

NICHOLAS SILINS

Cornell University
Sage School of Philosophy
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics, Aesthetics, Classical Asian Philosophy

EDUCATION

Oxford University, D.Phil in Philosophy, 2004
Dissertation: *Reasons and Armchair Knowledge*
Supervisor: Timothy Williamson

Oxford University, B.Phil in Philosophy, 2001
Thesis: *Content and Self-Knowledge*
Supervisor: Timothy Williamson

Princeton University, B.A. in Comparative Literature, *magna cum laude*, 1999

APPOINTMENTS

Field Member of Cognitive Science, Cornell University, 2018-present

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Cornell University, 2012-present

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Yale-NUS College, 2013-2016

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Cornell University, 2006-2012

Research Fellow, Australian National University, RISS, Centre for Consciousness,
Jan-July 2007, Jan-July 2009

Bersoff Fellow, New York University, 2004-2006

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 “Attention and Perceptual Justification”, with Susanna Siegel, for A. Pautz and D. Stoljar (eds.) Themes From Ned Block (MIT)
- 2018 “The Evil Demon Inside”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, Early View Online
“The Structure of Episodic Memory: Ganeri’s ‘Mental time travel and attention’”, with Susanna Siegel, *Australasian Philosophical Review* 4: 374-394
- 2016 “Cognitive Penetration and the Epistemology of Perception”, *Blackwell Compass* 11: 24-42
- 2015 “Perceptual Experience and Perceptual Justification”, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
“The Epistemology of Perception”, with Susanna Siegel, in (ed.) M. Matthen, The Oxford Handbook of Perception (OUP)
- 2014 “The Agony of Defeat?”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 88: 505-532.
“Experience Does Justify Belief”, in R. Neta (ed.) Current Controversies in Epistemology (Routledge)
“Consciousness, Attention, and Justification”, with Susanna Siegel, in D. Dodd and E. Zardini (eds.) Scepticism and Perceptual Justification (OUP)
- 2013 “Introspection and Inference”, *Philosophical Studies* 163: 291-315
“The Significance of High-Level Content”, in (ed.) B. Brogaard, special volume of *Philosophical Studies* 162: 13-33
- 2012 “Judgment as a Guide to Belief”, in (eds.) D. Smithies and D. Stoljar, Introspection and Consciousness (OUP)
- 2011 “Seeing Through the ‘Veil of Perception’”, *Mind* 120: 329-67
“Explaining Perceptual Entitlement”, *Erkenntnis*, Online First
- 2008 “Basic Justification and the Moorean Response to the Skeptic”, *Oxford Studies in Epistemology: Volume 2*, also reprinted in (ed.) R. Neta Critical Concepts in Epistemology (Routledge)
- 2005 “Transmission Failure Failure”, *Philosophical Studies* 126: 71-102
“Deception and Evidence”, *Philosophical Perspectives* 19: 375-404

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2018 Review of Sebastian Watzl's Structuring Mind, for *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

“The Evil Demon in the Lab”, under review
“Reading the Bad News about Our Minds”, for *Philosophical Issues* (2019)
“Self-Knowledge and Its Limits”
“Consciousness and Distraction”
“What is the Scope of Aesthetic Experience?”

PRESENTATIONS (excluding job talks)

Comments on Lu Teng's "The Epistemic Insignificance of the Feeling of Presence"

2018 (Oct) NYC-China Epistemology Conference, Fordham University

“The structure of episodic memory: Ganeri’s ‘Mental time travel and attention’”, with Susanna Siegel

2017 (Dec) Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University

Comments on Antonia Peacocke’s “The Special Value of Self-Knowledge”

2017 (Nov) *Introspection and Self-Knowledge*, Universidad Panamericana

“The Epistemology of Experience and Imagery”

2017 (March) *Mental Imagery and Cognitive Penetration*, University of Antwerp

“Self-Knowledge and Its Limits”

2016 (Sept) National Taiwan University, AWPL-TPLC

Comments on Barry Allen’s *Vanishing Into Things*

2016 (April) Pacific APA, Author-Meets-Critics

Comments on Bence Nanay’s *Aesthetics as Philosophy of Perception*

2016 (April) Pacific APA, Author-Meets-Critics

“Reading the Bad News about Our Minds”

2017 (June) *Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills*, Bled, Slovenia

2015 (June) *Defeat and Epistemic Responsibility*, University of St. Andrews

Comments on David Sosa’s ‘What Does it Matter What it is Like?’

2015 (Jan) Sociedad Filosofica Iberica Americana, Huatulco Mexico

“The Evil Demon Inside”

2018 (April) *Introspection and Self-Knowledge*, CSU Chico

- 2017 (Nov) *Introspection and Self-Knowledge*, Universidad Panamericana
- 2017 (Sep) *Epistemology Seminar (Declan Smithies)*, The Ohio State University
- 2017 (July) *Perception Week*, Institut Jean Nicod
- 2015 (Oct) Nanyang Technological University
- 2015 (June) *The Intersection of Epistemology and the Philosophy of Mind*, Bled, Slovenia
- 2014 (Aug) *On the Reliability of First-Person Data*, University of Bergen
- 2013 (Sept) *The New Evil Demon Problem*, University of Geneva

Comments on Keya Maitra's 'Consciousness and Attention in the *Bhagavad Gita*'

- 2013 (Sept) *Mind and Attention in Indian Philosophy*, Harvard University

"What is the Scope of Aesthetic Experience?"

