

# Alexander D. Morgan

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Philosophy  
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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Neuroscience.

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Perception, Philosophy of Science, Logic & Computation.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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2015–present     Assistant Professor (Department of Philosophy, Rice University).  
2013–2015        Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Philosophy of Neuroscience Group, Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen).

## EDUCATION

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2014	Ph.D. in Philosophy, Certificate in Cognitive Science	Rutgers University–New Brunswick, USA
2004	B.A. HONS (1st class) in Philosophy	University of Auckland, NZ
2003	B.Sc. in Logic & Computation	University of Auckland, NZ

## DISSERTATION

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TITLE:             *On the Matter of Memory: Neural Computation and the Mechanisms of Intentional Agency.*  
COMMITTEE:     Frances Egan & Robert Matthews (co-chairs), C. Randy Gallistel, Gualtiero Piccinini.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Morgan, A. (forthcoming). Against Neuroclassicism: On the Perils of Armchair Neuroscience, *Mind & Language*.  
Morgan, A. (2019). Pictures, Plants, and Propositions, *Minds & Machines*, 29(2): 309-329.  
Morgan, A. (2018). Mindless Accuracy: On the Ubiquity of Content in Nature, *Synthese*, 195(12): 5403-5429.  
Morgan, A. & Piccinini, G. (2017). Towards a Cognitive Neuroscience of Intentionality, *Minds & Machines*, 28(1): 119-139.  
Morgan, A. (2014). Representations Gone Mental, *Synthese*, 191(2): 213-244.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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- Jul. 2019 “On the Normativity of Episodic Recollection” (*Cognitive Science Colloquium, University of Tübingen*).
- Jul. 2019 “Toward a Phylogeny of Representation” (*The Phylogeny & Ontogeny of Mind and Action, University of Tübingen*).
- May 2019 “On the Normativity of Episodic Recollection” (*Department Colloquium, University of Missouri St. Louis*).
- May 2019 “Implementation as Explanation: Systematicity in the Age of the Brain” (*St. Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association, Washington University*).
- Dec. 2018 “Predictive Processing in Plants?” (*Australasian Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Macquarie University*).
- Dec. 2018 “Gaining Perspective” (*Australasian Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Macquarie University*).
- Jun. 2018 “Gaining Perspective” (*Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Kraków*).
- May 2018 “Gaining Perspective” (*Brain-based & Artificial Intelligence Workshop, Illinois Institute of Technology*).
- Mar. 2018 “Pictures, Plants and Propositions” (*Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, San Antonio*).
- Dec. 2017 “Autonoetic Animals” (*Australasian Society for Cognitive Science, Charles Sturt University*).
- Dec. 2017 “Autonoetic Animals” (*New Zealand Association of Philosophy Conference, Otago University*).
- Nov. 2017 “Autonoetic Animals” (*Workshop on the Philosophy of Cognitive Science, University of Buenos Aires*).
- Sept. 2017 “Autonoetic Animals” (*Cognitive Tea, Department of Psychology, Rice University*).
- Jul. 2017 “Autonoetic Animals” (*Issues in Philosophy of Memory Conference, University of Cologne*).
- Jul. 2017 “Toward a Phylogeny of Representation” (*Department of Philosophy, University of Tübingen*).
- Nov. 2016 Comments on Don Berkich’s “The Problem of Original Agency” (*Southwestern Philosophical Society Meeting, Corpus Christi*).
- Sept. 2016 “Mindless Accuracy” (*Newton Fund Conference on the Philosophies of Mind, Language & Action, University of São Paulo*).
- Dec. 2015 “Naturalizing Perspectives” (*NZ Association of Philosophy Conference, Massey University*).
- Sept. 2015 “Naturalizing Perspectives” (*Cognitive Tea, Department of Psychology, Rice University*).
- May 2015 Comments on Adrian Alsmith’s “Spatial Perspective Without Self-Location” (*Finding Perspective Workshop, MPI for Biological Cybernetics at Tübingen*).
- Dec. 2014 “Constancies: Towards an Integrated Perspective” (*Naturalizing Agency Workshop, University of Tübingen*).
- Nov. 2014 “Constancies: Towards an Integrated Perspective” (*Philosophy of Neuroscience Group Winter Research Forum, University of Tübingen*).
- Oct. 2014 “Constancies: Towards an Integrated Perspective” (*Workshop with Tyler Burge, University of Graz*).
- Oct. 2014 “Mental Action, Predictive Processing, and the Flexibility of Perceptual Content” (*Conference of the German Cognitive Science Society, University of Tübingen*).
- Jul. 2014 Comments on Susanna Schellenberg’s “The Particular Elements of Perceptual Experience” (*Workshop on New Perspectives in the Philosophy of Perception, University of Tübingen*).

