

CURRICULUM VITAE



STEFAN PETKOV

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

2015-present

Beijing Normal University, Beijing - **Lecturer.**

Graduate courses: philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language.

Undergraduate courses: epistemology, philosophy of mind, introduction to philosophy of science

2012-2013

Plovdiv, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” - **Lecturer.**

Graduate course: Philosophy of biology

EDUCATION AND DEGREES

2013 – 2015

Post-doc fellowship at Institute of Science, Technology and Society, Tsinghua University, Beijing; Title of research project: ***Theoretical unification and explanations in evolutionary biology.*** Under the supervision of *prof. Wang Wei*

2009 – 2012

PhD in Philosophy at Institute for Philosophical Research, Bulgarian

Academy of Sciences; Title of the PhD thesis: *The epistemic function of metaphors in scientific knowledge*. Under the supervision of *prof. Lilia Gurova*.

2006 –2007 MA in Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”; Title of the MA thesis: *Imagination and representation*

2002 – 2006 BA in Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”; Title of the BA thesis: *Creativity in scientific discovery*

1997 – 2002 French language High school – “Antoine de Saint-Exupery”, Plovdiv

ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATIONS

2010
Budapest, Eötvös Loránd University,
Department of history and philosophy of
science, 2 months

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Bulgarian – Native Speaker
English – Fluent
Chinese – Fluent

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

General philosophy of science, Philosophy of Mind.

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

Philosophy of Biology, Logic, Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Language, Epistemology.

AREAS OF INTEREST:

Chinese Philosophy, Aesthetics

BACKGROUND AND AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

The areas of my academic specialization are general philosophy of science and philosophy of mind.

In philosophy of science, I have worked extensively on the topic of scientific explanation, where I argue in favor of the unificationist model of explanation as a common framework of explanations in non-law based scientific disciplines such as evolutionary theory and ecology. I have applied the unificationist model of explanation as a solution to the problem of whether all explanations that employ the concepts of natural selection and drift are reducible to causal explanations.

I have worked on the problem of contradictions in science, where I used models from paraconsistent logic to the analyses of the functional response debate within the ecological theory of predation.

I have worked on analyzing how explanatory arguments generate understanding of their targets. I defend a factual account of understanding. I have applied this account to narrative explanations, an analysis of hierarchical explanatory networks and the role of partial truth to evaluate idealizations in science.

Recently my academic interest has been focused on philosophy of mind and cognition. I am studying a bundle of problems related to dreaming – qualia, lucidity and reasoning abilities in dreams. My approach to these problems is a hybrid study between philosophical conceptual analysis, experimental philosophy and psychology.

I am currently holding a position at Beijing Normal University, where I have been teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses on philosophy of mind, epistemology, philosophy of language and philosophy of science. The common aim of my courses is to present to the graduate and undergraduate students an overview of the central problems within the intersection between contemporary analytic philosophy and philosophy of science. As a teacher my aim has always been to help young philosophers to develop analytic skills, build their knowledge of contemporary philosophy and reach clarity and confidence in presenting their own ideas.

Beside my teaching curriculum, I also hold a reading group on philosophy of science, where I work on more complex problems in philosophy of science with both PhD and master students.

I have organized a series of short courses and workshops on philosophy of science and logic with distinguished scholars such as Eduard Machery, Joao Marcos De Almeida, Daniel Kostic, Lukas Bielik and Frantisek Gaher.

I received my PhD thesis at The Institute for Philosophical Research in the Bulgarian Academy of Science. My PhD thesis was on the adaptive landscape as a conceptual framework for the evolutionary synthesis. My PhD supervisor was Lilia Gurova (associate professor in the department for cognitive science and psychology at New Bulgarian University, Sofia). Lilia Gurova specializes in general philosophy of science and cognitive science and was a member of the steering committee of European Philosophy of Science Association from 2013-2015 and is currently a member of the steering committee of East European Philosophy of Science Association from 2013.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Yu Haomiao, Petkov Stefan. (*under review*). Don't get it wrong! sOn the negative phenomena of understanding.

