

Daniel Cloud

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**Current Employment: Lecturer, Columbia University
Philosophy Department**

Courses Taught at Columbia

Spring 2016: Philosophy of Science

**2010 – 2015: Lecturer, Princeton University Philosophy
Department**

Courses Taught at Princeton

Fall 2007: What is Life?

Spring 2008: Participated in teaching the core humanities
course

Fall 2008: Philosophy of Biology

Spring 2009: Participated in teaching the core humanities
course

Fall 2009: Participated in teaching the core humanities
course

Spring 2010: Co-taught Philosophy of Randomness and
Extreme Risk with Adam Elga

Spring 2011: Philosophy of Science

Fall 2011: Repeated risk course with Elga

Spring 2013: Cultural Evolution and the Origins of Language

Fall of 2013: Repeated risk course with Elga

Spring of 2014: Taught a reading course on rational choice and evolutionary explanation in economics

Post-Doctoral Work

2007 – 2010 Perkins-Cotsen Fellow in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University

2006 – 2007 Post-Doctoral Researcher, Institute for Biocomplexity and Informatics, University of Alberta-Calgary

Education

1998 - 2006 – Ph.D. with distinction, Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Thesis title: “Schrödinger’s Crystal”. Advisor: Dr. Philip Kitcher. The thesis examined issues in the philosophical foundations of molecular biology first raised by Erwin Schrödinger in *What is Life?*

1989 – 90, 1993 Completed three semesters of a four-semester Masters in International Relations at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, studying economics and political science. Left to start a fund management company when privatization began in Russia.

1983 – B.A., Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut

Research Interests

My philosophical interests revolve around the philosophy of biology and the social sciences. I’m interested in questions about the nature of life, cultural evolution, the origins of

language, human nature, aesthetics, and the evolution of the brain and the mind.

Because I spent a large part of my life before getting my doctorate as a witness to the political and economic transformation of China and the former Soviet Union, I'm also interested in political philosophy and the philosophical foundations of economics.

What ties the interest in biology and the interest in social behavior together is the fact that they both have things to tell us about human nature; what sort of thing is a person considered as an organism? As a language-user? As a rational agent? And what do these three human roles have to do with each other? Can we come up with a single coherent story about ourselves that includes all three?

Prior Teaching Experience

Summer 2005 – Taught a survey course in the philosophy of biology at Columbia

1984 – 85 – Taught English as a foreign language at Beijing Qinghua University in Beijing

Languages

Mandarin, some Japanese and Russian

Other Work Experience

1993 – 1998 – Founding partner of Firebird Advisors, one of the first fund management companies set up to invest in Russia, Kazakhstan, and the other states of the former Soviet Union.

1990 – 1992 – Analyst, W.I. Carr Securities. Worked for a

British investment bank in Southeast Asia, China and Russia.

1985 – 1989 – traveled around China and the rest of Asia doing various jobs after teaching English at Qinghua. Left to go to Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.

Representative Publications

"Monte Carlo simulation of a simple gene network yields new evolutionary insights." *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, Volume 250, Issue 3, 7 February 2008, Pages 468-474 M. Andrecut, D. Cloud, S.A. Kauffman

Schrödinger's Crystal, Columbia University Thesis, 2006

'Biological information and natural selection.' A chapter in *Information Processing and Biological Systems*. Springer, 2011

The Domestication of Language – Columbia University Press, 2014