

Alfonso García-Lapeña

University of Barcelona

LOGOS, Research Group in Analytic Philosophy, UB

GAME.SCI RE.CENTER, Game Science Research Center

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My main research has focused on the concept of “truthlikeness” or “closeness to the truth”, in particular on how to define and estimate truthlikeness for scientific laws. I have also done some work on the nature of scientific laws and on the topic of modal modeling. I am interested in most topics in the general philosophy of science, especially scientific realism, scientific progress, and scientific models. I am also interested in the philosophy of video games and Game Studies.

Education

2016-2021	PhD in Philosophy (Cum laude + International mention)	UB, University of Barcelona
	Title: <i>Truthlikeness for Deterministic and Probabilistic Laws.</i> Supervisor: José Antonio Díez Calzada. Committee: Ilkka Niiniluoto, Carl Hoefer and Theo A.F. Kuipers.	
2015-2016	Master in Analytic Philosophy (Aphil, 20 ETC)	UB, University of Barcelona
2014-2016	Bachelor in Physics (two years, 57 ETC)	UB, University of Barcelona
2012-2013	Master in International Management	ESADE, Universitat Ramon Llull
2010-2015	Bachelor in Philosophy	UB, University of Barcelona
2009-2012	Bachelor in Business Administration	ESADE, Universitat Ramon Llull

Accreditations

23/05/2023	ANECA. Profesor Ayudante Doctor. PAD: 2023-5461
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Participation in Research Projects

2023-2025	Reassessing Scientific Objectivity Universitat de Barcelona. PI: Carl Hoefer, Jose Díez Calzada. (PID2020-115114GB-I00) (<i>Equipo de trabajo</i>)
2017-2020	Laws, Explanation and Realism in the Physical and Biomedical Sciences Universitat de Barcelona. PI: Jose Díez Calzada (FFI2016-76799-P)

Grants

04/25-04/28	Rannís Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant , The Icelandic Research Fund 2025, “Evidence Truthlikeness and Explanation in Science”.
01/23-01/25	Juan de la Cierva Post-doc Grant , Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, NextGenerationEU Supervisor: Jordi Vallverdú (UAB).
05/22-10/22	Short-term Postdoctoral Research Grant 2021 , Society for Applied Philosophy, SAP
2017-2020	FI Postgraduate Grant , Ayudas para la contratación del personal investigador novel. Generalitat de Catalunya. 04/2017 – 04/2020 Supervisor: Jose Antonio Díez Calzada (UB).

Publications

Articles

- In progress* **Truthlikeness for theories formulated in different languages**
- Upcoming submission* **Balance in the Best System Account of Laws of Nature.**
- Submitted* **Absent Rules and Ideological Commitments in Video Games.** Co-authored with David Ferragut (UAB). *Game Studies*
- 2024 **How to Estimate Closeness to the Truth for Scientific Laws. A Case Study of the Development of Gas Laws over 140 Years.** *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. Accepted, January 2024.
- 2021 **Truthlikeness for Probabilistic Laws.** *Synthese* 199, 9359–9389, doi: 10.1007/s11229-021-03206-4.
- 2021 / 2023 **Truthlikeness for Quantitative Deterministic Laws.** *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 74 (3):649-679. First online May 2021, doi: 10.1086/714984.
- **Honourable mention at Popper Prize 2023.**

Books

- Forthcoming* **Pantalla Partida. Un viaje filosófico a través de las contradicciones del videojuego.** David Ferragut and Alfonso García.
- 2019 **Ensayos y Errores. Arte, ciencia y filosofía en los videojuegos.** (*Trials and Errors. Art, science and philosophy in video games*). Co-edited by David Ferragut and Alfonso García. Ed: Anaitgames.

