

# Daniel Linford

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Yesselman Lab  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

☎(585)472-5297  
✉ dlinford2@unl.edu  
🐙 GitHub Profile  
🌐 LinkedIn Profile  
🌐 www.linfordcosmos.com  
🆔 ORCID: 0000-0001-8008-4969

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion

## AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

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History/Philosophy of Physics, Metaphysics, Early Modern Philosophy, Ethics

## EXPERIENCE

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### University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2022-Present

*Post-Doctoral Fellow*

- Biophysical research on RNA folding, tertiary structure, and machine learning.

### Purdue University

2016-2022

*Graduate Student, Teaching Assistant, and Instructor*

- Instructor: *Environmental Ethics* (1 semester).
- Teaching Assistant: *Animals and Ethics* (2 semesters), *Environmental Ethics* (2 semesters), *Philosophy of Religion* (2 semesters), *Introduction to Philosophy* (1 semester).
- Co-taught: *Introduction to Philosophy* (1 semester).

### Christopher Newport University

2015-2016

*Visiting Instructor*

- Taught: *Critical Thinking* (2 semesters), *Logic* (2 semesters).

### Thomas Nelson Community College

2014-2016

*Adjunct Professor*

- Taught: *Ethics* (8 semesters).

### Virginia Tech

Summer 2014

*Instructor*

- Taught: *Knowledge & Reality* (1 semester).

## EDUCATION

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### Purdue University

2016 - 2022

*Doctorate, Philosophy*

- Dissertation: *Cosmic Skepticism and the Beginning of Physical Reality*. Committee: Paul Draper, Daniel Kelly, Michael Jacovides, Sean M. Carroll (Caltech), Robin Collins (Messiah).

### Virginia Tech

2010 - 2014

*Master of Arts, Philosophy*

- Master's thesis: *Atheism and Analogy: Aquinas Against the Atheists*. Committee: Joseph C. Pitt, Benjamin Jantzen, Matthew Goodrum.

### University of Rochester

2005-2009

*Bachelor of Science, Physics*

## BOOKS

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- (2023) *Existential Inertia and Classical Theistic Proofs*. Springer. (Co-authored with Joseph C. Schmid.)

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- (2023) “On the Boundary of the Cosmos”, *Foundations of Physics* 53(4). Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10701-023-00718-6>
- (2023) “The Kalam Cosmological Argument Meets The Mentaculus”, *The British Journal for Philosophy of Science* 74(1). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axaa005>
- (2022) “A Modal Condition for the Beginning of the Universe”, *Erkenntnis*. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10670-022-00632-9>
- (2022) “Big Bounce or Double Bang? A Reply to Craig & Sinclair on the Interpretation of Bounce Cosmologies”, *Erkenntnis* 87. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10670-020-00278-5>
- (2021) “Neo-Lorentzian Relativity and the Beginning of the Universe”, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 11. Pre-print: <http://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/19583/>
- (2018) “Idolatry, Indifference, and the Scientific Study of Religion: Two New Humean Arguments” (co-authored with Jason Megill), *Religious Studies*, 56(4), 488-508. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0034412518000653>.
- (2017) “An All Too Radical Solution to the Problem of Evil: a Reply to Harrison”, *Sophia* 57, 157–171.
- (2017) “On The Unimportance of Theistic Belief” (co-authored with Jason Megill), *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism* 25(2), pages 187–207.
- (2016) “God, the meaning of life, and a new argument for atheism” (co-authored with Jason Megill), *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 79(1), pages 31-47.
- (2016) “God, Geography, and Justice” (co-authored with William Patterson), *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism* 23 (2), pages 189-216.
- (2016) “Early-Modern Irreligion and Theological Analogy: A Response to Gavin Hyman’s A Short History of Atheism”, *Secularism and Nonreligion* 5(3). Available at: <https://www.secularismandnonreligion.org/articles/10.5334/snr.50/>

## REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

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- (2019) “The Problems of Divine Hiddenness and Divine Inscrutability”, *Theism and Atheism: Opposing Arguments in Philosophy*, Macmillan Reference USA, pages 549–554.
- (2019) “The Explanation of the Distribution of Suffering”, *Theism and Atheism: Opposing Arguments in Philosophy*, Macmillan Reference USA, pages 554–559.
- (2019) “Miranda Barbour and the Construction of a ‘Satanic Cult’ Murder”, *The Paranormal and Popular Culture: A Postmodern Religious Landscape*, Routledge, pages 198–211.

- (2018) “On Computable Metaphysics: On the Uses and Limitations of Computational Metaphysics” (co-authored with Jason Megill), *Ontology of Theistic Beliefs*, De Gruyter, pp 93-112.
- (2018) “Cognitive Bias, the Axiological Question and the Probability of Theistic Belief” (co-authored with Jason Megill), *Ontology of Theistic Beliefs*, De Gruyter, pp 77-92.

