

Tuomas E. Tahko

November 2, 2011

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki

Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies

P.O. Box 24, 00014

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, FINLAND

☎ +358 45 136 0101

✉ tuomas.tahko@helsinki.fi

✉ ttahko@gmail.com

🌐 www.ttahko.net

Date of Birth: October 7, 1982

Nationality: Finnish



Areas of Specialisation

- Metaphysics
- Modality
- Philosophical Methodology
- Metaphilosophy
- A Priori Knowledge

Areas of Competence

- Epistemology
- Philosophy of Science
- Philosophical Logic
- Philosophy of Mind
- Aristotle
- History of Philosophy from Descartes to Kant

Education

2005–2008 **Ph.D. (Philosophy)**, *Durham University*, UK.

Date awarded: June 25, 2008

Thesis title: *The Necessity of Metaphysics*

Supervisor: Professor E. J. Lowe

Examiners: Professor Peter Simons (external), Dr. Robin Hendry (internal)

2002–2005 **M.A., B.A. (Theoretical Philosophy)**, *University of Helsinki*, Finland.

Date awarded: September 13, 2005

Thesis title: *Grounding Metaphysics: Metaphysical Necessity and Essentialism*

Degree: *Magna Cum Laude*

Supervisor: Dr. Heikki J. Koskinen

Examiners: Professor Matti Sintonen, Professor Sami Pihlström

Secondary subjects: Comparative Literature, Computer Science, Aesthetics

Academic Appointments

- 2007–2008 **Postgraduate Teaching Fellow**, *Framwellgate School Durham*, UK.
- 2008–2010 **Visiting Research Fellow**, *Department of Philosophy, Durham University*, UK.
- 11–12/2009 **Visiting Scholar**, *eidos Centre in Metaphysics, University of Geneva*, Switzerland.
- 03–05/2011 **Visiting Scholar**, *Department of Philosophy, New York University*, USA.
Sponsored by Professor Kit Fine
- 2011–2013 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies, University of Helsinki*, Finland.
Funded by the Academy of Finland

Awards

- 2005 **Ph.D. Grant**, *Helsingin Sanomain 100-year foundation* (18.000€).
At Durham University
- 2007 **Ph.D. Grant**, *The Finnish Cultural Foundation* (16.000€).
At Durham University
- 2007 **Postgraduate Teaching Award**, *County Durham Economic Partnership and the Ogden Trust* (13.800£).
At Framwellgate School Durham
- 2008 **Postdoctoral Research Grant**, *Alfred Kordelin Foundation* (18.000€).
At Durham University
- 2008 **'Research Abroad' Grant**, *Academy of Finland* (30.000€).
At Durham University
- 2010 **Postdoctoral Researcher's Project**, *Academy of Finland* (246.240€).
A Study of the Foundations of Metaphysics: The A Priori, Modality, and Essences

Publications

Books: Edited

T. E. Tahko, editor. *Contemporary Aristotelian Metaphysics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011. Available from: <http://www.cambridge.org/97811070006437>.

Journal Articles: Academic

T. E. Tahko. A New Definition of A Priori Knowledge: In Search of a Modal Basis. *Metaphysica*, 9(2):57–68, 2008. doi:10.1007/s12133-007-0022-7.

T. E. Tahko. Against the Vagueness Argument. *Philosophia*, 37(2):335–340, 2009. doi:10.1007/s11406-008-9172-2.

T. E. Tahko. On the Modal Content of A Posteriori Necessities. *Theoria: A Swedish Journal of Philosophy*, 75(4):344–357, 2009. doi:10.1111/j.1755-2567.2009.01048.x.

T. E. Tahko. The Law of Non-Contradiction as a Metaphysical Principle. *The Australasian Journal of Logic*, 7:32–47, 2009. Available from: http://philosophy.unimelb.edu.au/ajl/2009/2009_4.pdf.

T. E. Tahko. A Priori and A Posteriori: A Bootstrapping Relationship. *Metaphysica*, 11(2):151–164, 2011. doi:10.1007/s12133-011-0083-5.

T. E. Tahko. Aristotelian vs. Lewisian Composition: A Commentary on Koslicki's *The Structure of Objects*. *Humana.Mente*, 2011. Special Issue on Composition, Counterfactuals

and Causation, ed. by M. Carrara, R. Ciuni, and G. Lando. Available from: <http://www.ttahko.net/papers/structureofobjects.pdf>.

T. E. Tahko. Boundaries in Reality. *Ratio*, XXV(4), 2012. Special Issue on Classifying Reality, ed. by David S. Oderberg.

