

Helen Hattab
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Education

Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania
Philosophy, May 1998
M.A. University of Pennsylvania
Philosophy, May 1994
B.A. Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey)
Major: Philosophy, May 1990; Departmental Honors in Philosophy
Diplôme Supérieur de Culture Française avec mention très bien
University of Paris III, France; French Language, Literature and Civilization, 1988
First Year, School of Translation and Interpretation, University of Geneva,
Switzerland; Translation: French and German to English, 1986-1987

Dissertation

The Origins of a Modern View of Causation: Descartes and His Predecessors on Efficient Causes, Professors Lisa Downing (supervisor), James Ross, Charles Kahn

Academic Positions

Professor of Philosophy, University of Houston, as of Sept, 2019
Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Houston, 2010-2019
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Houston, Aug 2009-2010
Assistant Professor in Philosophy and the Honors College, University of Houston, Aug 2003-09
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Wabash College, July 2002-June 2003
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC), 1999-2002
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1998-1999

Areas of Specialization

Early Modern Philosophy, Renaissance Philosophy, Late Medieval Philosophy, History of Science from the late Middle Ages to the 17th Century.

Areas of Competence

Ancient Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, History and Philosophy of the Scientific Revolution

Publications

Books

1. *Descartes on Forms and Mechanisms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, July 2009; Paperback edition, 2012.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Refereed Book Chapters

22. "The Nature and Method of Physics and the Natural Sciences" in *The Cartesian Mind*, eds Cecilia Lim and Jorge Secada, New York: Routledge, forthcoming 2025.

21. "Scholastic Aristotelian Methods in Relation to Analysis and Synthesis in Descartes' and

Helen Hattab p.2

- Hobbes' Philosophies", in *Traditions of Analysis and Synthesis*, ed Bill Newman and Jutta Schickore, Dordrecht: Springer, forthcoming 2024.
20. "Individuation and New Matter Theories in Late 16th and Early 17th Century Scholasticism", *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol.97, Issue 4 (Oct 2023): 603-628.
19. "Renaissance Aristotelianism(s)", Ch.3 in *The Cambridge History of Philosophy of the Scientific Revolution*, ed Dana Jalobeanu and David Marshall Miller, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022, p.58-74.
18. "Hobbes' Unified Method for *Scientia*", Ch.1 in *A Companion to Hobbes*, ed. Marcus Adams, Wiley-Blackwell, 2021, p.25-44.
17. "Creation and Subsistence: 17th Century Commentaries on the Subsistence of Prime Matter," in *Summistae: The Commentary Tradition on Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologiae (15th-18th Century)*, ed Lidia Lanza and Marco Tosta, *Ancient and Medieval Philosophy – Series I*, University of Leuven Press, 2021, p.267-281.
16. "Methods of Teaching or Discovery? Analysis and Synthesis from Burgersdijk to Spinoza", in *Teaching the New Sciences in History of Universities Vol XXXIII/2*, ed. Mordechai Feingold, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Dec 2020, p.86-112.
15. "Descartes' Mechanical but not Mechanistic Physics", *The Oxford Handbook of Descartes and Cartesianism*, ed Delphine Antoine-Mahut, Steve Nadler and Tad Schmaltz, Oxford: Oxford University Press, May 2019, p.124-137.
14. "Early Modern Roots of the Philosophical Concept of a Law of Nature", in *Laws of Nature*, ed Walter Ott and Lydia Patton., Oxford University Press, May 2018, p.18-41.
13. "The Metaphysics of Substantial Forms", in *The Routledge Companion to Sixteenth Century Philosophy*, ed Benjamin Hill and Henrik Lagerlund, New York: Routledge, Jan 2017, p.436-457.
12. "Descartes on the Eternal Truths and Essences of Mathematics: An Alternative Reading." *Vivarium*, Vol.54 (2-3, 2016): 204-249.
11. "Aristotelianism and Atomism Combined: Gorlaeus on Knowledge of Universals." *Perspectives on Science*, Vol. 24 (3, May/June 2016): 285-304.
10. "Hobbes' and Zabarella's Methods: A Missing Link." *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 52.3 (July 2014): 461-485.
9. "Suarez's Last Stand for the Substantial Form," in *The Philosophy of Francisco Suarez*. eds Benjamin Hill and Henrik Lagerlund. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012, p.101-118.
8. "The Mechanical Philosophy", in *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy in Early Modern Europe*. eds Desmond Clarke and Catherine Wilson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, March 2011, 124-164.
7. "Suárez and Descartes: *A priori* Arguments Against Substantial Forms and the Decline of the

Helen Hattab p.3

Formal Cause.” *Studia Neoaristotelica* 8.2 (2011): 143-162.

6.“Concurrence or Divergence? Reconciling Descartes’ Physics with His Metaphysics.” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 45.1 (Jan 2007): 49-78.

5.“From Mechanics to Mechanism: The *Quaestiones Mechanicae* and Descartes’ Physics.” in *The Science of Nature in the Seventeenth Century*. ed Peter R.Anstey and John A. Schuster. *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science*. Vol.19. Dordrecht: Springer, 2005. 99-129.

4.“Conflicting Causalities: the Jesuits, their Opponents and Descartes on the Causality of the Efficient Cause.” *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* Vol.1. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Dec 2003. 1-22.

