

Daniel Hoek

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Areas of Specialization Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Decision Theory, Philosophy of Mathematics
Areas of Competence Epistemology, Metaphysics, Artificial Intelligence, Formal Semantics and Pragmatics, Mathematical and Philosophical Logic

Employment

2020 - present **Virginia Tech.** Assistant Professor of Philosophy.
2019 - 2020 **Princeton University.** Louis Skolnick Postdoctoral Research Associate and Lecturer, Department of Philosophy.

Education

2013 - 2019 **New York University**, Ph.D. in Philosophy, advisor Cian Dorr, joint committee with Chris Barker and David Chalmers. Dissertation: "The Web of Questions: Inquisitive Decision Theory and the Bounds of Rationality."
2008 - 2012 **University of Oxford**, Worcester College, Master of Mathematics and Philosophy with First Class honours.

Visiting Positions

Spring 2023 **University of Amsterdam.** Guest researcher at the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), while on teaching leave from Virginia Tech.
Spring of 2017, 2018, 2019 **École Normale Supérieure**, Paris. Three one-semester stays at Institut Jean Nicod (IJN), hosted by François Recanati.

Peer-reviewed Articles

Sorted by date of first (online) publication

2025 "Minimal Rationality and the Web of Questions." In *Unstructured Content*, eds. Peter van Elswyk, Domenico Kirk-Giannini, Andy Egan and Dirk Kindermann, Oxford University Press. (Contributors include Kit Fine, John Perry, Robert Stalnaker, Stephen Yablo.)
2022 "Million Dollar Questions: Why Deliberation Is More than Information Pooling" (with Richard Bradley). *Social Choice and Welfare* 63, 2024: 581–600, (Online publication March 2022.)
"Questions in Action." *Journal of Philosophy* 119(3), March 2022: 113-143. (Winner of the 2021 Isaac Levi Prize.)

Peer-reviewed Articles (ctd.)

- 2022 "Forced Changes Only: A New Take on the Law of Inertia." *Philosophy of Science* 90(1), January 2023: 60–76. (Online publication February 2022. Profiled in [*Scientific American*](#), the story has been reported in over twenty languages by [news outlets around the world](#).)
- 2021 "Øystein vs. Archimedes: A Note on Linnebo's Infinite Balance." *Erkenntnis* 88(4), April 2023: 1791-6. (Online publication May 2021.)
- 2020 "Chance and the Continuum Hypothesis." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 103(3), November 2021: 639-60. (Online publication October 2020.)
- 2019 "Loose Talk, Scale Presuppositions and QUD." *Proc. of the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*, eds. Julian Schlöder, Dean McHugh and Floris Roelofsen, 171-180.
- 2018 "Conversational Exculpature." *The Philosophical Review* 127(2), April 2018: 151-196. (Listed by Duke University Press in their [top 10 of most-read articles of 2018](#).)
- Under review "Logical Ignorance and the Computational Theory of Mind." Under review.

Book Review

- 2023 "Reason and Inquiry: The Erotetic Theory by Philipp Koralus." *Mind*. Online first, Nov. 2023.

Book (in progress)

The Inquisitive Mind: How Questions Shape Our Thoughts and Guide Our Actions.

Popular Writing

- 2024 "Fixing Newton's First" (in Dutch), *Tijdschrift voor de Natuurkunde*, February 2024: 22-5. (Physics magazine)
- 2023 "What Newton really meant." Institute of Art and Ideas website (UK), www.iai.tv, invited contribution, 17 August 2023.

Honours and Awards

- Fall 2025 Dean's Research Focus Assignment (semester free of teaching and service for Fall 2025)
- December 2024 Co-winner of a University Exemplary Program Award for the Language Sciences minor at VT. The minor was noted for its contributions to student research and experiential learning.
- October 2024 Nomination for a **University Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising** (award to be decided in Spring 2025).
- 2021 - 2023 PPE Research Fellowship (Kellogg Center for PPE, Virginia Tech)
- 2021 The [Isaac Levi Prize](#) (The Journal of Philosophy)
- 2018 - 2019 Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Mellon Foundation)
- Spring 2018, Spring 2019 Global Research Initiatives Fellowship, twice (NYU)
- 2013 - 2018 MacCracken Fellowship (NYU)
- 2012 Gibbs Prize in Philosophy (Oxford University)
- 2010 - 2012 Worcester College Scholarship (Worcester College, Oxford)

