

CURRICULUM VITAE T. RAJA ROSENHAGEN

CONTACT DETAILS:

814 Collins Ave, #2
Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (USA)

PHONE: +1 (412) 961 2088
E-MAIL: raja.rosenhagen@gmail.com
SKYPE: theraja.rage
WEBSITE: <https://rajarosenhagen.info>
LINKEDIN: www.linkedin.com/in/raja-rosenhagen-10866618/

EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH: Ph.D. in Philosophy, expected: Spring 2018
WESTFÄLISCHE WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNSTER (GERMANY): M.A. in Philosophy
(minors: Indian Studies, Psychology), December 2005 [see note on p. 8]

RESEARCH AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, Epistemology
AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Logic, History of Analytic Philosophy; Philosophy of Love;
Indian Philosophy

DISSERTATION: “Experience and Belief: An Inquiry into the Doxastic Variability of Experience”

How can our experience both be affected by our beliefs and constrain them? I argue that neither of the two accounts of experience that currently dominate the debate – relationalism and representationalism – provides a satisfactory answer. Drawing, *inter alia*, on my analysis of N. R. Hanson’s neglected account of the theory-ladenness of observation, I develop an account that does. In contrast to relationalism, it accommodates various effects beliefs may have on experiential phenomenology. Representationalists can accommodate such effects, as well as effects on the content they attribute to experience. But if unbeknownst to the subject, her experience is affected by false, irrational, or unjustified beliefs, experience cannot properly play the role representationalists assign to it: justifying beliefs. On the account I recommend, the rational role of experience is to make rational view-dependent transitions to perceptual judgments. On this view, phenomenally identical experiences can make rational *different* transitions if combined with suitably different background views. So construed, I argue, experience plays its rational role without exception and can provide empirical constraint even if it is thoroughly affected by background views.

COMMITTEE: Anil Gupta (chair), John McDowell, Robert Brandom, Edouard Machery

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

APA TRAVEL GRANT for invited participants of the *Mentoring the Mentors* Workshop at the APA, Central Division, Kansas City, MI (2017)
ALAN ROSS ANDERSON FELLOWSHIP, University of Pittsburgh (Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2013)
NICHOLAS RESCHER DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIP, University of Pittsburgh (Summer 2016)
CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANT for the 37th Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference in Claremont, CA, Udo Keller Stiftung Forum Humanum, Germany (2016)
DIETRICH ARTS & SCIENCES PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, University of Pittsburgh (2014-15, 12-13, 10-11)
PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Berlin, Germany (funding for stay as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Pittsburgh, 2009-10)
GERMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCY, Villigst e.V., Germany (2006-08)
GERMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCY, Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, Germany (2000-05)

ACADEMIC SERVICES

[**PITT**: UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH; **UR**: UNIVERSITÄT ROSTOCK; **ZLWWG**: ZENTRUM FÜR LOGIK, WISSENSCHAFTSTHEORIE UND WISSENSCHAFTSGESCHICHTE; **WWU**: WESTFÄLISCHE WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNSTER; **ZFW**: ZENTRUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSTHEORIE; **DP**: DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY/INSTITUT FÜR PHILOSOPHIE/PHILOSOPHISCHES SEMINAR]