Jul. 2014	“Affective Arbitration between Model-Based and Model-Free Learning” ( <i>Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva</i> ).
May 2014	“How (Not) to Naturalize the Mind” ( <i>Philosophy of Neuroscience Group Summer Research Forum, University of Tübingen</i> ).
Feb. 2014	Comments on Wayne Wu’s “Against Division: Consciousness, Information and the Visual Streams” ( <i>Attention to Action Workshop, Forum Scientiarum, University of Tübingen</i> ).
Feb. 2014	Comments on Axel Lindner’s “Attributing Self-Agency to One’s Reaching Movements” ( <i>Markers of Agency Workshop, Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen</i> ).
Dec. 2013	“Representations Gone Mental” ( <i>Porto-Tübingen Workshop on Rationality, Self-Knowledge and Human Agency, University of Porto</i> ).

## SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

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2019	National Humanities Center Residential Fellowship.
2019	Tübingen Reloaded Grant ( <i>University of Tübingen</i> ).
2019	Faculty Initiatives Fund Award ( <i>Rice University</i> ).
2018	Faculty Teaching Release ( <i>Rice University</i> ).
2018	Award for International Collaboration ( <i>Rice University</i> ).
2017-18	Office of the Dean of Humanities Grants ( <i>Rice University</i> ).
2016	Humanities Research Center Faculty Research Grant ( <i>Rice University</i> ).
2015-16	Mosle Research Award ( <i>Rice University</i> ).
2014	Co-recipient of grant for summer school on ‘Action: Philosophical, Psychological and Neuroscientific Perspectives’ ( <i>University of Tübingen Excellence Initiative</i> ), €18,000.
2011-12	Sellon Fellowship ( <i>Rutgers University</i> ).
2010-11	Rutgers Graduate Fellowship ( <i>Rutgers University</i> ).
2009-10	Center for Cultural Analysis Fellowship ( <i>Rutgers University</i> ).
2005-07	Rutgers Graduate Fellowship ( <i>Rutgers University</i> ).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

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2017	Participant in ‘Neural Engineering Summer School’ ( <i>Centre for Theoretical Neuroscience, University of Waterloo, Ontario</i> ).
2014	Participant in ‘International Summer School in Affective Sciences: Emotion Meets Action’ ( <i>Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva</i> ).
2014	Participant in ‘International Summer School on the Neurobiology of Emotions’, with António Damásio and Sabine Döring ( <i>Forum Scientiarum, University of Tübingen</i> ).
2009-10	Participant in year-long interdisciplinary working group on ‘Evidence and Explanation in the Arts and Sciences’ ( <i>Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University</i> ).
2006	Participant in the ‘Theoretical Neuroscience & Complex Systems Summer School’ ( <i>Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies and the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research</i> ).
2005	Research assistant to Dr. Gavin Hunt, studying tool-use in New Caledonian crows ( <i>Department of Psychology, University of Auckland</i> ).
2004	Participant in the ‘ISHPSSB Future Directions in the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Graduate Workshop’ ( <i>University of San Francisco</i> ).
2003 & ‘04	Summer research projects using high-density EEG to investigate dichotic pitch perception and neuronal phase synchronization ( <i>Center for Cognitive Neuroscience and the Department of Physics, University of Auckland</i> ).

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### *University & Departmental Service*

2020	Member: Member: Faculty Task Force on Graduate Student Concerns.
2020	Member: Member: Search Committee for Lecturer in Cognitive Science.
2020–present	Co-Organizer: Rice Effective Altruism Club.
2018–present	Philosophy Representative: Rice Cognitive Science Major.
2017–present	Co-Director: Graduate Placement.
2016–present	Member: Rice University Research Committee.
2016–present	Member: Graduate Admissions Committee.
2015–present	Member: School of Humanities Course Review Committee.
2016–17	Coordinator: Rice Philosophy Colloquium Series.
2015–17	Member: Steering Committee for Rice Neuroscience Major.
2016	Member: Search Committee for Visiting Assistant Professorship.

### *Conference & Workshop Organization*

2018	Organizer, Symposium on ‘The Boundaries of Predictive Processing’ for the Australasian Society for Philosophy & Psychology Conference ( <i>Macquarie University</i> ).
2016	Organizer, ‘Rice Summer Workshop on the Interface Between Perception & Cognition’ ( <i>Rice University</i> ).
2015	Co-Organizer and Faculty Member, Summer School on ‘Action: Philosophical, Psychological and Neuroscientific Perspectives’ ( <i>Forum Scientiarum, University of Tübingen</i> ).
2014	Organizer and Chair, Session on ‘Philosophy & Cognitive Science’ ( <i>APA Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia</i> ).
2014	Organizer, Symposium on ‘Predictive Processing’ for the 12th Biannual Conference of the German Cognitive Science Society ( <i>Cognitive Science Center, University of Tübingen</i> ).
2014	Organizer, Workshop on ‘New Perspectives in the Philosophy of Perception’ ( <i>Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen</i> ).
2014	Organizer, ‘Attention to Action: A Workshop with Wayne Wu’ ( <i>Forum Scientiarum, University of Tübingen</i> ).
2013–14	Organizer of reading groups: ‘Action, Space, and Objectivity’ and ‘Predictive Processing,’ ( <i>Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen</i> ).
2013–14	Organizer, ‘Work in Progress Talk Series’ ( <i>Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen</i> ).
2013	Organizer, ‘Philosophy of Neuroscience Research Forum 2013’ ( <i>Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen</i> ).
2011	Faculty Member, ‘Rutgers-Merck Summer Bioethics Institute,’ a summer enrichment program for disadvantaged high-school students in Newark, NJ.