3.“Handmaiden, Nursemaid or Sister to Philosophy? The Role of the History of Philosophy Today.” In *The Philosophy of Marjorie Grene, The Library of Living Philosophers*. La Salle Illinois: Open Court Publishing Co., December 2002. 515-532.

2.“Laws of Nature”, *Encyclopedia of the Scientific Revolution from Copernicus to Newton*. ed Wilbur Applebaum. New York: Garland Publishing Inc., 2000. 354-357.

1.“The Problem of Secondary Causation in Descartes: A Response to Des Chene.” *Perspectives on Science* 8:2 (2000): 93-118.

Refereed Proceedings

1.“Between Scholasticism and Newtonianism: Descartes on the Metaphysics of Time.” in *Begriffe von Raum und Zeit. Frühneuzeitliche Konzepte und fundamentale Theorien*. ed Frank Linhard and Peter Eisenhardt, *Zeitspruenge, Forschungen zuer Fruehen Neuzeit* Vol.11, No.1/2, April 2007: 61-80.

Other Papers

4.”Suarez’s Hylomorphism and the Body/Soul Composition”, *Conimbricenses A Digital Encyclopedia of Coimbra*, www.conimbricenses.org, May 2020.

3.Entries on “Sebastian Basso”, “The Jesuits”, “Franciscus Toletus” and “Antonio Ruvius” for *Descartes Lexicon*, ed L.Nolan, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Jan 2016.

2.“Le fondement de la causalité dans les traditions aristotéliennes et mécanistes.” In *Studi Cartesiani II, Atti del Seminario “Descartes et ses adversaires” Parigi 12-13 Dec. 2000*. Lecce: Conte, 2004. 98-120.

1.“One Cause or Many?: Jesuit Influences on Descartes’ Division of Causes.” In *Meeting of the Minds: The Relations Between Medieval and Classical Modern European Philosophy*. ed Stephen F. Brown. Brepols, 1998. 105-120.

Book Reviews

9. Stefano di Bella and Tad Schmaltz. *The Problem of Universals in Early Modern Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. Pp.352, HOPOS Journal 10 (2), June 2020, p.329-330.

8.Cecilia Muratori and Gianni Paganini, ed, *Early Modern Philosophers and the Renaissance*

Helen Hattab p.4

Legacy, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, Vol.55, #4 (Oct 2017).

7.Craig Martin, *Subverting Aristotle Religion, History and Philosophy in Early Modern Science*, *Journal of the International Society of the History of Philosophy of Science*, Fall 2015:381-385.

6.Daniel Schwartz, *Interpreting Suarez* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, www.ndpr.edu Dec 2012.

5.Peter Machamer's and J.E.McGuire's *Descartes' Changing Mind* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, www.ndpr.edu Oct 22, 2010.

4.Stephen Gaukroger's *The Emergence of a Scientific Culture* in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 46:4, October 2008: 640-641.

3.Jorge Secada's *Cartesian Metaphysics* in *Philosophical Books* 43:3, July 2002: 229-231.

2.Thomas Vinci's *Cartesian Truth* in *Philosophical Review* Vol.109 #4, Oct 2000: 642-645.

1.Marleen Rozemond's *Descartes' Dualism* in *Philosophical Books* 41:2, April 2000: 106-8.

Work in Progress

Monograph: *Universals and Individuals from the Late Scholastics to Spinoza*. Chapters undergoing revisions.

“Jesuit, Lutheran and Calvinist Commentators on the Individuation of Material Substances”, advanced draft, targeted *Journal Early Modern Science and Medicine*.

Honors and Awards

Retention raise of \$2500 awarded to top research faculty at University of Houston, Fall 2009

Nominated “Most Underrated Philosopher of the Week” by New APPS Blog Nov 1, 2009, <http://www.newappsblog.com/2010/11/most-underrated-philosopher-of-the-week-helen-hattab.html>

Fellowships and Grants

20.Helen Hattab, Research Progress Grant, University of Houston, \$4000.00 for research travel in January, June and July, 2020 (phase 2 deferred to June & July 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic).

19.Helen Hattab, Herzog August Bibliothek, 7 month Research Fellowship, “Substances, Unities and Universals in 16th and 17th Century Philosophy”, Wolfenbuettel, Germany Jan-Jul and Dec 2018.

18.Helen Hattab, Folger Shakespeare Library Short Term Research Fellowship, “Substances, Unities and Universals in 16th and 17th Century Philosophy”, Washington DC, Sept-Dec 2017.

17.Helen Hattab, TOPOI Research Fellowship, 5000 Euro, Project on 16th and 17th century Theories of substantial and formal unity, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany in Jun-Jul, 2015.

Helen Hattab p.5

16.Helen Hattab, Research Travel Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of Houston, summer 2015.

15.Helen Hattab, "16th and 17th Century Commentators on Aquinas' Doctrine of Substantial Forms", UH Small Grant, for research at the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany in June 2013 and at the Vatican Library in July 2013.

14.Selected to apply for a Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to develop a course on "Enduring Questions", not funded.

13.Helen Hattab, Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, July-Aug 2011.

12.Helen Hattab,"Spinoza's Application of the Geometrical Method to Ethics", UH Small Grant, July 2011.

11.Helen Hattab, "Hobbes and Spinoza: The Geometrization of Ethics and Politics," Herzog August Bibliothek, 6 month residential fellowship, Jan-June 2011.