Select Media Coverage

- Newton
- “Mistranslation of Newton’s First Law Discovered after Nearly 300 Years,” by Stephanie Pappas, *Scientific American*, 5 September 2023.
 - “Theory by Newton, ‘the father of modern science’, translated incorrectly” (Turkish), *Yeniçağ*, 7 September 2023. (Turkey, national newspaper)
 - “Newton’s First Law ‘misinterpreted’ for almost 300 years!” (French), by Fleur Brosseau, *Science & Vie*, 12 September 2023. (France, science magazine)
 - “Did scientists make a mistake in translating and understanding Newton’s first law?” (Arabic), *Al Jazeera*, 19 September 2023. (Global news network)
 - “Incredible: we have misinterpreted one of Newton’s laws for almost 300 years,” (Spanish), *Clarín*, 19 September 2023. (Argentina, national newspaper)
 - “Virginia Tech philosopher rights wrong done to Isaac Newton,” by Randolph Walker, *Cardinal News*, 28 September 2023. (Virginia, local news)
 - “That one little word in Newton’s Law: Newton’s First Law is more concrete than thought.” (Dutch), by P. de Jong, *Het Parool*, 26 October 2023. (The Netherlands, natl. newspaper)
- More listed at <https://danielhoek.com/research/newton-coverage/>

- Inquisitive Decision Theory
- “Research Fellow Focus: Daniel Hoek,” *Kellogg Center News*, 13 November 2023. (Internal Virginia Tech publication.)
 - “Hoek wins 2021 Isaac Levi Prize,” by Justin Weinberg, *Daily Nous*, January 7, 2022.

Research Presentations

Interdisciplinary and non-philosophical venues italicised. Invited talks of special note in **bold**.

“The Interesting Question”

- April 7, 2025 **Philosophy Department Colloquium, UC San Diego**
- February 7, 2025 University of Notre Dame
- January 28, 2025 Columbia University
- January 16, 2025 University of Toronto

“Fixing Newton’s First”

- March 22, 2024 *Physics Department Colloquium, Virginia Tech*

“The Practical Problem of Logical Omniscience”

- February 16., 2024 MIT Philosophy

“The Trouble with Belief Fragmentation, Or: Why You Can’t Steer By an Atlas”

- November 3, 2023 **Philosophy Department Colloquium, USC**
- March-April 2023 *The LSE Choice Group, LSE, University of Bristol, University of Edinburgh*

“Question-Directed Propositions”

- March 17, 2023 *Logic and Language Colloquium (DIP), ILLC, University of Amsterdam*

Seminar Discussion on “Questions in Action,” with Cian Dorr and Hartry Field

- May 2, 2023 **Mind and Language seminar, NYU**

Research Presentations (ctd.)

“The Reality of Rainbows: Loose Talk & Ontology”

April-May 2023 Arché, University of St. Andrews; M&E series, University of Oxford
March 11, 2023 Conference in honour of Stephen Yablo (“Yablofest”), MIT

“The Atlas or the Web?”

November 5, 2021 Colloquium in Language, Epistemology, Metaphysics & Mind, University of Toronto

“Assertion, Attention and Deduction”

May 5, 2021 *Revisiting the Common Ground workshop series, Princeton University*

“Million Dollar Questions” (with Richard Bradley)

November 13, 2020 *Collective Attitude Formation Group, University of Bayreuth*

“Logical Omniscience and Stalnaker’s Challenge”

October 7, 2020 Logic of Conceivability speaker series, ILLC, University of Amsterdam

“Coin flips, Spinning Tops and the Continuum Hypothesis”

March - September 2020 Rutgers University; University of Konstanz; CUNY Grad Center

“Loose Talk, Scale Presuppositions and QUD”

December 19, 2019 *22nd Amsterdam Colloquium, ILLC, University of Amsterdam.*

December 2016 - February 2017 *Semantics Group, NYU Linguistics; LINGUAE, Institut Jean Nicod, ENS*

“Questions in Action”

January-March 2019 Brandeis University; University of Pittsburgh; National University of Singapore; Bilkent University; Virginia Tech; Uppsala University

“Loose Talk and the Pragmatics of Anti-Realism”

September 20, 2018 Pragmasophia conference, New University of Lisbon.

