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Prasanta S. Bandyopadhyay

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Bozeman, MT 59717
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Education

Ph.D., Philosophy

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, 1995

M.A., Philosophy

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, 1990

M.Phil., Philosophy

Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India, 1987

Dissertation

Constructive Empiricism: From a Theory of Empirical Adequacy to a Theory of Acceptance. Published on microfilm by University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI.
Advisors: Henry E. Kyburg Jr. and John G. Bennett

Specialization

Philosophy of Science, Epistemology & Indian Philosophy

Competence

Early Modern Philosophy

Language Proficiency

- Bangla
- Sanskrit
- German

Academic Positions

- Affiliate to the Astrobiology Biogeochemistry Research Center, Montana State University (from 2007 July.) Supported by the NASA's Astrobiology research grant.
- Associate Professor, Department of History & Philosophy, Montana State University.
- No Teaching Duties for spring semester 2009 (Supported by the NASA's Astrobiology research grant)
- On a sabbatical leave from Jan 2005- December, 2005.
- Associate Professor, Department of History & Philosophy, Montana State University, since 2002.
- Assistant Professor, Department of History & Philosophy, Montana State University, Fall, 1996 to Spring, 2002.
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History & Philosophy, Montana State University, 1995-96.
- Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester, Fall, 1993. With Henry Kyburg.
- Instructor (twice), Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester, Summer 1992/93 for a course titled: "Contemporary Moral Problems."

Referred Publication (Forthcoming/Accepted)

- "The Logic of Simpson's Paradox". *Synthese* (With Nelson, Greenwood, Brittan, and Berwald.)
- "Two Dogmas of Strong Objective Bayesianism." In *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, 2010, March. (With Gordon Brittan)
- "How to Undermine Underdetermination?" *Foundations of Sciences*. (With John Bennett) (The paper has been accepted for publication. However, we need to revise some parts of the paper in light of the referee reports.)

- “Elementary Probability & Statistics: A Primer.” In P.S. Bandyopadhyay & M. Forster (eds.) *Handbook of Philosophy of Statistics*. Elsevier; 2010. (With Steve Cheery)
- “Philosophy of Statistics: An Introduction to the Volume” to *Handbook of Philosophy of Statistics*. (With Malcolm Forster). To be published by Elsevier, 2010.
- “Handbook of Philosophy of Statistics: An Introduction to the Volume” to *Handbook of the Philosophy of Statistics*. (With Malcolm Forster). To be published by Elsevier, 2010.

Referred Edited Volume (Forthcoming)

- *Handbook of Philosophy of Statistics*. Edited volume containing about 48 contributors from seven disciplines. Elsevier, 2010. (With Malcolm Forster).

Referred Publications (already published)

- “Why Bayesianism: A Primer on a Probabilistic Philosophy of Science.” In *Bayesian Statistics and its Applications*. (eds.) D. Dey and S.K. Upadhyay, Amaya Publishing Company, New Delhi, pp.42-62, 2007
- "Acceptance, Severity and Evidence." With Gordon Brittan, *Synthese*, 2006, pp.1-36.
- “Types of Coherence and Coherence among Types.” In *Computational Models of Scientific Reasoning and Applications (CMSRA-IV)*, (eds.) L. Moniz Pereira and Gregory Wheeler. Lisbon, 2005, pp.1-15.
- “Theory and Evidence: Comments on Maurer” In *The Nature of Scientific Evidence*. (eds.) M.L. Taper and S. Lele. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004; pp. 32-39
- "Incongruent Counterparts and the Nature of Space: Demystifying their Reappearance in Kant's Writings." *Proceedings of the 9th International Congress on Kant*. Walter de Gruyter. Berlin. New York, Nov 2001, pp.110-121.

- "Logical Consequence and Beyond: A Look at Model Selection in Statistics." *Logical Consequence* (ed.) J. Woods and B. Hepburn. Hermes Science Publishing, Oxford, UK, With Gordon Brittan, Jr, 2001, pp. 1-17.
- "The Curve-Fitting Problem: A Bayesian Rejoinder." *Philosophy of Science*. 66 (supplement). With Robert Boik. , September 1999, pp. S390-S402
- "On an Inconsistency in Constructive Empiricism." *Philosophy of Science*, 64 September 1997, pp.511-514
- "Reasons for Acceptance: A Pragmatic Account." *Proceedings of the 20th Wittgenstein Symposium*, (eds.) P. Weingartner, G. Schultz, and G. Dorn, Wittgenstein Society, Austria, 1997, pp.33-38.
- "The Curve-Fitting Problem: A Bayesian Approach." *Philosophy of Science*, 63. September 1996, pp.S265-272. (With Robert Boik and Prasun Basu)
- "In Search of a Pointless Decision Principle." *Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)*. East Lansing, Michigan. 1994, pp.260-269, Vol .1