- 2018 (March) *Virtues of Attention: Global Philosophical Perspectives*, NYU-Shanghai
- 2014 (Sep) British Society of Aesthetics Annual Conference, Oxford
- 2014 (Feb) National University of Singapore
- 2013 (Aug) *Perception*, Barnard College
- 2013 (April) Lewis and Clark College
- 2012 (Dec) *Philosophy of Perception and Aesthetics*, University of Antwerp
- 2012 (Nov) Philosophy of Mind and Psychology Research Seminar, Glasgow

"Consciousness, Attention, and Justification"

- 2015 (Feb) *Forefronts of Epistemology*, CAPE, Kyoto University
- 2013 (Sept) UNAM, Mexico City, *Knowledge and Skepticism*
- 2013 (Feb) Central APA (invited symposium)
- 2012 (Nov) University of Leeds
- 2011 (Dec) *The Normative Significance of Consciousness*, Fribourg Switzerland
- 2011 (Oct) University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 2011 (July) Australian National University, RISS, *Perceptual Capacities*
- 2011 (May) University of Geneva, Epistemology of Perception Workshop
- 2011 (April) Harvard University, Attention Workshop
- 2010 (Oct) Brown University, Epistemology Seminar (Scott Sturgeon)
- University of Edinburgh
- Arché, University of St Andrews
- Northern Institute of Philosophy, University of Aberdeen

"The Significance of High-Level Content"

- 2010 (May) Columbia University, *New Directions in Philosophy of Mind*
- 2010 (April) University of Arizona
- Harvard University, Philosophy of Perception seminar
- 2010 (Jan) Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, *Consciousness and Thought*

"Introspection and Inference"

- 2010 (March) Columbia University
- 2009 (Nov) Princeton University
- 2009 (June) Hong Kong Polytechnic, *Towards a Science of Consciousness*
- 2009 (March) Australian National University, RISS

- 2008 (Sept) University of St Andrews, Arché Basic Knowledge Workshop
- “The Agony of Defeat?”
- 2008 (Aug) Dubrovnik, *Consciousness and Thought*
 2007 (May) Australian National University, RSSH, *The Epistemology of Experience*
- “Immediate Justification and Mediated Content” (now “Seeing Through the ‘Veil of Perception’”)
- 2008 (Sept) University of Rochester, Mellon Epistemology Workshop
 2008 (March) University of St Andrews, Arché Basic Knowledge Workshop
 University of Toronto
 2007 (Feb) ANU Kioloa Coastal Campus, *Consciousness at the Beach 2*
- “Mental Causation and the Basing Relation”
- 2007 (May) Australian National University, RSSH
- “Basic Justification and the Moorean Response to the Skeptic”
- 2006 (June) University of Geneva (in French)
 2005 (April) UNC, Epistemology Seminar (Ram Neta)
 2004 (Oct) *Themes from Peacocke*, Columbia University
- “Comments on E.J. Coffman’s ‘Williamson’s Evidence’”
- 2006 (April) Central APA

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editor, *The Philosophical Review*, 2015-present
 Associate Editor, *Episteme*, 2013-2015

EVENTS ORGANIZED

Presuppositions and Perception: Reasoning, Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics
 6/26-7/21, 2016
 Cornell University
 co-organized with Susanna Siegel
 Funded by a grant from the National Endowment of Humanities of \$192, 461

Predictions and Motives in Perception
 9/11-9/12, 2010
 Cornell University, A.D. White House
 co-organized with Susanna Siegel
 Funded by the departments of Philosophy, Psychology, and Cognitive Science

TEACHING

Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Philosophy of Mind, Introduction to Epistemology
Philosophy and Political Thought
Proseminar in Philosophy
Aesthetics: Art and the Mind
Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Self-Knowledge / Perception, Memory, Imagination / Mental
Content)
Topics in Epistemology (Psychology of Belief Formation / Perception / Knowledge and the Danger
of Error)
Topics in Metaphysics (Color and Color Experience / Time and Personal Identity)
Independent Study on Classical Chinese Philosophy

THESIS SUPERVISION

Cornell Undergraduates: Garrett Katz (2006), Peter Devlin (2012), Noam Weinrich (2017), Lorenzo Benitez (2018)

Cornell Graduate Students (ongoing): Alicia Patterson (as primary), Shao-Pu Kang (as primary), Thomas Foerster, Dean DaVee, Zeyu Chi, Lu Zhou, Eve Galvani, Elizabeth Southgate, Alejandro Vesga, August Faller, Sofi Jovanovska

Cornell Graduate Students (now completed): Lu Teng (now at NYU-Shanghai, was primary supervisor), Jonna Vance (now at NAU, was primary supervisor), Ru Ye (now at Wuhan, was primary supervisor), Theodore Korzuhkin, Brent Kyle, Colin McLear, Adam Bendorf, Stephen Mahaffey, Nils Seiler

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

2012-13: *Philosophy and Political Thought*, a year-long sequence for first-year undergraduates that includes Western, Chinese, Indian, and Arabic philosophy

2007-2008: *Sage Seminar*, Cornell University's proseminar in philosophy for first-year graduate students