise intended to contribute to the framework of a suitable bridge by which scientific and philosophical concepts might not only be cross-joined, but mutually supported.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

Current book project: *Relational Realism*

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS:

Wabash Fellowship for the Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion (2001-2002); Stephen and Ruth Durchlag Fellowship for the application of complex adaptive systems theory to the philosophy of science

and religion (1997-1998); University of Chicago Fellowship (1996-1999); Biological Sciences Colloquium Fellow, Department of Biology, Santa Clara University (1989-1990); Alpha Sigma Nu, Jesuit Honor Society.

TEACHING COMPETENCIES:

Classical and modern philosophy and metaphysics; philosophy of science and cosmology; philosophical foundations of quantum physics; modern and contemporary philosophy of religion; issues in science and religion; epistemology; classical, modern and contemporary philosophical and theological ethics.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Websites and syllabi for all the following courses can be accessed at: www.csus.edu/cpns/epperson:

<i>CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SACRAMENTO</i> , Department of Philosophy	2005 - present
“Ancient Philosophy”	
“Early Modern Philosophy”	
“Philosophy of Religion”	
“Introduction to Philosophy”	
“Philosophical Ethics”	
“Ethics and Personal Values”	
“Critical Thinking”	
<i>UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</i> , Graham School, Chicago, IL	2004
"The Metaphysics Behind Quantum Mechanics II: Quantum Mechanics and Modernity"	
<i>UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</i> , Graham School, Chicago, IL	2004
"The Metaphysics Behind Quantum Mechanics I"	
<i>LOYOLA UNIVERSITY</i> , Chicago, IL	2003 - 2004
“Science, Religion, and Society”	
<i>UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</i> , Graham School, Chicago, IL	2003
“Problems in Science and Religion: God and 21 st Century Science”	
<i>LOYOLA UNIVERSITY</i> , Chicago, IL	2003
“Rationality, Religion, and Ethics”	
<i>UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</i> , Graham School, Chicago, IL	2003
“Religion and the History, Method, and Theories of Modern Science”	
<i>LOYOLA UNIVERSITY</i> , Chicago, IL	2002
“Moral Problems”	
<i>ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREPARATORY</i> , Chicago, IL	1996 - 1997
Taught two sections of comparative ethics and three sections of senior philosophy of religion. Also taught summer sections in English literature, chemistry, and biology.	
<i>JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL</i> , Carmichael, CA	Summer, 1997
Taught world history to sophomore high school students.	

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL
College Core Writing Program. Instructed undergraduates in academic writing.

1995 - 1997

Summer, 1994

JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL, Carmichael, CA
Taught English literature and composition to sophomore high school students.
BROPHY COLLEGE PREPARATORY, Phoenix, AZ
Responsible for the instruction of high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in English literature, composition, and rhetoric. Served as band instructor and as director of school plays.

1990 - 1993

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, Santa Clara, CA
Teaching assistant for the following courses: Cell/Animal Structure and Function, Plant Physiology, Human Biology. Assisted students in developing laboratory techniques. Graded exams and lab reports.

1987 - 1988

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

WRITER & PRODUCER: *The 11th Day: Crete 1941*
Archangel Films ALEX G. SPANOS, Executive Producer

2003 - 2005

Responsible for story development, script, dialogue editing, and off-line editing consultation. *The 11th Day* is a 90 minute documentary film sponsored by the A.G. Spanos Companies (www.AGSpanos.com) and filmed by an award winning Discovery Channel production crew. It chronicles the story of the Cretan resistance movement in World War II as told first hand and on-location by several of its surviving members, and through dramatic re-enactments.

In 2005, the film made a theatrical tour throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. It received outstanding print reviews in publications ranging from major newspapers including *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Sacramento Bee* and *Newsday*, to Greek-American publications like *The National Herald* and *Greek America Magazine*. In 2003, the film was shown to the United States Congress in Washington, D.C. at their invitation—a first for any documentary film. An archive of thousands of photos has been created and made freely available to the public in what has become the largest on-line World War II photo gallery in the world; and photos and artifacts collected for the film have been requested by and provided to museums around the world, including the National D-Day Museum, The CIA Museum at CIA Headquarters, Britain's Imperial War Museum, Chicago's Hellenic Center, and The National Archives. (www.The11thDay.com)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PROGRAM IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION
THE LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE, Chicago, IL

2002-2004
(Program
Coordinator,
1998-2002)

Responsible for organizing and managing academic symposia, conferences, and lectures. Events include: "The Mind of the Universe" by Mariano Artigas, Professor of Natural Science, The University of Navarra, Spain; "Fides et Ratio": a symposium featuring Archbishop Joseph Zycinski of Lublin, Poland, Professor of Philosophy of Science, the Pontifical Academy of Theology, Cracow, Poland; Jean-Luc Marion of the University of Chicago and the University of Paris, Sorbonne; and Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago.

RESIDENT HEAD

OFFICE OF STUDENT HOUSING, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL

Responsible for fostering the safety, health, and academic success of seventy undergraduate students, including residence with them in the university housing system. Duties include reviewing student academic grade reports received quarterly, conferences with student academic advisors, and 24 hour emergency availability.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Philosophical Association

American Theological Society

American Academy of Religion