“The Web of Questions”

May 4, 2017 *Logic and Interactive Rationality talk series (LIRa), ILLC, University of Amsterdam*

March 18, 2017 3rd Fragmentation Workshop, University of Graz

“Mathematics as a Metaphor”

June 8, 2017 *“Metaphors in Mathematics” workshop, C.R.A.C. psychology lab, Université Paris 8*

March 21, 2016 Logic and Metaphysics workshop, CUNY Grad Center

“Logical Omniscience and the Epistemology of Phone Numbers”

September 17, 2015 Lunchtime talk, NYU

“How to Understand Metaphors, Solve Frege’s Puzzle and Debug Fictionalism Using this One Weird Trick”

October 27, 2015 New York Philosophy of Language Workshop

October 7, 2014 Washington Square Circle, NYU

Conference Commentaries

January 8, 2025	Jennifer Nagel and Ben Holguín on Weak Belief vs. Strong Belief , Eastern APA, New York.
February 22, 2024	On Xin Hui Yong's "Adapting Decision Theory." Central APA, New Orleans.
January 17, 2024	On Samuel Tjernström's "An Alternative View of Believing <i>De Re</i> and <i>De Dicto</i>." Eastern APA, New York.
January 5, 2023	On Kevin Richardson's "Logical Subtraction as Relevant Implication" Eastern APA, Montreal
October 8, 2023	On Katie Elliot's "Explanation Isn't Transitive" UNC Chapel Hill, The Chapel Hill Colloquium
January 9, 2021	On Adam Elga and Agustín Rayo's "Fragmentation and Logical Omniscience." Eastern APA, online
February 27, 2020	On Cosmo Grant's "Rationality and Long-Run Success" Central APA, Chicago
January 9, 2019	On Sam Berstler's "Pretending in a Language Game" Eastern APA, New York
October 6, 2017	On Martin Glazier's "The Necessity of Determinism" 3rd Annual Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science, New York

Public Talks & Outreach

October 21, 2024	Roanoke Valley Astronomical Society , "Fixing Newton's First." Public talk for a local society of amateur astronomers.
March 11, 2024	Curious Conversations , podcast interview on Newton.
Groundhog Day 2024	First Friday Pizza Forum , "Groundhog Day & the Philosophy of Special Relativity." Informal VT philosophy event aimed at undergraduates from all majors.
September 19, 2023	Misinformation in Science and Society (M.I.S.S.) , Interview. M.I.S.S. is a YouTube channel run by Illinois High School student Annie Wang.
January 20, 2022	Blacksburg Books bookstore , public talk, "How Questions Shape Our Thoughts and Guide our Actions".
November 8, 2019	VTLx , undergraduate speaker series talk in language sciences, Virginia Tech. "Loose Talk, Pragmatic Slack and a Little Bit of Metaphor".
Fall 2017	Broome Street Academy , New York, weekly philosophy discussions with pizza for underprivileged high school students.

Courses Taught (as Primary Instructor)

Virginia Tech	Proseminar (Graduate; Fall 2022, Spring 2024, Fall 2024) Knowledge and Reality (UG large lecture; Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024) Philosophy of Language (UG / Graduate; Spring 2022, Fall 2023) Formal Methods in Philosophy (Graduate; Spring 2021) Knowledge and Reality (UG small class; Spring 2021) Advanced Introduction to Epistemology (UG / Graduate; Fall 2020)
Princeton	Philosophical Foundations of Probability and Decision Theory (UG; Spring 2020) Seminar on Logical Subtraction (Graduate; Fall 2019)
NYU	Introduction to Logic (UG; Summer 2015, Summer 2016)

MA Thesis Advising and PhD Placement (VT Philosophy)