## *Refereeing*

- BOOKS: MIT Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge.
- JOURNALS: Adaptive Behavior, American Philosophical Quarterly, Biology & Philosophy, Brain & Cognition, British Journal of Philosophy of Science, Communications of the ACM, Journal of Cognitive Science, Minds & Machines, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophical Psychology, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Synthese, Topics in Cognitive Science, Topoi.

## TEACHING & ADVISING

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### *Advising*

- RICE Curtiss Chapman (PhD, neuroscience): Dissertation committee, defended 2019.  
Joshua Reagan (PhD, philosophy): Dissertation committee, defended 2018.  
Tao Wei (PhD, psychology): Outside reader, defended 2016.  
Mahmoud El-Youssef (PhD, philosophy): Dissertation committee, ongoing.  
Waisan Ng (PhD, philosophy): Dissertation committee, ongoing.  
Don Oxtoby (PhD, philosophy): Dissertation committee, ongoing.  
Jamale Nagi (PhD, philosophy): Qualifying committee, 2018.  
Kira Wegner-Clemens (BA Honors, cognitive science): Thesis advisor, defended 2017.
- MACQUARIE Dorian Minors (MRes, cognitive science): External examiner, 2017.
- TÜBINGEN Ferdinand Pöhlmann (PhD, philosophy): Secondary advisor, defended 2015.

### *Graduate Teaching*

- RICE PHIL 512: Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Perceptual Content (Spring '16).  
PHIL 512: Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Information & Intentionality (Spring '17).  
PHIL 512: Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Action, Perception & Objectivity (Spring '18).  
PHIL 542: Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Artificial Minds (Spring '19).  
PHIL 542: Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Content & Consciousness (Spring '20).

### *Undergraduate Teaching*

- RICE PHIL 103: Philosophical Aspects of Cognitive Science (Fall '15, Spring '17, Spring '18, Spring '19, Spring '20).  
PHIL 310: Philosophy of Biology (Fall '16, Fall '17).  
PHIL 352: Philosophy of Psychology (Fall '15).  
PHIL 359: Animal Minds (Fall '16, Fall '17).
- RUTGERS PHIL 201: Introduction to Symbolic Logic (Summer '07, Fall '07, Summer '08, Fall '12).  
PHIL 329: Minds, Machines & Persons (Fall '08, Summer '09, Summer '10, Summer '11).

## *Teaching Assistance*

- RUTGERS      PHIL 104: Introduction to Philosophy, Prof. Martin Bunzl (Spring '08).  
                  PHIL 106: Current Moral & Social Issues, Prof. Larry Temkin (Spring '13).  
                  PHIL 252: The Ethics of Food Choices, Prof. Andrew Egan (Spring '11, Fall '11).

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- 2018–present      Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness.  
2015–present      New Zealand Association of Philosophers.  
2009–present      Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology.  
2008–present      Society for Philosophy and Psychology.  
2008–present      American Philosophical Association.  
2005–08            International Society for the History, Philosophy & Social Studies of Biology.

## REFERENCES

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### *Dissertation*

**Frances Egan**  
Professor of Philosophy (*Rutgers University*)  
[fegan@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:fegan@rci.rutgers.edu)

**Robert Matthews**  
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy (*Rutgers University*)  
[rjm@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:rjm@rci.rutgers.edu)

### *Research*

**C. Randy Gallistel**  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychology (*Rutgers University*)  
[galliste@ruccs.rutgers.edu](mailto:galliste@ruccs.rutgers.edu)

**Gualtiero Piccinini**  
Professor of Philosophy (*University of Missouri–St. Louis*)  
[piccininig@umsl.edu](mailto:piccininig@umsl.edu)

**Hong Yu Wong**  
Professor of Philosophy (*University of Tübingen*)  
[hong-yu.wong@cin.uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:hong-yu.wong@cin.uni-tuebingen.de)

### *Teaching*

**Andrew Egan**  
Associate Professor of Philosophy (*Rutgers University*)  
[andyegan@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:andyegan@rci.rutgers.edu)