T. E. Tahko. Counterfactuals and Modal Epistemology. *Grazer Philosophische Studien*, 2012. Available from: <http://www.ttahko.net/papers/counterfactuals.pdf>.

Books: Sections

T. E. Tahko. Reefer Madness: Cannabis, the Individual, and Public Policy. In Dale Jaquette, editor, *Cannabis: What Were We Just Talking About?*, Philosophy for Everyone, pages 149–161. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, 2010. Available from: <http://www.ttahko.net/papers/cannabis.pdf>.

T. E. Tahko. In Defence of Aristotelian Metaphysics. In T. E. Tahko, editor, *Contemporary Aristotelian Metaphysics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011. Available from: <http://www.ttahko.net/papers/aristotelian.pdf>.

T. E. Tahko. Introduction. In T. E. Tahko, editor, *Contemporary Aristotelian Metaphysics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011.

T. E. Tahko. Boundaries in Reality. In David S. Oderberg, editor, *Classifying Reality*. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, 2012.

T. E. Tahko. Metaphysics as the First Philosophy. In Edward Feser, editor, *Aristotle on Method and Metaphysics*, Philosophers in Depth. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2012.

T. E. Tahko and Donnchadh O'Conaill. On the Common Sense Argument for Monism. In Philip Goff, editor, *Spinoza on Monism*, Philosophers in Depth. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2011. Available from: <http://www.ttahko.net/papers/monism.pdf>.

Conference Proceedings

T. E. Tahko. The Aristotelian Method and Aristotelian Metaphysics. In Patricia Hanna, editor, *An Anthology of Philosophical Studies*, pages 53–63, Athens, 2008. ATINER. Available from: <http://www.ttahko.net/papers/aristotle.pdf>.

T. E. Tahko. The Metaphysical Status of Logic. In Michal Peliš, editor, *The Logica Yearbook 2007*, pages 225–235, Prague, 2008. Filosofia. Available from: <http://www.ttahko.net/papers/statusoflogic.pdf>.

Reviewed Conference Presentations

2006

- 'Metaphysics in Natural Science', *Metafisica 2006*, Idente Foundation, Rome, Italy, July.
- 'Metaphysics and the A Priori', *9th Durham-Bergen Conference*, Durham University, UK, November.

2007

- 'The Aristotelian Method and Aristotelian Metaphysics', *2nd International Conference on Philosophy*, ATINER, Greece, June.
- 'The Metaphysical Status of Logic', *LOGICA 2007*, Hejnice Monastery, Czech Republic, June.
- 'The Value of A Priori Knowledge', *The Value of Knowledge*, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands, August.
- 'When are Metaphysical Debates Substantial?', *5th Conference of The Spanish Society for Analytic Philosophy*, University of Barcelona, Spain, September.

- 'On the Semantics of Natural Kinds: In Defence of the Essentialist Line', *Nature and its Classification – A Metaphysics of Science Conference*, University of Birmingham, UK, October.
- 'A New Definition of A Priori Knowledge: In Search of a Modal Basis', *Graduate Conference on Knowledge and Understanding*, University of Edinburgh, UK, November.

2008

- 'When are Metaphysical Debates Substantial?', *Logos Conference on MetaMetaphysics*, University of Barcelona, Spain, June.
- 'Metaphysical vs. Conceptual Modality, or What Modality is Grounded in', *ECAP 6: Sixth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy*, Jagiellonian University, Institute of Philosophy, Krakow, Poland, August.

2009

- 'The Metaphysical Basis of Semantics', *Recent Trends in Philosophy of Language and General Analytic Philosophy*, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, January.
- 'The A Priori and Scientific Knowledge', *British Society for the Philosophy of Science Annual Conference*, University of East Anglia, UK, July.
- 'Two-Dimensional Modal Semantics, Conceivability, and Modal Epistemology', *Société de Philosophie Analytique (SOPHA 2009)*, University of Geneva, Switzerland, September.
- 'Natural Boundaries and Metaphysical Realism', *Metaphysics of Science Conference*, Nottingham, UK, September.
- 'Metaphysics Is Not About Existence Questions', *The fourth meeting of the Portuguese Society for Analytic Philosophy (ENFA 4)*, University of Évora, Portugal, September.
- Principal organiser of a symposium entitled *The Structure of Scientific Knowledge* (with contributions from myself, Alexander Bird, Robin Hendry and Paul Winstanley), *European Philosophy of Science Association Conference*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October.

