

UNIVERSITY OF MILAN

Public selection for recruiting No.29 research fellow(s) under art.24, paragraph 3.b, of Law No.240/2010 for competition sector 11/C2, (scientific-disciplinary sector M-FIL/02) at the Department of Logic, History and Philosophy of Science, (announcement published on Official Gazette No. 35 of 4 May 2021) - Competition code 4621

Dan Baras

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DATA (DO NOT WRITE YOUR PERSONAL ADDRESS AND LANDLINE OR MOBILE PHONE NUMBER)

Surname	Baras
Name	Dan
Date of Birth	19,10,1982

AREAS OF RESEARCH & TEACHING

Areas of Specialty: ethics, epistemology, philosophy of science, philosophy of religion

Areas of Competence: philosophy of language, logic, Judaism & Jewish philosophy

EMPLOYMENT

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Martin Buber Society of Fellows, Post-Doctoral Fellow (2017–present)

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Center for Moral and Political Philosophy, Post-Doctoral Fellow for annual project: Biology and Ethics (2016–2017)

VISITING POSITIONS

Harvard University, Associate of the Department of Philosophy (Aug–Dec 2019)

New York University, Visiting Scholar at the Department of Philosophy (Sep–Oct 2016)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Visiting Student at the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy (fall 2013; fall 2014)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy: Ben Gurion University (2011–2017)

Dissertation Title: Epistemic Challenges to Robust Moral Realism

Supervisors: David Enoch, Yehuda Gellman

M.A. Philosophy: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2006–2010)

B.Ed. Jewish Studies: Herzog College (2002–2005)

[Rabbinic Studies, Yeshivat Har Etzion 1999–2005]

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

Calling for Explanation

Under review at Oxford University Press. The full manuscript is available on [my website](#).

This book is the first comprehensive treatment of the idea that some facts call for explanation. I argue that if calling for explanation is thought of as a fixed property of facts that justifies explanatory inferences, as many believe it to be, this leads to a futile philosophical project and confusions in reasoning. I develop the view that calling for explanation is merely a figurative form of speech without a fixed meaning. This sheds new light on influential debates in metaphysics, philosophy of mathematics, metaethics, cosmology and philosophy of physics, among others.

Peer Reviewed Journals:

1. 'How Can Necessary Facts Call for Explanation?', *Synthese* (forthcoming)
2. 'Modal Security' (with Justin Clarke-Doane), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 102 (2021), pp. 162–183
3. 'A Strike against a Striking Principle', *Philosophical Studies* 177:6 (2020), pp. 1501–1514
4. 'No Need to Get Up from the Armchair (If You Are Interested in Debunking Arguments in Metaethics)', *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 23:3–4 (2020), pp. 575–590
5. 'Calling for Explanation: The Case of the Thermodynamic Past State' (with Orly Shenker), *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 10:3 (2020)
6. 'How Close Are Impossible Worlds? A Critique of Brogaard and Salerno's Account of Counterpossibles', *dialectica* 73:3 (2019), pp. 315–329
7. 'A Moral Argument against Absolute Authority of the Torah', *Sophia* (2019)
8. 'Why Do Certain States of Affairs Call for Explanation? A Critique of Two Horwichian Accounts', *Philosophia* 47:5 (2019), pp. 1405–1419
9. 'The Explanatory Challenge: Moral Realism Is No Better Than Theism', *European Journal of Philosophy* 26:1 (2018), pp. 368–389
10. 'A Reliability Challenge to Theistic Platonism', *Analysis* 77:3 (2017), pp. 479–487
11. 'Our Reliability is in Principle Explainable', *Episteme* 14:2 (2017), pp. 197–211

Under Review

- 'What Makes Something Surprising? On Fitting Surprise' (with Oded Na'aman) (R&R *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*)
- 'Calling for Explanation: An Extraordinary Account'

In Progress:

- 'What's Wrong with Carbon Offsetting?'
- 'Epistemic vs Practical Balancing of Reasons'
- 'Calling for Explanation in Particle Physics' (with Guy Hetzroni)
- 'Deflating the Undercutting /Rebutting Distinction' (with Justin Clarke-Doane)

Book Reviews:

- 'Graham Oppy. 2018. *Atheism and Agnosticism*', *Reading Religion* (2019)

