

Mark Nader Basafa, PhD

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Citizenship: USA & EU

Research Profile

I am a historian and philosopher of science working at the intersection of historical epistemology, Thomas Kuhn studies, and the philosophy of artificial intelligence. My research reconstructs scientific rationality as historically generated, collectively stabilized, symbolically mediated, and professionally transmitted.

Areas of Competence

Intellectual history; history of analytic philosophy; history and philosophy of science; historicism; epistemology; Cassirer, Fleck, Wittgenstein.

Education

PhD in Philosophy, University of Vienna, 2025

Completed with distinction / *mit Auszeichnung*

Dissertation: *Kuhn's Harvard and the Resolution of a Historicist Scientific Era in The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

Supervisors: Christian Damböck and Friedrich Stadler. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.25365/THESIS.80455>

Based on original archival research at MIT Distinctive Collections. Dissertation and defense graded *sehr gut*.

MA in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Vienna, 2016

Thesis: *A Theory of Types of Scientific Change and its Kuhnian Application to String Theory*

Supervisor: Richard Dawid. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25365/thesis.42578>

BA in Philosophy, California State University, Long Beach, USA

Mentored by Paul C. L. Tang

Research Experience

Archival Researcher, MIT Distinctive Collections, 2023

Conducted research on Thomas Kuhn's early intellectual development, including Kuhn's marginalia in works by Fleck, Cassirer, and Mannheim. This research supports a historicist reinterpretation of Kuhn's philosophy of science and informs my current work on AI-mediated scientific rationality.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Basafa, Mark Nader. Forthcoming 2027. “Kuhn’s Marginal Cassirer: From Symbolic Forms to Scientific Revolutions.” *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science*.

Basafa, Mark Nader. Forthcoming 2027. “Thomas Kuhn’s Early Engagement with Ludwik Fleck: An Archival Reconstruction.” *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*.

Basafa, Mark Nader. 2026. “Historicizing the Invisible: Cognition and Transformation in Thomas Kuhn.” *Religions* 17(2): 210. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel17020210>

Basafa, Mark Nader. 2025. “Thomas Kuhn’s ‘pre-Structure’ Affinities with A. O. Lovejoy’s Critical Realism.” *HoST: Journal of History of Science and Technology* 19(1).

Articles Under Review/Revision

Basafa, Mark Nader. “Progress through Reorganization: Kuhn, Mannheim, and the Normativity of Scientific Transitions.” Editor Invited, *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science*.

Published Conference Contribution

Basafa, Mark Nader. 2026. “Why Susanne K. Langer Needed Wittgenstein.” In *50 Years Ludwig Wittgenstein Symposium*, Beiträge der Österreichischen Ludwig Wittgenstein Gesellschaft / Contributions of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society, Vol. XXXII, edited by Christian Kanzian, Volker Munz, Joseph Wang-Kathrein, Anja Weiburg. Kirchberg/W.: ALWS.

Basafa, Mark Nader. 2025. “Susanne K. Langer, The Vienna Circle, and The Practice of Philosophy.” In *Feminist Philosophy — Language, Knowledge, and Politics*, Beiträge der Österreichischen Ludwig Wittgenstein Gesellschaft / Contributions of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society, Vol. XXXI, edited by Isabel G. Gamero, Amadeusz Just, and Jasmin Trächtler in cooperation with Joseph Wang-Kathrein. Kirchberg/W.: ALWS.

Book Chapter

Basafa, Mark Nader. Forthcoming 2027. “Fleck’s Legacy in Kuhn’s Historicism.” In *Ludwik Fleck and the Historiography of Science: The Theory of Thought Collectives at the Centennial*. Springer.

Selected Conference Papers Accepted/Presented

“Reading History Backward: Kuhn’s Marginal Cassirer and the Epistemology of Historical Reconstruction.” Learning from History: The Philosophies of Historiography And the Historical Sciences. University of Ostrava, Czech Republic, November 27-29, 2026. Accepted.

“From Harvard Hub to Structure: Kuhn and the Resolution of Historicism.” HOPOS 2026, Columbus, Ohio. Accepted.

“Towards a Pedagogical Epistemology of Science.” Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice, Cambridge, UK, July 2026. Accepted.

“The Mechanics of the Historical Production of Normal Science: Kuhn’s Early Concept of Professional Ideology.” Baltic Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, Riga, Latvia, June 2026. Accepted.

“Susanne K. Langer, Early Analytic Philosophy, and the Historicity of Meaning.” Susanne K. Langer Circle Conference, Vienna, Austria, May 2026. Presented.

“Why Susanne K. Langer Needed Wittgenstein: An Early Challenge to Analytic Philosophy.” Wittgenstein Symposium, Kirchberg am Wechsel, 2026. Presented.

“Kuhn’s Cassirer Marginalia: From Symbolic Forms to Scientific Revolutions.” PSA Around the World – Central and Eastern Europe, 2025. Presented.

“Susanne K. Langer, The Vienna Circle, and The Practice of Philosophy.” 45th International Wittgenstein Symposium, Kirchberg am Wechsel, 2025. Presented.

Work in Progress

Basafa, Mark Nader. “Close to Progress, Every Step of the Way: Project Mohole and the Normativity of Scientific Commitment.” Manuscript in preparation for journal submission.

Basafa, Mark Nader. “Why Best Science Becomes Opaque: Hybrid Science and the Non-Naturalistic Metaphysics of Scientific Practice.” Manuscript in preparation for journal submission. *Synthese* Topical Collection: “Against the Grain: Developing the Prospect of Non-Naturalistic Metaphysics of Science.”

Basafa, Mark Nader. *Revolutionizing Kuhn: Historicism, Digital Thought, and the Future of Scientific Progress*. Short monograph project.

Honors and Grants

PhD completed with distinction / *mit Auszeichnung*, University of Vienna, 2025.

NSF Travel Grant for International Travel to HOPOS 2026, Columbus, Ohio.

Dissertation Research Grant, MIT Distinctive Collections, 2023.

Institute Vienna Circle Summer School Grant, 2015, to attend the 15th univie: summer school — Scientific World Conceptions, USS-SWC, “The Computational Turn: Simulation in Science.”