Daniel Hoek

Corcoran Dept. of Philosophy, University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400780, Charlottesville, VA 22904

e-mail: daniel.hoek@virginia.edu
website: www.danielhoek.com

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

2026 - present	**University of Virginia**. Assistant Professor in Philosophy.
2020 - 2026	**Virginia Tech**. Assistant Professor in 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

2025	"Minimal Rationality and the Web of Questions." In *Unstructured Content*, eds. Peter van Elswyk, Domenico Kirk-Giannini, Andy Egan and Dirk Kindermann, 3-41, Oxford University Press. (Other contributors include Kit Fine, John Perry, Robert Stalnaker, Stephen Yablo.)
2024	"Million Dollar Questions: Why Deliberation Is More than Information Pooling." (with Richard Bradley). *Social Choice and Welfare* 63, 2024: 581–600.
2023	"Øystein vs. Archimedes: A Note on Linnebo's Infinite Balance." *Erkenntnis* 88(4), April 2023: 1791-6.

Peer-reviewed Publications (ctd.)

2023 "Forced Changes Only: A New Take on the Law of Inertia." *Philosophy of Science* 90(1), January 2023: 60–76. (Profiled in ***Scientific American***, the story has since been reported in over twenty languages by news outlets around the world.)

2022 "Questions in Action." *Journal of Philosophy* 119(3), March 2022: 113-143. (Winner of the 2021 Isaac Levi Prize.)

2021 "Chance and the Continuum Hypothesis." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 103(3), November 2021: 639-60.

2020 "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.)

Book Review

2025 "*Reason and Inquiry: The Erotetic Theory* by Philipp Koralus." *Mind* 134(534), April 2025: 593–603.

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)

Spring 2025 University Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising, Virginia Tech.

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.

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.

"**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." (Dutch), by Peter de Jong, *Het Parool*, 26 October 2023. (The Netherlands, national newspaper)

More listed at ***https://danielhoek.com/research/newton-coverage/***

The Inquisitive Mind

"Research Fellow Focus: Daniel Hoek," *Kellogg Center News*, 13 November 2023.

"Hoek wins 2021 Isaac Levi Prize," by Justin Weinberg, *Daily Nous*, January 7, 2022.

Select Research Presentations

Interdisciplinary and non-philosophical venues italicised. Dept colloquia and invited talks of special note in **bold**.

"The Interesting Question"

February 13, 2026 — **Philosophy Department Colloquium, UMass Amherst**

April 7, 2025 — **Philosophy Department Colloquium, UC San Diego**

Jan-Oct 2025 — University of Toronto, Columbia, Notre Dame, UVA, Johns Hopkins

***Inquisitive Mind* Manuscript Workshop** (w. Jane Friedman, Alejandro Pérez Carballo, Ben Holguín and Adam Elga)

January 30, 2026 — Department of Philosophy, New York University

"Taking Propositions Apart and Telling Them Apart"

October 24, 2025 — PhLiP10 (Philosophical Linguistics & Linguistical Philosophy), Tarrytown, NY

"Inquisitive Minds Want to Know"

January 8, 2026 — Invited Symposium, Eastern APA, Baltimore;

"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

Select Research Presentations (ctd.)

Interdisciplinary and non-philosophical venues italicised. Dept colloquia and invited talks of special note in **bold**.

"Question-Directed Propositions"

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

Discussion on "Questions in Action," (with Cian Dorr and Hartry Field)

May 2, 2023 — Mind and Language seminar, NYU

"The Reality of Rainbows: Loose Talk & Ontology"

April-May 2023 — Arché, University of St. Andrews; M&E talk series, University of Oxford

March 11, 2023 — Conference in honour of Stephen Yablo ("Yablofest"), MIT

"The Atlas or the Web?"

November 5, 2021 — Department Colloquium in LEMM, 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.*

Dec 2016 - Feb 2017 — *LINGUAE talk series; Institut Jean Nicod, ENS; Semantics Group, NYU Linguistics*

"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: 2nd Int. Conf. on Pragmatics and Philosophy, New University of Lisbon.

"The Web of Questions"

March-May 2017 — *LIRa, ILLC, University of Amsterdam*; 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"

Oct 2014, Oct 2015 — Washington Square Circle, NYU; New York Philosophy of Language Workshop

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 *De Re* and *De Dicto*."** 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 Elga and 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.
May 2026, Groundhog Day 2024	**First Friday Pizza Forum**, "Infinity in a Teacup," "Groundhog Day & the Philosophy of Special Relativity." Informal philosophy event aimed at undergraduates from all majors.
January 2024	**Curious Conversations**, podcast interview on Newton's First Law.
September 19, 2023	**Misinformation in Science and Society (M.I.S.S.)**, online interview on Newton's First Law. 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)

University of Virginia	Epistemology (UG; Fall 2026) Philosophy of Questions (Graduate; Fall 2026)
Virginia Tech	Philosophy of Questions (Graduate; Spring 2026) Proseminar (Graduate; Fall 2022, Spring 2024, Fall 2024) Knowledge and Reality (UG large lecture; Spring '22, Fall '22, Fall '23, Fall '24, Spring '26) Philosophy of Language (UG / Graduate; Spring 2022, Fall 2023) Formal Methods in Philosophy (Graduate; Spring 2021) Knowledge and Reality (UG small class; Spring 2021, Spring 2025) 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

2027	Sam Blair*, Arya Amritansu
2026	Poorna Rathi (social philosophy), Penn
2025	Annelisa O'Neal* (phil. of language): MIT Jason Wong (phil. of race / Africana): UVA Lauren Roe (moral psychology): USC
2024	Aisling O'Leary (early modern): Harvard Dexin Li (metaphysics): UVA Soheil Adine* (phil. of gender): Maryland, College Park
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

PhD Advising

2026	Riccardo Pellegrini, Johns Hopkins (external committee member).
2024	Niloofar Shadab, Systems Engineering PhD, Virginia Tech, *Closed Systems Engineering for Engineered AI Systems* (committee member; main advisor: Peter Beling).
2023	Richard Teague, Johns Hopkins, *On Wondering* (external committee member).

Professional Service

March 2022 - present	Member of the Editorial Board, *Semantics and Pragmatics*
December 2025	Referee for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
June 2024	High school physics textbook consultation for Malmberg (*Nova* vwo)
May-June 2021	Organiser of an interdisciplinary Speaker Series Revisiting the Common Ground, with Sam Berstler, 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 New York Philosophy of Language Workshop.

Journal peer review for *The Philosophical Review*, *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*, *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 manuscript review for Oxford University Press (2026), Cambridge University Press (2024). Book proposal review for College Publications (2025), Routledge (2022). Conference paper review for ESSLLI, FARM, Amsterdam Colloquium.

Departmental and University Service

Fall 2026 (UVA)	Search committee, Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in philosophy
Spring 2026 (VT)	Search committee, Visiting Assistant Professor in philosophy
Fall 2024 (VT)	Organiser of the philosophy department **speaker series**.
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 - Spring 2026 (VT)	Philosophy **Curriculum 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.
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, to improve department climate help recognise hidden service work and advising.
Fall 2017 (NYU)	Philosophy Outreach, Broome Street Academy
2014 - 2015 (NYU)	Graduate Representative
Fall 2014 / Fall 2016 (NYU)	Climate Committee NYU Philosophy

Interdepartmental Affiliations

Fall 2020 - Spring 2026 (VT)	Member of **VTLx**, 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 - Spring 2026 (VT)	Affiliate faculty at the **Kellogg Center for PPE** (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	Basic.