

Vassilis Livanios

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Areas of Specialization: Metaphysics (dispositions, laws of nature, universals/tropes, ontological structure of particulars), Ontology, Philosophy of Spacetime, Metametaphysics/Metaontology, Philosophy of Mind.

Areas of Competence: General Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Time, Metaphilosophy.

Education

2006 Ph.D degree in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Athens and National Technical University of Athens, Greece. PhD Thesis: *On the Ontological Nature of Spacetime and its Relevance to the Condition of Quantum Non-separability*. Supervisor: Vassilios Karakostas (University of Athens) Examiners: Nikolaos Antoniou (University of Athens) and Stathis Psillos (University of Athens).

2001 Master of Science in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Athens and National Technical University of Athens, Greece. Dissertation: *The Hole Argument in General Theory of Relativity-Interpretation and Critique*. Supervisor: Vassilios Karakostas (University of Athens)

1990 University degree in Physics, University of Patras, Greece.

Employment

2024-present: Associate Professor, Department of Classics and Philosophy, University of Cyprus, Cyprus.

2019-2024: Assistant Professor, Department of Classics and Philosophy, University of Cyprus, Cyprus.

2015-2019: Lecturer, Department of Classics and Philosophy, University of Cyprus, Cyprus.

2008-2010: Part-time Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Patras, Greece.

Publications

A. Books

2024

The Metaphysics of Powerful Qualities: Powerful Categoricalism and the Laws of Nature. Routledge.

2022

A World of Powers? A Critical Survey of the Contemporary Metaphysics of Dispositions, Cyprus University Press (in greek).

2019

A Survey of Contemporary Metaphysics: Properties and Objects, Okto Publishers (in greek).

2017

Science in Metaphysics: Exploring the Metaphysics of Properties and Laws. Palgrave Macmillan.

B. Articles in peer-reviewed journals

2025

1. 'Modal Naturalism, Laws of Nature, and the Asymmetries Between Possibility and Necessity', *ANÁLISIS FILOSÓFICO* 45, 817-838. <https://doi.org/10.36446/af.e1196>.
2. 'Dispositionalism and the Intrinsic Nature of Pure Powers', *Metaphysica* 26(2), 317-336. <https://doi.org/10.1515/mp-2024-0037>.

2023

1. 'Categorical Monism, Laws, and the Inference Problem', *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 54, 599-619. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10838-023-09638-5>.
2. 'Powers and Nomic Relations: Powerful Categoricalism and the Dualist Model', *Philosophia* 51, 1401–1423.

2022

'Manifestation and Unrestricted Dispositional Monism', *Acta Analytica* 37, 179–196.

2021

1. 'The Categorical-Dispositional Distinction: A Critical Review', *Neusis* 27-28, 103-143 (in greek).
2. 'Governing Laws and the Inference problem' (with S. Ioannidis and S. Psillos), *Grazer Philosophische Studien* 98(3), 395-411.
3. 'Challenging the Identity Theory of Properties', *Synthese* 199 (1-2), 5079-5105, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11229-020-03016-0>.
4. 'No Laws and (Thin) Powers In, No (Governing) Laws Out' (with S. Ioannidis and S. Psillos), *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 11(6), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13194-020-00304-x>.

5. 'Dispositional Monism and the Ontological Distinction Between Unmanifested and Manifested Powers', *Ratio*, 34(2), 89-99.
6. 'Causal Necessitation and Dispositional Modality' (with S. Ioannidis and S. Psillos), *Philosophia*, 49, 289-298, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-020-00213-6>.

2020

'Powerful Qualities Beyond Identity Theory', *Metaphysica*, 2020, 21(2), 279-295.

2019

'Vikingism as a Metametaphysical Thesis', *Metaphilosophy*, 50(4), 516-535.

2018

1. 'Do Categorical Properties Confer Dispositions on Their Bearers?', *Kriterion*, 32(2), 61-82.
2. 'Dispositionalism and Symmetry Structures', *Metaphysica*, 19(2), 201-217.
3. 'Hamilton's Principle and Dispositional Essentialism: Friends or Foes?', *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 49(1), 59-71.
4. 'Intrinsic Dispositional Properties and Immanent Realism', *Grazer Philosophische Studien* 95(4), 500-519.

2017

'The Categorical-Dispositional Distinction, Locations, and Symmetry Operations', *Acta Analytica*, 32(2), 133-144.

2014

1. 'Categorical Structures and the Multiple Realisability Argument', *METHODE* 3(4), 141-166.
2. 'The 'Constant' Threat to the Dispositional Essentialist Conception of Laws', *Metaphysica* 15(1), 129-155.
3. 'Radical Non-Dispositionalism and the Permutation Problem', *Axiomathes* 24(1), 45-61.

