

Acknowledgements

I experience philosophy and physics the way Cummings experiences poetry: groping about in the blackest night, for ever clearer, dearer light. For their patience, support, and inspiration when I was lost, I thank the speakers and participants in the Cambridge–LSE ‘Philosophy of Physics Bootcamp’, all of whom gave me generous and helpful feedback. These include Andreas Achen, Emily Adlam, Jeremy Butterfield, Erik Curiel, Neil Dewar, Juliusz Doboszewski, Henrique Gomes, Josh Hunt, Klaas Landsman, Joanna Luc, Ruward Mulder, Noel Swanson, and James Wills.

The writing started during the first summer of the COVID-19 global pandemic. I’m grateful to the people who stayed close to me during that unusual time, but especially to my family, to Katarina Prkačin and Jeremy Butterfield for their endless love and encouragement, to Anita Roberts for her committed copy-editing, to the Fenland Fusion, and to Barbara Prkačin for pushing me to the finish line.

Much of this research was done during a magical time while I was a visitor at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and then a Visiting Fellow Commoner at Trinity College, Cambridge. I thank both of these institutions for their support. Both visits were made possible thanks to the generosity of the Philip Leverhulme Foundation through the Philip Leverhulme Prize, of Trinity College, and of my wonderful colleagues in the LSE Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method.

I also owe thanks for the feedback and lessons I received from many people in conversations over the years, who are too many to list but especially include Harvey Brown, Jeremy Butterfield, Craig Callender, Adam Caulton, John Earman, James Ladyman, David Malament, Wayne Myrvold, John Norton, Laura Ruetsche, Giovanni Valente, and David Wallace. Special thanks to Gerhard Hegerfeldt for his correspondence about [Chapter 4](#) and

to James Wills for discussions about the material in [Chapter 6](#). Mary Chase wrote that “in this world, Elwood, you must be oh so smart, or oh so pleasant – well, for years I was smart – I recommend pleasant”. I am lucky to have been supported by people who were both. I hope you all enjoy this work.