## REFEREED BOOK REVIEWS

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- (2023) “Eating Up Davies’s Universe”, *Metascience*. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11016-023-00873-6>
- (2015) Review of Gavin Hyman’s ‘A Short History of Atheism’, *Secularism and Nonreligion* 4(1). Available at: <https://www.secularismandnonreligion.org/articles/10.5334/snr.at/>

## REFEREED REFERENCE MATERIALS

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- (2019) “Disgust” (co-authored with Mallory Parker and Daniel Kelly), *Oxford Bibliographies*, Oxford University Press. Available at: <https://www.doi.org/10.1093/OBO/9780199828340-0251> Peer reviewed annotated bibliography on the science and philosophy of disgust.

## DOCUMENTARIES

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I have served as an academic consultant and as an interview subject for several documentaries related to my research on the philosophical foundations of cosmology.

- “Physicists & Philosophers critique The Fine Tuning Argument”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ-fj3lqJ6M>.
- “Physicists & Philosophers reply to the Kalam Cosmological Argument”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGKe6YzHiME>.
- “Kalam Cosmological Argument 2: Physicists and Philosophers strike back”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=femxJFszbo8>.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, & COMMENTARIES

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- (August 2023) “Progress Towards a Predictive Model of RNA Tertiary Contact Formation”, *Summer RosettaCON*
- (2015) “An Incompatibility in William Lane Craig’s Moral Argument and his Anti-Platonism”, The Existence of God, Society for Christian Philosophers 2015 Eastern Division Meeting
- (2013) “Does the Neglect of Analogy Explain the Rise of Early-Modern Atheism?”, Theistic Metaphysics and Naturalism, 2013 Eastern Division Conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers
- (2013) Commentary on Matthew Chider’s “Hume on Rationalism and the PSR”, Virginia Tech Graduate Student Conference on Early Modern Philosophy.
- (2012) Commentary on David Glick’s “Minimal Structural Essentialism”, Virginia Tech Graduate Student Conference on Philosophy of Science.

## OTHER PRESENTATIONS

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- (2023) “Spinoza, Mach, McTaggart, and the Causal Principle”, University of St Andrews
- (2018) “Fine-tuning and Epistemic Probability”, Purdue Philosophy Dept Graduate Symposium
- (2017) “Quiet Dogmatism and Information Propagation in Scientific Communities”, Purdue Philosophy Dept Graduate Symposium

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- Programming/Scripting Languages: Python, C++, HTML, BASIC, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Mathematica, Awk, bash and shell scripting
- Operating Systems: Linux, Windows, Apple OS
- High performance computing & machine learning

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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- *Biophysical Society* (joined 2023).
- *Philosophy of Science Association* (joined 2020).
- *American Physical Society* (joined 2020).
- *International Society for Historians of Atheism, Secularism, and Humanism* (joined 2014).
- President of the *Society of Physics Students*, University of Rochester chapter, 2007-2008.

## HONORS

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- Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship (2021–2022). Fellowship awarded to PhD students for a final year in which to complete one’s dissertation without outside obligations.
- Andrews Fellowship (awarded 2016). Fellowship given to attract outstanding PhD-track students to Purdue.
- *Sigma Pi Sigma* (Physics Honor Society) member (awarded for high GPA, 2008).

## REFERENCES

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### **Joseph D. Yesselman**

Hamilton Hall Room 832A  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Email: jyesselm@unl.edu  
Phone: (402) 472-2523

### **Paul Draper**

Beering Hall Room 7130  
Department of Philosophy  
Purdue University  
Email: pdraper@purdue.edu  
Phone: (765) 496-9492

### **Sean M. Carroll**

Bloomberg Room 455  
Department of Philosophy  
Johns Hopkins University  
Email: scarro30@jhu.edu

### **Elizabeth Jelinek**

McMurrin Hall Room 252  
Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Christopher Newport University  
Email: elizabeth.jelinek@cnu.edu  
Phone: (757) 594-7681

### **Daniel Kelly**

Beering Hall Room 7126  
Department of Philosophy  
Purdue University  
Email: drkelly@purdue.edu  
Phone: (765) 494-4290

### **Ted Parent**

Department of History, Philosophy, and  
Religious Studies  
Nazarbayev University in Astana  
Email: nontology@gmail.com  
Phone: +7(776)828-9725

### **Mark Bernstein**

Emeritus Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
Purdue University  
Email: mbernste@purdue.edu

### **Michael Jacovides**

Beering Hall Room 7125  
Department of Philosophy  
Purdue University  
Email: jacovides@purdue.edu  
Phone: (765) 494-4291