Book Chapters

- 2025 **As I Play Dying. Roles and Possibilities of Death in Video Games.** Co-authored with David Ferragut. In *SecondDeath. Experiences of Death Across Technologies*. Co-edited by Alger Sans Pinillos, Vicent Costa and Jordi Vallverdú. Ed. Springer, book series *Studies in Applied Philosophy, Epistemology and Rational Ethics* (SAPERE).
- 2023 **Nikolaus Geyrhalter y la superposición de estados: Creencia e imaginación en Homo Sapiens.** (Nikolaus Geyrhalter and the superposition of states: Belief and imagination in *Homo Sapiens*). In *Lo que dura una película. Una antología sobre slow cinema*. Co-edited by David Ferragut and Iona Sharp-Casas. Ed. Laertes.
- 2021 **Estimating closeness to the truth for scientific laws.** Actas del X Congreso de la Sociedad de Lógica, Metodología y Filosofía de la Ciencia en España (Proceedings of the X Conference of the Spanish Society of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science: Salamanca). <https://xslmfce.usal.es/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ActasXSLMFCE2021.pdf>
- 2019 **¿Qué es un videojuego?.** (What is a video game?). In *Ensayos y Errores. Arte, ciencia y filosofía en los videojuegos*. Co-edited by David Ferragut and Alfonso García. Anaitgames.
- 2018 **Truthlikeness for Quantitative Deterministic Laws.** Actas del IX Congreso de la Sociedad de Lógica, Metodología y Filosofía de la Ciencia en España. (Proceedings of the IX Conference of the Spanish Society of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science: Madrid) <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/libro?codigo=745458>

Publications for Public Outreach

- Forthcoming* **Antes de los Game Studies.** (Before Game Studies). Co-authored with David Ferragut. *Nivel Oculto*.
- 2019 **Un museo para los videojuegos.** (A museum for video games). Co-authored with David Ferragut. Anaitgames.

Talks

Organized Talks and Conferences

- 2025 **Truthlikeness, Progress and Explanation in Science.** University of Iceland, 1-2 September. Part of the project *Evidence, Truthlikeness and Explanation in Science*, funded by IRF-Rannís.

- 50 Years of Truthlikeness: Past, Present, and Future.** Symposium for EPSA25 (27-30 August). Main organizer. Participants:
1. Gustavo Cevolani (IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca)
 2. Costanza Coloni (University of Cambridge)
 3. Alfonso García-Lapeña (University of Iceland)
 4. Ilkka Niiniluoto (University of Helsinki)
 5. Jakob Süskind (École Normale Supérieure)
- 2024 **Pensar les cosas que (ens) passen.** Conference on approaches to narrative in philosophy, cinema and game studies. Speakers: Miguel Morey, David Ferragut and Alfonso García. 13/03/2024.

Research Talks

- 2025 **Defining Truthlikeness for Rival Scientific Theories.** Reassessing Scientific Objectivity Workshop. University of Barcelona. 9-10 September.
- Chair.** 3rd FICIRE Conference, Red Española de Filosofía de la Ciencia. University of Barcelona. 30-31 October.
- Truthlikeness for Rival Theories Formulated in Different Languages.** *Truthlikeness, Progress and Explanation in Science* Workshop. University of Iceland, 1-2 September.
- Truthlikeness for Rival Theories Formulated in Different Languages.** Part of "50 Years of Truthlikeness: Past, Present, and Future". Symposium, EPSA25 (27-30 August). Groningen.
- 2024 **Modal Modeling.** Scientific Objectivity Workshop. Barcelona. May 2024
- Absent Rules and Ideological Commitments in Video Games.** Logos Seminar. Barcelona. February 2024.
- 2023 **Balance as Similarity to the Utopia System in the BSA.** PSA2023 Around the World. Online. November 5-17.
- Balancing the Best System Account.** EPSA23. Belgrade. 20-23 September.
- 2022 **Balance in the Best System Account of Laws of Nature.** SEFA, Sociedad Española de Filosofía Analítica. Santiago de Compostela. December 14-16 2022.
- Balance in the Best System Account of Laws of Nature.** Logos Seminar. Barcelona. March 2022.
- 2021 **From Laws to Theories: defining closeness to the truth for scientific theories.** GRG Graduate Reading Group seminar, Logos. University of Barcelona. November 2021.
- Estimating closeness to the truth for scientific laws.** X SLMFCE, Salamanca.
- Truthlikeness for probabilistic laws.** BPS 2021 Annual Conference. Online. 6-9 July 2021.
- Balancing the Best Systems Account.** LAWS, EXPLANATION AND REALISM Workshop. University of Barcelona. June 2021.
- (Video) Games as SPP ruled-constituted kinds.** SM, Seminar in Metaphysics. Dan López de Sa (organizer). Barcelona. May 2021.
- It's All About the Rules: an Essentialist and Formalist Model of Games.** Logos Seminar. Barcelona. April 2021.
- 2020 **Truthlikeness for deterministic and probabilistic laws.** Logos Seminar. Barcelona. December 2020
- (Video) Games as SPP constituted kinds.** GRG Graduate Reading Group seminar, Logos. University of Barcelona. November 2020.
- Balancing the BSA.** GRG Graduate Reading Group seminar, Logos. University of Barcelona. April 2020.

