**Celso Neto**

Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology

Centre of Study of the Life Sciences (EGENIS) C.Alves-Neto@exeter.ac.uk

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**AREAS OF INVESTIGATION**

Specialization: Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Race, General Philosophy of Science

Competence: Applied Ethics, Mind, Metaphysics

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

***Associate Professor****,* University of Exeter, United Kingdom 2025-

Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology

***Lecturer****,* University of Exeter, United Kingdom 2022-2025

Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology

***Postdoctoral Research Fellow***, Dalhousie University, Canada 2020-2021

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Department of Philosophy

***Instructor*** *(fixed term)*, University of Calgary, Canada Summer 2018 and 2019

Department of Philosophy

**Instructor** *(fixed term)*, Instituto Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil Spring 2013

**EDUCATION**

***PhD****,* Philosophy 2020

University of Calgary, Canada

Dissertation: *Biological Lineages in Philosophical Focus* supervised by Marc Ereshefsky

***Doctoral Researcher,*** Philosophy 2014-2016

Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

***M.A.***, Philosophy 2013

Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

***B.A. and Licenciatura*,** Philosophy 2009

Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

ERC European Research Council Starting Grant Horizon, €1,499,979.00 2025-2030

New Frontiers in Research Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dalhousie University, 2020-2023

*(effective until Dec 2021 before move to Exeter)* $150,000

German Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship *(awarded but not accepted)* 2020-2023

Bielefeld University, $102,000 EUR

Izaak Walton Killiam Memorial Scholarship, University of Calgary, $60,000 CAD 2019-2021

Izaak Walton Killiam Research Scholarship, University of Calgary, $6,000 CAD 2019-2021

Silver Anniversary Graduate Scholarship, University of Calgary, $20,000 CAD 2018

Eyes High Doctoral Scholarship, University of Calgary, $3,500 CAD 2018

The Graduate College Scholarship, University of Calgary, $4,500 CAD 2016-2019

Philosophy Graduate Essay Prize, University of Calgary, $2,500 CAD 2018

Speaker Series Project Support Grant, University of Calgary, $4,500 CAD 2017-2018

Academic Project Support Grant, University of Calgary, $1,500 CAD 2017

Templeton Foundation Stipend, University of Minnesota, $3,500 CAD 2017

FGS Travel Award, University of Calgary, $1,000 CAD 2017

DAAD/CAPES/CNPq Brazil-Germany Doctoral scholarship, $36,000 EUR 2014-2016

DAAD German Winterkurs Scholarship, Duisburg-Essen University, $2,000 EUR 2012

CNPq M.A Scholarship, Federal University of Minas Gerais, $28,000 BRL 2011-2013

**MONOGRAPHS**

**1. Neto, C**., (under contract) Race and Genomics. Cambridge Elements in the Philosophy of Biology. Cambridge University Press.

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

**2. Neto, C.,** (forthcoming) The Risk of Biological Races. *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*

**3**. Dupré, J., Güttinger, S., & **Neto, C**., (forthcoming) Genomics and Postgenomics. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

**4.** Haddad, Y. & **Neto, C**., (forthcoming) Values in Human Genomics. *Routledge Handbook of Values and Science*

**5. Neto, C**., & Meynell, L. (2023) Scaffold: A Causal Concept for Evolutionary Explanations. *Philosophy of Science* DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/psa.2023.14

**6. Neto, C**., Meynell, L., & Jones, T. C. (2023). Scaffolds and Scaffolding: An Explanatory Strategy in Evolutionary Biology.*Biology & Philosophy.* [https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-023-09897-y](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1007%2Fs10539-023-09897-y&data=05%7C01%7CC.Alves-Neto%40exeter.ac.uk%7C2bc03fdaef8b41b73b0508db142af6a3%7C912a5d77fb984eeeaf321334d8f04a53%7C0%7C0%7C638125947243903352%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iQhg0dBZL7m2RTpk5ky9OcRsFF2VpneaxL1wZnVpMhc%3D&reserved=0)

**7.** Jones, Christopher, Meynell, L., **Neto, C.,** et al. (2023). The role of the ecological scaffold in the origin and maintenance of whole-group trait altruism in microbial populations. *BMC Ecology and Evolution.*

**8. Neto, C**., & Doolittle, F. (2022) A chemostat model for evolution by persistence: clade selection and its explanatory autonomy. *Philosophy of Science* DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/psa.2022.11

**9. Neto, C.** (2021) From Idealization to Social Practices in Science: The Case of Phylogenetic Trees. *Synthese DOI:* 10.1007/s11229-021-03271-9

**10. Neto, C.** (2020) When Imprecision is a Good Thing, or How Imprecise Concepts Facilitate Integration in Biology. *Biology & Philosophy* 35, 58 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-020-09774-y

**11. Neto, C.** (2019) What is a Lineage? *Philosophy of Science* 86(5) 1099-1110. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1086/705511