2012

1. 'Is There a (compelling) Gauge-Theoretic Argument Against the Intrinsicity of Fundamental Properties?', *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy* 8(2), 30-38.
2. 'Exploring the Metaphysics of Nomic Relations', *Acta Analytica* 27(3), 247-264.

2010

1. 'On the Possibility of Contingently Dispositional Properties', *Abstracta* 6(1), 3-17.
2. 'Handedness and Humean Supervenience', *Neusis* 19, 140-153 (in greek).
3. 'Symmetries, Dispositions and Essences', *Philosophical Studies* 148(2), 295-305.

2008

'Bird and the Dispositional Essentialist Account of Spatiotemporal Relations', *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 39(2), 383-394.

2007

1. 'Tropes, Particularity and Space-Time', *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 38(2), 357-368.
2. 'Tropes: Properties as Particulars', *Neusis* 16, 108-129 (in greek).
3. "Holes' and Spacetime: Philosophical Consequences of the Principle of General Coveriance for the Individuation of Physical Spacetime Points', *Deukalion* 25(2), 307-339 (in greek).

C. Articles in volumes and conference proceedings

2016

'Symmetries and the Categoricity of Spatiotemporal Properties', *Proceedings of 9th PanHellenic Conference of History and Philosophy of Science in Science Teaching*, Athens, November 2016, 194-200 (in greek).

2009

'Handedness and Humean Supervenience', *Proceedings of the 5th PanHellenic Conference on History, Philosophy and Science Teaching*, Nicosia, June 2009, 297-304 (in greek).

2006

'Trope Theory and Spacetime', *Proceedings of the 10th PanHellenic Philosophy Conference*, Thessaloniki, May 2006, 31-39 (in greek).

2005

'Space-Time Properties as Universals' in Boudouris, K. and Kalimtzi, K. (Eds.) *Philosophy, Competition and the Good Life*, Vol. 2, Ionia Publ., Athens 2005, 183-192.

D. Reviews

2022

'The Tools of Metaphysics and the Metaphysics of Science', Review of 'The Tools of Metaphysics and the Metaphysics of Science' by Ted Sider, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02698595.2022.2098463>

2021

'The Far-reaching Impact of Dispositionalism?', Review of 'Dispositionalism and the Metaphysics of Science' by Travis Dumsday, *Metascience* 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-021-00674-9>.

2020

1. 'Soft selling a powers-friendly ontology', Review of 'The Power Metaphysic' by N.E. Williams, *Metascience* 2020, 29, 341-344.
2. 'Dispositional Pluralism', Review of 'Dispositional Pluralism' by J. McKittrick, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 2020, 70(281), 881-883.

2016

‘Beyond Platonism and Nominalism?’, Review of ‘An Aristotelian Realist Philosophy of Mathematics: Mathematics as the Science of Quantity and Structure’ by James Franklin, *Axiomathes*, 2016, 26(1), 63–69.

Talks and Commentaries

1. ‘Challenging the Powers-based-BSA: the case of symmetries’, 16th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA), Turin, August 2025.
2. ‘On Modal Naturalism’, 10th Société de Philosophie Analytique (SoPhA) triennial congress, Nantes, June-July 2025.
3. ‘Symmetries and Powers-Based BSA’, GWP 2025, Erlangen, March 2025.
4. ‘Symmetries and Powers-Based BSA’, 8th Panhellenic Philosophy of Science Conference, Athens, December 2024.
5. ‘Against the Grounding Conception of the Powerful Qualities View’, WCP_25 World Congress of Philosophy, Rome, August 2024.
6. ‘Against the Grounding Conception of the Powerful Qualities View’, 9TH NATIONAL MEETING IN ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY, Lisbon, July 2024.
7. ‘Powerful Categoricalism: the Dualist Model and the nature of properties’, EPSA23, Belgrade, Serbia, September 2023.
8. ‘Powerful Qualities and the Dualist Model of Laws and Powers’, CLMPST, Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 2023.
9. ‘Powerful Qualities and the Dualist Model’, 1st NoMoS conference, Athens, June 2023.
10. ‘Powerful Qualities and the Dualist Model’, 7th Panhellenic Philosophy of Science Conference, Athens, December 2022.
11. ‘Powerful Qualities and the Dualist Model’, University of Cyprus, October 2022.
12. ‘Can Laws of Nature be Categorical Properties?’, EENPS 2022, Tartu, August 2022.
13. ‘Thin Powers and the Governing Problem’, The Fourth International Conference of the German Society for Philosophy of Science, Berlin, August 2022.
14. ‘Can Laws of Nature be Categorical Properties?’, 6th Italian Conference in Analytic Ontology and Metaphysics, L’Aquila, June 2022.
15. ‘Can all natural properties and relations be powers? The case of manifestation-relations’, EENPS, Belgrade 2021.
16. ‘On the Qualitativity of Powerful Qualities’, 6th Panhellenic Philosophy of Science Conference, Athens, December 2020.
17. ‘Challenging dispositional monism: the case of manifestation relations’, ECAP 10, Utrecht, August 2020.
18. ‘Manifestation, Manifestation Relations and Dispositional Monism’, Fourth Conference of The Pond: Network for Philosophy of Science Around the Mediterranean, Barcelona, September 2019. (Invited)
19. ‘Can Categorical Properties Confer Dispositions?’, CLMPST, Prague, August 2019.
20. ‘How Can Categorical Properties Be Law-Governed?’, 5th Panhellenic Philosophy of Science Conference, Athens, November 2018.
21. Comments on ‘Acting Powers, Interveners and the Problem of the Temporal Gap’ by Elina Pechlivanidi (University of Athens), Third Conference of The Pond: Network for Philosophy of Science Around the Mediterranean, Lisbon, 20-22 September 2018. (Invited)