- ‘Russ Shafer-Landau (ed.). 2012. Oxford Studies in Metaethics Volume 7’, *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* 12/3 (2015), pp. 359 – 362.
- ‘Jill Graper Hernandez (ed.). 2011. The New Intuitionism’, *Metapsychology Online Reviews* 16/49 (2012)
- ‘Norman Solomon. 2012. Torah from Heaven’, *Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization blog* (2012)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

‘Ethics of Climate Change’, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Philosophy, fall 2020–21 [Taught online]

‘Theism & Atheism’, co-taught with Aaron Segal, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Philosophy, Spring 2020 [Taught online. I grew up as a theist and later became an atheist. Aaron Segal is a theist]

‘Advanced Epistemology: Striking Facts’, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Philosophy, Spring 2019

‘Topics in the Philosophy of Life Science’, Faculty of Medicine, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, fall 2015–2016; fall 2016–2017; fall 2017–2018

‘Philosophy of Science’, Department of Psychology, Ben Gurion University, Spring 2016

Lecturer in Talmud and Jewish Philosophy at various institutions including Bet Midrash Havruta at the Hebrew University and Drisha Institute for Jewish Education (2007–2012)

T.A. Logic, the Hebrew University (2009, 2010)

Teachers’ Training:

Course: Effective Teaching in Higher Education, the Hebrew University’s Teaching & Learning Center (2018)

High school teaching, training, and experience as part of B.Ed. (2003–2007)

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invitations to future events are marked with an asterisk (*).

- ‘What’s Wrong with Carbon Offsetting?’
 - * 24th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association (2021) [part of a panel that I initiated on philosophy and climate change]
 - * 49th Meeting of the Israeli Society for Ecology and Environmental Studies (2021)
- ‘Do Some Facts Call for Explanation? What Does That Even Mean?’
 - Uppsala University, Department of Philosophy, Research Seminar (2020)
 - Princeton Department of Psychology, Tania Lombrozo’s Concepts and Cognition Lab (2019)
 - University of Maryland, Department of Philosophy (2019)
 - Harvard Department of Philosophy, Talk-Shop Series (2019)
 - Haifa University, Philosophy Department Colloquium (2019)
 - The Martin Buber Society of Fellows Colloquium, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2019)
- ‘What Makes Something Surprising? On Fitting Surprise’
 - * Language, Logic and Cognition Center, Hebrew University (2021) (with Oded Na’aman)
 - Hebrew University, Interdisciplinary Workshop on Surprise (2020) (with Oded Na’aman)
 - 23rd Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, Tel Aviv (2020)
 - M.I.T. Department of Cognitive Science, Josh Tenenbaum’s Computational Cognitive Science Group (2019)

- ‘A Strike Against A Striking Principle’
 - Eastern APA, Philadelphia (2020)
 - M.I.T. Epistemology Reading Group (2019)
 - International Conference on Explanation in Philosophy, Wuhan University (2019)
 - The Haifa Conference on the Philosophy of Religion, Haifa University (2018)
 - Tel Hai College, Philosophy Department Colloquium (2017)
- ‘A Moral Argument against Absolute Authority of the Torah’
 - Association for Jewish Philosophy, online symposium (2019)
- ‘How Can Necessary Facts Call for Explanation?’
 - 93rd Joint Session of the Aristotelean Society and the Mind Association, Durham (2019)
 - 22nd Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, Bar-Ilan University (2019)
- ‘Modal Security’
 - Cyprus MetaEthics workshop, University of Cyprus (2019)
- ‘Does the Past Low Entropy of Our Universe Call for Explanation?’
 - The 21st Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, Haifa University (2018)
- ‘No Need to Get Up from The Armchair’
 - Biology and Ethics: Prospects and Challenges, The Hebrew University (2017)
- ‘Extraordinary Types: Schlesinger’s Theory of Strikingness’
 - Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, the Hebrew University (2017)
 - Philosophy Department Colloquium, the Hebrew University (2016)
- ‘Strikingness: Why Do Certain States Of Affairs Call For Explanation?’
 - Explanatory Reasoning in the Sciences, 2nd Jerusalem-MCMP Workshop in the Philosophy of Science, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (2017)
 - Society of Christian Philosophers Eastern Regional Meeting, Rutgers (2016)
 - Philosophy Department Colloquium, Ben Gurion University (2016)
- ‘Our Reliability is Explainable: Responding to the Benacerraf-Field Challenge’
 - The 18th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, the Open University of Israel (2015)
 - M.A.T.T.I., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2014)
 - The Underground Workshop, the Hebrew University (2014)
- ‘Causal Debunking: Can the Causal History of a Belief Give One Reason to Drop the Belief?’
 - The 16th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, Bar Ilan University (2013)
 - The 2nd HUJI Graduate Conference in Philosophy, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2013)
 - Epistemology Reading Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2013)
- ‘Darwinian Challenges to Realism in Morality and Religion’
 - Knowledge, Reality and Value: East and West, the Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion, Kolkata, India (2013)
 - HUJI Graduate Conference in Philosophy, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2012)
- ‘The Prophecy of the Jurist: Moral, Jurisprudential and Halakhic Intuitionism’
 - Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud and Midrash, Shalem Center, Jerusalem (2012)
 - Legal Theory and Jewish Studies, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem (2012)
- ‘The Explanatory Challenge to Moral and Theistic Realism’
 - The 15th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, University of Haifa (2012)
- ‘The Problem of Disagreement in Ethics and Religion’
 - The Phenomenology of Faith, graduate workshop, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem (2010)
- ‘Moral Supervenience Arguments’
 - The 14th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2011)

