

# SİNAN ŞENCAN

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**EDUCATION**

Ph.D.	Philosophy	University of Calgary <i>Supervisor: Marc Ereshefsky</i>	2014 - Current
M.A.	Philosophy	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University <i>Supervisors: Nebil Reyhani, Ayhan Sol</i> Degree Completed, January 2014	2011 - 2014
M.S.	Biology	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University Course Work Completed, Degree Not Completed	2012 - 2014
M.A.	Philosophy	Middle East Technical University Course Work Completed, Degree Not Completed Transfer to Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	2009 - 2011
B.A.	Philosophy (Biology Minor)	Middle East Technical University Degree Completed, June 2009	2003 - 2009

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**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**      Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science

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**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**      History of Geometry, Ethics, Environmental Philosophy

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**PHD RESEARCH PROJECT**      Tentative Title: Scientific Pluralism from a Biological Perspective

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**M.A THESIS**      Title: Biological Laws and Philosophical Accounts of Scientific Theories

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**HONOURS**

Eyes High International Doctoral Scholarship	University of Calgary	2014
Cooper H. Langford Graduate Scholarship	University of Calgary	2014
Graduate Courses Performance Award in M.A.	METU	2010
High Honor Roll for high GPA	METU	Spring 2009
Honor Roll for high GPA	METU	Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009

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PUBLICATIONS

**Refereed Journal Articles**

“Antik Yunan Ekininde Kahramanlar ve Ahlaki Değerleri” (Heroes and Ethical Codes of Heroes in Ancient Greece), Felsefe Yazın, 12, 91-96, 2011

**Refereed Conference Papers**

"Koruma Biyolojisi ve Koruma Biyolojisinin Etik Temelleri Üzerine Bir Çalışma" (Conservation Biology and Ethical Background of Conservation Biology) in Ülman, Y.I. and Genç, S.V. (ed.), Bioethics Studies no: 16, 237-243, Istanbul 2012

PRESENTATIONS

**Invited Presentations**

“Holobiont Perspektifinden Biyolojik Birey Problemi” (Biological Individuality Problem from Holobiont Perspective), Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University Philosophy Department, Muğla, August, 2016.

“Biological Generalizations, Biological Exceptions & Philosophical Accounts of Scientific Theories”, 41st Inter University Centre Dubrovnik Philosophy of Science Conference, Dubrovnik, April, 2014.

**Refereed Conference Presentations**

“Biological Individuality from Holobiont Perspective”, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, Calgary, May, 2016.

“Why Do Scientific Laws Tend to Ignore Species?”, The International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Montreal, July, 2015.

“Biology as Exception Ridden Practice and Semantic View of Theories”, Onderzoekschool Wijsbegeerte Conference, Rotterdam, November, 2013.

“Exceptions in Biology and Advantage of Semantic View of Theories”, The Fourth Conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association, Helsinki, August, 2013.

“Life Sciences and Philosophical Accounts of Theories”, The Seventh Quadrennial Fellows Conference of the Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science, Muğla, June, 2012.

**Refereed Poster Presentations**

“Biological Individuality and Pluralism: The Case of Holobionts”, The Philosophy of Science Association, Twenty-Fifth Biennial Meeting, Atlanta, November, 2016

CONFERENCES  
AND  
WORKSHOPS  
(SELECTION)

Invited Participant

Cambridge Bioethics Education Turkey Work Group III. Workshop, Ankara, May, 2014

Participant

GAP 8 Satellite Workshop: Causation and Laws in the Special Sciences. Metaphysical Foundations, Konstanz, September, 2012.

RESEARCH

**University of Calgary**

Research Assistant                      Marc Ereshefsky                      Winter, 2016

Research Assistant                      C. Kenneth Waters                      Winter, 2015

**Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University**

Research Assistant                      Department of Philosophy                      2011 - 2014

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**Teaching Assistant**

Logic I	University of Calgary	Fall, 2015	Dr. Yoshiki Kobasigawa
Critical Thinking	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Spring, 2014	Prof. Dr. Sebahattin Çevikbaş
Modern Logic II	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Spring, 2014	Prof. Dr. Sebahattin Çevikbaş
Modern Logic II	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Spring, 2012	Prof. Dr. Mehmet Elgin
Modern Logic I	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Fall, 2012	Prof. Dr. Mehmet Elgin

**As Co-Lecturer**

Philosophical Concepts II	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Spring, 2012
Philosophical Concepts I	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Fall, 2012

## GRANTS

**University of Calgary**Travel and Tuitions Grants

The International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Montreal, July, 2015.

**Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University**Travel and Tuitions Grants

The 41st Inter University Centre Dubrovnik Philosophy of Science Conference, Dubrovnik, April, 2014

The Fourth Conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA), Helsinki, August, 2013

Cambridge Bioethics Education Turkey Work Group III Workshop, May, 2014

GRADUATE  
SEMINARS  
TAKEN

Natural Kinds, Classification, and Scientific Practice (Audit)	University of Calgary	Marc Ereshefsky	2016
Naturalistic Metaphysics (Audit)	University of Calgary	Marc Ereshefsky and C. Kenneth Waters	2015
Laws Nature & Fundamentality	University of Calgary	Noa Latham	2015
Rationality & Morality	University of Calgary	John Baker	2015
Problem of Evil in Early Modern Philosophy	University of Calgary	Anders Kraal	2015
Epistemology and Science	University of Calgary	C. Kenneth Waters	2014
Free Will & Semi-Compatibilism	University of Calgary	Ishtiyaque Haji	2014
Science and Philosophy (Audit)	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Mehmet Elgin	2012
Molecular Markers and Their Usages	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Belgin Gocmen Taskin	2012
Gene Expression Mechanisms	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Vatan Taskin	2012
Molecular Evolution	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Belgin Gocmen Taskin	2012
Contemporary Problems in Epistemology (Audit)	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Nebil Reyhani	
Kant	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Sahabettin Yalcin	2011
Philosophy of Classical Politics	Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	Erol Kuyurtar	2011
Special Issues in Epistemology	Middle East Technical University	Samet Bagece	2011
Scientific Explanation	Middle East Technical University	Samet Bagece	2010
Advanced Logic I	Middle East Technical University	Ahmet Inam	2010
Theories of Scientific Method	Middle East Technical University	Teo Grunberg	2010
Philosophy of Biology	Middle East Technical University	Ayhan Sol	2010
Studies in Ethics	Middle East Technical University	Halil Turan	2010
Ontology and Philosophy of Mind	Middle East Technical University	John Bolender	2009
Topics in Epistemology	Middle East Technical University	Samet Bagece	2009
Major Philosophers II	Middle East Technical University	Samet Bagece	2009
Studies in History of Science I	Middle East Technical University	Samet Bagece	2008

PROFESSIONAL  
ACTIVITIES

**University Service**

Conference Reviewer and Commentator

The University of Calgary's Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy of Science, Calgary, March, 2015.

Local Organization Committee

The Seventh Quadrennial Fellows Conference of the Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, June, 2012.

Conference Volunteer

Calgary Summit of Philosophy of Science, University of Calgary, Calgary, September, 2014.

Congress of Meaning, METU Philosophy Department, Ankara, December, 2008.

Turkish Congress of Aesthetics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, November, 2006.

2<sup>nd</sup> National Applied Ethics Conference, Middle East Technical University, October, 2006.

Representative Duties

Middle East Technical University Agent for Turkey Philosophy Students Association, 2007; 2008.

**Memberships**

The Philosophy of Science Association

The International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

The European Philosophy of Science Association

Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Marc ERESHEFSKY  
Philosophy Department  
University of Calgary  
ereshefs@ucalgary.ca

Prof. Dr. C. Kenneth WATERS  
Philosophy Department  
University of Calgary  
ckwaters@ucalgary.ca

Prof. Dr. Mehmet ELGİN  
Philosophy Department  
Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University  
[melgin@mu.edu.tr](mailto:melgin@mu.edu.tr)

Prof. Dr. Ayhan SOL  
Philosophy Department  
Middle East Technical University  
[asol@metu.edu.tr](mailto:asol@metu.edu.tr)

Assoc. Prof. Nebil REYHANI  
Philosophy Department  
Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University  
[n\\_reyhani@mu.edu.tr](mailto:n_reyhani@mu.edu.tr)

Assoc. Prof. Samet BAĞÇE  
Philosophy Department  
Middle East Technical University  
[sbagce@metu.edu.tr](mailto:sbagce@metu.edu.tr)

ABSTRACT OF  
M.A THESIS

**Biological Laws and Philosophical Accounts of Scientific Theories**

If there was ever any agreement at all on the question of what laws are, we could say that this agreement was on the claim that whatever else must be true about laws they are strictly universal and empirical. Given these conditions, some philosophers of science argued that distinctively biological generalizations cannot satisfy this requirement. Supporters of this idea defend that biological generalizations violate strict universality criterion because organisms are both historically contingent and too complex. On the other hand, some philosophers think that scientific laws do not need to be empirical; in fact, they argue that life sciences have some a priori generalizations which can be considered as law. Some others suggest that since there are non-strictly universal biological generalizations that can fulfill functions attributed to laws, universality requirement should be reconsidered. Yet others insist that semantic view of theories can be used to develop more fruitful conception for life sciences. I focus on biological exception as an overlooked concept examining biological practice to compare these different positions. I argue that semantic approaches can provide a more fruitful ground than generalization-based approaches.