

Curtis Franks

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Academic positions

- Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy
The University of Notre Dame, 2006 – present

Areas of research

- history and philosophy of logic
- philosophy of mathematics
- proof theory
- Wittgenstein

Education

- University of California, Irvine
Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science
Dissertation directed by Aldo Antonelli
PhD. June 2006
- William Marsh Rice University. Houston, Texas
B. A. in mathematics and philosophy, *magna cum laude* 2000

Research

My current research involves the origins of modern logic as a formal science. This has been especially devoted to the concept of logical completeness, the relationship between model theory and proof theory, and the thought of Gentzen, Gödel, Hilbert, Frege, Bolzano, and other pioneers of modern logic.

I have general interests in the philosophy of mathematics, especially about the scientific and aesthetic factors that shape new theories and new methods.

Published writing

1. “The Gödelian inferences,” *History and Philosophy of Logic* **30**(3), 2009, 241–256.
2. *The Autonomy of Mathematical Knowledge: Hilbert’s Program Revisited*. Cambridge University Press. 2009. 232 pgs.
3. “Cut as consequence,” *History and Philosophy of Logic* **31**(4), 2010, 349–379.
4. “Stanley Tennenbaum’s Socrates,” in J. Kennedy and R. Kossak (eds.) *Set Theory, Arithmetic, and Foundations of Mathematics: Theorems, Philosophies*. Cambridge University Press. 2011.
5. “The realm of the sacred, wherein we may not draw an inference from something which itself has been inferred,” *History and Philosophy of Logic* **33**(1), 2012, 69–86.
6. “Logical completeness, form, and content: an archaeology,” forthcoming in J. Kennedy (ed.) *Interpreting Gödel: Critical Essays*. Cambridge University Press.

Teaching

In addition to courses on topics connected to my areas of active research (proof theory of arithmetic, classical recursion theory, and the philosophy of mathematics and logic), I teach courses in intermediate logic, in debates about foundationalism and naturalism, realism and pragmatism, epistemology and hermeneutics, etc. I typically incorporate original, historical papers into my logic curricula, and my philosophy curricula always center around “primary sources.” Increasingly I draw from scientific reports, legal decisions, artistic works, and religious tracts instead of explicitly philosophical writing.

Recent courses

- Wittgenstein’s *Philosophical Investigations*
- Proof theory seminar
- Honors philosophy seminar
- Gödel’s theorems seminar
- Intermediate logic
- Formal logic
- Philosophy against itself

Distinctions and fellowships

- University of California Regents Dissertation Writing Fellowship, 2005
- Member of Phi Beta Kappa
- Hubert E. Bray Prize in Mathematics

Service

- organizing Committee for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of Symbolic Logic.
- organizing Committee for the Midwest Philosophy of Mathematics Workshop. 2006–2011
- referee for *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Review of Symbolic Logic*, *Philosophia Mathematica*
- referee for *Cambridge University Press*

Recent talks

- “Sacred inference” at the 25th Bar-Hillel lectures, Jerusalem 2011
- “What set theory and category theory can teach an anti-foundationalist” at the Philmath Intersem, Paris 2010
- “Investigating meta-theory with weak theories” at the 23rd Logica Symposium. Hejnice, Czech Republic 2009
- “Herbrand on arithmetization” at the Association of Symbolic Logic Annual Meeting, Irvine 2008
- “Interpreting Gödel’s second incompleteness theorem for Q ” at the Notre Dame Mathematics Department Logic Colloquium 2007
- “David Hilbert’s naturalism” at the GAP.6 Workshop *Towards a New Epistemology of Mathematics*, Berlin, 2006
- “The Giuoco Peano” at the Sixth Midwest Philosophy of Mathematics Workshop, 2005