John Morrison, 10/15/2023

Department of Philosophy   326b Milbank
Barnard College, Columbia University   3009 Broadway
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Areas

Specialization:
Philosophy of Mind (esp. cognitive neuroscience)
Early Modern Philosophy (esp. Spinoza)

Competence:
Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Logic

Education

New York University
PhD, Philosophy, September 2009

University of Pittsburgh
MA, Philosophy, May 2004

Williams College
BA, Philosophy and Mathematics, May 2001

Employment

Barnard College, Columbia University
Professor of Philosophy, 2022-present
Director of Cognitive Science, 2022-present
Chair of Philosophy, 2020-present
Affiliate of Neuroscience and Behavior, 2019-present
Associate Professor of Philosophy, 2018-2022
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2009-2018

Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, Columbia University
Affiliate, Center for Theoretical Neuroscience, 2019-present
Affiliate, 2018-present

Neurobiology and Behavior Program, Columbia University
Mentor, 2019-present

Paris 1: Pantheon-Sorbonne University (December 2015)
Visiting Professor, Philosophy Department

Papers

Articles

"Third-Personal Evidence for Perceptual Confidence"
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research (forthcoming)

"Three Medieval Aristotelians on Numerical Identity and Time"
Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy (2022), v.10, p.153–194.

"Spinoza on Mind, Body, and Numerical Identity,"
Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind (2022), v.2, p.293–336.

"Descartes on Numerical Identity and Time,"
The Australasian Journal of Philosophy (2022), v.100, p.230–246.

"Perceptual Variation and Ignorance"
Synthese (2021), v.199, p.5145–5173.

    ↪ Appendix: `https://doi.org/10.7916/d8-d20y-1g83`

"Perceptual Variation and Structuralism"
Noûs (2020), v.54, p.290–326

"Perceptual Confidence and Categorization"
Analytic Philosophy (2017), v.58, p.71–85

"Perceptual Confidence"
Analytic Philosophy (2016), v.57, p.15–48
*Winner of the 2015 Sanders Prize in Philosophy of Mind

"Triangulating How Things Look"
Mind & Language (2015), v.30, p.140–161

"Anti-Atomism about Color Representation"
Noûs (2015), v.49, p.94–122

"Restricting Spinoza's Causal Axiom"
Philosophical Quarterly (2015), v.65, p.40–63

"Relation Between Conception and Causation in Spinoza's Metaphysics"
Philosophers' Imprint (2013), v.13, p.1–17

"Colour in a Physical World"
Mind (2012), v.121, p.333–373

    ↪ Appendix: `https://doi.org/10.7916/D84J0P02`

Chapters

"Spinoza on Numerical Identity and Time"
A Companion to Spinoza, Melamed (ed.) (2021),
Wiley Blackwell, p.189–203

"Perceptual Variation and Relativism"
Epistemology After Sextus Empiricus, Vogt and Vlastis (eds.) (2020),
Oxford University Press, p.13–47

↪ Appendix: `https://doi.org/10.7916/D8Q546GJ`

"Two Puzzles about Thought and Identity in Spinoza"
Cambridge Critical Guide to Spinoza's Ethics, Melamed (ed.) (2017),
Cambridge University Press, p.56–81

"Truth in the *Emendation*"
Young Spinoza, Melamed (ed.) (2015),
Oxford University Press, p.67–91

Reviews

Valtteri Viljanen's *Spinoza's Geometry of Power*
British Journal for the History of Philosophy (2013), v.21, p.610–613

Raffaella De Rosa's *Descartes and the Puzzle of Sensory Representation*
Mind (2014) v.123, p.1187–1191 (with Elliot Paul)

Unpublished

"Rules for Neurons and Nodes"
Approx. 17,500 words

"Source Invariance and Probabilistic Transfer: A Testable Theory of Probabilistic
Neural Representations" (with Sam Lippl, Raphael Gerraty, Niko Kriegeskorte)
Approx. 18,500 words

Talks (excluding comments)

"Representations for Neurons and Nodes"
New York University, October 2023 (graduate seminar)

"Rules for Neurons and Nodes"
University of Antwerp, March 2024 (colloquium)
Columbia, November 2023 (university seminar)
London Institute of Philosophy, July 2023 (colloquium)
University of Glasgow, March 2022 (PPN colloquium)
University of Texas at Austin, April 2022 (lunchtime talk)
CUNY, October 2022 (cognitive science colloquium)

NYU, March 2023 (mind discussion group)
Columbia, April 2021 (Kriegeskorte lab meeting)

"Spinoza on Mind, Body, and Numerical Identity"
University of Colorado at Boulder, July 2015 (NEH institute)
University of Texas at Austin, October 2015 (conference)
Pantheon-Sorbonne University, December 2015 (colloquium)
UC Irvine February 2016 (scientia colloquium)
UC Los Angeles, February 2016 (informal workshop)
University of Toronto, September 2017 (conference)
NYU, May 2023 (conference)

"Representation in the Brain"
Columbia Center for Theoretical Neuroscience, January 2021 (lab meeting)
Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, September 2020 (conference)

"Probabilities in Perception, Probabilities about Perception"
London Institute of Philosophy, May 2021 (conference on metacognition)

"Inferences in Complex Systems (including Brains)"
MIT, November 2019 (work in progress talk)