- 03/2017 APA Workshop: “Mentoring the Mentors”, invited participant, Central APA, Kansas City, MI [due to my position as Coordinator of the Mentoring Programs, see below]
- 10/2016 PITT/DP: *Perceptual Experience and Empirical Reason*, October 21-23, **Main Conference Coordinator** (with Benjamin Schulz)
- 04/2016 – present PITT/DP: Undergraduate Mentoring Program, **Mentor & Coordinator**
- 10/2015 – present PITT/DP: Graduate Student Mentoring Program, **Founder, Coordinator, Mentor**
- 2014 – 2015 PITT/DP: **President** of Philosophy Graduate Students; Grad Student Representative to Faculty; **Graduate Student Liaison**: planning / organization of job talks given by external candidates & outings with Grad Students, Assessment and Evaluation of Graduate Student Feedback; Graduate Representative on Budget Committee
- 2013 – 2014 PITT/DP: *Annual PITT-CMU Philosophy Grad Student Conference*, **Chair** (2014); **Committee Member** (2013)
- 06/2010 Johannes-Gutenberg Universität (Mainz), *Moderne Theorien Praktischer Normativität*, June 24-26, **Main Conference Organizer & Coordinator** (with Frank Brosow)
- 09/2009 – 05/2010 **Visiting Scholar** at PITT/DP, funded by the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany: digitizing Schlick-Reichenbach-Neurath Correspondence hosted in the Archives for Scientific Philosophy at PITT
- 08/2009 UR/ZLWWG: Workshop *Philosophy and Medicine*, organized by UR/DP (*Ludger Jansen*), UR/History of Medicine (*Prof. Hans-Uwe Lammeß*), & UR/ZLWWG (T. Raja Rosenbagen), July 31- August 1, **Co-Host, Member of the Organizing Committee**
- 04/2008 – 09/2009 **Main Coordinator** at UR/ZLWWG: organization of colloquia, lecture series, conferences, workshops; also: assistance in the acquisition of **third-party funding** (Exzellenzinitiative MV); also: **Lecturer** at UR/DP, UR/ZLWWG, and WWU/DP; **Mid-level Faculty Representative** at the School of Humanities
- 07/2008 WWU/ZFW, in cooperation with UR/ZLWWG & Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte Berlin, Conference: *Scientific Knowledge in the Context of Thought Style and Paradigm – Ludwik Fleck and Thomas S. Kuhn on the Development of Scientific Knowledge*, July 21-23, **Co-Host, Member of the Organizing Committee**
- 2007, 2013 – present **Adjunct Lecturer** at WWU/ZFW, teaching on site and (since 2015) online, using a novel, fully self-designed online format
- 11/2007 WWU/ZFW: International Workshop: *Causality and Dispositions*, November 26-28, **Co-Host, Member of the Organizing Committee**
- 07/2007 WWU/ZFW: International Workshop: *The Nature of Scientific Evidence*, July 13-15, **Co-Host, Member of the Organizing Committee**
- 01/2006 – 04/2008 **Co-Founder** and **Member of the Managing Board** at WWU/ZFW: organization of colloquia, workshops, and conferences, reading group *Philosophy of Science*, creation and maintenance of the ZFW’s website; also: **Adjunct Lecturer** at WWU/DP
- 01/2006 – 12/2007 **Research Assistant** for Prof. Rosemarie Rheinwald and Prof. Kurt Bayertz at WWU/DP: logic tutorials; literature research, and translations from Latin to German

REFEREE SERVICES

The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic and Communication, vol. 9, edited by Edouard Machery and Jesse Prinz (2015)

TEACHINGUNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY,Primary Instructor

2017, Summer Intro to Logic

Teaching Assistant

2017, Spring Intro to Philosophical Problems

2016, Spring Intro to Ethics

2015, Fall Intro to Political Philosophy

2014, Spring Logic 0500

2012, Spring Intro to Philosophical Problems

2011, Fall Concepts of Human Nature

main instructor

James Shaw

Patrick Reider

Japa Pallikkathayil

Thomas Ricketts

Brett Caloia

Jamsheed Siyar

WESTFÄLISCHE WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNSTER (WWU), ZENTRUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSTHEORIE (ZfW),courses taught independently and in cooperation [SS = summer term; WS = winter term]online*

2017/18, WS Central Concepts of Philosophy of Science

2017, SS Mind & Brain – Intro to the Philosophy of Cognitive Neuroscience

2016/17, WS What is causation?

2015/16, WS What is causation?

in Münster2015, SS The Theory-ladenness of observation in light of recent developments in the cognitive sciences (with *Michael Pohl*, Philosophy)

2015, SS Central Concepts of Philosophy of Science

2014, SS Central Concepts of Philosophy of Science

2013, SS No Seeing without Knowing? The Theory-ladenness of Observation

2007/08, WS Interdisciplinary Seminar: What is Science?