22. Comments on 'Symmetry Structuralism' by David Schroeren (Princeton University), Fourth Annual Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Milan, 22-24 August 2018.
23. 'Can Properties of a Humean Base Confer Dispositions?', Humeanisms, 2nd Bucharest-Budapest Workshop in Philosophy, Budapest, 28-29 July 2018.
24. 'Scientific Objectivity, Metaphysics and Metaphysical Possibility', Second Conference of The Pond: Network for Philosophy of Science Around the Mediterranean, Athens, September 29-30, 2017. (Invited)
25. 'On the Dispositionalism of Symmetry Structures', 9th European Congress for Analytic Philosophy, Munich, August 21 – 26, 2017.
26. 'Dispositionalism and Symmetry Structures', Triennial International Conference of SILFS, Bologna, June 20-23, 2017.
27. 'Platonic Universals and Intrinsic Dispositional Properties', Panhellenic Ontology Conference, Patras, May 25-27, 2017.
28. 'Neutral Monism and Fundamental Properties', 4^o Panhellenic Philosophy of Science Conference, Athens, December 2016.
29. 'Symmetries and the Categoricality of Spatiotemporal Properties', 9th Greek Conference of History and Philosophy of Science in Science Teaching, Athens, November 2016.
30. 'Categoricality, Locations, and Symmetry Operations'. 2nd Society for Metaphysics of Science Conference, Geneva, September 15-17, 2016.
31. 'Platonic Dispositional Universals and the Meinongian Objection'. Fifth Italian Conference in Analytic Ontology, Padova, June 27-29, 2016.
32. 'Dispositional Essentialism and the Principle of Least Action: Friends or Foes?'. Inaugural Conference of the East European Network for Philosophy of Science, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, June 24-26, 2016.
33. 'Dispositional Essentialism and the Principle of Least Action', Department of Philosophy and History of Science, University of Athens, November 2015.
34. 'Metaphysical Possibility and Science in Metaphysics', 3^o Panhellenic Philosophy of Science Conference, Athens, November 2014.
35. 'Categorical Structures and the Multiple Realisability Argument', workshop on Metaphysics of Scientific Realism, Athens, March 2013.
36. 'The 'Constant' threat to the Dispositional Essentialist Account of Laws', 2^o Panhellenic Philosophy of Science Conference, Athens, November-December 2012.
37. 'Is There A Compelling Gauge-Theoretic Argument Against the Intrinsicity of fundamental Properties?', research seminar, APRePoSMa research project, Athens, May 2012.
38. 'On the Possibility of Contingently Dispositional Properties', 1^o Panhellenic Philosophy of Science Conference, Athens, October 2010.
39. 'Handedness and Humean Supervenience', 5^o Panhellenic Conference on History, Philosophy and Science Teaching, Nicosia, June 2009.
40. 'Trope Theory and Spacetime', 10th Panhellenic Philosophy Conference, Thessaloniki, May 2006.
41. 'Remarks on the Topological Interpretation of the A-B Effect', Abdera International Forum on the Philosophy and History of Natural Science, Abdera, July 2005.
42. 'Spacetime Properties as Universals', 1st Olympic Philosophy Conference, Athens-Spetses, June-July 2004.
43. 'A Modest Remark about the Identification of Properties of the Fundamental Particles', Graduate Student Session of the 4th Athens-Pittsburgh

Symposium in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Delfi, June 2003.