- Practical Ethics in Question, graduate workshop, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2010)

WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- * Moral philosophy section coordinator, 13th Annual German-Israeli Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, The Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities & the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Nov 2022
- Interdisciplinary International Workshop on 'Surprise', co-organized with Oded Na'aman, Hebrew University, June 2020 [applied for and received funding from the Edelstein Center for History and Philosophy of Science]
- Workshop and fellowship coordinator, 'Legal Theory and Jewish Studies', The Van Leer Institute and Cardozo School of Law (2011–2012)
- Founder and coordinator of 'Mitnadvei Shvut Am', a national volunteer project helping Ethiopian immigrants integrate in Israeli society, (2005–2007)

FELLOWSHIPS

- JNF-KKL Switzerland-Israel Foundation for the Promotion of Philosophy in Israel, fellowship for outstanding philosophy graduate Students (2015)
- Ben Gurion University: Negev Fellowship for Outstanding Graduate Students (2011–2015)
- The Israel Democracy Institute: *Human Rights and Judaism*, fellowship for outstanding young scholars (2012–2015)
- The Van Leer Institute, Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University and the Buchmann Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University: *Legal Theory and Jewish Studies*, fellowship for outstanding young scholars (2011–2012)
- The Center for Austrian Studies at the Hebrew University: Full scholarship for summer course in German language at the University of Vienna (2009)
- Herzog College: *Eshkolot Scholarship for Outstanding Students* (full tuition) (2002–2005)

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

These essays are in Hebrew for a broader audience. I grew up as a religious settler in Israel, received extensive rabbinic training, and then my beliefs radically changed. A central theme in these essays is my engagement with my own previous beliefs.

Published:

- 'All Racists are Racists: Racism, Stereotypes and Generalizations', *Alaxon* (2020) [Discusses when and why generalizations about people are harmful]
- 'A Moral Argument Against Absolute Authority of The Torah' (Hebrew), in *Judaism, Sovereignty and Human Rights, vol. 2* (2016), the Israel Democracy Institute [Argues that the Torah should not be treated as an absolute authority]
- 'An Outsider's Perspective on the Sabbath', *Deot* 76
- 'Two Selves within Myself', 'My First Kiss', *Dvarim* (2014, 2015) [Autobiographical pieces, describing my journey away from religion]

Completed draft:

- 'Intermarriage—An Unjustified Taboo' [argues that intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews should be socially accepted]

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee for: Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Philosophia, Philosophy Compass, Religious Studies, Sophia, Synthese.

Member of *Philosophers for Sustainability*, an initiative promoting sustainable practices in our profession.

LANGUAGES

Native languages: English, Hebrew

REFERENCES

David Enoch The Hebrew University david.enoch@mail.huji.ac.il	Joshua Schechter Brown University Joshua_Schechter@brown.edu	Justin Clarke-Doane Columbia University jc4345@columbia.edu
Selim Berker Harvard University sberker@fas.harvard.edu	Orly Shenker The Hebrew University orly.shenker@mail.huji.ac.il	Aaron Segal The Hebrew University aaron.segal1@mail.huji.ac.il (Teaching reference)

Date

24/5/2021

Place

Jerusalem, Israel