

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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Axel Mueller

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## Education and Academic Certification

- 1992 M.A. *With distinction* (highest possible), Philosophy, University of Frankfurt (Germany).
- 1992 B.A. *Excellent* (highest possible), in both, Linguistics/English Literature, and Theatre/Film/Drama Studies.
- 1992 M.A. Thesis: *Referring and Realism* Grade: *Excellent* (highest possible). Advisor: Prof. Jürgen Habermas.
- 1999 Ph.D. *summa cum laude* (highest possible), Philosophy, University of Frankfurt (Germany).
- Dissertation *Referenz und Fallibilismus. Zu sprachphilosophischen Grundlagen von Hilary Putnams pragmatischem Kognitivismus* ('Reference and Fallibilism. On the foundations of Hilary Putnam's pragmatic cognitivism'). Grade: *Summa Cum Laude* (highest possible).
- Committee: Prof. Jürgen Habermas, Prof. W.K. Essler, Prof. W. Detel.

## Academic Positions

- 2006- *Senior Lecturer*, Northwestern University
- 2001-2006 *Assistant Professor*, Northwestern University
- 1999-2001 *Visiting Assistant Professor*, Northwestern University
- 2000, Summer *Visiting Professor*, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid (Spain)
- 1996-99 *Adjunct Lecturer*, Northwestern University
- 1994, Fall *Visiting Professor*, University of Mexico (UAM)

## Grants, Fellowships

- 2005 *Fellowship at the Alice Berline Kaplan Center for the Humanities*, Northwestern University.
- 2004 *Fellowship at the National Humanities Center (NHC)*, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina (declined).
- 2001 *Publication Grant* by the National German Society of Scientific

- Investigations ("Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft", DFG).  
1993-95 *Graduate Scholarship* by the German National Merit Foundation  
("Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes").  
1992-93 *Graduate Scholarship* granted by the Hessen State Endowment Graduate  
Scholarship ("Graduiertenförderung des Landes Hessen").

## **Publications**

### Books:

*Referenz und Fallibilismus*, De Gruyter: Berlin/New York, 2001.

### Articles:

"Realism, Beyond Miracles", co-authored with Arthur Fine, in Ben-Menahim, Y. (ed.):  
*Contemporary Philosophy in Focus: Hilary Putnam*, Cambridge MA: Cambridge  
University Press 2005, 83-124.

"Some remarks on Semantic Externalism and Conceptual Pluralism ", *Teorema* XXII/3 (2003),  
59-83.

"Putnams pragmatischer Kognitivismus", in Willaschek, M./Rater, M.L. (eds.) *Hilary Putnam und  
die Tradition des Pragmatismus*, Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 2001, 64-89.

"Pragmatismo y Naturalismo: dos programas filosóficos, un presente en duda", in Galán,  
F./Xolocotzi, A./De la Garza, M.T. (eds.), *El Futuro de la Filosofía*, Mexico City:  
Universidad Iberoamericana 2005, 81-96.

"Natural Kinds and Projectible Predicates", *Sorites* 1 (1995), 1-36.

"Self-Critical Theory. On the development of theory in Siegfried Kracauer's work", *Teoría/Crítica*  
4 (1998), 281-314.

### Encyclopedia Entries

"Goodman, Nelson" (2,500 words), forthcoming in Koertge, N. (ed.), *The New Dictionary of  
Scientific Biography*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons/MacMillan.

## **Work in Progress:**

*Understanding Pragmatism*, a survey book on central topics raised in pragmatist thought since  
Peirce, under contract at Acumen Press for 2008.

"Revisability, Recalcitrance, and the Use of a Contextual A priori-A posteriori Distinction", article  
on the respective epistemological underpinnings and consequences of naturalistic and

pragmatic criticisms of the analytic-synthetic distinction. A short version given as a talk at the Meeting of the APA Central Division on 04-23-2004.

"Was Kant a Mental Content Externalist?", article on the relation between Kant's Transcendental Idealist commitments and his explanation of the conditions of determinate mental content.

*Realism and Pragmatism*, a book based on results from my German book on Putnam, to analyze the requirements and consequences of 'pragmatic realism' in the philosophy of language, epistemology, and the philosophy of science.

### **Conference papers, Invited lectures**

"Revisability and Analyticity", invited talk at Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA), 04-03-2007.

"Putnam vs. Quine on Revisability and the Analytic-Synthetic Distinction", paper at the conference *Putnam at 80*, UCD School of Philosophy, Dublin (Ireland), 03-13-2007.

"Putnam and Quine on Revisability and Rejecting the Analytic-Synthetic Distinction", invited colloquium talk at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 09-08-2006

"Kant's Mental Content Externalism", comments on a paper by Kenneth Westphal, APA Central Meeting, Chicago 04-29-2006.

"Towards Another Pragmatic Conception of the A Priori", Workshop discussion of a paper by me at the Alice Berline Kaplan Center for the Humanities, 04-11-2005.

"Revisability, Recalcitrance, and the Use of a Contextual A priori-A posteriori Distinction", colloquium talk at the Meeting of the APA Central Division on 04-23-2004.

"Pragmatismo y Naturalismo: dos programas filosóficos, un presente en duda", invited talk at the Conference *El futuro de la filosofía*, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico DF, September 2003.

"Quine and Putnam on Revisability", invited talk at the Institute of Philosophical Investigations of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (IIFS-UNAM), Mexico DF, September 2003.

"Generality, Nonsense, and Contextual Constraints", comments on a paper by Elisabeth Camp, APA Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle, March 2002.

"Commonsense Realism", invited talk at the conference *Realismo* at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), November 2001.

"Contextual Elements in Empirical Concepts", invited talk at the Cognitive Science Area Colloquia

Series, Northwestern University, Spring 2001.

"Conceptual Pluralism and Semantic Externalism in Hilary Putnam's Philosophy", Northwestern University, 2000.

"Putnam's Pragmatic Cognitivism", invited talk at the international conference *Putnam and the Pragmatist Tradition*, University of Muenster, Germany, July 2000.

"Semantic Externalism and Conceptual Relativity", invited talk at the Universidad Carlos III Madrid, Spain, July 2000.

"Conceptual Relativity, Continuity of Reference, and Learning from experience", Grinnell College, Grinnell (IA), January 2000.

"Referenz und Fallibilismus", J.-W.Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany, 1999.

"Referencia y Proyectabilidad" invited talk at the Congress "Problems of Reference and Truth" at the Institute of Philosophy of the National University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico, 1994.

"Projektivierbarkeit und Artbegriffe" invited talk at the Colloquium "Investigations on Problems in the Philosophy of Language", J.-W. Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany, June 1994.

### **Editorial and other Professional Service:**

Book-Reviewer for *Harvard University Press*, *Acumen Press*.

Referee for *Crítica* (México), *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*.

### **Professional Organizations:**

American Philosophical Association, Philosophy of Science Association, Gesellschaft für Analytische Philosophie, German National Merit Foundation

### **Areas of Specialization**

Philosophy of Language  
Philosophy of Science

### **Areas of Competence**

American pragmatism  
Epistemology  
Philosophy of Mind  
Kant, German philosophy since Kant

### **Languages:**

German  
English, Spanish  
Italian  
French, Latin, Ancient Greek

Native speaker.  
Fluent.  
Speaking and reading.  
Reading.