**12. Neto, C.** (2016) Rethinking Species Cohesion and Individuality *Biological Theory 11*(3), 138-149.

**13. Neto, C.** (2012) Individuals or Natural Kinds? On David Hull’s account of the metaphysics of species

*Rumos da Epistemologia, vol.11, 219-234*. (*In Portuguese*)

**14. Neto, C.** (2011) Questioning the role of species cohesion in David Hull’s species-as-individuals thesis.

*História e Filosofia da Biologia*, 6 (2), 189-209. (*In Portuguese*)

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

**15. Neto, C.** (2014) Translation from German to Brazilian Portuguese: Hoyningen-Huene, P and Oberheim, E. “Neues zu Feyeabend”. In: Abrahao, L. (ed.) Kuhn, Feyerabend e incomensurabilidade. Unisinos.

**16. Neto, C.** (2012) Molecular Biology, Reductionism, and Multiple Realizability. *Proceedings to Segundo Colóquio Internacional do NEPC,* BH, Brazil (*In Portuguese*)

**INVITED TALKS** *(full list available upon request)*

“The Return of Biological Races?”

University of Warwick, UK, July 2025

“Has Population Genetics moved away from Typological Thinking?

University of Leuven, Belgium, June 2025

University of Oviedo, Spain, May 2025

“Philosophy of Biology: Past, Present, and Future”

Federal University of Bahia, Brazil, May 2025

“Individuating Human Lineages”

University of Oviedo, Spain, February 2024

“Metaphors in Science: The case of ‘Scaffolding’”

Queen's University Belfast, UK, March 2023

“The Risk of Biological Race Realism”

Philosophy Talk Series, Open University UK, April 2022

“Evolutionary Scaffolds: Articulating Processes in Evolutionary Explanations”

Department of Philosophy, Dalhousie University, May 2021

“What Is It that Evolves?”

Digital Seminar Talk Series, Lisbon University, April 2021

“When Imprecision is a Good Thing”

Department of Philosophy, Dalhousie University, October 2020

“Rethinking the Use of Idealization in Scientific Practice: The case of Phylogenetic Trees”

University of Massachusetts Lowell, June 2021

“What is a Lineage?”

Sam Houston State University, April 2020

“There is no Tree of Life – Long Live the Tree of Life”

The Apeiron Society for the Practice of Philosophy, Calgary, January 2020

“Species Cohesion in the Age of Discordance”

Species in the Age of Discordance Conference, University of Utah, March 2017

**CONFERENCE TALKS** *(full list available upon request)*

*Value Trade-Offs and Alignments: The Case of Genomics****\****

PSA – Philosophy of Science Association, New Orleans, November 2024

(\* symposium I organized won the DEI Caucus Prize)

*Individuating Human Lineages*

SPSP, South Carolina, May 2024

*Human Ancestry and Lineage Pluralism*

EPSA - European Philosophy Association Meeting, Serbia, Sept 2023

*Some Paraphyletic Groups are Real* (with Adrian Currie)

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology July 2023

Toronto, Canada

*Scaffold: A Causal Concept for Evolutionary Biology*

PSA - Philosophy of Science Association, Pittsburgh, November 2022

*The Risk of Biological Race Realism*

IHPS, Leeds University, UK, June 2022

EGENIS Seminar, University of Exeter, March 2022

*Selection by Persistence and the Possibility of Gaia*

Atlantic Region Philosophical Association, Mount Allison University, October 2021

*Scaffolding: Articulating Processes in Evolutionary Explanations*

Science of The Origins, University of Belgrade, June 2021

*What Is It that Evolves?*

International Society of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences of Biology, July 2021

*The Metaphysics of Race meets Inductive Risk: Challenging the New Biological Race Realism*

Philosophy of Science Association, Baltimore, November 2021

Ancestry Workshop, University of Pittsburgh, January 2021

*Rethinking the Use of Idealization in Scientific Practice: The case of Phylogenetic Trees*

Philosophy of Biology at the Mountains, University of Utah, June 2020

*The Evolution of Multicellularity and Lineage Pluralism*

International Society of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences of Biology, Oslo, July 2019

*What is a Lineage?*

APA - American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, Vancouver, April 2019

PSA - Philosophy of Science Association, Seattle, November 2018

Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary, October 2018

*Species Cohesion in the Age of Discordance*

International Society of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences of Biology, Sao Paulo, July 2017

*Genealogy and Evolvability*

PSA - Philosophy of Science Association, Atlanta, November 2016

Philosophy of Biology at Madison, University of Wisconsin-Maddison, May 2016

*Lineages as Units of Evolvability*

International Society of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences of Biology, Montreal, July 2015

*Lineages and Identity: a critique of de Queiroz's solution to the Species Problem*

Congress of Logic Methodology and Philosophy of Science, Helsinki, August 2015

International Society of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences of Biology, Montreal, July 2015