UNIVERSITÄT ROSTOCK, INSTITUT FÜR PHILOSOPHIE, courses taught independently and in cooperation2009, SS The Theory-ladenness of (scientific) observation (with *Jan Peters*, Cognitive Science)

2009, SS Modern Philosophy, core course for Bachelor Students (Descartes, Locke, Kant)

2009, SS Philosophy and Medicine (*Summer School*, with *Ludger Jansen & Prof. Ingvar Jobansson*)

2008/09, WS Wilfrid Sellars: Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind

2008, SS Logical Empiricism: Selected Writings

WWU MÜNSTER, PHILOSOPHISCHES SEMINAR, courses taught independently and in cooperation2008/09, WS Salvation via non-dualist Knowledge: Shankara's Advaita-Vedānta (with *Annette Wilke*, Religious Studies)2008, SS Is there such a thing as a Just War? (with *Sebastian Laukötter*, Philosophy)

2008, SS Indian Philosophy: The Philosophy of the Bhagavadgītā

2007/08, WS Logical Empiricism: Selected Writings

2007, SS John McDowell: Mind and World

2006/07, WS Paul Feyerabend: Against Method

2006/07, WS Intro to Epistemological Relativism (with *Ansgar Seide*, Philosophy)2006, SS Philosophical Problems of the Natural Sciences (with *Christian Subm*, Philosophy)

* These online courses were (and still are) the first of their kind at the ZfW (and, as far as I know, at the WWU as a whole). I developed this online format completely by myself. Teaching in this rather different setting has given me the opportunity to develop and try out techniques that work well in an online environment, some of which I now also implement as part of my regular teaching.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association
Philosophy of Science Association
Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion
Society for the Study of Indian and Tibetan
Buddhist Philosophy
Wilfrid Sellars Society
William James Society

American Association of Philosophy Teachers
The Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love
Gesellschaft für Analytische Philosophie
Zentrum für Wissenschaftstheorie (ZfW),
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
Iris Murdoch Society

EDITORIAL WORK, PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & TRANSLATIONS

JOURNAL EDITING

Issue of *Analytic Philosophy* (edited by David Sosa) on *Perceptual Experience and Empirical Rationality*, as editorial assistant (January 2018, in preparation).

CO-EDITED BOOK

Brosow, Frank & Tom Raja Rosenhagen (eds.) (2013): *Moderne Theorien Praktischer Rationalität. Zur Wirklichkeit und Wirkungsweise des praktischen Sollens*. Münster: mentis.
[ENGLISH: Modern Theories of Practical Rationality. The Existence and Nature of the Practical Ought]

ESSAYS

- “**Norwood Russell Hanson’s Account of Experience. An Untimely Defense**” (under review)
- “**On Linkages. Comments on Gupta**” (forthcoming 2018), in: *Analytic Philosophy*.
- “**Thin Looks and Concepts. Comments on Brewer**” (forthcoming 2018), in: *Analytic Philosophy*.
- “**Rational Responses to Ubiquitous Hijacking? Comments on Siegel**” (forthcoming 2018), in: *Analytic Philosophy*.
- “**Norwood Russell Hanson und die Theoriebeladenheit der Beobachtung**” (forthcoming), in: *Schlickiana* Vol. 8, edited by Martin Lemke and Hans-Jürgen Wendel, Leipzig: Leipziger Universitätsverlag. (= Schriftenreihe der Moritz-Schlick-Forschungsstelle der Universität Rostock)
[ENGLISH: Norwood Russell Hanson and the Theory-Ladenness of Observation]
- “**Toward Virtue: Love, Just Attention, and Moral Progress through Friendship**” (forthcoming), in: *Love and Justice*, Claremont Studies in Philosophy of Religion, Conference 2016, edited by Ingolf U. Dalferth and Trevor Kimball, Tübingen: Mohr-Siebeck.
- “**Physikalismus, Pragmatismus und die Frage nach dem Anfang. Zu Stemmers Konzeption des normativen Müssens**”, in: Brosow & Rosenhagen (2013): 297-328.
[ENGLISH: Physicalism, Pragmatism, and the Question Where to Begin. Stemmer’s Conception of the Normative “Must”]
- “**Einleitung**” (with Frank Brosow), in: Brosow & Rosenhagen (2013): 1-17. [ENGLISH: Introduction]
- “**Fleck und Hegel über Wahrheit als Station in einer Entwicklung**”, in: Egloff, Rainer and Johannes Fehr (eds.) (2011): *Vérité, Widerstand, Development: At Work With / Arbeiten mit / Travailler avec Ludvik Fleck*. Zürich: Collegium Helveticum, Vol. 12, 157-167. [ENGLISH: Fleck and Hegel on Truth as a Station of a Development]
- “**Omnipotence, Omniscience, and God’s Right**” (with Anna Brückner, Jana Lührmann, Michael Pohl), in: Möbner, Nicola / Schmoranzer, Sebastian / Weidemann, Christian (eds.): (2007) *Richard Swinburne: Christian Philosophy in a Modern World*. Frankfurt/Main: Ontos. (= 11. Münstersche Vorlesungen zur Philosophie)
- “**Realist and Idealist Interpretations of Brandom’s Account of Objectivity**” (with Michael Pohl, Arne Weber), in: Prien, Bernd / Schweikard, David (Hg.) (2007): *Robert Brandom. Analytic Pragmatist*. Frankfurt/Main: Ontos. (= 10. Münstersche Vorlesungen zur Philosophie 2006)