"Perceptual Structuralism: Bees and Toads"
MIT, November 2019 (graduate seminar)
Columbia University, April 2019 (neuroscience lab meeting)
Rutgers University, May 2019 (workshop)
Oxford University, May 2019 (colloquium)
King's College London, May 2019 (MMP colloquium)
Pacific APA, April 2019 (invited symposium)

"Perceptual Confidence: Empirical Evidence"
Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, January 2020 (conference)
Inter-American Congress, October 2019 (conference)
Cambridge University, August 2019 (conference)
Ruhr-University Bochum, July 2019 (conference)
University College London, May 2019 (neuroscience lab meeting)
Eastern APA, January 2019 (invited symposium)

"Perceptual Confidence: Implications for Consciousness and Content"
UC Berkeley, March 2017 (conference)
Ryerson University, May 2017 (conference)
Institut Jean Nicod, Ecole Normale Superieure, July 2017 (colloquium)
University of Toronto, September 2017 (group talk)

"Perceptual Structuralism: Objects, Kinds, and Qualities"
    UC San Diego, February 2016 (conference)
    UC Los Angeles, February 2016 (informal workshop)
    University of Bristol, May 2016 (colloquium)
    U of London's Institute of Philosophy, May 2016 (LEM colloquium)
    Oxford University, May 2016 (informal workshop)
    Johns Hopkins University, February 2017 (colloquium)
    Institut Jean Nicod, Ecole Normale Superieure, July 2017 (conference)
    University of Notre Dame (colloquium)

"Two Puzzles about Thought and Identity in Spinoza"
    Pantheon-Sorbonne University, December 2015 (colloquium)

"Perceptual Structuralism" (Formerly "A New Approach to Perceptual Variation")
    Union College, May 2014 (philosophy club)
    Pantheon-Sorbonne University, June 2014 (conference)
    New York University, November 2014 (graduate seminar)
    Yale University, November 2014 (ELLMM colloquium)
    Rutgers University, March 2015 (graduate seminar)
    University of Gothenburg, June 2015 (conference)

"Perceptual Confidence"
    Oxford University, November 2012 (colloquium)
    University of Antwerp, August 2013 (conference)
    University of Texas at Austin, October 2013 (colloquium)
    Duke University, June 2015 (SPP conference)
    University of Oslo, June 2015 (colloquium)
    Cornell University, July 2015 (conference)
    New York University, December 2015 (conference)

"Spinoza on the Nature of Truth"
    Johns Hopkins University, September 2011 (conference)

"Knowing How Things Look"
    CUNY, February 2011 (cognitive science colloquium)
    Columbia University, March 2011 (colloquium)

"Spinoza on Causation and Conception"
    Johns Hopkins University, April 2010 (conference)
    Oxford University, October 2010 (conference)

Postdoctoral Advising
    Raphael Gerraty (Columbia, co-mentor)
    Nedah Nemati (Columbia, co-mentor)

Graduate Advising

Lisa Clark (Columbia, advisor, ongoing)
Andrew Richmond(Columbia, advisor, PhD 2022)
Natalie Hejduk (Columbia, committee, PhD 2021)
Simon Brown (Columbia, committee, PhD 2020)
Jorge Morales (Columbia, advisor, PhD 2018)
Jeremy Wolos (Columbia, advisor, PhD 2016)

Honors

2015 Sanders Prize in the Philosophy of Mind
Annual essay competition open to scholars who are within fifteen years of
receiving a Ph.D., $10,000 prize.

Grants

NSF Fellowship
Granting Agency: National Science Foundation
Purpose: Funds to develop useful and precise definitions of 'representation' and
'inference' for attribution to the brain.
Amount: $298,656

Collaboratory Fellowship
Granting Agency: Columbia's Data Science Institute
Purpose: Funds to develop a course on neural networks with Christos Papadimitriou, a
Columbia computer scientist.
Amount: $100,000

Mellon New Directions Fellowship
Granting Agency: Mellon Foundation
Purpose: Funds for a year-long sabbatical for Spring 2019 and Fall 2019 while I take courses
in neuroscience.
Amount: $205,000

The Sources of Perceptual Intentionality
Co-investigator: Uriah Kriegl (École Normale Supérieure, Institut Jean Nicod)
Granting Agency: Columbia's Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Purpose: Funds for Uriah's visit to Columbia in November 2016, and for me to visit
Institut Jean Nicod in July 2017 (incl. a conference)
Amount: approx. $12,000

Situating Core Analytic Philosophy within the Liberal Arts Curriculum
Co-investigators: Yuval Avnur (Scripps) and Troy Cross (Reed)
Granting Agency: Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges
Purpose: Funds for a conference on teaching courses in "core philosophy" in liberal
arts colleges in Portland, Oregon in August 2016.
Amount: approx. $20,000

Short-Term Alliance Visiting Professorship
 Granting Agency: Columbia's Alliance Program
 Purpose: Funds to visit Pantheon-Sorbonne University in December, 2015.
 Amount: approx. $3,000

Values and Agency. A Franco-American Philosophical Symposium
 Co-investigators: Akeel Bilgrami (Columbia), Chantel Jaquet (Pantheon-Sorbonne University), and Laurent Jaffro (Pantheon-Sorbonne University)
 Granting Agency: Columbia's Alliance Program
 Purpose: Funds for a conference at Pantheon-Sorbonne University in June, 2014.
 Amount: approx. $12,000

Reconceiving Spinoza's God
 Granting Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities
 Purpose: Funds for a sabbatical in 2014-2015 to write a series of connected papers on Spinoza's metaphysics.
 Amount: $50,400