

CURTIS FRANKS

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Department of Philosophy
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Academic Positions

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

Areas of specialization

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

Education

University of California, Irvine
Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science
PhD. June 2006

William Marsh Rice University
B.A. in mathematics and philosophy, *magna cum laude* 2000

Research

Most of my research involves the origins of modern logic as a formal science. Thus I am interested in understanding the philosophical thought of figures like David Hilbert and Kurt Gödel who developed the techniques that eventually ossified into meta-mathematics. I have specific interests in the unique views of Jacques Herbrand, Gerhard Gentzen, and the recent work of Jean-Yves Girard.

I see the significance of the rise of modern logic in other than its alleged “foundational” role in science. So another project of mine is to articulate the roles that I do see modern logic playing. Here I’m influenced by Wittgenstein’s philosophical writings, and also by Plato and Chuang Zhu.

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.”

Recent courses

- 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 (recognizing the outstanding mathematics student at Rice University), 1999

Publications

1. “The Gödelian inferences,” *History and Philosophy of Logic* **30**, 2009, 241-256.
2. *The Autonomy of Mathematical Knowledge: Hilbert’s Program Revisited*. Cambridge University Press. 2009. 232 pgs.
3. “Stanley Tennenbaum’s Socrates,” forthcoming in J. Kennedy (ed.) *Lecture Notes in Logic, vol. ??: Essays in Memory of Stanley Tennenbaum*. Cambridge University Press. 2010.

Work in progress

1. “Cut as consequence,” an essay on Gerhard Gentzen’s understanding of logic, currently being revised.
2. “Logical completeness as correspondence of syntax and semantics,” an essay about the historical context and conceptual impact of Gödel’s doctoral thesis, to appear in J. Kennedy (ed.) *Interpreting Gödel*. Cambridge University Press.

Recent talks

1. “Investigating meta-theory with weak theories” at the 23rd Logica Symposium. Hejnice, Czech Republic 2009
2. “Herbrand on arithmetization” at the Association of Symbolic Logic Annual Meeting, Irvine 2008
3. “Interpreting Gödel’s second incompleteness theorem for Q ” at the Notre Dame Mathematics Department Logic Colloquium 2007
4. “David Hilbert’s naturalism” at the GAP.6 Workshop *Towards a New Epistemology of Mathematics*, Berlin, 2006
5. “The Giuoco Peano” at the Sixth Midwest Philosophy of Mathematics Workshop, 2005

Service

- referee for the *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*. *Review of Symbolic Logic*
- referee for Cambridge University Press
- organizing committee, Association of Symbolic Logic annual meeting 2009