

May 2021

Curtis Franks

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Academic positions

- Associate Professor of Philosophy
College of Arts and Letters
University of Notre Dame, 2013 – present
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy
College of Arts and Letters
The University of Notre Dame, 2006 – 2013

Administrative positions

- Editor in Chief
Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic,
2019 – present
- Director of the PhD. program
Department of Philosophy
The University of Notre Dame, 2014 – 2020

Other positions

- Member of the Association of Advanced
Rabbinical and Talmudical Schools, 2018 – present

Areas of research

- history and philosophy of logic
- philosophy of mathematics
- proof theory
- Wittgenstein

Education

- University of California, Irvine
Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science
Dissertation directed by Aldo Antonelli
PhD. June 2006
- William Marsh Rice University. Houston, Texas
B. A. in mathematics and philosophy, *magna cum laude* 2000

Professional memberships

- Association of Symbolic Logic
- American Philosophical Association

Published writing

BOOKS

1. *The Autonomy of Mathematical Knowledge: Hilbert's Program Revisited*. Cambridge University Press. 2009. 232 pgs.

ESSAYS

1. "The Gödelian inferences," *History and Philosophy of Logic* **30**(3), 2009, 241–256.
2. "Cut as consequence," *History and Philosophy of Logic* **31**(4), 2010, 349–379.
3. "Stanley Tennenbaum's Socrates," in J. Kennedy and R. Kossak (eds.) *Set Theory, Arithmetic, and Foundations of Mathematics: Theorems, Philosophies*. Cambridge University Press: *Lecture Notes in Logic*. 2011.
4. "The realm of the sacred, wherein we may not draw an inference from something which itself has been inferred," *History and Philosophy of Logic* **33**(1), 2012, 69–86.

5. “Logical completeness, form, and content: an archaeology,”
in J. Kennedy (ed.) *Interpreting Gödel: Critical Essays*.
Cambridge University Press. 2014.
6. “Logical nihilism,” in P. Rush (ed.) *The Metaphysics of Logic*.
Cambridge University Press. 2014.

Reprinted in A. Hirvonen, J. Kontinen, R. Kossak, A. Villaveces (eds.),
Logic Without Borders. de Gruyter. 2015.
7. “David Hilbert’s contributions to logical theory,”
in A. P. Malpass and M. Antonutti-Marfori (eds.) *The History of
Philosophical and Formal Logic*. Bloomsbury Press. 2017.
8. “Constructing the simples,” in P. Ordning and R. Kossak (eds.),
Simplicity: Ideals of Practice in Mathematics and the Arts.
Springer. 2017.
9. “The context of inference,” *History and Philosophy of Logic* **39**(4),
2018, 365–95.
10. “Wittgenstein’s wayward student: the unauthorized autobiography,” to
appear in J. Kennedy and S. Arbeiter (eds.), *Penelope Maddy on Set
Theory and Naturalistic Method*. Springer: *Outstanding Contributions
to Logic*.
11. “The deduction theorem (before and after Herbrand),”
History and Philosophy of Logic **42**(2), 2021, 129–59.
12. “The fate of the syllogism in the Göttingen school,” in L. M. Verburgt
and M. Cosci (eds.), *Aristotle’s Syllogism and the Creation of Modern
Logic: Between Tradition and Innovation, 1820–1930*. Bloomsbury.
forthcoming.

Invited lectures

1. “Gödel in 20/20: hindsight, foresight, and logical blindness,”
Tribute to Gödel 2020, Brno, Czech Republic. January 2020.
2. “Some questions for the philosophy of mathematics,”
American Mathematical Society, Central Sectional Meeting.
Madison, Wisconsin. Fall 2019.

3. “Logical completeness: the very idea” (five lectures)
Scandinavian Logic Society and Association of Symbolic Logic
Summer School. Helsinki. 2015.
4. “The complexity of simplicity” *Simplicity:
Ideals of Practice in Mathematics and the Arts*, New York City 2013.
5. “An ancient sub-structural logic” CUNY logic seminar,
(computer science department) 2012.
6. “Gödel’s last thought on Gentzen’s consistency proof”
CUNY logic seminar, (mathematics department) 2012.
7. “Sacred inference” 25th Bar-Hillel lectures, Jerusalem 2011.
8. “What set theory and category theory can teach an anti-foundationalist”
Philmath Intersem, Paris 2010.