- Truthlikeness and Scientific Laws: defining and estimating distance to the truth.** TINT Seminar: Perspectives on Science. Helsinki. March 2020.
- 2019 **Objective distance to the truth.** POND IV: Science and Objectivity. Barcelona. September 2019.
- Scientific laws and closeness to the truth.** EPSA19. Geneva. September 2019.
- Scientific laws and closeness to the truth.** XVI CLMPST. Prague. August 2019.
- What is a Video Game?.** GRG Graduate Reading Group seminar, Logos. University of Barcelona. April 2019.
- 2018 **Truthlikeness for quantitative deterministic laws.** IX SLMFCE. Madrid. 13th-16th November 2018.
- A new defence of Scientific Realism.** GRG Graduate Reading Group seminar, Logos. University of Barcelona. November 2018.
- Truthlikeness for quantitative deterministic laws: new counterexamples and solutions.** VIIème congrès de la Société de philosophie des sciences SPS. Nantes. 4th-6th Jul 2018.
- Truthlikeness for quantitative deterministic laws.** XIX TIF: Taller de investigació filosòfica. University of Barcelona. 26th-27th April 2018.
- Truthlikeness and scientific laws.** GRG Graduate Reading Group seminar, Logos. University of Barcelona. 7th March 2018.
- Truthlikeness and scientific realism.** Workshop of explanation and realism in the physical and biomedical sciences. University of Barcelona. 15th-16th January 2018.
- Talks for Public Outreach**
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- 2026 **Carl Platinga: el documental asertivo.** Aula Deleuze, Ateneu Barcelonès.
- Reglas Ausentes e Ideología en los Videojuegos.** Institut d'Estudis Catalans – IEC.
- 2023 **Filosofia de la ciència: Popper, Kuhn i Feyerabend.** (Philosophy of science: Popper, Kuhn and Feyerabend) Tardes de pensament a l'Espai Betúlia, Badalona. (26/10/23)
- 2022 **Pensamiento ilustrado: razón, libertad y progreso.** (Enlightened thought: reason, freedom and progress). Tardes de pensament a l'Espai Betúlia, Badalona. (10/11/22)
- ¿Juegos o narrativas virtuales? Introducción a la filosofía del videojuego.** (Games or virtual narratives? Introduction to the philosophy of the video game). Centre Civic Convent Sant Agustí.
- Homo ludens: introducción a la filosofía del videojuego.** (Homo ludens: introduction to the philosophy of the video game). Centre Civic Convent Sant Agustí.
- 2020 **Teorías narrativas del videojuego.** (Narrative theories of video games). ACEC, Associació Col·legial d'Escriptors de Catalunya. Barcelona. September 2020.
- ¿Qué pueden aportar los Game Studies?.** (What can Game Studies contribute to?). Fun&Serious 2019 Game Festival, round table. Bilbao. December 2019.
- 2019 **Philosophy of videogames.** Barcelona Pensa 2019. Barcelona. November 2019.
- The trolley problem.** Talk at IES Jaume Almera. October 2018.
- 2018 **The trolley problem.** Talk at Educem. 27th February 2018.

Teaching (401.5h)

University of Barcelona (167h)

- 2025-2026 **Philosophy of science I & II.**
- 9/22-12-22 **Philosophy of science I.** PTA. 360962. Groups A1 and B1. (90h)

10/22	Philosophy of science and technology. PTA. 363797. 1 session. (2h)
11/19	Philosophy of science and technology. PTA. 363797. 3 sessions. (3h)
09/20-12/20	Introduction to logic. PTA. 360906. Practical sessions. (15h)
05/19	Philosophical problems III. PTA. 363783. 2 weeks. (12h)
09/18-12/18	Introduction to logic. PTA. 360906. Practical sessions. (15h)
10/18	Philosophy of science I. PTA. 360962. 3 sessions. (6h)
05/18	Philosophical problems III. PTA. 363783. 2 weeks. University of Barcelona. (12h)
09/17-12/17	Introduction to logic. PTA. 360906. Practical sessions. University of Barcelona. (12h)

