



# Ontology & Methodology Conference 2013

**May 4th and 5th**  
Pamplin Hall Room 2030

How do scientists' initial conjectures about the entities and processes under their scrutiny influence the choice of variables, the structure of mature scientific theories, and methods of interpretation of those theories?

How do methods of data generation, statistical modeling, and analysis influence the construction and appraisal of theories at multiple levels?

How does historical analysis of the development of scientific theories illuminate the interplay between scientific methodology, theory building, and the interpretation of scientific theories?

This conference brings together prominent philosophers of science, biology, cognitive science, causation, economics, and physics with philosophically minded scientists engaged in research into these interconnected methodological and ontological questions.

## SPECIAL INVITED SPEAKERS

**David Danks**

“The Myriad Influences of Goals on Ontology”

**Peter Godfrey-Smith**

“Evolution and Agency: A Case Study in Ontology and Methodology”

**Kevin Hoover**

“The Ontological Status of Shocks and Trends in Macroeconomics”

**Laura Ruetsche**

“Method, Metaphysics, and Quantum Theory”

**James Woodward**

“The Problem of Variable Choice”

## VIRGINIA TECH SPEAKERS

**Benjamin Jantzen**

“The Algebraic Conception of Natural Kinds”

**Deborah Mayo & Aris Spanos**

“Ontology & Methodology in Statistical Modeling”

**Lydia Patton**

“Theory Assessment and Ontological Argument”

## CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

**Erik Angner**

“Behavioral vs. Neoclassical Economics: A Weberian Analysis”

**Hayley Clatterbuck**

“Drift Beyond Wright-Fisher: The Predictive Inequivalency of Drift Models”

**Koray Karaca**

“The method of robustness analysis and the problem of data-selection at the ATLAS experiment”

**Alexandre Marcellesi**

“Counterfactuals and ‘nonmanipulable’ properties: When bad methodology leads to bad metaphysics (and vice-versa)”

**Elay Shech**

“Phase Transitions, Ontology and Earman’s Sound Principle”

The conference is free; all are invited to attend. Registration is required.

To register, and for information on travel and accommodation, contact

Jean Miller at

[om2013@easychair.org](mailto:om2013@easychair.org)

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