2010

- 'The Metaphysical Status of Modal Statements', *Meaning, Modality and Apriority*, Research Workshop with Scott Soames (one of four critical comments), Emmy Noether Group, University of Cologne, Germany, May.
- 'What Is Aristotelian Metaphysics?', *Metaphysics: Aristotelian, Scholastic, Analytic*, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, July.
- 'In Search of a Fundamental Level', *Structure and Identity*, University of Bristol, UK, July.

2011

- 'Naturalizing Aprioristic Metaphysics', *Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science*, University of Toronto, Canada, May.
- 'Grounding Modality', *ECAP 7: Seventh European Conference of Analytic Philosophy*, San Raffaele University and University of Milan, Italy, September.

Invited Talks and Seminar Presentations

2007

- 'On the Metaphysics of Modality', *Eidos – Postgraduate Philosophy Society*, Durham University, UK, April.

- 'Truthmaking and Realism', *Eidos – Postgraduate Philosophy Society*, Durham University, UK, November.
- 'The Necessity of Metaphysics', *Departmental Research Seminar*, University of Helsinki, Finland, December.

2008

- 'The Necessity of Metaphysics', *Eidos – Postgraduate Philosophy Society*, Durham University, UK, February.
- 'The Necessity of Metaphysics', *Seminar on The Possibility of Metaphysics in Twentieth Century and Contemporary Philosophy*, University of Tampere, Finland, April.
- 'The Necessity of Metaphysics', *Departmental Research Seminar*, Durham University, UK, May.
- 'Against Conventionalism: Boundaries and Realism', *Eidos – Postgraduate Philosophy Society*, Durham University, UK, October.

2009

- 'A Priori and A Posteriori: A Bootstrapping Relationship', *Eidos – Postgraduate Philosophy Society*, Durham University, UK, February.
- 'Metaphysics Is Not About Existence Questions', *Eidos – Postgraduate Philosophy Society*, Durham University, UK, May.
- 'On the Epistemic Status of Euclidean Geometry', *Eidos – Postgraduate Philosophy Society*, Durham University, UK, October.
- 'Varieties of Modality I and II', *Problèmes de métaphysique*, The eidos Centre in Metaphysics, University of Geneva, Switzerland, December.

2010

- Comment on Magdalena Balcerak Jackson's paper, 'Intuitions as Inferential Judgments', *Workshop on the A Priori*, Emmy Noether Group, University of Cologne, Germany, May.

2011

- 'Essence and Modality Reconsidered', *Metaphysics Bootcamp*, New York University, USA, April.
- 'The Epistemology of Essence', *Brown Bag Lunch*, New York University, USA, May.
- 'The Modal Basis of Humean Supervenience', *Hume's Metaphysics and Humean Metaphysics*, University of Tampere, Finland, June.
- 'Grounding Modality', Reed College, Portland OR, USA, October.

Teaching Experience

2006–07

- Knowledge and Reality (32 tutorials) (1st year) (Durham)

2007–08

- Critical Thinking (10 seminars) (GCSE) (Framwellgate School Durham)
- Introduction to Philosophy (6 seminars) (A-level) (Framwellgate School Durham)
- Philosophy of Mind (16 tutorials) (2nd year) (Durham)

2008–09

- Knowledge and Reality (16 tutorials) (1st year) (Durham)

- Philosophical Logic (16 tutorials (2nd year) (Durham)
- Philosophical Logic (1 lecture) (2nd year) (Durham)
- Philosophy of Mind (16 tutorials (2nd year) (Durham)
- Philosophy of Mind (5 lectures) (2nd year) (Durham)

2009–10

- Knowledge and Reality (4 lectures) (1st year) (Durham)

2011–12

- Metametaphysics (13 lectures) (2nd-3rd year/postgraduate) (Helsinki)

Supervision

2010–Present

- Ph.D. thesis on the metaphysics of modality

Other Academic Responsibilities

2007–08

Board of Studies Ph.D. student representative (Durham)

2008–10

Member of Research Committee (Durham)

Referee work

Mind, dialectica, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science

Professional organizations

Philosophical Society of Finland

Languages

Finnish	
English	Fluent
Swedish	Satisfactory
French	Basics
Latin	Reading

Computer Skills

OS	Competent in PC environment, familiar with Mac/UNIX/Linux environments.
Programming	dBase, Java, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, SQL, LaTeX.
Office	Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office and OpenOffice packages.
Design	Experience in web and graphics design (e.g. Adobe Design CS5).



Extracurricular Activities

Running, Hiking, Cycling, Photography, Literature, History, Art, Films, Food and Drink, Comedy, Theater, Snooker.