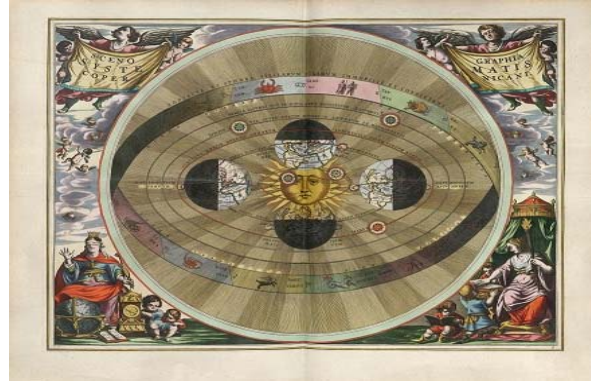




## SYMPOSIUM: CAUSALITY IN EARLY MODERN THOUGHT



**September 28-29, 2013**  
**Acadia University**  
K.C. Irving Centre (KCIC)  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
Canada

This international symposium explores some of the most influential theories of causality of the early modern period, as well as the theories from which they emerged and those they inspired. It covers a broad range of issues pertaining to causality from the scholastic period to Kant, with consideration of their theological and scientific contexts. The discussions will probe current arguments over the extent to which central early modern perspectives on causality may be viewed as developments of, or departures from, the traditions in which they are rooted. The objective is, in part, to explore how the philosophical frameworks of this revolutionary age shaped science in its various historical forms. However, we will also consider specific features of these frameworks that must remain restricted to philosophical enquiry.

**Keynote Speaker: Tad Schmaltz (Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan)**

**Hosted by: The Department of Philosophy, Acadia University**  
**Conference Coordinators: Anna Frammartino Wilks and Ian Wilks**

**Contact: [anna.wilks@acadiau.ca](mailto:anna.wilks@acadiau.ca)**

**Registration Fee: \$50.00 (Full-time, permanent faculty)**  
**No fee for students/part-time faculty/unwaged**

**Deadline for Registration: Sept. 20**

## PROGRAMME

### Saturday, September 28 (Acadia Room, KCIC)

- 12:45 – 1:00 Introductory Comments: Anna Frammartino Wilks  
1:00 – 2:00 Scott Stapleford (St. Thomas University, NB): “Causal Reasoning in Leibniz’s ‘Monadology’”  
2:00 – 3:00 James Hebbeler (Saint Joseph’s University, PA): “Kant on Knowledge of Particular Causal Laws”  
3:00 – 3:30 **Coffee Break**  
3:30 – 4:30 Andreea Mihali (Wilfrid Laurier University): “Agent-causation in Descartes”  
4:30 – 5:30 Brigitte Sassen (McMaster University): “Heuristic Methods: Orientation in the Sensible World”  
5:30 – 6:00 **Coffee Break**  
6:00 – 6:15 Comments on Honoured Speaker: Anna Frammartino Wilks  
6:15 – 7:15 **Honoured Speaker:** Tom Vinci (Dalhousie University): “Kant on the Paralogisms of Pure Reason and Descartes on the *Res Cogitans* and the Causal Principle of the Objective Reality of Ideas”

### Sunday, September 29 (Acadia Room, KCIC)

- 8:45 – 9:00 Introductory Comments: Anna Frammartino Wilks  
9:00 – 10:00 Andrea Sangiacomo (University of Groningen): “The Metaphysics of Determination, from Descartes to Spinoza”  
10:00 – 11:00 Jeffrey Edwards (Stony Brook University): “Physical Influence, Fields of Force, and ‘Matter Everywhere’ in Kant’s Account of the Dynamical Community of Substances”  
11:00 – 11:15 **Trail Walk (Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens, KCIC)**  
11:15 – 11:30 **Light Brunch**  
11:30 – 12:30 Francesca Di Poppa (Texas Tech University): “Spinoza and Maimonides on Causation as Emanation”  
12:30 – 1:30 Timothy Rosenkoetter (Dartmouth College): “Kant’s Account of the Meaning of the Category ‘Cause’”  
1:30 – 3:30 **Lunch**  
3:30 – 4:30 Karen Detlefsen (University of Pennsylvania): “Understanding the Role of Causes in Descartes’ Conception of Living Beings”  
4:30 – 5:30 Daniel Warren (UC Berkeley): T.B.A.  
5:30 – 6:00 **Coffee Break**  
6:00 – 7:30 **Keynote Address:** Tad Schmaltz (University of Michigan): “Descartes’ Critique of Scholastic Teleology”  
7:30 – 8:15 **Reception**

**Session papers will be approx. 30 min. reading time, and will be followed by 30 min. of discussion.**