

John Morrison, 2/14/2018

Department of Philosophy
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Areas

Specialization: Philosophy of Mind, Early Modern Philosophy (esp. 17th-century)
Competence: Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Logic

Education

New York University (2004-2009)

PhD, Philosophy, September 2009

Committee: N. Block, D. Garrett, J. Pryor and S. Schiffer (chair)

Dissertation: *Causation, Conception, and Color*

University of Pittsburgh (2001-2004)

PhD Student, Philosophy Department, Fall 2001 until Spring 2004

MA, Philosophy, May 2004

Williams College (1997-2001)

BA, Philosophy and Mathematics, May 2001

Employment

Barnard College, Columbia University (2009-present)

Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department

Paris 1: Pantheon-Sorbonne University (December 2015)

Visiting Professor, Philosophy Department

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.

Memberships

American Philosophical Association (APA), 2009-

Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), 2015-

Courses

2016-17

Fall: Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind (GR9658)
Perception (GU4495)
Spring: Introduction to Logic (UN1401)
Spring: History of Philosophy II: From Aquinas to Kant (UN2201)

2015-16

Spring: Introduction to Logic (V1401)
Spring: History of Philosophy II: From Aquinas to Kant (V2201)
Summer: History of Philosophy II: From Aquinas to Kant (S2201)

2014-15

Summer: Psychology and Philosophy of Human Experience (S2400)

2013-14

Fall: Introduction to Logic (V1401)
Fall: Majors' Seminar: Metaphysics (C3912)
Summer: Metaphysics (S3601)

2012-13

Fall: Introduction to Logic (V1401)
Fall: Psychology and Philosophy of Human Experience* (V2400)
Spring: History of Philosophy II: From Aquinas to Kant (V2201)
Spring: Topics in Metaphysics* (G9515)
Spring: History of Early Modern (at NYU)
Summer: History of Philosophy II: From Aquinas to Kant (S2201)

2011-12

Fall: Introduction to Logic (V1401)
Fall: Psychology and Philosophy of Human Experience* (V2400)
Spring: History of Philosophy II: From Aquinas to Kant (V2201)
Spring: Perception (G4495)
Summer: Introduction to Logic (S1401)

2010-11

Fall: Introduction to Logic (V1401)
Fall: Topics in Early Modern Philosophy (G9670)
Spring: History of Philosophy II: From Aquinas to Kant (V2201)
Spring: Thesis Preparation Seminar (G9990)
Summer: Late Medieval and Modern Philosophy (S3237)

2009-10

Fall: Introduction to Logic (V1401)

Fall: Works-in-Progress Seminar (G9890)

Spring: Topics in the Philosophy of Mind (G4660)

*=co-taught

Advising

Graduate

Vincent Legeay (Paris 1 - Panthou Sorbonne, committee)

James Schelberg (Johns Hopkins, committee)

Simon Brown (Columbia, committee)

Nemira Gasiunas (Columbia, dissertation adviser for five years)

Jorge Morales (Columbia, dissertation adviser, PhD 2018)

Jeremy Wolos (Columbia, dissertation adviser, PhD 2016)

EJ Green (Rutgers, external examiner, PhD 2016)

Chloe Layman (Columbia, external examiner, PhD 2013)

Undergraduate

1 undergraduate thesis

15 major advisees

11 first-year and second-year advisees

Publications

Articles

“Perceptual Variation and Structuralism”

Noûs, forthcoming

“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: “Visual Noise due to Quantum Indeterminacies” (with David Anderson),
Columbia University Academic Commons (2011), <https://doi.org/10.7916/D84J0P02>

Chapters

“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)

Drafts

“Perceptual Variation and Relativism”
(approx. 15,500 words)

“Perceptual Variation and Ignorance”
(approx. 12,500 words)

“Three Medieval Aristotelians on Numerical Identity and Time”
(approx. 10,500 words)

“Descartes and Spinoza on Numerical Identity and Time”
(approx. 11,700 words)

“Spinoza on Mind, Body, and Numerical Identity”
(approx. 15,000 words)

