
James Blackmon

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AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Science, Ethics in Science and Technology, Metaphysics, Logic

CURRENT and RECENT APPOINTMENTS

San Francisco State University, 2006—Present, Lecturer
University of California Davis, Summer—Fall 2013, Winter 2015, Lecturer
University of San Francisco, Fall 2014—Spring 2015, Lecturer
Sun Yat Sen University, Summer 2013, Visiting Instructor

CURRENT and RECENT RESEARCH

My work typically involves the physical realization of cognition, computation, and consciousness. I am currently investigating hemispherectomies and their implications in cognitive neuroscience and bioethics.

DISSERTATION

Computationalism and the Putnam-Searle Thesis, Robert Cummins and Paul Teller (Co-Chairs), George Wilson, James Griesemer, and Bruno Olshausen.

EDUCATION

PhD Philosophy, University of California, Davis, 2007
BA Philosophy of Cognition (Humanities Interdisciplinary Degree), University of California, Irvine, 1996
BA English, University of California, Irvine, 1996

GRANTS and AWARDS

- 2013 Overseas Young Chinese Forum Teaching Fellowship for the course, *Writing and Discussing Analytic Philosophy in English*, Sun Yat Sen University, Institute of Logic and Cognition (Awarded, though forfeited due to schedule/travel conflicts)
- 2012 Overseas Young Chinese Forum Teaching Fellowship for the course, *Computational Theories of Mind*, Sun Yat Sen University, Institute of Logic and Cognition
- 2002 Co-writer and co-recipient of NSF Grant 0137255, *Epistemology and the Diversity of Cognitive Systems*
- 1999 Co-writer and co-recipient of NSF Grant 9976739, *Atomistic and Holistic Learning*
- 1998 Co-writer and co-recipient of NSF Grant 9896194, *The Epistemology of Non-Symbolic Cognition*

PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 Hemispherectomies and Independently Conscious Brain Regions, *Journal of Cognition and Neuroethics*, forthcoming 2016.
- 2013 Searle's Wall, *Erkenntnis*: Vol 78, Issue 1, 109-117. DOI 10.1007/s10670-012-9405-4
- 2012 Review of Gerald Vision's *Re-Emergence: Locating Conscious Properties in a Material World*, *Essays in Philosophy*: Vol. 13: Iss. 2, Article 12. DOI 10.7710/1526-0569.1438
- 2012 Naturally Supernatural, with Galen Foresman, *Philosophy and Supernatural*, Wiley-Blackwell, DOI: 10.1002/9781118616000.ch13
- 2010 Representation and Unexploited Content, with Robert Cummins, David Byrd, Alexa Lee, and Martin Roth, *The World in the Head*, Robert Cummins, Oxford University Press. Previously published in *Teleosemantics: New Philosophical Essays*, Graham Macdonald and David Papineau (eds.), 2006, Oxford University Press.
- 2010 Systematicity and the Cognition of Structured Domains, with David Byrd, Martin Roth, R. Cummins, Pierre Poirier, and Georg Schwarz, *The World in the Head*, Robert Cummins, Oxford University Press. Previously published in *The Journal of Philosophy*, 2001, XCVII, No. 4: 167-185.
- 2007 A Dilemma for a Picture of Motion, *Northwest Topics: The Proceedings of the 56th Annual Northwest Conference on Philosophy*
- 2005 Atomistic Learning in Non-Modular Systems, with Robert Cummins, David Byrd, Pierre Poirier, and Martin Roth, *Philosophical Psychology*
- 2005 What Systematicity Isn't: Reply to Wayne Davis, with Robert Cummins, David Byrd, Alexa Lee, and Martin Roth, *Journal of Philosophical Research*
- 2003 The Epistemology of Non-symbolic Cognition: Atomistic Learning and Forgetting, with David Byrd, Martin Roth, Robert Cummins, Pierre Poirier, and Georg Schwarz. Tech. Report Phil99-3, UC Davis

PAPERS IN PROGRESS or UNDER REVIEW

- 2015 Taking Artificial Consciousness Seriously
- 2015 Beyond the Split Brain: Hemispherectomies, Alternately Anesthetized Hemispheres, and Alleged Neural Bridges between Conjoined Twins
- 2015 Minimizing Abuse of Digital Surveillance Systems
- 2014 The Logic of Program Implementation
- 2014 Universal Realization and the Discrete State Requirement
- 2014 Consciousness and Neural Activation

PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 Hemispherectomies and Independently Conscious Brain Hemispheres, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (presentation)
- 2015 Our Many Minds, Neurotherapeutics and Psychosurgery Conference, Insight Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience, Center for Cognition and Neuroethics (presentation, unable to attend)
- 2014 Hemispherectomies and Our Many Minds, Northern California Consciousness Meeting, University of California Davis (poster, unable to attend)
- 2014 On the (Absolute) Relativity of Program Implementation, 42nd Annual Meeting for the Society of Exact Philosophy, California Institute of Technology (poster)
- 2014 On the Relativity of Program Implementation, Foundations of Mind: Cognition and Consciousness, University of California Berkeley (presentation)
- 2012 Searle's Wall, Institute of Logic and Cognition, Sun Yat Sen University (presentation)
- 2011 Searle's Wall, American Philosophical Association, Central Division (presentation)
- 2011 Physical Realizations of Minds, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (presentation)

- 2010 Minds and Material Composition, Northwest Philosophy Conference (presentation)
- 2010 Searle's Wall, North Carolina Philosophical Society Conference (presentation)
- 2009 Physical Realizations of the Mental, Northwest Philosophy Conference (presentation)
- 2009 Commentator for Ali Hasan's Skepticism and Spatial Objects, Northwest Philosophy Conference (presentation)
- 2005 Temporal Parts and the Problem of Motion, Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference (presentation)
- 2004 A Dilemma for a Picture of Motion, Northwest Philosophy Conference (presentation)
- 2004 Semantic Disparity in a Resilient Solution to the Liar Paradox, Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference (presentation)
- 2004 Why does Butch go back? Facing Violence in *Pulp Fiction*, Nammour Symposium, California State University, Sacramento (presentation)
- 2003 Putnam, Computationalism, Humility, Berkeley-Stanford Graduate Conference (presentation)
- 2003 Atomistic Learning in Fully Distributed Systems, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, with David Byrd, Robert Cummins, Martin Roth, Pierre Poirier (presentation)
- 2000 Systematicity and the Cognition of Structured Domains, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, with David Byrd, Robert Cummins, Martin Roth, Pierre Poirier (presentation)
- 1999 Systematicity and the Cognition of Structured Domains, Abstract Poster, 21st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, with David Byrd, Robert Cummins, Martin Roth, Pierre Poirier (presentation)
- 1999 Systematicity and the Cognition of Structured Domains, 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Stanford University, with David Byrd, Robert Cummins, Martin Roth, Pierre Poirier (presentation)

TEXTBOOK EDITORIAL REVIEWS

- 2012 *How to Think about Weird Things: Critical Thinking for a New Age*, 7th Edition, Theodore Schick Jr. and Lewis Vaughn
- 2011 *How to Think about Weird Things: Critical Thinking for a New Age*, 6th Edition, Theodore Schick Jr. and Lewis Vaughn

TEACHING

San Francisco State University. Lecturer. 2006—Present

Minds, Brains, and Computers
 Philosophy of Science
 Ethical Issues in Science and Technology
 Being and Knowing
 Philosophy of Mind
 Critical Thinking
 Pedagogy of Critical Thinking—Special Study
 Introduction to Philosophy
 Applying to PhD Programs
 Physicalism and Phenomenal Concepts—Special Study
 Symbolic Logic

University of San Francisco. Lecturer. 2014—2015

Mind, Freedom, and Knowledge
 Great Philosophical Questions

University of California Davis. Lecturer. Fall 2013, Winter 2015

Introduction to Philosophy of Science
Philosophy of Action (reader)
First-Year Seminar: The Unnatural World

University of California Davis. Lecturer. Summer 2013

Critical Reasoning
Metaphysics

Sun Yat Sen University. Visiting Instructor. Summer 2013

Computational Theories of Mind—Seminar

South China Normal University. Guest Professor from San Francisco State University. Summer 2011 and Summer 2012

Critical Thinking

Mills College. Lecturer, two 1-year appointments. Fall 2005—Spring 2007

Introduction to Philosophy
Formal Logic
Ethics
Environmental Ethics
Philosophy of Religion

California State University Sacramento. Lecturer. Fall 2003—Spring 2005

Critical Thinking
Introduction to Philosophy
Symbolic Logic
Early Modern Philosophy

University of California Davis. Lecturer. Summer 2005

Symbolic Logic

Cosumnes River College. Lecturer. Spring 2005

Introduction to Philosophy
Ethics

University of California Davis. Lecturer. Summer 2003

Metaphysics

REFERENCES

Robert Cummins, Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy, University of California, Davis,
rowbear.cummins@gmail.com

Paul Teller, Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy, University of California, Davis,
prteller@ucdavis.edu

Michael Jubien, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Florida, mjubien@ufl.edu

Michael Wedin, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of California, Davis,
mvwed@ucdavis.edu

Anita Silvers, Chair, Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University, asilvers@sfsu.edu

Marc Joseph, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Mills College, majoseph@mills.edu

Thomas Pyne, Chair, Department of Philosophy, California State University, Sacramento,
pynetf@csus.edu

Richard Schubert, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Cosumnes River College, schuber@crc.losrios.edu