Teaching experience

2015-present: Department of Classics and Philosophy, University of Cyprus

Introduction to Philosophy, 19th century philosophy, Russell-Frege-Wittgenstein, Introduction to Metaphysics, Topics on Contemporary metaphysics, Ontology – Metaontology, Philosophy of Time, Seminar on Analytic Metaphysics, Seminar on Philosophy of Science, Seminar on Metaphilosophy, Critical Thinking.

2008-2010: Department of Philosophy, University of Patras.

Topics on the Metaphysics of Properties: Realism, Nominalism and Trope Theory, Philosophical Topics: The ontological Structure of Objects.

2024 April: Department of History and Philosophy of Science, NKUA
Masterclass: “Powers, Qualities, and Powerful Qualities”

1993-2006: Science courses at private secondary schools.

2007-2015: Science courses at public secondary schools.

Research experience

2022-2024 ‘Powers and the Nomic Web: perspectives from Metaphysics and the philosophy of Science’, funded by A.G. Leventis foundation, PI: Vassilis Livanios

2022-2025 ‘Laws and Powers in the Metaphysics of Science’, (member) University of Athens, PI: Stathis Psillos

2018-2021 ‘Biological Metaphysics: Understanding Developmental Mechanisms’, (member) University of Athens, PI: Stavros Ioannidis

2016-2018 University of Cyprus (starting funding). Project: ‘Science in Metaphysics: Properties, Laws, and Structures’. PI: Vassilis Livanios

2012-2015: ‘Thales’ research project: Aspects and Prospects of Realism in the Philosophy of Science and Mathematics’ (member). Project: Critique of the dispositional essentialist account of laws-Categorical structures and the de re modality of properties and relations. PI: Stathis Psillos

2007-2008: Post-Doctoral research (Greek State’s Scholarship Foundation)
Project: ‘A Critique of Dispositional Monism’

2002-2005: ‘Heraclitus’ EU co-funded research program. Project: Ontology of Spacetime

Awards

2007-2008: Post-Doctoral scholarship (Greek State’s Scholarship Foundation)

2002-2005: ‘Heraclitus’ (EU co-funded research programme)

Conferences/Workshops Organisation

Workshop “Powerful Qualities, Powers, Qualities”, University of Cyprus, 24 November 2023.

Professional Service

Referee for *Analysis, Synthese, Erkenntnis, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Ratio, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, Acta Analytica, Journal of Philosophical Research, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Theoria, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Análisis Filosófico, Neusis.*

Member of scientific committees

2^o (2017), 3^o (2019), 4^o (2021) Panhellenic Undergraduate Student Philosophy Conference.

PSA Around the World 2025 (November 2025)

Member of PhD Advisory Committees:

Iason Krontiras (Dept of Philosophy and History of Science, University of Athens).

Alexandros Mitsis-Koutoukis (Dept of Philosophy and History of Science, University of Athens).

Nikos Koulierakis (Dept of Philosophy and History of Science, University of Athens).

Rousomani Kalliopi (Dept of Philosophy and History of Science, University of Athens), 2020.

Institutional Responsibilities

Vice Chair of the Department of Classics and Philosophy (1/2026 -)

Representative of the Department of Classics and Philosophy in the Faculty of Letters’ Board (9/5/2020-8/5/2024)

Member of the committee for Safety (1/6/2019-31/5/2022)

Responsible for the construction of courses timetable: Department of Classics and Philosophy, University of Cyprus, 2016-2024.

Academic Advisor (undergraduate level): Department of Classics and Philosophy, University of Cyprus, 2015-present.

Member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee: Department of Classics and Philosophy, University of Cyprus, June 2022-present

Other Duties

Referee for the Cyprus Council of Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications, 2020

Professional Memberships

1. European Philosophy of Science Association
2. British Society for the Philosophy of Science
3. Society for the Metaphysics of Science
4. POND: Network for the Philosophy of Science Around the Mediterranean
5. East European Network for Philosophy of Science

Languages

Greek (native speaker), English

Referees

Steven French, Professor of Philosophy of Science
School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science, University of Leeds,
Leeds LS2 9JT UK, e-mail: S.R.D.French@leeds.ac.uk

Michael Esfeld, Professeur ordinaire, Université de Lausanne
Faculté des lettres, Section de philosophie 1015 Lausanne, University of
Lausanne, e-mail: michael-andreas.esfeld@unil.ch

Stathis Psillos, Professor of Philosophy of Science and Metaphysics,
Department of Philosophy & History of Science, University of Athens
Panepistimioupolis-University Campus, 157 71 Athens, e-mail: psillos@phs.uoa.gr

Theodore Arabatzis, Professor of History and Philosophy of the Physical Sciences
& Technology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of
Philosophy and History of Science- University Campus, Ano Ilisia, 15771 Athens,
e-mail: tarabatz@phs.uoa.gr