10.NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) fellowship for Summer Seminar "Galileo, Descartes and Hobbes: Science and Philosophy, Religion and Politics," Directed by Daniel Garber and Roger Ariew, Princeton University, July 12-August 6, 2010.

9.Helen Hattab, "Sources of Descartes' Universal Geometrical Method," Folger Shakespeare Library, 3 month residential fellowship, Washington DC, June-August 2008.

8.Helen Hattab, "Descartes and the Mechanization of Natural Philosophy," Scaliger Institute, University of Leiden, The Netherlands, 2 month grant, Leiden June-Aug 2007.

7.Helen Hattab, "Causes, Laws and Mechanisms: The Transformation of the Efficient Cause from the Late Scholastics to Descartes," Herzog August Bibliothek, 3 month residential fellowship, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, 2005.

6.Helen Hattab, Smithsonian Institute Libraries/Dibner Library Resident Scholarship Award, Jan-May 2004.

5.NEH Grant for Summer Institute "Experience and Experiment in Early Modern Europe" Directed by Professors Pamela Long & Pamela Smith, Folger Library, Washington DC, Jun 24-Aug 01.

4.NEH Grant for Summer Seminar "Descartes and His Contemporaries: Scholastics and Novatores" directed by Professors Roger Ariew and Daniel Garber at Virginia Tech, June 17-July 14, 2000.

3.DAAD (German Academic Exchange Program) Research Grant, Institut für Geistesgeschichte und Philosophie der Renaissance, Universität München, May-August 1995.

2.Foundation for Intellectual History Grant to attend Conference: "Conversations with Aristotle" in Cambridge UK, 10-13 April 1995.

Helen Hattab p.6

1.Herzog August Bibliothek Grant to participate in seminar on Renaissance Aristotelian Commentaries, directed by Professor E. Kessler, in Wolfenbüttel Germany, 1-27 Aug 1994.

Leadership

Co-Chair of Program Committee for 2014 meeting of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) in Ghent, Belgium, 2013-2014.

Vice President of HOPOS, Jan 2015-Dec 2016.

President of HOPOS, Jan 2017-Dec 2018

Past President and Chair of HOPOS Financial Committee, Jan 2019-Dec 2020.

Main organizer of Houston Circle for the Study of Early Modern Philosophy meetings, 2014-2020.

Founder of the Houston Circle for the Study of Philosophy from Antiquity to Modernity, 2022.

Research Groups

Member of the Groningen Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Thought, 2015-present

Editorial Positions & Roles

Area editor for *Ergo*, An Open Access Journal of Philosophy, August 2013-fall 2018.

Associate Editor for *Studies in History of Philosophy and Science Part A*, Sept 2018-Sept 2020.

Member of Book Review Advisory Committee, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, since 2020.

Editorial Board of *Studies in History of Philosophy and Sciences*, since 2021.

Selected Presentations

Refereed paper: “Descartes on the Methods of Analysis and Synthesis”, Biennial Congress of the International Society of the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, July 2024.

Invited Colloquium on “Scholastic Aristotelian Methods in Relation to Descartes on Analysis and Synthesis”, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St Thomas, Houston, Oct 13, 2023.

Keynote: “An Aristotelian Argument Against Hylomorphism: Implications of Late Scholastic Debates on the Metaphysics of Individuation”, International Conference, *The Mechanization of Nature 1300-1700*, In person, Stockholm Sweden, University of Stockholm, May 25, 2023.

Invited paper: “Jesuit, Lutheran and Calvinist Commentators on the Individuation of Material Substances”, International Workshop on *Early Modern Natural Philosophy and the Question of Confessionalization*, Online May 13, 2023.

Helen Hattab, p.7

Invited paper: “Scholastic Aristotelian Methods in Relation to Analysis and Synthesis in Descartes’ and Hobbes’ Philosophies”, and Comments on Papers by Dr Tawrin Baker and Dr Vera Keller, Second Meeting of International Workshop *Rigor, Experimental Control, Analysis and Synthesis*, In person, February 2023, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

Refereed paper: “What Individuates Bodies? Late 16th Century Scholastic Aristotelian Debates” Organizer: Symposium on “Individuating Bodies from Late Scholastic Aristotelian to Cartesian Philosophy”, resubmitted to HOPOS 2022, accepted and presented at UC Irvine in person on June 22, 2022.

Keynote: “Individuation and New Matter Theories in late 16th and early 17th Century Scholasticism” for International Conference on “Late Medieval Hylomorphism: Matter and Form 1300-1600”, University of Leuven, Belgium, Hybrid meeting, presented remotely June 11, 2022.

Invited paper: “Medieval Theories of Individuation in 16th Century Scholasticism” to the Groningen Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Thought”, Remote meeting, Feb 25, 2022.

Interviewed on “Protestant Philosophy” by Peter Adamson for “History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps” podcast, Jan 2, 2022.

Invited paper: “Aristotelian Analysis and Synthesis in Relation to Descartes’ and Hobbes’ Scientific Methods”, First meeting of International Workshop *Rigor: Experimental Control, Analysis and Synthesis*, Online, Indiana University, Bloomington, Oct 1, 2021.

Refereed Paper: “Medieval Theories of Individuation in 16th Century Scholasticism”, International conference, *Women On Medieval Philosophy*, Online, University of Leuven, Belgium, July 9, 2021.

