
Umeå University
Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
901 87 Umeå SE

<https://www.bramvaassen.com/>
bram.vaassen@umu.se
+46 90 786 61 98

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind

Areas of Competence

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language, Epistemology, Philosophy of AI

Publications

And Therefore (with Alex Sandgren)

forthcoming in *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*

<https://philpapers.org/archive/VAAAT.pdf>

Causal Exclusion without Causal Sufficiency

Synthese 198, pp. 10341–10353 (2021)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-020-02723-y>

Dualism and Exclusion

Erkenntnis 86, pp. 543–552 (2021)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10670-019-00118-1>

Basic Beliefs and the Perceptual Learning Problem

Episteme (13), pp. 133–149 (2016)

<https://doi.org/10.1017/epi.2015.58>

Employment

Umeå University

Department for Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Postdoctoral Researcher 2021–...

University of Cologne

Department of Philosophy

DFG Project *Determinism, Control and the Consequence Argument*

Postdoctoral Researcher 2020–2021

Umeå University

Department for Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Student Counsellor, 2019–2020

Education

Umeå University

PhD in Philosophy, 2014–2019

Dissertation title: *Causal After All; A Model of Mental Causation for Dualists*

Supervision: Prof. P. Sundström, Prof. G. Björnsson, Assoc. Prof. T. Huvenes

Faculty opponent: Prof. D. Papineau

Shortlisted for the 2020 *Mercier Prize* for monographs in metaphysics

KU Leuven

Master of Philosophy in Philosophy, 2013–2014

Summa cum laude (88,64%)

Master of Arts in Philosophy 2012–2013

Magna cum laude (84,33%)

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, minoring in English literature and linguistics, 2009–2012

Cum laude (75,47%)

Visiting Positions

Rutgers University

Visiting Research Scholar, planned for Spring 2022 – Fall 2023

Invited by prof. Karen Bennett

UC Berkeley

Visiting Research Scholar, Spring 2016

Invited by prof. John Campbell

University College Dublin

Erasmus Exchange Student, Fall 2011

Work in Progress

A paper on proportionality, *under review*

A paper on mental causation, *under review*

A paper on AI and personal autonomy, *under review*

A paper on absence causation, *under review*

A paper on the causal pairing argument, *in preparation*

A paper on explanation and machine learning, *in preparation*

Grants,
etc.

International Postdoctoral Fellowship, Swedish Research Council
3 150 000 SEK, 2020–2023

Salaried PhD position, Umeå University, 2014–2019

Internal Funding for ‘Causes and Powers’-workshop, 25 000 SEK,
Fall 2018 (together with P. Sundström)

Riksbanken Jubileumsfond Research Initiation, 150 000 SEK,
Spring 2017 (together with P. Sundström)

JC Kempe Scholarship, 10 000 SEK, Spring 2017

Wallenberg Travel Stipend, 10 000 SEK, Spring 2016

JC Kempe Scholarship, 15 000 SEK, Spring 2016

Umeå University Travel Stipend, 20 000 SEK, Spring 2016

Erasmus Exchange Scholarship, 1480 EUR, Fall 2011

Refereeing

Inquiry, Journal of Philosophy, Thought, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Royal Society Interface, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Erkenntnis, American Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Grazer Philosophische Studien, Synthese, Theoria, Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Philosophical Psychology, Dialectica, Logique & Analyse

Teaching

TA *Journalism, Media and Communication* (BA lower-level)
constructing and teaching the philosophy of science section
Umeå University, Spring 2021, internet course

Supervision *Philosophy C-paper* (BA upper level)
Samuel Cavalin: The Content Fallacy in Aquinas’ Universality Argument

Main Instructor *Philosophy of Perception* (Master level)
grading, evaluation, feedback and admin
Umeå University, Spring 2019, internet course

Main Instructor *The Problem of Consciousness* (Master level)
lecturing, grading, evaluation, feedback and admin
Umeå University, Fall 2018 and 2019

TA *Theory in Archeology* (Master Level)
leading seminar on philosophy of science
Umeå University, Spring 2019

TA *Philosophy of Social Science* (BA intermediate)
leading seminars on objectivity, the value of science, and case studies, grading
essays
Umeå University, Spring 2019 and 2021

TA *Metaphysics* (BA intermediate)
grading
Umeå University, Spring 2018 and 2019, both online and on campus

TA *The Problem of Consciousness* (Master level)
grading, evaluation and feedback
Umeå University, Fall 2017

TA *Philosophy of Perception* (Master level)
grading, evaluation and feedback
Umeå University, Spring 2017, online course

TA *Philosophy of Risk* (BA lower-level)
supervising group exercises on decision theory.
Umeå University, Spring 2017 and 2019

TA *Theory of Knowledge, Science, and Formal Methods* (BA lower-level)
lecturing, grading and supervising group exercises.
Umeå University, Fall 2016, Spring and Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

Supervision *Philosophy B-papers* (BA lower-level)
Timoteus Dahlberg: Singularity and the possibility of human level AI
Andreas Horndahl: Autonomic ethical agents in military contexts
Umeå University, Spring 2017

TA *Introduction to Philosophy*, (BA lower-level)
grading and feedback on ‘body and mind’-section
Umeå University, Fall 2016, Spring and Fall 2017, both online and on campus