Referred Long Abstracts (Web-Published)

- "Astrobiology as an Emerging Science: What does it Tell Philosophers" *Ab-SciCon-2010* (<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2010/pdf/5296pdf>).
- "Why Bayesianism: A Primer on a Probabilistic Philosophy of Science" *Atlas: International Workshop/Conference on Bayesian Statistics & its Applications 2004*. (<http://atlas-Conference.com/c/a/p/j>)

Non-Referred Article

- "Preface" to the *Handbook of Philosophy of Statistics* (With Malcolm Forster)

Papers Submitted For Publication

- “Empiricism and /or Instrumentalism.” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (With M. Greenwood, G. Brittan, K. Ahoe and M. Raby)
- “The Belief/Evidence Distinction: A Fresh Look at Epistemology.” *American Philosophical Quarterly*. (With Mark Taper)
- “What does Causality have to do with Simpson’s Paradox.” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. (With Nelson, Brittan, Greenwood, and Berwald.)
- “Vagaries of Coherence” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*

Teaching Experience

Montana State University (1996 to Present)

UPPER LEVEL COURSES

- A Course in Philosophical Logic (PHIL: 400)
- Philosophy of Science (Phil 378)
- Approaches to Epistemology (PHIL: 342)
- What is Life and Other Allied Questions (LS: 301)
- On the Notion of Rationality (PHIL: 400)
- Contemporary Philosophy (PHIL: 364)
(Philosophy of Mind)
- Language and the World (PHIL: 368)
(Philosophy of Language)
- History of Modern Western Philosophy (PHIL: 306)
- How to Test a Theory? (PHIL: 400)
- Theory & Evidence (PHIL: 400)

LOWER LEVEL COURSES

- Problems of Good & Evil (PHIL: 105)
- Philosophy of India/Asia (PHIL: 220)
- Science, Pseudo-Science, and Subjectivity (CIS 225 Contemporary Issues in Science)

University of Rochester (1992 –1993)

- Summer instructor twice for "Contemporary Moral Problems"
(Undergraduate course)
- Instructor for "Uncertain Inference"
(Graduate course)

Work In Progress (Western Philosophy)

- *Elementary Probability & Statistics: A Conceptual Introduction.*
(A first draft of this book has been completed.)
- The *Belief and Evidence Distinction: Some of its Ramifications in Epistemology.*
(A book project with Brittan is in progress. Palgrave Publishing Company is very much interested in our project.)
- "Simplicity: Our View, Their View."
- "Different Measures of Confirmation and Their Decision Theoretic Evaluations."
(With C. Andy Tsao).
- "The Fine-Tuning Argument and the God Hypothesis." (With Gordon Brittan)
- "A Statistical Test for Simpson's Paradox." (With Mark Greenwood)
- "The Duhem-Quine Thesis: A Non-Standard Approach."
(Gordon Brittan)

Work In Progress (Indian Philosophy)

- "The Nyaya Theory of Inference and the Theory of Confirmation."
 - "A Review Article on Stephen H. Phillips and N. S. Ramanuja Tatacharya.
Gangesa on the Upadhi: The "Inferential" Undercutting Condition. Indian Council
of Philosophical Research." In *Philosophy: East and West* (5000 words.)
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Invited Talks

- “Problems and Prospects of Objective Bayesianism.” Department of Statistics, Montana State University, April, 2010. (To be delivered.)
- “A Buddhist’s Reply to the Ship of Theseus Problem.” Ranaghat College, WB, India, 11 Jan, 2010. (Delivered in Bangla)
- “The Logic of Simpson’s Paradox.” Indian Institute of Science Education & Research, 6 Jan, 2010.
- “An Interaction between History of Science & Philosophy of Science: The Belief and Evidence Distinction in Focus.” Dhaka University, Bangladesh. ((Delivered in Bangla). December, 2009.
- “The Logic of Simpson’s Paradox”. Ecology Seminar” Montana State University, October, 2009.
- An Interface between Philosophy of Science & Astrobiology”. Video-Conference across three East Coast Universities sponsored by the NASA. March, 2009, Montana State University
- *Visva- Bharati University*, “The Duhem-Quine Thesis” Santineekatan, India, Jan, 2008.
- *Bose Institute*, “The Old Evidence Problem: An Interaction between History of Science and Philosophy of Science” Kolkata, India, Jan, 2008
- *Indian Statistical Institute*, “The Old Evidence Problem: An Interaction between History of Science and Philosophy of Science” Kolkata, India, December, 2007
- *A Week-long India Celebration*, “Cowboy Krishna.” Bozeman, MSU Nov, 2006.
- *Canadian Philosophical Association*, “Commenting on a paper devoted to our work on the curve-fitting problem.” Toronto, Canada, May, 2006.
- *Center for Philosophy & Foundations of Science*, “Many Faces of Simpson’s Paradox.” Delhi, India, Jan, 2006
- *Visva- Bharati University*, “How to Undermine Underdetermination? A Bayesian Approach.” Santineekatan, India, Jan, 2006.
- *Rabindra Bharati University*, “Belief and Beyond: Part I.” Kolkata, India,