Organizer: accepted Symposium on “Individuating Bodies from Late Scholastic Aristotelian to Cartesian Philosophy” for HOPOS 2020 Conference;
Author: Symposium paper on “What Individuates Bodies? Late 16th Century Scholastic Aristotelian Debates”, accepted but not presented in 2020 due to COVID-19 cancellation of conference.

“Individuating Substances: How Do 16th Century Views Relate to the 17th Century”, Session of the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Jan 9, 2020, Philadelphia PA.

“The Sixteenth Century Debate about the Individuation of Substances”, presented at 3rd Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association on “A Perennial Philosophy of Nature”, Nov 22, 2019, Minneapolis, MN.

Keynote: “Suarez Versus Fonseca on the Unity that Grounds Universality”, Conference on “Suarez: Predecessors and Successors”, Loyola University, Chicago, 26 April, 2019.

Keynote: “Unity or Division: Early Modern Metaphysics and the Late Scholastic Legacy” for International Conference *Varieties of Unity in Early Modern Philosophy*, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands, 13 April, 2019.

Helen Hattab p.8

Invited Colloquium on “Approaches to the Problem of Universals by Sixteenth Century Scholastic Aristotelians”, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St Thomas, Houston, Nov 2018.

Keynote (posted on web): “Renaissance Aristotelianism(s)” for NEH funded international conference *Revolutions in Early Modern Philosophy and Science*, Iowa State University, 26 July, 2018, <https://scirev.las.iastate.edu/program/media/#keynote1>

Invited colloquium: “From Universality to Particularity: 16th Century Aristotelians on What Makes Substance Individual”, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, 26 Apr, 2018.

Invited paper: “Hobbes and Spinoza on Constructing a Science of Virtue without Universal ‘Humanity’”, International Workshop, *Norms and Nature from Plato to Hume*, University of Stockholm, Sweden, 11 May, 2018.

“Origins of Descartes’ Modern Concept of a Law of Nature”, Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, Savannah, GA, Jan 3, 2018 (unable to attend but presented via skype).

“Methods of Teaching or Discovery? Analysis and Synthesis from Burgersdijk to Spinoza”, presented at International Conference *Teaching the New Science: The Role of Academia During the Scientific Revolution*, Groningen, University of Groningen, 16 June, 2017.

“Creation and Subsistence: Late Scholastic Arguments on Thomist Prime Matter”, presented at International Conference *Material Substance in Late Scholastics and Early Modern Philosophy*, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France March 16-17, 2017.

“Origins of the Early Modern Concept of a Law of Nature”, presented at:

- i) Philosophy Department at the University of Nevada, Reno, on the occasion of the 10th meeting of the Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy in Reno, Nevada, February 17, 2017
- ii) Descartes Workshop at the Free University of Brussels, March 15, 2017.

Invited talks: Rice University Diversity Workshop series, “Why So Few?”:

- i) “Discrimination and Harassment in the Academy: Legal Limits and Options” Apr 12, 2017
- ii) “Mind the Gaps! Gender, Confidence and Professional Success in Philosophy,” Nov 4, 2015.

Presenter and discussion moderator: Session on “Descartes a Mechanist?” at Descartes Day III, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA, Oct 15, 2016.

HOPOS 2016, International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, Minneapolis MN, June 23, 2016:

- i) Session Organizer and Chair for Symposium “Hylomorphism and Extension in Late Medieval and Early Modern Natural Philosophy”
- ii) As member of this panel presented refereed paper “Matter, Quantity and Extension in Gorlaeus and Descartes”.

4th Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St Louis MO, June 20, 2016:

- i) Session Organizer and Presenter for panel “Quantity Matters: Medieval and Early Modern Philosophers on Quantity’s Relation to Substance”
- ii) As member of panel presented refereed paper “David Gorlaeus on Quantity: An Atomist,

Helen Hattab p.9

Calvinist Account”

“Formal Unity and the Status of Universals” presented at:

i) Session of the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Washington DC, Jan 8, 2016.

ii) Invited colloquium at Philosophy Department Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Nov 6, 2015

iii) Keynote: *South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, University of Texas, Austin, Oct 16, 2015.

iv) Workshop: *Mind, Music and Metaphysics*, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, 9 July, 2015

v) Invited paper: History and Philosophy of Science Group, University of Texas, Austin, Austin TX, Oct 31, 2014.

“Early Modern Hylomorphism and the Transformation of Aristotelian Form”, presented at:

i) Philosophy Department, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden, June 1, 2015

ii) Philosophy Colloquium at Boston University, Boston MA, March 20, 2015

iii) Philosophy colloquium at the University of Texas, Austin, Austin TX, Oct 31, 2014

iv) Early Modern Amuse-Bouches in Ghent, University of Ghent, Belgium, July 2, 2014

v) History of Modern Philosophy Group, University of Toronto, Toronto, April 4, 2014

vi) Colloquium at Rice University, Houston, TX, March 28, 2014.

Co-presented with Alison Peterman, “Descartes and Spinoza on Natural Philosophy and Science”, *International Descartes Spinoza Workshop*, John Hopkins University, Baltimore MD, Sept 14, 2014.

Refereed paper: “Aristotelianism in Service of Atomism? Gorlaeus on Knowledge of Universals”, Organizer: Symposium “Aristotelianism in Early Modern *Scientia*: Rejected But Not Forgotten”, Meeting of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, Ghent, Belgium, July 5, 2014.