University of Girona (12h)

12/01/23	El dilema interactivo. Estructuras narrativas del videojuego. (The interactive dilemma. Narrative structures of video games). Special class for "Comunicació Audiovisual I" course, Grau de Comunicació Cultural. University of Girona. Course 21-22. (3h)
20/12/21	El dilema interactivo. Estructuras narrativas del videojuego. (The interactive dilemma. Narrative structures of video games). Special class for "Comunicació Audiovisual I" course, Grau de Comunicació Cultural. University of Girona. Course 21-22. (3h)
13/01/21	El dilema interactivo. Estructuras narrativas del videojuego. (The interactive dilemma. Narrative structures of video games). Special class for "Comunicació Audiovisual I" course, Grau de Comunicació Cultural. University of Girona. Course 20-21. (3h)
17/12/19	Introducción a la filosofía del videojuego. (Introduction to the philosophy of video games). Special class for "Comunicació Audiovisual I" course, Grau de Comunicació Cultural. University of Girona. Course 19-20. (3h)

Casa Elizalde (222.5h)

Thematic blocks

- **Political and moral philosophy.** 6 courses. **84.5h.**
- **Philosophy of science.** 5 courses. **72h.**
- **Major philosophical themes.** 2 courses. **27h.**
- **History of philosophy.** 2 courses. **24h.**
- **Philosophy of the mind.** 1 course. **15h.**

01/25-04/25	Political and moral philosophy. "Platón desencadenado. Cuestiones de filosofía política, moral y económica contemporánea (2)". ("Plato Unchained: Issues in Contemporary Political, Moral and Economic Philosophy") (13.5h)
09/24-12/24	Political and moral philosophy. "Platón desencadenado. Cuestiones de filosofía política, moral y económica contemporánea (1)". ("Plato Unchained: Issues in Contemporary Political, Moral and Economic Philosophy") (16.5h)
03/24-06/24	Philosophy of science. "¿Qué es esa cosa llamada ciencia? Una introducción a la filosofía de la ciencia (2)". ("What is this thing called science? An introduction to the philosophy of science"). (15h)
01/24-03/24	Philosophy of science. "¿Qué es esa cosa llamada ciencia? Una introducción a la filosofía de la ciencia (1)". ("What is this thing called science? An introduction to the philosophy of science"). (15h)

10/23-12/23	Philosophy of mind. "Consciencia y Libertad. Introducción a la filosofía de la mente". ("Consciousness and freedom. Introduction to the philosophy of mind"). (15h)
01/23-3/23	Political and moral philosophy. "¿Qué coste tiene la libertad? Un acercamiento a la filosofía política, moral y económica (2)". ("What is the cost of freedom? An introduction to political, moral and economic philosophy"). (15h)
09/22-12/22	Political and moral philosophy. "¿Qué coste tiene la libertad? Un acercamiento a la filosofía política, moral y económica (1)". ("What is the cost of freedom? An introduction to political, moral and economic philosophy"). (15h)
04/22-06/22	Major philosophical themes. "Las ideas en disputa: introducción a las dicotomías filosóficas (2)". ("Disputed Ideas: introduction to philosophical dichotomies"). (12h)
01/22-03/22	Major philosophical themes. "Las ideas en disputa: introducción a las dicotomías filosóficas (1)". ("Disputed Ideas: introduction to philosophical dichotomies"). Casa Elizalde, Barcelona. (15h)
09/21-12/21	Philosophy of science. "Ciencia, progreso y verdad: el estado de la ciencia hoy". ("Science Progress and Truth: the status of science today"). (15h)
04/21-06/21	Philosophy of science. "¿Por qué lo llaman ciencia cuando quieren decir filosofía? Introducción a la filosofía de la ciencia". ("Why do they call it science when they mean philosophy? Introduction to the philosophy of science"). (12h)
01/21-03/21	Political and moral philosophy. "Más Platón y menos relativismo. Cuestiones contemporáneas de filosofía política, moral y económica". ("More Plato and less relativism. Contemporary issues in political, moral, and economic philosophy"). (10.5h)
10/20-12/20	Political and moral philosophy. "Yo soy yo... ¿o soy nosotros? Una introducción a la filosofía política, moral y económica". ("I am me ... or am I us? An introduction to political, moral and economic philosophy") (14h)
10/19-12/19	Philosophy of science. "¿Qué es esa cosa llamada ciencia? Una introducción a la filosofía de la ciencia". ("What is this thing called science? An introduction to the philosophy of science"). (15h)
05/19-06/19	History of philosophy. "Introducción a la filosofía del siglo XXI". ("Introduction to 21 st Century Philosophy"). (12h)
03/19-04/19	History of philosophy. "Introducción a la filosofía del siglo XX". ("Introduction to 20 th Century Philosophy"). (12h)