All drafts posted at <http://www.columbia.edu/~jrm2182/>

Talks

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

“Perceptual Structuralism: Objects, Kinds, and Qualities”
UC San Diego, February 2016 (conference, invited)
UC Los Angeles, February 2016 (informal workshop, invited)
University of Bristol, May 2016 (colloquium)
U of London’s Institute of Philosophy, May 2016 (LEM colloquium)
Oxford University, May 2016 (informal workshop, invited)
Johns Hopkins University, February 2017 (colloquium)
Institut Jean Nicod, Ecole Normale Superieure, July 2017 (conference)
Eastern APA, January 2018 (symposium, invited)

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

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

“Perceptual Structuralism” (Formerly “A New Approach to Perceptual Variation”)
Union College, May 2014 (philosophy club)
Pantheon-Sorbonne University, June 2014 (conference, invited)
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, invited)

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

Comments on Rosenthal’s “How to Think about Mental Qualities”
APA, Pacific Division, April 2014 (invited)

“Spinoza on the Nature of Truth”
Johns Hopkins University, September 2011 (conference, invited)

“Knowing How Things Look”

CUNY, February 2011 (cognitive science colloquium)
Columbia University, March 2011 (colloquium)

Comments on Della Rocca's *Spinoza*

APA, Eastern Division, Author Meets Critics, December 2010 (invited)

"Spinoza on Causation and Conception"

Johns Hopkins University, April 2010 (conference, applied)

Oxford University, October 2010 (conference, applied)

Completed Grants

*all co-investigators were equal contributors

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 (Ecole Normale Superieure, Jean Nicod Institute)

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 2014-5 to write a series of connected papers on Spinoza's metaphysics.

Amount: \$50,400

The Psychology and Philosophy of Temporal Perception

Co-investigator: Josh New (Barnard, Psychology Dept.)

Granting Agency: Barnard Mini-Grant

Purpose: Funds for a computer programmer to implement a series of experiments in 2013 about temporal perception.

Amount: \$4,000

Service to the College and University

2017-2018

Emergency Management Committee, Barnard

Committee on Medal of Distinction, Barnard

2016-17

Pre-Health Professions Committee, Barnard

Committee on Medal of Distinction, Barnard

Colloquium Committee, Columbia

2015-16

Placement Officer for Graduate Students, Columbia (spring only)

Pre-Health Professions Committee, Barnard (spring only)

2012-13

New CourseWorks Advisory Committee, Barnard

Graduate Admissions Committee, Columbia

2011-12

Hiring Committee for Assistant Professor, Barnard

2010-11

Colloquium Committee, Columbia

Graduate Admissions Committee, Columbia

Placement Officer for Graduate Students, Columbia

Philosophy Department Webmaster, Barnard

2009-10

Colloquium Committee, Columbia

Graduate Admissions Committee, Columbia

Placement Officer for Graduate Students, Columbia

Senior Thesis Committee, Columbia
Philosophy Department Webmaster, Barnard

Service to the Profession

Organizer

2017 Rutgers-Barnard-Columbia Mind Workshop

Co-organizer: Brian McLaughlin (Rutgers)

Speakers: Derek Brown (Glasgow), Rosa Cao (Stanford), Hedda Hassel Mørch (NYU),
Chris Peacocke (Columbia), Jake Quilty-Dunn (CUNY), and Sebastian Watzl (Oslo)

The Sources of Perceptual Intentionality

Co-organizer: Uriah Kriegel (Jean Nicod)

Speakers: Gabriel Greenberg (UCLA), John Morrison (Barnard), Anna Giustina
(Jean Nicod), Adam Pautz (Brown), Geoff Lee (Berkeley), Uriah Kriegel (Jean Nicod),
Nico Silins (Cornell), Anya Farennikova (Bristol), Susanna Schellenberg (Rutgers)

2016 Rutgers-Barnard-Columbia Mind Workshop

Co-organizer: Brian McLaughlin (Rutgers)

Speakers: John O'Dea (Tokyo), Carla Merino-Rajme (UNC Chapel Hill), David
Rosenthal (CUNY), Bence Nanay (Antwerp), John Simon (NYU), E.J. Green (NYU/MIT)

Situating Core Analytic Philosophy within the Liberal Arts Curriculum

Co-organizers: Yuval Avnur (Scripps) and Troy Cross (Reed)