Jan, 2005. (A Refresher's course for the College Teachers).

- *Rabindra Bharati University*, "Belief and Beyond: Part II." Kolkata, India, Jan, 2005. (A Refresher's course for the College Teachers).
- *Bhairav Ganguly College*. "Many Faces of Simpson's Paradox." Kolkata, India, Jan, 2005. (In Bangla).
- *Montana State University*, "The Logic of Simpson's Paradox." In Dept of Mathematical Sciences, Feb, 2004.
- *Visa-Bharati University*, "Revisiting the Curve Fitting Problem." Santineekatan, India, Jan, 2002.
- *Western Ontario University*, "Four Concepts of Statistical Evidence." Canada, March, 2001.
- Science and Value Conference, "Simplicity: Their View, Our View," Alabama, Feb, 2001.
- *University of Manitoba*, "Four Concepts of Statistical Evidence." Canada, Jan, 2001.
- *MSU Philosophy Society*, "Buddhism in the 21st Century: A Buddhist's Reply to the Ship of Theseus Problem," Bozeman, March 2000.
- *Rabindra Bharati University*, "Bayesian Epistemology." Kolkata, India, Jan.2000.
- *Rabindra Bharati University*, "The Theory of Karma in the Gita: From the Perspective of Western Theories of Ethics," Kolkata, India, Jan. 2000.
- *Virginia Tech*, "Gruesome Problem for Glymour: Is Glymour a Bayesian?," 1999.
- *Montana State University*, "Two Faces of Constructive Empiricism," Feb. 1996.
- *St. Mary's College*, "Mice, Moons and Microbes: Constructive Empiricism and Observation," Maryland, Jan. 1995.

Grants and Awards

- MSU Astrobiology Center NASA Grant, 2007-12 (**\$6 million dollar grants**). The principle investigator is John Peters, MSU Chemistry. I am one of the five co-investigators of this project.

- MSU Research Support from the Provost's Office, 2007. (\$9,000)
- MSU Support from the Dean's Office, 2007-08. (\$4,000)
- MSU Research & Creativity, 2007-08. (\$3,000)
- MSU Scholarships & Creativity, 2006-07. (\$10,000, approx.)
- MSU Research & Creativity, 2006-07. (\$3,000)
- MSU Career Enhancement Award. 2003, 2004, 2005 (twice), 2007. \$ 14,000. (approx.)
- MSU Scholarship & Creativity Grant for the Advancement of the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, 2004-2005, \$10,000. (approx.)
- MSU Scholarship & Creativity Grant for the Advancement of the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, 2003-2004, \$11,000. (approx.)
- MSU College of Letters & Science Research and Creativity Grant, 2003-2004, \$3000.
- MSU College of Letters & Science Research and Creativity Grant, 2002-2003, \$3000.
- MSU Scholarship & Creativity Grant for the Advancement of the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, 2000-2002, \$ 15,000.
- MSU College of Letters & Science Research and Creativity Grant, 2001-2002, \$3000.
- EPSCOR (NSF) 2001 Jan to Jun, 2001, \$2000.
- MSU Scholarship & Creativity Grant for the Advancement of the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, 1999-2000, \$ 5,500.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Stipend, Virginia Tech, June, 14th to July 23rd, 1999, \$3,800.
- Co-Winner of the Danbar Award, 1999 [Dept: History & Philosophy, MSU].
- MSU Scholarship & Creativity Grant for the Advancement of the

Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, 1999-2000, \$ 5,500.

- The College of Letters & Science Creativity Grant, 1999-2000; \$1,500.
- "Graduate Student Best Essay Award", American Philosophical Association, Chicago, 1995; \$250.
- Philosophy of Science Association, Travel Grant Award, 1994, \$400.