“(Re)reading Aristotle: Zabarella and the Coimbrans on Substantial Change”, presented at:

i) Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, Group Session at APA Eastern Division meeting, Baltimore, MD, Dec 29, 2013.

ii) Colloquium, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St Thomas, Houston, TX, 22 Nov, 2013.

“Creation and Subsistence: 17th Century Commentaries on the Subsistence of Prime Matter”, International Conference on “Summistae The Commentary Tradition on Thomas Aquinas’ *Summa Theologiae* (15th-18th Century)”, Porto, Portugal, Oct 19, 2013.

Invited speaker: “Alteration or Generation? Late Aristotelian Accounts of the Substantial Form”, International Conference, *Aristotelian Natural Philosophy in the Early Modern Period*, Royal Flemish Academy for Science and the Arts, Brussels, Belgium, May 24, 2013.

Invited paper: “Interpreting Spinoza’s Method Against the Background of Aristotelian, Hobbesian and Cartesian Methods”, Early Modern Philosophy Conference, TX A&M University, Apr 2013.

Helen Hattab p.10

Invited Symposium: “Targeting Substantial Forms: Suarez’s A Priori Defense and Descartes’ Refutation”, Suarez, Central Division meeting of American Philosophical Association, New Orleans, Feb 21, 2013.

“The Target of Descartes’ Attack on Substantial Forms: Suarez versus Aquinas”, Metaphysics and Mind: Late Medieval and Early Modern Perspectives, Global Scholar Seminar, Princeton University, Princeton, Feb 16, 2013.

Invited lecture: “What Was God Doing Before He Created the World: Descartes’ Surprising Answer,” at the University of Cincinnati, October 5, 2012; Texas Tech, Lubbock, TX. 7:30pm, Feb 2, 2012.

Keynote: “Analysis and Synthesis in Spinoza’s Method?” Canadian Atlantic Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 27, 2012.

International Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 22, 2012:

- i) Organized Symposium “Transforming Methods: Scholastic Roots of Modern Approaches to Medicine, Natural Philosophy and Civil Science,”
- ii) As panel member presented refereed paper on “Method and Mathematical Order from Zabarella to Hobbes.”

Refereed paper: “Zabarella’s Influence on Hobbes via Protestant Theories of Method”, Session on Renaissance Philosophy and Historiography at Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Washington DC, March 24, 2012.

“Suárez and Descartes: *A priori* Arguments Against Substantial Forms and the Decline of the Formal Cause”, presented at:

- i) University of St Thomas, Houston, TX, Feb 24, 2012.
- ii) Philosophy Institute, Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic, June 3, 2011.

“Descartes’ Mechanistic Explanations as Mathematical Demonstrations”, presented at:

- i) Philosophy Department Texas Tech, Lubbock, TX, Feb 3, 2012
- ii) Philosophy Department, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden, Dec 20, 2011
- iii) Faculty of Humanities, Bergamo University, Bergamo, Italy, May 25, 2011.

Invited Colloquium: “Zabarella and Hobbes on Method”, Leibniz Prize Research Group of the Institute for Philosophy, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, 23 May, 2011.

Invited Book Symposium on my book *Descartes on Forms and Mechanisms*, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada, March 3, 2011.

Invited Colloquium: “Linking Hobbes’ and Zabarella’s Conceptions of Method”, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada, March 3, 2011.

Invited Lecture: “Descartes’ Mechanism Revisited” Center for Philosophy of Science, \$500, Pittsburgh University, Feb 25, 2011.

“Analysis and Synthesis: The Question of Hobbes’ Influence on Spinoza’s Method”, International

Helen Hattab p.11

Spinoza Workshop, University of Ghent, Ghent, Belgium, Dec 2, 2010.

Refereed paper: “Gorlaeus’ Atomist Monism and its Implications for Scientific Knowledge”, International Society of the History of Philosophy of Science Meeting, Budapest, June 28, 2010.

Invited paper: “Monist Philosophy in Leiden Before Spinoza: The Case of David Gorlaeus”, International Spinoza Workshop, University of Leiden, The Netherlands, July 21, 2009.

Invited Commentary: “The Character of the Efficient Cause in Suarez” by Dennis Des Chene, International Workshop on “Francisco Suarez S.J. Last Medieval or First Early Modern?” University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Sept 12-14, 2008.

Refereed paper: “Mechanical Demonstrations and Modern Scientific Method”, Symposium on “Mechanics and its Philosophical Implications in the Aristotelian Tradition”, International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, Vancouver, Canada, Jun 20, 2008.

Refereed paper: “Scholastic Interpretations of the Mechanical Problems and the Question of Method”, panel on “The Problematical History of Aristotle’s “Mechanical Problems,” annual meeting of History of Science Society, Arlington, VA, Nov 2, 2007.

Refereed paper: “The Sources of Descartes’ Eternal Truths”, joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Centro Interdipartimentale di Studi su Descartes e il Seicento (Università di Lecce) and Centre d’Etudes Cartésiennes (Université de Paris IV), Princeton University, April 1, 2007.

Invited Commentary: “Eternal Truths as Common Notions,” by Shoshana Smith, APA Eastern Division meeting, Dec 29, 2006.

