

# MATTHEW L. BREWER

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## RESEARCH AREAS

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**Areas of Specialization:** Philosophy of science, philosophy of geosciences

**Areas of Competence:** Ancient philosophy, ethics, logic

## EDUCATION

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**Boston University**, Boston, MA 2020 – present (in-progress)  
*Doctor of Philosophy*, Philosophy (Candidate)  
Dissertation advisor: Dr. Alisa Bokulich  
Dissertation title: “Evidence, Classification, and Explanation: Towards a Philosophy of Plate Tectonics”

**Fordham University**, Bronx, NY 2020  
*Bachelor of Arts*, Philosophy, Classical Civilizations  
Minor in History  
*Summa cum laude*  
*In cursu honorum*: Rose Hill Honors Program

## PUBLICATIONS

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Brewer, M. (2025). “When Should Absence of Evidence Be Evidence of Absence?: A Case Study from Paleogeology.” *Philosophy of Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psa.2025.10125>.

Brewer, M. & Carrera, M. (2024). Review: *Inference and Representation: A Study in Modeling Science*, by Mauricio Suárez. University of Chicago Press, 2024, 328 pages. *The British Journal for the History of Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007087424000852>.

Bokulich, A. & Brewer, M. (invited, under review). “Pursuitworthy Data Collection in the Geosciences: From Peirce’s Economy of Research to Targeted Observation.” Topical Collection: “The Pursuitworthiness of Experiments Across the Sciences.” *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*.

## PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

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Brewer, M. (2024). “Ancient Plates and Pirate Anchors: When Should We Treat Absence of Evidence as Evidence of Absence?” *Extinct: The Philosophy of Palaeontology Blog*. <http://www.extinctblog.org/>

## **REFEREED PRESENTATIONS**

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“Classification, Uniqueness, and Analogical Reasoning in Planetary Geology.”

(2026, July [accepted]) Paper presented at the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) Biennial Meeting (Cambridge, UK).

(2025, July) Paper presented virtually at the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) Biennial Meeting.

(2025, January) Paper presented at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division Meeting, Paper Works in Progress Session (Philosophy of Science Section) (New York, NY).

“When Can Absence of Evidence Be Evidence of Absence?: A Case Study from Paleogeology.”

(2024, November) Paper presented at the Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) Biennial Meeting (New Orleans, LA).

(2024, July) Paper presented virtually at the Philosophy of the Paleosciences Online RoadShow.

(2024, May) Poster presented at the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) Biennial Meeting (Columbia, SC).

(2022, November) “When is a Detection a Discovery?” Poster presented at the Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA).

(2022, May) “Husserl’s Phenomenological Critique of the Physical Sciences.” Paper presented at the Rotman Institute of Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Western University (London, ON).

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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(2026, April) “Plate Tectonics and the New Mechanical Philosophy.” Paper presented at the Method, Theory, & Reality Annual Conference at UMass Amherst (Amherst, MA).

(2024, December) “When Can Absence of Evidence Be Evidence of Absence?: A Case Study from Paleogeology.” Paper presented at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Annual Meeting (Washington, DC).

## **COMMENTATING & CHAIRING**

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(2026, April) Boston University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference (Boston, MA): Commentator, “Orchestrating Difference: Kallen and Neurath on the Unity of Science,” by Noa Dahan (University of Cincinnati).

(2025, December) American Geophysical Union (AGU) Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA): Chair, Science and Society: Social and Behavioral Sciences, Oral & Poster Sessions.

(2025, January) American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division Meeting (New York, NY): Chair, Philosophy of the Geosciences Symposium.

(2023, March) Boston Phenomenology Circle (BPC) (Boston, MA): Commentator, “Edith Stein on the Emotions,” by Dermot Moran (Boston College).

(2022, May) Boston University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference (Boston, MA): Commentator, "Getting Out of the Epistemic Way: A modest proposal for eco-emancipation," by Danielle Douez (Concordia University).

## **AWARDS**

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### **Grants**

National Science Foundation Travel Grant (2024)

Support for travel to the 2024 Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting.