(Referred) Talks Delivered/ to be Delivered

- “Collapsibility, Not Confounding: Simpson’s Paradox Refocused” *Causality in Biomedical and Social Sciences*, 2010, Erasmus University Rotterdam, October. (Won’t be able to attend this key conference.)
- “Astro-biology as an Emerging Science: What does it tell Philosophers?” *Astro-biology Science Conference (AbSciCon)* 2010, Houston, April.
- "The Return of Normativity." (With Gordon Brittan) *SEP meetings*, 2010, Kansas State University, March. (Couldn’t attend).
- “The Logic of Simpson’s Paradox.” *SEP meetings*, 2009, University of Alberta, May.
- “The Duhem-Quine Thesis.” *British Society for the Philosophy of Science University of St. Andrews*, 2008, St. Andrews, July.
- “The Duhem-Quine Thesis.” *APA Central divisional meetings*, 2008, Chicago, April.
- The Belief/Evidence Distinction: A Fresh Look at Epistemology” *SEP meetings*, 2008, University of Wyoming, May.
- The Duhem-Quine Thesis?” *SEP meetings*, 2007, University of British Columbia, May

- “Two Dogmas of Strong Objective Bayesianism.” In *PROGIC 2005*. London School of Economics & Political Science, London, July, 2005.
- “Belief and Beyond: Toward a New Orientation in Epistemology.” In *Formal Epistemology Workshop (FEW)*, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, May 2005.
- “Belief and Beyond: Toward a New Orientation in Epistemology.” In *American Philosophical Association*. Pacific Division, San Francisco, March, 2005.
- “Why Bayesianism? A Primer on a Probabilistic Philosophy of Science.” In *International Bayesian Statistics Conference Association*. Varanasi, Jan, 2005.
- “Many Faces of Simpson’s Paradox.” In Visha-Bharati University, Santineekatan, India, December, 2004.
- “Many Faces of Simpson’s Paradox.” In University of Konstanz, *Workshop in Causality*. Germany, August, 2004.
- “The Logic of Simpson’s Paradox.” In *Philosophical Implications of Medicine*. University of Alabama, Birmingham, May 2004.
- “The Realism/antirealism Debate and Statistical Inference”: *British Society for Philosophy of Science*, Queen’s University, Belfast July 2003.
- “Belief and Beyond.” *The Joint Session Meetings*, Queen’s University, Belfast, July 2003.
- *American Philosophical Association*, “The Old Evidence Problem and Beyond: Three Approaches Compared,” Eastern Division, Philadelphia, 2002.
- *Philosophy of Science Association Meeting*, “Royall’s Three Questions: A Bayesian Reply.” Milwaukee, 2002.
- “Simpson’s Paradox under Microscopes.” *International Summer Workshop on Philosophy and Probability*, University of Konstanz, Germany. With Davin Nelson. September 2002.
- “The Old Evidence Problem and Beyond.” *British Society for Philosophy of Science*, University of Glasgow, July 2002.

- *American Philosophical Association*, “Simplicity: Our View, Their View.” Central Division, Chicago, 2002.
- *History of Science Conference*, “Traversing the Path of Kepler’s Elliptical Orbit: A Close Look at Kepler’s New Astronomy”, Denver, Fall 2001 (couldn’t attend).
- *British Society for Philosophy of Science*, “Kepler’s First Law and the Curve Fitting Problem: Two Approaches Compared”, York, UK, Summer 2001 (couldn’t attend)
- *American Philosophical Association*, “A Bayesian Account of Severity”, Central Division, Chicago, 2000.
- *Proceedings of the 9th International Congress on Kant*, “Incongruent Counterparts and the Nature of Space: Demystifying their Reappearance in Kant’s writings”, Berlin, Germany, 2000.
- *75th Anniversary of History of Science Meeting*, “Gingerich’s Kepler: What’s Wrong with Gingerich’s Historiography of Science?,” Pittsburgh, 1999.
- *Proceedings of the 11th International Congress for Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science*, “Incongruent Counterparts and the Nature of Space: Demystifying their Reappearance in Kant’s Writings”, Cracow, Poland, 1999. (Accepted, but could not attend. See the abstract for the conference)
- *Society for the Exact Philosophy*, “Logical Consequence and Beyond: A Look at Model Selection in Statistics”, Lethbridge, Canada, 1999.
- *2nd Inland Conference*, “Inductive Inference in Focus: From Bayesian Rationality to Logical Reliability” Pullman, Washington, 1999.
- *Society for the Exact Philosophy*, “Many Faces of Epistemology: From Logical Reliability to Bayesian Rationality,” Atlanta, Georgia, 1998.
- *International Indian Statistical Conference*, “Logical Equivalence Among Criteria in the Curve Fitting Problem: A Philosopher’s Gloss,” Canada, 1998 (couldn’t attend).
- *Philosophy of Science Association*, “The Curve Fitting Problem: A Bayesian Rejoinder,” Kansas City, 1998.
- *American Philosophical Association*, “Are Forster and Sober Bayesians?,” Central Division, Chicago, 1998.

