Dispositionalism is the view that causal powers are among the irreducible properties of nature. It has long been among the core competing positions in the metaphysics of laws, but its potential implications for other key debates within metaphysics and the philosophy of science have remained under-explored. Travis Dumsday fills this major gap in the literature by establishing new connections between dispositionalism and such topics as substance ontology, ontic structural realism, material composition, emergentism, natural-kind essentialism, perdurantism, time travel, and spacetime substantivalism. He also puts forward a novel view concerning the precise relationship between causal powers and the fundamental laws of nature. His rich and accessible study will appeal to readers interested in contemporary analytic metaphysics and philosophy of science.

Travis Dumsday is Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies at Concordia University of Edmonton. He has published numerous articles and book chapters on topics in philosophy of science, metaphysics, and philosophy of religion.
DISPOSITIONALISM AND THE 
METAPHYSICS OF SCIENCE

TRAVIS DUMSDAY

Concordia University of Edmonton
For Marc Ereshefsky
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Acknowledgements

The bulk of this manuscript was written during the 2016–17 academic year, when I held the Canada Research Chair in Theology and the Philosophy of Science at Concordia University of Edmonton. I am grateful to the government and taxpayers of Canada for the funding associated with the CRC, and to Concordia’s senior administration (in particular President Tim Loreman and then-VP of Research Manfred Zeuch) for their support and extension of my teaching release. That generous assistance was instrumental in the timely completion of the project. My thanks as well to my department chair, Inhee Cho Berg, for her helpful advice on the ins and outs of navigating the academic monograph market.

Sincere thanks are also due to Neil Williams, who provided extensive comments on an early version of Chapter 5. The material that would become Chapters 6 and 8 was initially completed during a 2010–11 post-doctoral fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill, which was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada. I could not have asked for a more collegial and productive postdoc environment, and I am grateful to Marc Lange for acting as my supervisor and providing me a great deal of helpful input. Various portions of the manuscript have also benefitted from comments received over the years from Jeffrey Brower, Troy Cross, Evan Fales, Thomas Holden, John Keck, Noa Latham, John Roberts, Tuomas Tahko, Steven Weinstein, and audiences at the University of Birmingham (UK), the University of Alberta, and the annual conferences of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, the Canadian Philosophical Association, the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, the American Catholic Philosophical Association, and the American Jacques Maritain Association. Many thanks also to my editor at Cambridge University Press, Hilary Gaskin, both for her insightful feedback and for managing the entire review process with such
promptness and efficiency. Two anonymous referees likewise read the entire manuscript and provided useful comments, for which I am grateful. Of course any remaining errors are solely my own responsibility. Thanks are due as well to Sophie Taylor for helpfully shepherding me through the final production stages with Cambridge.

I should mention too some of the colleagues whose conversation and/or correspondence on issues relating to the metaphysics of science have profited this project and my broader reflections in the field (with apologies to others whose contributions are no doubt slipping my mind just at present): William Bauer, Anjan Chakravartty, Christina Conroy, Sam Cowling, Alice Drewery, Crawford Elder, Cody Gilmore, Tyron Goldschmidt, Elizabeth Goodnick, Andrew Jaeger, William Jaworski, Kathrin Koslicki, Joseph LaPorte, Duncan Maclean, Tarun Menon, Matteo Morganti, Timothy Pawl, Makmiller Pedroso, Vladimir Pitchko, Joshua Rasmussen, Jonathan Schaffer, David Snoke, Erin Stackle, Georg Theiner, Elenor Taylor, Patrick Toner, Matthew Tugby, and Jacob Tuttle. Special thanks to Marc Ereshefsky, who supervised my doctoral dissertation at the University of Calgary and from whom I have learned so much about the vocation of scholarship. With much gratitude I dedicate the book to him.

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Acknowledgements

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