ESSAYS (CONTINUED)

- “**Experience Becoming Fully Literate – van Fraassen on the Verge of Constructivism**” (with Marie I. Kaiser, Christian Suhm), in: Berg-Hildebrand, Andreas / Suhm, Christian (eds.) (2006): *Bas C. van Fraassen. The Fortunes of Empiricism*. Frankfurt/Main: Ontos, 69-80. (= 9. Münstersche Vorlesungen zur Philosophie 2005)
- “**Indexical Truth and Anti-Metaphysical Inclinations – Getting Rid of the Remnants of Realism**”, in: Berg-Hildebrand, Andreas / Suhm, Christian (eds.) (2006): *Bas C. van Fraassen. The Fortunes of Empiricism*. Frankfurt/Main: Ontos, 81–92. (= 9. Münstersche Vorlesungen zur Philosophie 2005)
- “**Probleme der Religionsphilosophie Franz von Kutschera**“ (with Attila Karakus, Michael Pohl, Daniel Steinke), in: Halbig, Christoph / Weidemann, Christian (eds.) (2005): *Franz von Kutschera: Analytische Philosophie jenseits des Materialismus*. Münster: Lit Verlag, 105-116. (= Münsteraner Vorlesungen zur Philosophie, Bd. 7) [ENGLISH: Problems of Franz von Kutschera’s Philosophy of Religion]
- “**Pragmatism, Realism, and Science**” (with Marius Backmann, Andreas Berg-Hildebrand, Marie I. Kaiser, Michael Pohl, Christian Suhm, Robert Velten), in: Vieth, Andreas (eds.) (2004): *Richard Rorty. His Philosophy Under Discussion*. Heusenstamm bei Frankfurt: Ontos, 65-78. (= 8. Münstersche Vorlesungen zur Philosophie)