Research stays

2/20-5/20	University of Helsinki , working with Ilkka Niiniluoto (3 months).
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Philosophical Training

Philosophy of Science Reading Groups (annually, every two weeks)

2025	Philosophy of Computation. Data-Driven Science and AI. Convenor: Oriol Roca-Martín
2025	Objectivity and evidence: epistemic / non- epistemic values Convenor: Albert Solé.
2024	Epistemology of AI. Convenor: Albert Solé.
2023	Metaphysics, science and philosophy of science. Convenor: Albert Solé.
2022	Replicability crisis. Convenor: Carl Hoefer
2021	Feminist epistemology/philosophy of science. Convenor: Albert Solé.
2020	Induction and Scientific Realism. Convenor: Carl Hoefer
2019	Real Patterns. Convenor: Manolo García.
2018	Chance & Necessity. Convenor: Jose Antonio Díez
2017	Philosophy of Biology. Convenor: Jose Antonio Díez

PhD Courses

2021	Context and Coherence: The Logic and Grammar of Prominence. Prof. Una Stojnić (Princeton University). June, 8h.
2020	Fiction: Art and Ethics. Prof. Anna Eaton (University of Illinois). June, 8h.
2019	Backgrounded and Inferred Information in Semantics and Pragmatics. Prof. Adam Sennet (University of California). May, 8h.
2018	Doing Philosophy. Prof. Timothy Williamson (Oxford University). June, 10h.
2017	Roads to Reference. Metasemantics of Reference. Prof. Mario Gómez Torrente (UNAM, IIF). May, 8h.

Awards

2024	Popper Prize 2023 (<i>The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science</i>), honourable mention for the article "Truthlikeness for Quantitative Deterministic Laws".
2018	Best contribution of young researchers to IX SLMFCE.

Work Experience Outside Academia

03/16-12/16	Biosystems, analytical systems for laboratories Industry: Pharmaceutical Job position: <i>International Finance Analyst</i> Tasks description: Annual, quarterly and monthly business results analysis	Barcelona, Spain
01/13-06/13	IDESCO, Investigación y Desarrollo de Cosméticos Industry: Cosmetics Job position: <i>External Consultant</i> Tasks description: Brand developing	Barcelona, Spain
01/11-05/11	Banc Sabadell Industry: Banking Job position: <i>Corporate Finance Analyst</i> Tasks description: Annual, quarterly and monthly business results analysis	Sabadell, Spain

Additional Information

2023-2024	Organizer: <i>Philosophy of Video Games</i> Reading Group, Logos. Univerity of Barcelona.
2018-2021	Organizer: <i>GRG Graduate Reading Group seminar</i> , Logos. Univerity of Barcelona.
2018-2019	Organizer: <i>Carta informativa de filosofía</i> . Univerity of Barcelona

2025	Ad hoc referee for <i>Journal of Logic and Computation</i> (x1)
2024	Ad hoc referee for <i>Journal of Logic and Computation</i> (x1)
2024	Ad hoc referee for <i>Cinema - Journal of Philosophy and the Moving Image</i> (x1)
2021	Ad hoc referee for <i>Synthese</i> (x1)

2023-Present	Senior Member of LOGOS, Research Group in Analytic Philosophy
2020-Present	Member of Game Science Research Centre.
2023-2025	Member of TECNOCOG, Technology and Cognition Research Group, UAB
2020-2022	Member of BIAP, Barcelona Institute of Analytic Philosophy.
2016-2022	Student Member of LOGOS, Research Group in Analytic Philosophy.

Lenguajes	Spanish (native, C2); Catalan (native, C1); English (proficiency, C2); French (advanced)
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