Current projects

- *Logical Completeness from Aristotle to Henkin*,
a monograph expanding the accounts and results found in essays [2],
[5], [7], [12]
- “Gödel’s proof of the disjunction property”: Gödel announced the dis-
junction property of IPC in 1932 without proof. Familiar proofs based
on cut-elimination, frame semantics, and Kleene/Acel slash would have
been inaccessible to Gödel, leaving one to wonder how Gödel could have
known this deep fact. Clues in the 1932 paper provide the key.
- “As if by magic: how the structure of sequent systems determines log-
ical meaning,” an essay showing that the subsumption of the law of
excluded middle into the background structure of reasoning in the se-
quent calculus—what Gentzen called magical—unifies classical and in-
tuitionistic reasoning in more than one way. Not only does it expose
the identity of the inferential content of the classical and intuitionistic
logical connectives, it also unifies their completeness results. Kripke’s
frame semantics can be understood from this perspective as necessi-
tated by the completeness result that predated them.

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- “Logic discovered and logic imposed,” an invited chapter in a forthcoming volume in memory of Mark Steiner, edited by Yemima ben Menahem and Carl Posey.

Doctoral students

1. Chris Porter, “Mathematical and philosophical perspectives on algorithmic randomness” (co-directed with Michael Detlefsen and Peter Cholak). 2012.
2. Corey Dethier, “Multiple models, robustness, and the epistemology of climate science” (co-directed with Anjan Chakravartti). 2020.
3. Ellen Lehet, “The explanatory value of Category Theory.” 2020.
4. Paul McEldowney, “Model Theoretic Logicism” (co-directed with Tim Bays) 2020.
5. Matteo Bianchetti, “Geometric representations in mathematical problem-solving: intuition and creativity.” 2021.

Senior theses

1. Patrick Corry, philosophy
2. Thomas Graff, philosophy/theology concentration (co-directed)
3. Taylor Nutter, philosophy
4. James Schmidt, philosophy
5. Elliott Peirce, program for liberal studies
6. Steven White, philosophy/theology concentration (co-directed)
7. Mark Cerenzia, mathematics (co-directed)

Service

- Chief editor, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, 2019 – present
- UND Department of Philosophy
Director of Graduate Studies. 2014 – 2020

- UND College of Arts and Letters
Academic Honesty Committee. (student ombudsman) 2018 – present
- UND College of Arts and Letters
Academic Honesty Committee. (chair) 2015 – 2018
- *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic* associate editor, 2013 – 2019
- UND College of Arts and Letters
Academic Honesty Committee. 2013 – 2015
- Program Committee
2020 Annual Meeting of the Association of Symbolic Logic
- Local Organizing Committee
2020 Annual Meeting of the Association of Symbolic Logic
- chair of special session “Logic and Philosophy” for the
2018 Annual Meeting of the Association of Symbolic Logic
- Local Organizing Committee for the 2009 Annual Meeting
of the Association of Symbolic Logic
- organizing Committee for the Midwest Philosophy of
Mathematics Workshop. 2006 – 2020
- UND Department of Philosophy
Philosophy of Biology Search Committee (chair)
- UND College of Arts and Letters
Academic Council. 2014 – 2017
- UND College of Arts and Letters
Undergraduate Studies Committee. 2014 – present
- UND Department of Philosophy
Committee of Appointments and Promotions. 2014 – 2017
- UND Department of Philosophy
Graduate Student Admissions committee. 2013 – 2020
- UND Department of Philosophy
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. 2010 – 2016

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- UND Department of Philosophy
Comprehensive History Exam Committee (chair). 2011, 2015

Scholarships and fellowships

- University of California Regents Dissertation Writing Fellowship, 2005
- National Merit Scholarship, 1998

Distinctions, honors, and awards

- University of Notre Dame Director of Graduate Studies Award, 2018
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Hubert E. Bray Prize in Mathematics