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED COMMENTS

- “**Comment on Rebecca Traynor: Accurate distortion: Perception, truth, and utility**”
Eastern APA Meeting, Savannah, GA (01/18)
- “**Buddhist Overtones in Iris Murdoch’s Work on Moral Progress: Failing Concepts, Compassion, and Emptiness**”
Eastern APA Meeting, Savannah, GA, Society for the Study of Indian and Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy (01/18)
- “**Propositionalist Evidentialism, a False Dilemma, and the Variable Content View**”
41st Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN (04/17)
- “**Comment on Sharon Mason: Knowledge, Reflection, and Thermometer Problems**”
41st Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN (04/17)
- “**Norwood Russell Hanson’s Account of Experience: An Untimely Defense**”
Annual Student-Faculty Colloquium, University of Pittsburgh (03/17)
- “**Comment on Haoying Liu: The Combination Problem and the Phenomenal Bond**”
Central APA Meeting, Kansas City, MI (03/17)
- “**Sarvaga and Just Attention: Buddhist Elements in Murdochian Ethics**”
Eastern APA Meeting, Baltimore, MA, Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion (01/17)
- “**Capitalizing on Illusory Experiences**”
Eastern APA Meeting, Baltimore, MA (01/17)
- “**Internalism Without Experiential Content or: How Not to Care About Demons**”
2nd International Conference on Philosophy of Mind, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal (09/16)
- “**A Murdochian Intervention**”
SEP-FEP Joint Annual Conference 2016, part of submitted panel discussion on Love and Justice: Can Union Views Do Justice to Just Love?, Regent’s University London, England (UK) (08/16)
- “**Seeing As and Seeing That: A Fresh Look at Hanson’s Dually Representationalist Account of Experience**”
Pacific APA Meeting, San Francisco, CA (04/16)
Meeting of Philosophy of Science Group India, Mumbai, India (12/15) [declined]
3rd annual 2015 OZSW Conference, Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands (12/15)
Central States Philosophical Association, Lexington, KY (11/15)
- “**Toward Virtue: Love, Just Attention, and Moral Progress Through Philia**”
Pre-Conference Seminar to the 37th Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference, Conference Theme: Love and Justice, Claremont, CA (02/16)
- “**Against Fish’s Relationalist Account of Perception**”
3rd annual 2015 OZSW Conference, Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands (12/15)

PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED)

- “**Norwood Russell Hanson and the Theory-ladenness of Observation**” (invited talk)
Schlick-Symposium 2015, Moritz-Schlick-Forschungsstelle, Universität Rostock, Germany (11/15)
- “**Friendship for the Less Virtuous**”
Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Boston University, Boston, MA (10/15)
Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Gonzaga University, Gonzaga, WA (04/15)
- “**Murdoch on Love and Privacy**”
SEP-FEP Joint Annual Conference 2015, University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland (UK) (09/15)
Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. (03/15)
- “**Überlegungen zu einer pragmatistischen Theorie praktischer Normativität**”
Conference Moderne Theorien Praktischer Normativität (Modern Theories of Practical Normativity),
 Johannes-Gutenberg Universität zu Mainz, Mainz, Germany (06/10)
 [ENGLISH: Towards a Pragmatist Theory of Practical Normativity]
- “**McDowell’s and Gupta’s Accounts of Experience and their Underlying Motivations**”
Rostock-Torun Workshop 2010, Nikolaus Kopernikus University Torun, Poland (05/10)
- “**On Kant, McDowell, and the Nature of Experience**”
 Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (03/10)
- “**Preliminary Reflections on the Development of a Normative-Pragmatic Metaethics**”
Normativity Workshop, WWU Münster, Germany (07/09)
- “**Must we Know in order to See? The Theory-ladenness of Observation**”
Lecture Series on History, Theory, and Ethics in the Medical Sciences, Universität Rostock, Germany (07/09)
Lecture Series “Kaminabend,” Center for Logic, Philosophy of Science and History of Science, Universität Rostock, Germany (10/08)
- “**The Theory-ladenness of Observation, Social, Pragmatic, and Normative Aspects**”
Rostock-Torun Workshop 2009: “Dimensions of Knowledge,” Universität Rostock, Germany (06/09)
- “**Appearance and Truth: Truth as a Station of a Development – Or: How Much Hegel is in Fleck?**”
Workshop on Ludwik Fleck, Center for Logic, Philosophy of Science and History of Science, Universität Rostock, Germany (04/09)
- “**Learning from Experience**”
Rostocker Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften (Public Outreach Event), Rostock Zoo, Darwin-Box, Rostock, Germany (04/09)
- “**Of Iron Chunks, Animals, Stone Age People, and Neck Ties – Semantic and Pragmatic Aspects of the Theory-ladenness of Observation**” (invited talk)
Invited Speaker Series, WWU, Münster, Germany (02/09)
- “**How to Model Scientific Progress – Some (B)randomized Reflections on Scientific Revolutions, Thought Styles, and Mental Models**”
Conference Scientific Knowledge in the Context of Thought Style and Paradigm – Ludwik Fleck and Thomas Kuhn on the Development of Scientific Knowledge, WWU, Münster, Germany (07/08)
- “**Experience Revisited – Some Problematic Issues**”
Rostock-Torun Workshop 2008: “Cultures of Knowledge,” Nikolaus Kopernikus Universität Torun, Poland (06/08)
- McDowell vs. Schantz: Do We Need Non-Conceptual Content?**
Workshop on the Nature of Scientific Evidence, Center for Philosophy Science, WWU, Münster, Germany (07/07)

