

Alexander D. Morgan

CURRICULUM VITAE

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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

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

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

Morgan, A. (forthcoming). Pictures, Plants, and Propositions, *Minds & Machines*.
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

- 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, Illinois Institute of Technology*).
- Mar. 2018 “Pictures, Plants and Propositions” (*Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, San Antonio*).
- Dec. 2017 “Autozoetic Animals” (*Australasian Society for Cognitive Science, Charles Sturt University*).
- Dec. 2017 “Autozoetic Animals” (*New Zealand Association of Philosophy Conference, Otago University*).
- Nov. 2017 “Autozoetic Animals” (*Workshop on the Philosophy of Cognitive Science, University of Buenos Aires*).
- Jul. 2017 “Autozoetic 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*).
- Sep. 2016 “Mindless Accuracy” (*Newton Fund Conference on the Philosophies of Mind, Language & Action, University of São Paulo*).
- Dec. 2015 “Naturalizing Perspectives” (*New Zealand 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” (*A 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” (*Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva*).
- May 2014 “How (Not) to Naturalize the Mind” (*Philosophy of Neuroscience Group Summer Research Forum, University of Tübingen*).
- Feb. 2014 Comments on Wayne Wu’s “Against Division: Consciousness, Information and the Visual Streams” (*Attention to Action Workshop, Forum Scientiarum, University of Tübingen*).
- Feb. 2014 Comments on Axel Lindner’s “Attributing Self-Agency to One’s Reaching Movements” (*Markers of Agency Workshop, Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen*).
- Dec. 2013 “Representations Gone Mental” (*Porto-Tübingen Workshop on Rationality, Self-Knowledge and Human Agency, University of Porto*).
- Nov. 2013 Comments on Sally Linkenauger’s “Perception Viewed as a Phenotypic Expression” (*Body Perception Workshop, Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen*).

SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

2019	National Humanities Center Residential Fellowship.
2018	Faculty Teaching Release (<i>Rice University</i>).
2018	Award for International Collaboration (<i>Rice University</i>).
2017	Office of the Dean of Humanities Grant (<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

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 AFFILIATIONS

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.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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, Topoi.

University & Departmental Service (Rice University)

2018–present Philosophy Representative for Rice Cognitive Science Major.
2017–present Co-Director of Graduate Placement.
2016–present Rice University Research Committee.
2016–present Graduate Admissions Committee.
2015–present Humanities Course Review Committee.
2016–17 Speaker Program Coordinator.
2015–17 Steering Committee for Rice Neuroscience Major.
2016 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 (*Macquarie University*).
2016 Organizer, ‘Rice Summer Workshop on the Interface Between Perception & Cognition’ (*Rice University*).
2015 Co-Organizer and Faculty Member, Summer School on ‘Action: Philosophical, Psychological and Neuroscientific Perspectives’ (*Forum Scientiarum, University of Tübingen*).
2014 Organizer and Chair, Session on ‘Philosophy & Cognitive Science’ (*APA Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia*).
2014 Organizer, Symposium on ‘Predictive Processing’ for the 12th Biannual Conference of the German Cognitive Science Society (*Cognitive Science Center, University of Tübingen*).
2014 Organizer, Workshop on ‘New Perspectives in the Philosophy of Perception’ (*Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen*).
2014 Organizer, ‘Attention to Action: A Workshop with Wayne Wu’ (*Forum Scientiarum, University of Tübingen*).
2013–14 Organizer of reading groups: ‘Action, Space, and Objectivity’ and ‘Predictive Processing’ (*Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen*).
2013–14 Organizer, ‘Work in Progress Talk Series’ (*Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen*).
2013 Organizer, ‘Philosophy of Neuroscience Research Forum 2013’ (*Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen*).
2011 Faculty Member, ‘Rutgers-Merck Summer Bioethics Institute’, a summer enrichment program for disadvantaged high-school students in Newark, NJ.

TEACHING & ADVISING

Advising

- RICE Joshua Reagan (PhD, philosophy): Dissertation committee, defended 2018.
Tao Wei (PhD, psychology): Outside reader, defended 2016.
Kira Wegner-Clemens (BA Honors, cognitive science): Thesis advisor, defended 2017.
Curtiss Chapman (PhD, neuroscience): Dissertation committee, ongoing.
Waisan Ng (PhD, philosophy): Dissertation committee, ongoing.
Don Oxtoby (PhD, philosophy): Dissertation committee, ongoing.
Shaun Colley (PhD, philosophy): Qualifying committee, 2018.
Mahmoud El-Youssef (PhD, philosophy): Qualifying committee, 2018.
Jamale Nagi (PhD, philosophy): Qualifying committee, 2018.
- 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).

Undergraduate Teaching

- RICE PHIL 103: Philosophical Aspects of Cognitive Science (Fall '15, Spring '17, Spring '18).
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).

REFERENCES

Dissertation

Frances Egan

Professor of Philosophy (*Rutgers University*)

fegan@rci.rutgers.edu

Robert Matthews

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy (*Rutgers University*)

rjm@rci.rutgers.edu

Research

C. Randy Gallistel

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychology (*Rutgers University*)

galliste@ruccs.rutgers.edu

Gualtiero Piccinini

Professor of Philosophy (*University of Missouri–St. Louis*)

piccininig@umsl.edu

Hong Yu Wong

Professor of Philosophy (*University of Tübingen*)

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Teaching

Andrew Egan

Associate Professor of Philosophy (*Rutgers University*)

andyegan@rci.rutgers.edu