

Arnon Levy

Curriculum Vitae

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Appointments

Associate Professor, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2018 – present

Senior Lecturer, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2014 – 2018

Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellow, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, 2010 – 2014

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D., philosophy, 2010

Harvard University, A.M. (equivalent to an M.Sc.), organismic and evolutionary biology, 2010

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2003, B.Sc. *Magna cum Laude*, joint honors: philosophy and biology

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, philosophy of neuroscience

Areas of Competence

Moral & political philosophy, philosophy of mind, aesthetics: fiction and representation in art

Publications

Book

1. "Explanation and Understanding", Routledge New Problems of Philosophy (under contract).

Edited volume:

2. "The Scientific Imagination: Philosophical and Psychological Perspectives" (co-edited with Peter Godfrey-Smith), Oxford University Press (2019).

Research articles:

3. "Game Theory, Indirect Modeling & the Origins of Morality", Journal of Philosophy (2011) CVII(4):171-187
4. "Information in Biology: A Fictionalist Account", Noûs (2011) 45(4):640-657
5. "Models, Fictions and Realism: Two Packages", Philosophy of Science (2012), 79(5):738-748
6. "Three Kinds of New Mechanism", Biology & Philosophy (2013), 28 (1):99-114
7. "Abstraction and the Organization of Mechanisms" (with William Bechtel), Philosophy of Science (2013), 80 (2):241-261
8. "What was Hodgkin and Huxley's Achievement?" British Journal for the Philosophy of Science (2014), 65 (3):469-492
9. "Machine-likeness and Explanation by Decomposition" Philosophers' Imprint (2014), 14(6)
10. "Modeling without Models", Philosophical Studies (2015), 172(3):781-798
11. "Design sans Adaptation" (with Sara Green and William Bechtel), European Journal for Philosophy of Science (2015), 5(1):15-29.
12. "Engineering & Biology: Counsel for a Continued Relationship" (with Brett Calcott, Mark Siegel, Orkun Soyer and Andreas Wagner), Biological Theory (2015), 10(1): 50-59.
13. "Model Organisms are not (Theoretical) Models" (with Adrian Currie), British Journal for the Philosophy of Science (2015), 66(2): 327-348.
14. "The Unity of Neuroscience: a Flat View", Synthese (2016), 193(12): 3843–3863.
15. "The Debunking Challenge to Realism: How Evolution Ultimately Matters" (with Yair Levy), Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy (2016), 11(1): 1-12.
16. "Models and Scientific Realism: Strange Bedfellows?", in Saatsi, J. (Ed.), The Routledge Handbook of Scientific Realism (2017), London: Routledge.
17. "Causal Order and Kinds of Robustness", in Gissis, S., Lamm, E., Shavit, A. (Eds.), Landscapes of Collectivity in the Life Sciences, (2017). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
18. "Idealization and Abstraction: Refining the Distinction". Synthese (2018), <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11229-018-1721-z>.
19. "Evolutionary Debunking Arguments Meet the Science of Evolution" (with Yair Levy). Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1111/phpr.12554>.
20. "Evolutionary Models and the Normative Significance of Stability". Forthcoming in Biology and Philosophy, (2018) <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10539-018-9643-1>.
21. "Why Experiments Matter" (with Adrian Currie). Inquiry (2019), 62(9-10): 1066-1090.
22. "Metaphor and Scientific Understanding", in Levy, A. & Godfrey-Smith, P. (Eds.) The Scientific Imagination: Philosophical & Psychological Perspectives, (2020) Oxford University Press.
23. "Introduction" (with Peter Godfrey-Smith), in Levy, A. & Godfrey-Smith, P. (Eds.) The Scientific Imagination: Philosophical & Psychological Perspectives, (2020) Oxford University Press.

24. "Modeling and Simulation" (with Brett Calcott), forthcoming in Nuño de la Rosa, L. & Müller, G.B. (Eds.), The Evolutionary Developmental Biology Reference Guide, Springer.
25. "Beyond Machine-Like Mechanisms" (with William Bechtel) forthcoming in Holt, L., Serban, M. & Sune Holm (Eds.), Living Machines? Philosophical Perspectives on the Engineering Approach in Biology, London: Routledge.
26. "Models and Fictions: Not So Similar After All?", forthcoming in *Philosophy of Science*.