*Cohesion and The Individuality Thesis*

International Society of History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, Montpellier July 2013

**SUPERVISION**

Lauren Wilson (2025-2030, Postdoc) • Tayyaba Jiwani (2025-2030, Postdoc)

Anish Seal (2024, MA) • Joshua Smit (2023, MA) • Rob Thompson (2022, MA)

**TEACHING**

**University of Exeter, UK**

Philosophy and Sociology of Race Fall 2022, 2023, 2024

Animal Minds and Animal Ethics Spring 2023, Fall 2023 and 2024

The Philosophy of Nature Spring 2022, 2023, 2024

Knowledge, Human Values, and Anti-Science Spring 2024

Social Epistemology (Co-Instructor) Spring 2023

**University of Calgary, Canada**

The Philosophy of Race Spring 2019

Information Technology Ethics Spring 2018

**Instituto Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil**

Introduction to Philosophy of Science Spring 2013

Principles of Scientific Methodology Spring Introduction to Sociology (high school level) Spring 2013

**Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil**

Introduction to Philosophy of Biology (Co-instructor) Spring 2012 and Fall 2013

**Introduction to Philosophy (high school)** Fall 2010

E.E. Nilo Maurício, Brazil

**Teaching Assistant** (University of Calgary)

Mind and World (Metaphysics) PHIL395 Fall 2018

Mind, Matter and God (Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind) PHIL201 Winter 2018

Introduction to Woman’s Studies WMST201 Winter 2017

**TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**University of Exeter**

Certificate in Advanced Study in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education 2024

Dean’s Commendation upon Completion of Academic Professional Program 2024

**University of Calgary**

Speaker at the Philosophy Writing Workshops 2020-2019

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Development Program 2018

RWRD Program: Writing development Program 2017

Graduate Student Teaching Development Program 2016

**Elsewhere**

Philosophy High School Exams Developer, Instituto Avaliar, Brazil 2013

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**ERC – European Research Council**

Volunteer for the Visiting Fellowship Program 2025-

**University of Exeter**

Equity and Diversity Officer at the SPSPA Department and Egenis**\*** 2024-

(Awarded *Above and Beyond Award* 2025)

Member of Leadership/Management Team Egenis 2024-

**Associations and Conferences**

Program Committee Member at the 2024 Philosophy of Science Meeting 2023-2024

Commentator of Templeton Foundation Project “Agency, Directionality, Function” 2023-2024

Program Committee Member at the Annual British Philosophy of Science Conference 2024

Organization Committee Member of “Egenis: 20+2 years” Conference 2024

Program Committee Member at the Annual British Philosophy of Science Conference 2022

Program Committee Member at the International Society of History, Philosophy

and Social Studies of Biology 2021

Student Representative at the International Society of History, Philosophy

and Social Studies of Biology 2017-2019

**University of Calgary**

Member of the Climate and Diversity Committee in the Philosophy Dept 2020

Minorities and Philosophy chapter director 2019-2020

Referee for the University of Calgary Graduate Philosophy Conference 2019-2020

Academic tutor in Doctoral Scholarship Proposal Writing 2019

Adjudicator in Teaching Awards competition 2019

Director of the Philosophy of Science Journal Club 2017-2019

Student Representative in the University of Calgary Philosophy Department 2018-2019

Director of the Graduate Colloquium Seminar 2017-2018

Director of the Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference 2018

Organizer of The Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference 2017

**Federal University of Minas Gerais**

Organizer of Darwin International Conference 2013

Administrator at Contemporary Thinking Studies Program 2009

**REFEREE SERVICE**

*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* • *Nous* • *Synthese* • *Philosophy of Science* • *British Journal for Philosophy of Science* • *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* • *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* • *Biology and Philosophy* • *Biological Theory* • *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* • *Philosophy Theory and Practice in Biology* • *Philosophy and Technology* • *Ecology and Evolution* • *French National Research Agency (France)* • *National Science Center (Poland)*

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

*Philosophy of Science Association* • *European Philosophy of Science Association* • *International Society of History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology*

**LANGUAGES**

English (fluent), German (fluent), Portuguese (native), and Spanish (reading and conversation)

**REFERENCES**

Ford Doolittle (Dalhousie University)

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2, Canada. Email: ford@dal.ca

John Dupre (University of Exeter)

Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology

Centre of Study of the Life Sciences (EGENIS)

Exeter, UK, EX4 4PJ, United Kingdom

Email: j.a.dupre@exeter.ac.uk

Marc Ereshefsky (University of Calgary):

Department of Philosophy, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4  
Canada. Email: [ereshefs@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ereshefs@ucalgary.ca)

Matthew Haber (University of Utah):

Department of Philosophy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT84112

Email: matt.haber@utah.edu

Thomas Reydon (Leibniz Universität Hannover):

Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 30167 Hannover, Germany.

Email: reydon@ww.uni-hannover.de

-------------------------------------------------------August 2025 ------------------------------------------------------------