Invited Colloquium: “Divine Concurrence in Descartes and his Contemporaries,” University of St Thomas, Houston, Nov 10, 2006.

Refereed paper: “Continuity or Discontinuity: Descartes’ Views on Time”, International Conference on “The Scientific Terminology of Space and Time in the Academic Disciplines of the 17th and 18th Centuries,” Frankfurt Am Main, Germany, Sept 27-28, 2005.

Annual Meeting of History of Science Society, Cambridge, MA, Oct 20-23, 2003.

i) Session organizer for “What’s in a Name? Bringing the Estranged Members of the Mechanics Family Together Again,”

ii) As panel member presented refereed paper “Slings, Pebbles and Eddies: The ‘Humble’ Origins of Descartes’ Celestial Mechanics.”

Refereed paper: “Concurrence or Divergence? A Closer Look at Cartesian and Scholastic Causes”, inaugural Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, May 2003

“From Mechanics to Mechanism: The *Quaestiones Mechanicae* and Descartes’ Physics”, refereed paper presented at *The Origins of Modernity*, International conference at the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, July 7-12, 2002.

Refereed paper: “The Aristotelian Tradition in Mechanics and Descartes’ Mechanistic View of

Helen Hattab p.12

Causation: Possible Connections and Divergences”, Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Annual Meeting, Villanova, Sept 29, 2001.

Refereed paper: “Le fondement de la causalité dans les traditions aristotéliennes et mécanistes”, International; Conference on “Descartes et ses adversaires”, joint organizers Centre d’Etudes Cartésiennes, University of Chicago and University of Lecce, Sorbonne, Paris, Dec 2000.

Refereed paper: “Competing Aristotelianisms and Their Connection to Descartes’ Causes of Motion”, Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Annual Meeting, Villanova, Sept. 23, 2000.

Refereed paper: “God and Nature in the Seventeenth Century: The Problem of Divine and Natural Causation in Basso and Descartes,” The Midwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy and Southeastern Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Joint Meeting, University of Chicago, March 25, 2000

Commentary on Des Chene’s *Physiologia*, Author Meets Critics Session, Annual Meeting Division of the Central the APA, New Orleans, May 1999.

Refereed paper: “From Teleology to Mechanism: The Jesuits, Basso and Descartes on Natural Causation”, Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society, Kansas City MO, Oct. 23rd 1998

“The Challenges of Doing the History of Philosophy: A Case Study in Seventeenth Century Philosophy, and Theology”, Philosophy and Humanities Colloquium, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA, Oct.13th, 1998.

Commentary on Edward Slowik’s “Cartesian Bodies and the Plenum”, Session on “Swerves and Vortices”, Eastern Division APA, Atlanta GA, Dec.1996.

Refereed paper: "Jesuit Influences on Descartes' Division of Causes", at Annual Meeting of the Société Internationale d'Etudes Philosophiques Médiévales, Boston MA July 1996.

"One Cause Or Many?: What Jesuit Philosophy Can Tell Us About Descartes," History of Philosophy of Science Conference, Roanoke VA, April 1996.

Refereed paper: "Descartes' Conception of Efficient Causes in Nature", Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Regional Philosophy Association, New Brunswick NJ, Nov. 1994.

Languages: Dutch, English, French, German, Latin (reading ability)

Teaching & Mentoring (new courses developed at UH marked [N] and those revised at UH marked [R])

Graduate and Senior Seminars

- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on “Individuals and Universals in Descartes, Hobbes and Spinoza”, Spring 2024.
- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on “Unities and Individuals in Avicenna, Suarez, Descartes and Spinoza” Fall 2022.
- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on “The Metaphysics of Individuation in Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy”, Fall 2020 (taught entirely online)

Helen Hattab p.13

- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on “The Problem of Universals” (Aristotle, Porphyry, Boethius, Avicenna, Aquinas, Scotus, Suarez, Descartes, Spinoza): Spring 2016.
- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on “Form and Substance: Aquinas to Descartes”: Fall 2013
- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on Spinoza: Spring 2012
- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on the Geometrical Method in Hobbes and Spinoza: Spring 2010
- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on Philosophical Methods: Bacon and Descartes: Spring 2008
- ◆ [N] Graduate Seminar on Causation: Late Medieval to Early Modern Philosophy: Fall 2006
- ◆ [R] Graduate Seminar on Descartes & His Context, University of Houston (UH): Fall 2003 & Spring 2019.
- ◆ Descartes Seminar, Southern Illinois University (SIUC): Spring 2002; Wabash College, Fall 02
- ◆ Graduate Seminar on the Relationship Between God and Nature in Later Medieval Philosophy at SIUC: Spring 2000.
- ◆ Graduate seminar on Early Modern Theories of Causation (Suarez, Descartes, Malebranche and Leibniz) at Virginia Tech (VA Tech): Spring 1999.

