

# Karen R. Zwier

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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., History & Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh	2014
Dissertation: <i>Interventionist Causation in Physical Theory</i>	
Committee: Sandra Mitchell (Advisor, University of Pittsburgh, HPS)	
John Norton (University of Pittsburgh, HPS)	
James Woodward (University of Pittsburgh, HPS)	
Mark Wilson (University of Pittsburgh, Philosophy)	
Robert Batterman (University of Pittsburgh, Philosophy)	
M.A., Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh	2011
B.S., Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2006
B.A., Philosophy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2006
Facoltà di Filosofia, Pontificia Università Lateranense (no degree), Rome, Italy	2003–2005

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Forthcoming. “Interventionist Causation in Thermodynamics.” *Philosophy of Science*.
2013. “An Epistemology of Causal Inference from Experiment.” *Philosophy of Science* 80(5): 660–671.
2012. “The Status of Laws of Nature in the Philosophy of Leibniz.” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 85: 149–160.
2011. “Dalton’s Chemical Atoms versus Duhem’s Chemical Equivalents.” *Philosophy of Science* 78(5): 842–853.
2011. “John Dalton’s Puzzles: From Meteorology to Chemistry.” *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 42(1): 58–66.

## PRESENTATIONS (\* = invited)

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- “Interventionist Causation in Thermodynamics”, *Twenty-Fifth Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*: Atlanta, Georgia, 3–5 November 2016.
- “Could Aquinas’ Causes Be Interventionist Causes?”, *Theology and the Philosophy of Science: Analytic, Scholastic, and Historical Perspectives*: Concordia University of Edmonton, 14–15 October 2016.
- \* “Can Simulation Count as Experiment in Experimental Philosophy?” *First Annual META Conference: Beyond Intuition*: University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 7–8 October 2016.
- \* “What is Catholic Engagement with Philosophy of Science?”, *Science, Philosophy, and Religious Commitment: Catholic Engagement with Philosophy of Science*: St. Paul, Minnesota, 26–28 June 2016.
- \* “Interventionist Causation in Chemical Thermodynamics”, *Twenty-Fourth Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*: Chicago, Illinois, 6–9 November 2014.
- \* “The Hidden Causal Content in Physical Theory”, School of Philosophy, Catholic University of America, 31 January 2013.

“An Epistemology of Causal Inference from Experiment”, *Twenty-Third Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*: San Diego, California, 15–17 November 2012.

“Experiment as Test of Causal Claims: A History”, *Ninth Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History Of Philosophy Of Science*: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 21–24 June 2012.

“The Status of Laws of Nature in the Philosophy of Leibniz”, *Eighty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*: St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, 27–30 October 2011.

“Experiment as Source and Test of Causal Content in Science”, *2nd International Workshop on the Philosophy of Scientific Experimentation (PSX2)*: University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany, 21–22 October 2011.

“Daltons Chemical Atoms vs. Duhems Chemical Equivalents”, *Twenty-Second Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*: Montral, Quebec, 4–6 November 2010.

\* “Aristotle on Spontaneous Generation”, *Understanding the Methodology at Work in Generation of Animals: Fifth Pittsburgh/London Workshop on Aristotles Generation of Animals*: University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, 25–27 May 2010.

“Aristotle’s Practical Syllogism: Putting Human Deliberation into Action”, *Thought and Action in Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition*: Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 16–18 June 2009.

“Aristotle’s Syllogism on the Basis of a Hypothesis”, *105th Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division*: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 27–30 December 2008.

“John Dalton: From Puzzles to Chemistry by Way of Meteorology”, *History of Science Society Conference*: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 6–9 November 2008.

“Aristotle on Spontaneous Generation”, *Aristotle, Ethics, and Science: A Conference and Graduate Student Workshop*: St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 4–5 October 2008.

“The Causal Markov Condition: Should You Choose to Accept It?” *Causality and Probability in the Sciences (CAPITS 2008)*: University of Kent, Canterbury, UK, 10–12 September 2008.

## COMMENTARIES

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\* Commentary on Danny Pearlberg, “Modifying the Interventionist Solution to the Problem of Causal Exclusion.” *Fourteenth Annual Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference*: University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 6–7 April 2012.

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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Drake University <i>Adjunct Professor</i>	Des Moines, IA 2014 – Present
University of Pittsburgh <i>Independent Instructor</i> <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Pittsburgh, PA 2010 – 2012 2007 – 2008

## TEACHING

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Drake University			
PHIL 129 / HONR 129	Philosophy of Science	Spring 2016	
PHIL 151 / HONR 173	Physics and Philosophy	Fall 2015	
PHIL 151 / REL 151 / HONR 148	Religion and Science	Fall 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014	

University of Pittsburgh		
HPS 0610	Causal Reasoning	Spring 2012, Spring 2011
HPS 0621	Problem Solving: How Science Works	Fall 2011, Fall 2010
HPS 0515	Magic, Medicine, and Science (TA)	Spring 2008
HPS 0437	Darwinism and Its Critics (TA)	Fall 2007

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS

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Provost Development Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh (2012–2013)

Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh (2006–2007, 2008–2009, 2009–2010)

HPS Department Teaching Excellence Award, University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2007, Spring 2008)

Wesley Salmon Fund Grant (For archival research on John Dalton at John Rylands Library at the University of Manchester, 2008)

Jules D. Falzer Scholarship (2005–2006)

United Conveyor Foundation Scholarship (2001–2003, 2005–2006)

Illinois General Assembly Scholarship (2000–2001, 2005–2006)

Mary Chow Scholarship (2001–2002)

Women in Engineering Distinguished Scholar Award, University of Illinois (2000)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Co-organizer, *Science, Philosophy, and Religious Commitment: Catholic Engagement in Philosophy of Science*, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, 26–28 June 2016

Webmaster, Philosophy of Science Association Women’s Caucus (2015–present)

Faculty Advisor for Students for Life, Drake University (2015–present)

Judge for National Speech & Debate Association “Big Questions” Debate (2015)

Development Workshop for Interdisciplinary Study of Science and Humanities, Drake University (2015)

Teaching Mentor for the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (2011–12)

Webmaster, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (2010–12)

Workshop Presenter, “Teaching Independently”, New Teaching Assistant Orientation, University of Pittsburgh (2011)

Referee/Reviewer for: *Ergo, Forum Philosophicum, International Studies in Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, National Science Centre, Poland

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) Workshop, Drake University (Summer 2016)

Faculty Writing Project, Drake University (Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

## SCHOLARSHIP

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Areas of Specialization    Philosophy of Science  
  History of Science

Areas of Competence        History and Philosophy of the Physical Sciences  
  Science and Religion  
  Ancient Philosophy

Languages                    English (Native language)  
  Italian (Fluent)  
  Attic Greek (Basic reading knowledge)

## REFERENCES

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Sandra Mitchell  
Professor, History & Philosophy of Science  
University of Pittsburgh  
[smitchel@pitt.edu](mailto:smitchel@pitt.edu)

James Woodward  
Professor, History & Philosophy of Science  
University of Pittsburgh  
[jfw@pitt.edu](mailto:jfw@pitt.edu)

Timothy Knepper  
Professor, Philosophy  
Drake University  
[tim.knepper@drake.edu](mailto:tim.knepper@drake.edu)

John Norton  
Professor, History & Philosophy of Science  
University of Pittsburgh  
[jdnorton@pitt.edu](mailto:jdnorton@pitt.edu)

James Lennox  
Professor, History & Philosophy of Science  
University of Pittsburgh  
[jglennox@pitt.edu](mailto:jglennox@pitt.edu)