TRANSLATION (English → German):

- “**Aus Gründen handeln – ein Vorschlag auf Graswurzelebene**”
 for Ralf Stoecker, in: Brosow & Rosenhagen (2013), 36-58. [ENGLISH: Acting for Reasons – A Grass Root Approach]

GRADUATE COURSEWORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH¹

[* = audited, HPS = Department for History and Philosophy of Science]

METAPHYSICS, EPISTEMOLOGY, PERCEPTION

Empiricism & Judgment

Anil Gupta

*J. J. Gibson's Ecological Account of Perception (HPS)

Peter Machamer & Jim Lennox

*Directed Study on Perception

John McDowell

Epistemology of Experimental Practices (HPS)

Edouard Machery

*Epistemology of Sensory Experience

John McDowell

Metaphysics and Epistemology, Core

Thomas Ricketts

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE & LOGIC

*Making it Explicit and Between Saying and Doing (2x)

Robert Brandom

*Wittgenstein: Philosophical Investigations

Thomas Ricketts

Philosophy of Language

James Shaw & Karl Schafer

Advanced Logic, Core

Ken Manders

*Advanced Logic, Core

Mark Wilson

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Topics in Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle

Kristen Inglis

Hegel (1x for credit, 1x audited)

Robert Brandom

*Plato's Gorgias

James Allen

Pragmatism

Nicholas Rescher

Leibniz

Nicholas Rescher

*Kant

Stephen Engstrom

Philosophy of Science, Core (HPS)

John Norton

History and Philosophy of the Musical Sciences (HPS)

Paolo Palmieri

MORAL PHILOSOPHY

*Philosophy of Love

Kieran Setiya

Directed Study on Iris Murdoch

Kieran Setiya

Ethics, Core

Kieran Setiya

OTHER

Teaching Philosophy (2013)

Advanced Reading Group on Experience (since 2012)

Anil Gupta

John McDowell

Wayne Wu

¹ courses taken/audited at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany, are available on request

REFERENCES

- Anil Gupta, Alan Ross Anderson Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (agupta@pitt.edu)
- John McDowell, Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (jmcdowne1@pitt.edu)
- Robert Brandom, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (rbrandom@pitt.edu)
- Edouard Machery, Distinguished Professor, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (machery@pitt.edu)
- Thomas Ricketts, Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (ricketts@pitt.edu) [teaching]
- Nikolaus Strobach, University Professor, WWU Münster (nstro_01@uni-muenster.de)

OTHER

LANGUAGES

GERMAN (native)	ENGLISH (like native)	FRENCH (good)	HINDI (good)
LATIN (reading)	SANSKRIT (reading)	ANCIENT GREEK (intermediate)	PORTUGUESE (intermediate)
NORWEGIAN (intermediate)	SPANISH (basic)	RUSSIAN (basic)	

OTHER INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2009 research stay in Haarlem/Amsterdam, The Netherlands, research in the Wiener Kreis Archiv, part of the Noord-Hollands-Archief
- 2002-03 research stay in Mahārāshtra, India, specialization in Indian Studies on Traditional Indian Medicine

NOTE ON MY EDUCATION IN GERMANY

Back then, studying a subject as a minor in Germany involved a significant commitment, including taking a substantial number of classes and a final examination. In psychology, my final examination was on the methodological foundations of psychological research – a topic I chose due to my interest in philosophy of science. (A list of classes taken is available on request.) In Indian Studies, initially my major, I had taken a significant number of language classes (Classic and Vedic Sanskrit, Hindi, some introductory classes in Classical Tibetan, Pali, and Sinhalese), classes on Ancient Indian History, classes in which we translated and discussed original works in Sanskrit, such as e.g. Vedic Hymns from the Rg-Veda, the Bhagavadgita, Bharata's Natyashastra, and Kalidasa's Poem Raghuvamsa. A number of advanced language classes that were conducted entirely in Hindi focused on Hindi literature (e.g. Tulsidas and Nayi Kahani) and Hindi drama. My final examination was on Bhasham Sahni's Hindi novel 'Tamas.' I emphasize this to indicate that my background knowledge of Indian culture and Indian language(s) is substantial (and enhanced by various stays in India) and enables me to teach and do research in the area of Indian Philosophy in a way that is informed by this understanding.