Book reviews:

27. "The organic codes: a review of Marcello Barbieri", (co-authored with Eva Jablonka), Acta Biotheoretica (2004), 52(1): 65-69.
28. "Explaining what? A Review of Explaining the Brain by Carl Craver," Biology & Philosophy (2009), 24: 137-145.
29. "Makes a difference: a Review of Depth, by Michael Strevens", Biology & Philosophy (2011) 26: 459-467.
30. "Anchoring Fictional Models: a Review of Models as Make-Believe by Adam Toon", Biology & Philosophy (2013), 28(4): 693-701.
31. "Essay Review: In search of Mechanisms", Philosophy of Science (2015), 82(2): 321-325.
32. "How to do Science with Models by Axel Gelfert", Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews (2017), <https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/how-to-do-science-with-models-a-philosophical-primer/>
33. "Idealization and the Aims of Science by Angela Potochnik", forthcoming in Philosophical Review.

Awards, Honors, Fellowships

"Model Organisms are not (Theoretical) Models" selected as *BJPS* Editor's Choice, winter 2015

Visiting Fellowship, Centre for the Foundations of Science, The University of Sydney, 2012

Fellow, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, group on Computation & the Brain 2011

George Plimpton Adams dissertation Prize, Harvard University, 2010

Whiting Dissertation Completion Award, Harvard University, 2010-2011 (declined)

Mind, Brain & Behavior Summer Research Award, Harvard University, summer 2009

Bechtel Prize for best philosophy essay, Harvard University, 2008-09

Graduate Fellow, The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, 2008-09

Mind, Brain & Behavior Graduate Student Term-Time Award, Harvard University, Spring 2008

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit Fellowship, Harvard University, Fall 2007

Yedlin Prize for excellence in the study of philosophy, Hebrew University, 2001

Dean's List, Faculty of Humanities, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2000, 2001.

Grants

Germany-Israel Fund (GIF) Young Scholars Program, €18,000. Topic: Philosophical Foundations of Systems Biology". 2017-18

Interuniversity PhD Program in History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences, ~NIS 3,500,000 (distributed across HUJI, TAU, BIU)

The Humanities Fund (Rothschild Foundation/CHL), 2016-2023,

Mentoring

- ❖ Jonathan Nejenson, Ph.D. in Philosophy (IHPLS). Topic: Philosophical foundations of memory research (Ongoing)
- ❖ Aya Evron, Ph.D. in Philosophy (IHPLS). Topic: TBD (Ongoing)
- ❖ Nadav Rubinstein. Ph.D. in Philosophy (IHPLS). Topic: What is Organicism? (Ongoing)
- ❖ Topaz Halerpin, Ph.D. in Philosophy (IHPLS). Topic: Integrating Evolution and Community Ecology (Ongoing)
- ❖ Jonathan Fiat, M.A. in Philosophy. Topic: Why randomize? (Ongoing)
- ❖ Avraham Munitz, M.A. in Philosophy. Topic: Alzheimer's and Multiple Realization (Completed)
- ❖ Or Jupiter, M.A. in Philosophy. Topic: How to define life? (Completed)
- ❖ Efraim Wallach, M.A. in History and Philosophy of Science. Topic: Niche Construction and Explanations of Human Evolution (Completed)

Professional Service

Co-director, Interuniversity PhD program in *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* (joint project with Tel Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University)

Referee for: Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Biology & Philosophy, British Journal for Philosophy of Science, Ergo, Erkenntnis, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Israel Science Foundation, The Monist, Nous, The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Philosophia, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy & Theory in Biology, Philosophy of Science, Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biology and the Biomedical Sciences, SPP, Synthese, Teorema.

Editor: "Theories and Models" category in [PhilPapers](#).

Organizer or co-organizer for the following conferences:

- "Experimental Philosophy and Philosophical Method", Hebrew University, June 2019.
- "Modeling Reality" (A joint workshop with Penn Philosophy), Hebrew University – The Edelstein Center. July, 2018.

- “Ethics & Biology: Challenges & Prospects”, Hebrew University's Centre for Moral & Political Philosophy, June 2017
- Annual conference of the Israeli Association of Philosophy, Jerusalem, February 2016
- HUJI/UNC joint bi-annual workshop, topic: Scientific Explanation, May 2014
- “Models & Explanation”, The Van Leer Institute, June 2014
- “Between Biology & Physics: Reduction, Emergence & Complexity”, VLJI & TAU, December 2012
- Co-Organizer, workshop on “Explanatory Styles in Biology”, VLJI, March 2012
- The 13th Annual Harvard/MIT Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 2005

Mind, Brain & Behavior Steering Committee member, Harvard University, 2007-2009

Collaborating researcher, “Causation and Reduction in Systems Biology” project, University of Oslo.