* = primary advisor

2025	Annelisa O'Neal* (phil. of language) Jason Wong (phil. of race / Africana) Lauren Roe (moral psychology)
2024	Aisling O'Leary (early modern): Harvard Dexin Li (metaphysics): UVA Soheil Adine* (phil. of gender)
2023	Rodrigo Garro* (phil. of language): USC Mohammed Ali (phil. of science): WashU Spencer Cardwell (early modern): UC Boulder
2022	Samantha Hirshland* (epistemology): UC San Diego; transfer to UMass Amherst in 2023 Zeb Dempsey (moral psychology): USC Dane Stocks (political philosophy & phil. of maths): Princeton
2021	Ethan Higginbotham* (phil. of language): UC Davis Justyn Smith (metaphysics): UT Austin

Other Graduate Advising

2023	Richard Teague, Philosophy PhD, Johns Hopkins, <i>On Wondering</i> (external committee member; main advisor: Justin Bledin).
2021 - present	Niloofar Shadab, Systems Engineering PhD, Virginia Tech, <i>Closed Systems Engineering for Engineered AI Systems</i> (committee member; main advisor: Peter Beling).

Professional Service

March 2022 - present	Member of the Editorial Board, <i>Semantics and Pragmatics</i>
2024	High school physics textbook consultation for Malmberg
May 2021	ESSLLI program committee, student session
May-June 2021	Organiser, with Sam Berstler, of an interdisciplinary Speaker Series <u>Revisiting the Common Ground</u> , hosted by Princeton University. Speakers included prominent linguists (like Mandy Simons), philosophers (like Seth Yalcin) and computer scientists (like Kim Bruce).
Spring 2016 - 2019	Organiser of the weekly <u>New York Philosophy of Language Workshop</u> .

Peer review for *Mind*, *Noûs*, *The Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Res Philosophica*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Semantics and Pragmatics*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Mind and Language*, *Journal of Philosophy and Psychology*, *The Review of Metaphysics*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Foundations of Science*, *Ethics*.

Book proposal review for Routledge (2022); book manuscript review for Cambridge University Press (2024).

Departmental and University Service

Fall 2022, Spring 2023 (VT)	Development of a skills-focussed Proseminar for our MA in Philosophy, focussed on teaching students independent research and writing skills, as well as norms of the profession. The course is now a mandatory component of Virginia Tech's MA program.
Spring 2021 - present (VT)	Committee for the creation of a new Language Sciences major (joint initiative with English, Modern Languages and Psychology departments). My contribution includes the development of an introductory and an advanced course in formal semantics.
Fall 2020 - present (VT)	Philosophy Curriculum Committee / Undergraduate Committee ; chair Fall 2021 - Fall 2022. The committee conducted a full review of VT's undergraduate philosophy curriculum aiming to make it more attractive and cohesive, overseeing the creation of numerous new courses.
December 2024	With other affiliated faculty, co-winner of a University Exemplary Program award for our Language Sciences minor. The minor was noted for its outstanding contributions to student research and experiential learning.
Summer 2020, 2021 (VT)	Co-taught Summer Writing Bootcamps for Philosophy MAs intending to apply to PhD programs in the following academic year.
Summer - Fall 2019 (VT)	Designed and implemented a points-based Equitable Service Distribution policy for the VT philosophy department, with the aim of recognising hidden service work and advising, and improving the department climate.
Fall 2017 (NYU)	Designed the NYU <u>Philosophy Department T-Shirt</u>
Fall 2014 & Fall 2016 (NYU)	Climate Committee, NYU Philosophy
2014 - 2015 (NYU)	Graduate Representative, NYU Philosophy

Interdepartmental Affiliations

Fall 2020 - present (VT)	Member of <u>VTLx</u> , an interdisciplinary collective of Virginia Tech faculty with research pertaining to language. We support each other's research and organise language-related events for undergraduates.
Fall 2020 - present (VT)	Affiliate faculty at the <u>Kellogg Center for PPE</u> (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

Languages

Dutch	Native.
French	Conversational. (Advanced French at Oxford University Languages Centre.)
Italian and German	Good reading, some conversation. (Three months of Italian at Scuola Dante in Rome.)
Latin and Ancient Greek	Elementary.