In my Master's thesis in philosophy, I examined Bas van Fraassen's attempt to address three challenges faced by the Logical Empiricists: theory-ladenness of observation, scientific realism, and questions regarding the structure of scientific theories. I argued that while his arguments against scientific realism are convincing, it is not clear that van Fraassen's semantic account of scientific theories is more powerful than syntactic accounts and, finally, that he does not sufficiently address the issue of theory-ladenness since he simply presupposes – rather than provides – an account of experience acceptable to empiricists. The realization that devising such an account was an important task ultimately prompted my later dissertation research.

Dissertation Abstract

Visual experience, it is widely held, is theory-laden and plays a vital rational role. In my dissertation, I do two things: I first argue that the two families of views that currently dominate the debate on visual experience fail to accommodate both these features. Second, I develop an account that does.

The account I advocate takes its cues from my analysis of Hanson's neglected account of scientific observation, which I use as a foil against which to assess contemporary accounts of visual experience. Three aspects of Hanson's view are particularly noteworthy: *first*, it accommodates numerous ways in which beliefs can affect our seeing – both its phenomenology and the conceptual content he thinks seeing involves. *Second*, Hanson claims that some of these effects are not contingent, but necessary for seeing to be epistemically significant. This is a semantic claim: the concepts seeing involves derive an essential part of their meaning from being integrated in the seeing subject's belief context. Absent such a context, neither determinate concepts nor, *a fortiori*, epistemically significant seeing are possible. And since seeing's conceptual content semantically depends on the subject's belief context, the former may change along with the latter. The *third* important aspect is Hanson's insistence that the phenomenology of seeing, if co-constituted by environing items, can diverge from our expectations. Whether we notice such divergence or not, how we see and respond to it – all this depends on our belief context. That such divergence is possible, however, is crucial for establishing that seeing, though determined by beliefs, can exert empirical constraint.

That Hanson accommodates numerous effects of beliefs on seeing is a virtue of his account – one that relationalism lacks, as I show by analyzing various relationalist views. Relationalists think that the vital role of experience is to relate us to mind-independent items. Crucially, they also think that this relation neither involves nor depends on concepts. Thus, I argue, there are many effects beliefs may have on seeing that relationalists in principle cannot accommodate.

Representationalists, on the other hand, can accommodate such effects. Doing so, however, bars them from also crediting experience with what they take to be its vital rational role: justifying beliefs. For if experience is affected by false, irrational, or unjustified beliefs, its ability to play that role is impaired. As I show via a discussion of Siegel's recent account of the rationality of perception, representationalists are saddled with the unsatisfactory consequence that for all we know, experience often executes its rational role poorly; both experience itself and we, in relying on it, may be irrational.

The view I offer builds on Hanson's remarks on empirical constraint. Implicit in these remarks, I argue, is an account of the rational role of experience that diverges from those offered by relationalists and representationalists. No doubt relationalists are right that experience often relates us to mind-independent objects. Also, representationalists may be right that *via* its content, experience may sometimes serve to justify our beliefs. But I suggest that generally, the main rational role of experience is to make rational *transitions* to e.g. perceptual judgments. And which transitions an experience with a given phenomenology makes rational depends neither just on what, if anything, experience relates us to, nor just on its content, but crucially on the experiencing subject's belief context.

My view thus assigns a vital rational role to experience while also integrating Hanson's insight that experience can only play this role if a suitable belief context is present. Crucially, it succeeds where both relationalists and contemporary representationalists fail: it credits experience with a rational role that is not impaired, not even if the effects of beliefs on experience are widespread. Finally, I show that the novel perspective I offer on the bearing of experience on belief has significant implications for all debates – both in philosophy and beyond – in which experience is credited with a rational role.