TA *Philosophy of Science and Research Ethics* (Doctoral level)
constructing philosophy of science section, lecturing, supervising and evaluat-
ing group exercises
Swedish Agricultural University, Fall 2016—2019

Academic Service

Co-organiser for ‘Causal Distinctions’-workshop at University of Cologne, Fall 2020

Abstract refereeing for *European Congress for Analytic Philosophy*, Spring 2020

Abstract refereeing for *Swedish Congress of Philosophy*, Spring 2019

Student representative ‘*Humanities Research School*’ reference group, 2018

Board member *HumDok*, 2018

Co-organiser for ‘Powers and Causes’-workshop at Umeå University

Co-organiser for ‘Where is there Causation?’-workshop at Umeå University

Chair *Idésam Doctoral Council* Fall 2017

Chair *Filosofiska Föreningen*, Summer 2017– ...

Secretary *Idésam Doctoral Council*, Spring 2017

Vice-Chair *Filosofiska Föreningen*, Spring 2017

Presentations

‘AI, Opacity, and Autonomy’, Governing AI @ MANCEPT Workshops, September 2021

‘No New Problems from Causal Pairing’, Colloquium of the Institute of Philosophy, Universität Hamburg, June 2021 (*invited talk*)

‘Dualist Mental Causation’ Mind, Language and Metaphysics Postgrad Conference, Durham University, May 2021

‘Procedural Opacity and Applicant Autonomy’ Technology and Work, KU Leuven, February 2021

‘System opacity and user autonomy for AI algorithms’ HUMlab tech breakfasts, Umeå University, November 2020

‘Halfway Proportionality’, Causal Distinctions, University of Cologne, October 2020

‘Halfway Proportionality’, Higher Seminar of Philosophy, Umeå University, October 2020 (*invited*)

‘Mental Causation for Standard Dualists’, fifth meeting of the Nordic Metaphysics Network, Lund University, June 2020 (*invited talk, postponed due to Corona crisis*)

‘Mental Causation for Standard Dualists’, Colloquium of the Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hanover, June 2020 (*invited talk, postponed due to Corona crisis*)

‘Insensitive Interventionism and Dualist Mental Causation’, Research seminar in theoretical philosophy, University of Gothenburg, February 2020

‘Therefore Non-Symmetry’ (with Alex Sandgren), CLLAM Seminar at Stockholm University, January 2020

‘Therefore Non-Symmetry’ (with Alex Sandgren), Beyond Truth Conditions, Umeå University, December 2019

‘Causal Exclusion without Causal Sufficiency’, Swedish Congress of Philosophy, June 2019

‘How to Cause when Powerless’, Powers and Causes, Umeå University, November 2018

‘Re-Thinking the Holding Fixed Condition’, CiNaPS, University of Antwerp, September 2018

‘Neo-Russellianism and Dualist Mental Causation’, CEU Summer School: Metaphysics and History of Laws of Nature, Juli 2018

‘Dualism and Exclusion, new formulation of an old argument’, Warwick Mind-Grad, Warwick University, November 2017

‘What Can Neo-Russellianism about Causation Do for Dualism about Consciousness?’, Where is there Causation?, Umeå University, October 2017

‘Semantics, Pragmatics and Negative Causation’, Semantics and Philosophy in Europe, University of Padua, September 2017

‘Interventionism and Time-Asymmetry’, Aristotelian Society and Mind Joint Session, University of Edinburgh, July 2017

‘Interventionism and Time-Asymmetry’, Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, CU Boulder, April 2017

‘Naturalist Dualism and Mental Causation’, Non-physical Views of the Mind, University of Cambridge, May 2016

‘Naturalist dualism, Epiphenomenalism and the Nature of Causation’ R. Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, April 2016

‘Naturalist Dualism and Mental Causation’ CLAW Colloquium, KU Leuven, January 2016 (*invited talk*)

‘Intervening on Chalmers’s Epiphenomenalism’, PLM Masterclass with David Chalmers, Stockholm University, June 2015

‘Perceptual Learning and Basic Beliefs’, Epistemology of Perception workshop with Jack Lyons, KU Leuven, September 2014

‘Getting Around Qualia’, GCTP, VU Amsterdam, May 2014 and HIW Graduate Student Conference, KU Leuven, March 2014

‘Rhythm and Infinity’, HIW Graduate Conference, KU Leuven, March 2013

References

Prof. Pär Sundström

Umeå University
par.sundstrom@umu.se
+46 90 786 51 63

Prof. Andreas Hüttemann

University of Cologne
ahuettetm@uni-koeln.de
+49 221 470 3445

Prof. Mathias Frisch

Leibniz Universität Hannover
mathias.frischphilos.uni-hannover.de
+49 511 762 - 5151

Prof. David Papineau

King’s College London & CUNY
david.papineau@kcl.ac.uk
+44 20 7848 2351

Prof. Thomas Kroedel

University of Hamburg
thomas.kroedel@uni-hamburg.de
+49 40 42838-8370

Prof. Gunnar Björnsson

Stockholm University
gunnar.bjornsson@philosophy.su.se
+46 90 786 77 81