Support for Symposium & Roundtable: "Valuing Research & Researching Values: How to Bridge the Gaps Between Ethics and Science," BU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference (2024)

Berry Fund for Public Philosophy, American Philosophical Association

Chapter Event Funding, Minorities and Philosophy International

Event Funding, Boston University Office of the Senior Diversity Officer

Event Funding, Society for Applied Philosophy

Humanities Enhancement Project Award, Boston University Center for the Humanities

Inclusion Catalyst Grant, Boston University Office of Diversity & Inclusion

### **Fellowships**

Peter Diamandopoulos Fellowships Fund in Hellenic Studies (Summer 2022)

Stipend support for summer research related to Hellenic philosophy at Boston University.

Summer Research Fellowship (Summer 2021)

Stipend support for summer research associated with the philosophy department at Boston University. Served as research assistant to Professor Marc Gasser-Wingate.

### **Other Awards**

The Archbishop John Hughes Award (May 2020)

Bestowed each year by the philosophy department at Fordham College at Rose Hill on the graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the study of philosophy.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY (Bridgewater, MA)**

#### **Part-Time Faculty**

CRIT 111 Foundations of Logical Reasoning (2x)

## **SUNY SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Brentwood, NY)**

### **Adjunct Instructor**

PHL113 Philosophies of Oppression & Social Justice

PHL101 Issues in Philosophy (2x)

## **BOSTON UNIVERSITY (Boston, MA)**

### **Instructor of Record**

PH 150 Introduction to Ethics

PH 300 History of Ancient Philosophy

### **Teaching Fellow**

PH 100 Introduction to Philosophy (2x)

PH 150 Introduction to Ethics (2x)

PH 160 Reasoning & Argumentation (Introduction to Logic)

PH 251 Medical Ethics

### **Course Assistant**

MG 730 Ethical Leadership in the Global Economy

## **GRADUATE COURSEWORK**

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### **Philosophy of Science**

Philosophy of the Earth Sciences (Alisa Bokulich, BU)

Philosophy of Modeling (directed study with Alisa Bokulich, BU)

Philosophy of Physics (Lydia Patton, Virginia Tech, Visiting at BU)

Philosophy of Physics (Miguel Ohnesorge, BU) (audited)

Gender, Race, and Science (Alisa Bokulich, BU) (audited)

Philosophy of Science (Topical Survey) (Alisa Bokulich, BU)

Philosophy of Science (Advanced Graduate Seminar) (Alisa Bokulich, BU)

Philosophy of Biology (Rachell Powell, BU)

### **Logic and Epistemology**

Symbolic Logic (Peter Hylton, BU)

Epistemology (Daniel Star, BU)

### **Phenomenology**

Phenomenology (Walter Hopp, BU)

Philosophy of Mind (Walter Hopp, BU)

### **History of Philosophy**

Kant (Sally Sedgwick, BU)

Hegel (Sally Sedgwick, BU)

Aristotle (Marc Gasser-Wingate, BU)

Maimonides (Michael Zank, BU)

Philosophy of Religion (directed study with Michael Zank, BU)

## **Contemporary Ethics**

Gender, Race, and Science (Samia Hesni, BU)

Aesthetics and Ethics of Photography (Daniel Star, BU)

## **SERVICE**

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Boston University Ethics Seminar: Organizer, 2024-present

Harvard College High School Ethics Bowl: Judge, 2026

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) BU Chapter

Undergraduate Student Mentor, 2023-present

Coordinator, 2023-2024

Boston University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference: Organizer, 2023-2025

Boston University Graduate Student Organization: Philosophy Department Representative, 2024-2025

Boston Phenomenology Circle (BPC): Convener, 2022-2024

BU Spark! Hackathons: Mentor

Welcome Back MiniHack Hackathon, 2023

Tech for Change Civic Tech Hackathon, 2023

Boston University Philosophy Department Graduate Student President: 2022-2023

Boston University Philosophy Seminar Series: Coordinator, 2021-2022

## **RESEARCH GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS**

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Philosophy of the Geosciences Research Group ( $\Phi$ -Geo): Research group at Boston University on philosophical issues in the geosciences (geology, climate science, etc.), organized by Dr. Alisa Bokulich.

Philosophy of Science Association

International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science

Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

Society for Applied Philosophy

Philosophers for Sustainability

Minorities and Philosophy

American Philosophical Association

American Geophysical Union

American Association for the Advancement of Science

**READING GROUPS & CLUBS**

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Boston University Philosophy Film Group (co-organizer)

Boston University Philosophy of Sport Reading Group

Boston University German Idealism Reading Group