History of Modern Philosophy,

- ◆ [N] History of Eighteenth Century Philosophy, UH: Spring 2005, 2006, 2013, 2015, 2017 & Fall 2007, 2019.
- ◆ [N] History of Seventeenth Century Philosophy, UH: Spring 2009, 2019, 2022, 2023 & Fall 2005, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2021, 2024.
- ◆ Survey in Modern Philosophy (Descartes to Kant): University of Pennsylvania (Penn): Fall 1996, Summer 1996, 1997; Teaching Assistant (TA), Spring 1993; at SIUC: Spring & Fall 2000, Spring & Fall 2001, Spring 2002; at Wabash College: Spring 2003

Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

- ◆ [R] Medieval Philosophy: advanced course for graduates and undergraduates at SIUC: Fall 2000, 2001; seminar for undergraduates at Wabash College: Spring 2002; Advanced Undergraduate/graduate level course at UH: Spring 2007, 2014, 2016, 2022; Fall 2004, 2008, 2011, 2019, 2023.
- ◆ Classical Greek Philosophy, Wabash: Fall 2002; [R] Ancient Philosophy, UH Fall 2016, 2018; Spring 2020 (half taught online) & 2021 (2 online sections, one synchronous, one asynchronous).
- ◆ Undergraduate survey in Medieval Philosophy, VA Tech: Spring 1999
- ◆ TA for Ancient Philosophy at Penn: Fall 1995

Introduction to Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Contemporary Moral Issues and Logic

- ◆ [N] Philosophy of Religion, UH: Fall 2009
- ◆ [R] Introduction to Philosophy: SIUC: Fall 1999 & UH Spring 2006, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2021 (Hyflex model), 2022 & Fall 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020 (online synchronous), 2021 (half online synchronous, half in person), 2022, 2023, 2024.
- ◆ Writing About Moral Issues, Freshman Writing Seminar at Penn: Spring 1996, 1997 and 1998
- ◆ Freshman Writing Seminar in Introduction to Philosophy, Penn: Fall 1994; TA Spring 1994
- ◆ TA for Formal Logic at Penn: Fall 1992

Interdisciplinary Humanities Courses

- ◆ [N] ”The Human Situation, Modernity,” Co-leader and lecturer for Honors Team-taught course, UH Spring 2005, Lecturer and Instructor for one section, Spring 2007 & 2008.
- ◆ [N] ”The Human Situation, Antiquity,” Lecturer and Instructor for one section of Honors

Helen Hattab p.14

Team-taught course, UH Fall 2003-2006 & 2008.

- ◆ Seminar on the Scientific Revolution, Wabash College, Spring 2002
- ◆ Instructor for a section of Team-taught course “Cultures and Traditions: The Ancient World,” Wabash Fall 2002
- ◆ Humanities Core Curriculum Course: “The Medieval World,” VA Tech, Fall 1998

Independent Studies, Thesis Committees, Undergraduate Research, Reading Groups

- ◆ [N] Independent Study focusing on Aristotle’s Theory of Demonstration and Natural Philosophy and commentaries of Aquinas and late Scholastic Aristotelians, Jacob Mills (MA student), Francesca Bruno and Javier Fadul (undergraduate majors): UH Spring 2006.
- ◆ [N] Independent Study on Spinoza’s Political Philosophy.
- ◆ Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) for my research on Bernardino Telesio’s conception of causation as found in his *De Rerum Naturae* (1570) awarded to Francesca Bruno: UH 2006.
- ◆ Director of Undergraduate Honors Thesis: Francesca Bruno, “Telesio: A Reassessment of His Worth,” University of Houston, May 2007, winner of a Senior Honors Thesis Award.
- ◆ [N] Latin Reading group to translate parts of Toletus’ Logic in connection with graduate seminar on “Philosophical Methods: Bacon and Descartes”: UH spring 2008.
- ◆ Outside reader for PhD Dissertation by Anthony Crifasi entitled *The Philosophical Significance of Cartesian Sensory Physiology*, University of St Thomas, Houston, Jan 2009.
- ◆ [N] Independent Study on Calvin’s *Institutes* and its influence on Early Modern Philosophy with Brian Embry and Thomas Burrus (MA students): UH Spring 2009.
- ◆ Director of MA Thesis: Francesca Bruno, “Francis Bacon’s Eclectic View of Matter in the *De Principiis*,” University of Houston, May 2009.
- ◆ [N] SURF for research on Early Modern Mechanical Philosophy awarded to Casey Johnson 09.
- ◆ Outside reader and examiner for PhD dissertation by Erik Akerlund, entitled “*Nisi temere agat* Francisco Suárez on Final Causes and Final Causation”, University of Uppsala, Dec 19, 2011.
- ◆ [N] Independent Study on Medieval and Early Modern Theories of Form with Gerardo Franco Espinal, Fall 2013.
- ◆ [N] Independent Study on Spinoza’s Political Philosophy with Christopher Frugé, Fall 2014.
- ◆ [N] Reading Group on *Women in Philosophy: What Needs to Change?*, spring & fall 2016.
- ◆ [N] Departmental Mentor to Ying Liu, Ahmed Siddiqi and Keyao Yang 2016 & 2017.
- ◆ Dissertation Committee, Fernando A. Flor, PhD Candidate Physics Department UH, Fall 2018-Spring 2022.
- ◆ Independent Study on 18th Century Philosophy with MA student Daniel Land, fall 2019.
- ◆ [N] Independent Study on Spinoza’s View of Individuation and Its Contemporary Influence with MA student George Rowe, Fall 2021 (online).