- *History of Science Society Conference*, “Kepler's Laws and the Curve Fitting Problem,” San Diego, CA, 1997. (With Gordon Brittan and Shivaparan Nagarajah).
- *Society for the Exact Philosophy*, “Pragmatic Bayesianism and Underdetermination,” McGill University, Canada. 1997.
- *Philosophy of Science Association Meeting*, “The Curve-Fitting Problem: A Bayesian Approach,” Cleveland, 1996.
- *American Philosophical Association*, Pacific Division, “Why ‘Accept’ Acceptance? Toward a Bayesian Theory of Acceptance,” Seattle, 1996.
- *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, “The Curve-Fitting Problem: A Bayesian Approach,” Chicago, 1995.
- *Philosophy of Science Association Meetings*, “In Search of a Pointless Decision Principle,” New Orleans, 1994.
- *American Philosophical Association*, Pacific Division Meeting, “Is Constructive Empiricism Consistent?,” Los Angeles, 1994.

Professional Organizations

- American Philosophical Association
- Philosophy of Science Association
- NASA Astrobiology Research Institute
- International Society for Bayesian Analysis
- Society for the Exact Philosophy

Professional Service

Referee for the Routledge Publishing Company, 2010.

Member of the Organizing Committee for the International Conference on “Methodology 2006” (held in Visva-Bharati University, Jan, 2006)

Referee for Oxford University Press, 2005.

Referee for *PROGIC*, 2005, Conference held at the London School of Economics & Political Science, 2005.

Referee for *Cambridge University Press*. (Non-Western philosophy), 2004
Referee for *HYLE: An International journal for Chemistry*, 2004 (twice)

External Examiner for the Ph.D. Thesis on "Indian Philosophy"
Banaras Hindu University, India, 2003.

Panelist at the International Summer Workshop on *Philosophy and Probability*,
University of Konstanz, Germany, Fall, 2002. The panel was on "Why does
Probability matter in a Philosophy Curriculum?"
Referee for *Philo*, 2002

Referee for *Cambridge University Press*, 2001

Referee for *Philosophy of Science*, 1999

Referee for *Kant-Studien*, 1996

Referee in Philosophy of Science for *Synthese*, 1992

Session on "Simplicity" at the *Science and Value Conference* (Chair)
University of Alabama and NSF, Feb 2001

Session at the *Society for the Exact Philosophy Conference*, (Chair) Montreal,
McGill University, May 1999

Service to University & the Community at Large

University: Instrumental in bringing speakers to MSU from all the over the world based on the grant proposals I wrote for almost all of them.

Carol Cleland, University of Colorado, Boulder, December, 2008

Paul Weircih, University of Missouri, Columbia, March, 2007

Davis Baird, University of South Carolina, October, 2005

Martens, Ronda, University of Manitoba, Canada, March, 2004

Bennett, John, University of Rochester, April, 2004

Forster, Malcolm, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March, 2001

Mickelson, Gregory, McGill University, Canada, April, 2001

Roberts, John, UNC Chapel Hill, March, 2001

Curd, Martin, Purdue University, March, 2000

Sober, Elliott, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March, 1999

Hitchcock, Christopher, Cal Tech, March, 1999.

Brian Skyrms, University of California, Irvine, October, 1997.

Hajek, Alan, Cal Tech, March, 1997.

Committee Members & other Services:

Member of the Diversity Committee (2001-2002)
Special Member for Evaluating Diversity proposals (2002, summer)
Research and Creativity Grant Committee (1998)
Talk given at the *University Studies Program* (2009)
Talk given at the *Honors Program* (2002)
Talk given at the *Philosophy Club* (2000)

Department:

Faculty Council Alternate member (since 2001spring to 2009 spring except 2005)
Philosophy Search Committee (2008-9)
Philosophy Search Committee (2003-4)
Promotion and Tenure Committee (former member)
History Search Committee (2002-2003)
History Search Committee (2001-2002)
Awards Committee (1996-2000)