Speakers: Karen Lewis (Barnard), Troy Cross and Elise Woodard (Reed), Todd
Ganson (Oberlin), Mike Raven (Victoria), Becko Copenhagen (Lewis and Clark),
Adrienne Prettyman (Bryn Mawr), Troy Cross and Anthony Nguyen (Reed)

2015 Columbia & Pantheon-Sorbonne Modern Workshop

Speakers: Chantal Jaquet (Pantheon-Sorbonne), Christia Mercer (Columbia),
Elliot Paul (Barnard), Kathryn Tabb (Columbia), Andrew Janiak (Duke),
Don Garrett (NYU), Eric Marquer (Pantheon-Sorbonne), Nicolas Bouteloup
(Pantheon-Sorbonne), Sandrine Roux (Pantheon-Sorbonne)

2015 Rutgers-Barnard-Columbia Mind Workshop

Co-organizer: Brian McLaughlin (Rutgers)

Speakers: Nicolette Orlandi (UC Santa Cruz), Liz Camp (Rutgers), Neil Mehta
(Yale NUS), Robert Briscoe (Ohio University), Chris Hill (Brown),
Michelle Montague (Texas)

Spinoza's Metaphysics Workshop

Speakers: Don Garrett (NYU), Karolina Huebner (Toronto), Martin Lin (Rutgers),
Alison Peterman (Rochester), Alex Silverman (Chicago)

2014 Barnard-Columbia Perception Workshop

Speakers: Gabe Greenberg (UCLA), Brian McLaughlin (Rutgers), Ian Philips (Oxford), Adrienne Prettyman (Bryn Mawr College), Helen Yetter-Chappell (Bowling Green)

2013 Barnard-Columbia Perception Workshop

Speakers: Berit Brogaard (Missouri, St. Louis), Alex Byrne (MIT), Jonathan Cohen (San Diego), Geoff Lee (Berkeley), Susanna Schellenberg (Rutgers), Nico Silins (Cornell/Yale NUS), James Stazicker (Reading)

2012 Barnard-Columbia Perception Workshop

Speakers: Mazviita Chirimuuta (Pittsburgh), Benj Hellie (Toronto), Eric Mandelbaum (Yale), Farid Masrour (Harvard), Declan Smithies (Ohio State), Wayne Wu (CMU)

2011 Barnard-Columbia Perception Workshop

Speakers: John Bengson (Wisconsin), Geoff Lee (Berkeley), Adam Pautz (Texas, Austin), Susan Schneider (Penn), Susanna Siegel (Harvard)

2010 Barnard-Columbia Perception Workshop

Speakers: Geoff Lee (Berkeley), Chris Frey (U. Chicago), Benj Hellie (U. Toronto), Adam Pautz (Texas, Austin), Susanna Siegel (Harvard), Nico Silins (Cornell)

Referee

Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie (x3)	Philosophical Review (x3)
European Journal of Philosophy	Philosophical Studies (x3)
Journal of Philosophy (x9)	PPR (x2)
Mind & Language	Philosophy Compass
Noûs	Synthese
Oxford Studies in Metaphysics	Theoria
Philosophers' Imprint (x4)	Thought (x2)
Canadian Journal of Philosophy	Philosophical Transactions B
Journal of the History of Philosophy	

Miscellaneous

Evaluator, Philosophical Gourmet Report, 2014-

Area co-editor (with Colin Marshall) for PhilPapers: Spinoza, 2013-

Professionally-related Community Service

Comments on Donald Trump and testimony,
MSNBC Live with Yasmin Vossoughian, December 2017

Comments on Roy Moore and evidence,
MSNBC Live with Yasmin Vossoughian, November 2017

Comments on the color of “the dress,”
MSNBC, NOW with Alex Wagner, March 2015

“Philosophy of Robots”
Center on Brand Leadership, Columbia Business School, March 2015

“Perceptual Variation”
Talk for MFA students, Columbia School of the Arts, October 2014

“Minds and Machines” with Karen Lewis,
Raising the Bar, Housing Works Bookstore Cafe, April 2014

“Spinoza for Smarties”
Barnard Alumnae Association, London, October 2010