Philosophy Department and Honors College Service

- ◆ APA interviews of job candidates for tenure-track Analytic philosophy position, Dec 2006.
- ◆ Search Committee for joint tenure-track Ethics position with Honors College, fall 07-spring 08.
- ◆ Served as Department library liaison until Fall 2008.
- ◆ Served on Undergraduate Assessment Committee in Philosophy Department for 6 semesters.
- ◆ Participated in campus interviews of candidates for a total of 3 joint tenure-track positions in English and Honors, and Political Science and Honors from Spring 2005-2007.
- ◆ Wrote first draft of guidelines for evaluating lecturers in the Honors College, Dec 2006.
- ◆ Participated in campus interviews of candidates for Dean of the Honors College, Spring 2008.
- ◆ Department Committee charged with identifying potential minority candidates, Fall 2011.

Helen Hattab p.15

- ◆ Member of Personnel Committee for tenure review of Tamler Sommers, Fall 2011.
- ◆ Hiring Committee for position in Ethics and Political Philosophy, 2012-2013.
- ◆ Member of Personnel Committee for tenure review of Josh Weisberg, Fall 2012.
- ◆ Member of Merit Review Committee, 2012-2015
- ◆ Personnel Committee for 3rd Year Review, Annual Review and Tenure Review of Christy Mag Uhidir, 2012-2014 and 3rd Year Reviews of Justin Coates and Cameron Buckner, tenure review of Cameron Buckner 2015-2016, 3rd year review and tenure review of Luis Oliveira, fall 2019 & 2021.
- ◆ Undergraduate Assessment Committee, 2012-2013, Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2021.
- ◆ Co-administrator of Facebook page for graduate students as of Fall 2014.
- ◆ Head of Committee for revising the Department's Merit Review policy Spring 2016.
- ◆ Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Philosophy position, Fall 2016-spring 2017
- ◆ Graduate Admissions Committee, spring 2017, spring 2023 and spring 2024
- ◆ Co-Chair for Philosophy Search Committee, Fall 2019-spring 2020.
- ◆ Merit Review Committee, spring 2020, spring 2021, spring 2022 Chair, spring 2023.
- ◆ Member of Philosophy Search Committee, Fall 2020.
- ◆ Member of Tenure Committee for Dr Yael Loewenstein and Promotion Committees for Dr Justin Coates, fall 2022 and Drs Cameron Buckner and Josh Weisberg, Fall 2023
- ◆ Member of Search Committee, fall 2022-spring 2023.
- ◆ Member of Promotion Committee for Dr Christy MagUidhir, 2024

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Service

- ◆ Served on the C.W. Moores Fellowship Committee in May 2006.
- ◆ Faculty Advisory and Governance Committee in College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Fall 2008–Fall 2010, and 2016-2017, 2018-Oct 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.
- ◆ Faculty Research Committee, Fall 2011-Fall 2013, 2014-2015.
- ◆ Member of Committee for Dissertation Completion Fellowships, Spring 2014.

Service to the Profession/Academic Discipline

- ◆ Referee for *Perspectives on Science*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Canadian Philosophical Association, Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Proceedings of Suarez Conference in Prague (2009), *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, *Ergo*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Pacific Philosophy Journal*, *HOPOS Journal*, *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Journal of Spinoza Studies*, *Res Philosophica*.
- ◆ Member and co-organizer of meetings of the Houston Circle for the Study of Early Modern Philosophy, Fall 2004 to Fall 2019.
- ◆ Program Committee for International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) meeting in Budapest, June 2010.
- ◆ Member of HOPOS Nominating and Elections Committee 2010-fall 2011
- ◆ Area editor for *Ergo*, An Open Access Journal of Philosophy, August 2013-fall 2018.
- ◆ International Referee for the Flanders Scientific Organization (FWO) for project on “Thomism and Scotism in the 17th Century” in spring 2014, and project on “Atomism, motion and mobility: Gassendi's original Epicureanism in the age of the Scientific Revolution” in spring 2017.
- ◆ Referee for book manuscript submitted to Cambridge University Press, spring 2015.
- ◆ Referee for abstracts 2015 South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, spring 2015.
- ◆ Referee for Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, fall 2016 and spring 2018.
- ◆ Vice President of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS),

Helen Hattab p.16

Jan 2015-Jan 2017; President from Jan 2017-2019.

- ◆ Referee for essay prize competition of the *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, fall 2017.
- ◆ Associate Editor for *Studies in History of Philosophy and Science Part A*, Sept 2018-Sept 2020.
- ◆ Tenure Review of Dr Distelzweig, University of St Thomas, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- ◆ Member Book Review Advisory Committee, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, since 2020.
- ◆ Member of Editorial board for journal, *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science*, since 2021.
- ◆ Review of manuscript *Hylomorphism to Pieces: Elements, Atoms and Corpuscles in Philosophy, Science and Medicine (1400-1600)* for Palgrave Macmillan, spring 2022.
- ◆ Organizer of the Houston Circle for the Study of Philosophy from Antiquity to Modernity; Guest lectures by Dr Fabrizio Baldassari in May 2022, and Dr Daniel Heider in Aug 2022.
- ◆ Faculty Host for Visiting Researcher, Dr Daniel Heider, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic, July to October, 2022
- ◆ Nov 2022 Referee for Oxford University Press for book proposal on *Philosophy as Descartes Found It*.
- ◆ Mar 2023, Tenure Review of Dr Noa Shein; Aug 2023 Promotion review of Dr David Miller.
- ◆ Fall 2023 Member of Program Committee for biennial HOPOS conference, Vienna, July 2024.

Professional Memberships

American Philosophical Association (APA)

International Society of the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS)

Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy (SMRP)