2. Petkov Stefan, Haichiang Dai, Stumbrys Tadas. (*under review*). What is like to lucid dream? Lucidity as a test case for the knowledge argument.
3. Petkov Stefan. Dai Haichiang (2021). In defense of veridicality. Partial truth and scientific understanding. *Chinese Journal of Contemporary Values* (In Chinese; English translation available on demand). [斯蒂芬·佩特克夫，“局部真理和解释性理解”，代海强译，《当代中国价值观研究》]
4. Petkov Stefan. (2021). Historical narratives and understanding - potential inferential power. In: *Balkan Journal of Philosophy* 13(1): 33-44
5. Petkov, S. (2021). The Degrees of Understanding and the Inferential Component of Understanding. *Organon F*, 28(4), 746–776.
6. Petkov Stefan. (2020). The role of truth in explanatory understanding. In: *Balkan Journal of Philosophy* 12(2): 87-98
7. Petkov, Stefan (2019). Studying Controversies: Unification, Contradiction, Integration. In: *Journal for General Philosophy of Science / Zeitschrift für Allgemeine Wissenschaftstheorie* 50 (1):103-128.
8. Petkov Stefan, Wang Wei, Lei Yi. (2016). Explanatory unification and natural selection explanations. In: *Biology & Philosophy* 31(5): 705–725
9. Petkov, Stefan.(2015). Explanatory unification and conceptualization. In: *Synthese* 192 (11):3695-3717
10. Petkov, Stefan.(2015).The Fitness Landscape Metaphor: Dead but Not Gone. In: *Philosophia Scientiae*, 19(1), March 2015.
11. Petkov, Stefan. (2013). Metaphors. In: Tabakov M. (ed). *Encyclopedic dictionary of logic and semantics*. Stars editing house. Sofia. (*In Bulgarian*).
12. Petkov, Stefan. (2012). Metaphors in science: the life of the landscape metaphor in evolutionary biology. In: *Philosophical Alternatives*, vol. 1/2012. (*In Bulgarian*).
13. Petkov, Stefan. (2009). Scientific Standards and Scientific Metaphors in “Genetics and the Origins of Species” of Theodosius Dobzhansky. In: Stefanov, A., Gurova, L., Apostolov, A. (Eds.). *Evolution and Knowledge*. Sofia: Publishing House “Ivan Rilski”, 17-31. (*In Bulgarian*).
14. Petkov, Stefan. (2007). Creativity. In Gerdjikov S., Merdjanova Y. *Philosophy for 11th grade*. (*High school textbook on philosophy, approved by the Bulgarian ministry of education*).

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED:

First International workshop on General Philosophy of Science and Logic at Beijing Normal University. 2019. June 4th. Beijing, Beijing Normal University.

SELECTED CONFERENCE TALKS:

What is like to lucid dream? East European Network for Philosophy of science; August 17-19, 2022; University of Tartu, Estonia

What is like to lucid dream? Memory and Mind: A Sofia-Grenoble Workshop 16-17 September 2021, The Institute for the study of societies and knowledge, Bulgarian Academy of Science (Bulgaria).

Understanding and explanatory structures. The 3rd SURE Workshop 15-17 April 2021, Radboud University (The Netherlands).

Scientific explanations and Partial understanding. 16th International Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology 2019; 5-10 August 2019, Prague (Czech Republic).

In defence of veridicality, pragmatic truth and scientific understanding. East European Network for Philosophy of science 2018; 20-22 June 2018, Bratislava (Slovakia), Comenius University in Bratislava.

The ratio-dependence controversy in predator-prey theory. XXIV World Congress of Philosophy 2018; 13-20 August 2018, Beijing (China), Peking University

Unification, Contradiction, Integration in the Case of Predator-Prey Modelling. Frontier in the Philosophy of Specific Sciences; 19 - 20 August 2017 Beijing (China), Tsinghua University.

Explanatory Unification and Natural Selection Explanations. East European Network for Philosophy of science 2016; 24-26 June 2016 Sofia (Bulgaria), New Bulgarian university.

The adaptive landscape as a unificatory tool. International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology 2013. 7-12 July, 2013, Montpellier (France).

The Fitness Landscape Metaphor: Dead but Not Gone. 14th International Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology 2011; July 19–26, 2011, Nancy (France).