

Erik Nelson

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Fields of Research Interest

AOS: Philosophy of Animal Cognition, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Education

- 2017 – Present **PhD Candidate (ABD)**, Philosophy, Dalhousie University, Halifax. NS, Canada.
Supervisor: Andrew Fenton
- 2014 – 2017 **MA**, Philosophy, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada.
Thesis: *Logic without Regress: Fodor, Heidegger, and Inferences without Rules*
Supervisor: Gregory Lavers
- 2011 – 2014 **BA Honours**, Philosophy, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada.
Thesis: *Common Sense Knowledge: A Defence of G.E. Moore*
Supervisor: Duncan MacIntosh
- 2009 – 2011 General Arts, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC, Canada.

Publications

A. Articles

- 2020 “What Frege asked Alex the Parrot: Inferentialism, Number Concepts, and Animal Cognition.” *Philosophical Psychology*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 206-227.
- 2016 “Skeptical Symmetry: A Wittgensteinian Approach to Scientific Reasoning.” *Gnosis*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 14-19.

B. Book Reviews

- 2019 “Review of *Damn Great Empires! William James and the Politics of Pragmatism*, by Alexander Livingston.” *William James Studies*, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 94-101.
- 2017 “Human Development and the Extended Mind: Review of *Becoming Human: The Ontogenesis, Metaphysics, and Expression of Human Emotionality* by Jennifer Greenwood.” *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, vol. 23, no. 5, pp. 1092-1093.

C. Other Publications

- 2020 “Animals that can do math understand more language than we think.” *The Conversation*, May 28.

Presentations

A. Invited Talks

2021 “The Grammar of Bird Cognition: Nonlinguistic Concepts, Holism, and Internal Relations.” *Logic and Philosophy of Science Seminar*, Eotvos University, February 26.

B. Conference Presentations

2021 “Chimpanzees in the Space of Reasons: A Semantic Analysis of Chimpanzee Behaviour.” *Normative Animals*, York University, June 18.

2021 “Kantian Morality without Reason: Markers for Moral Endowments in Nonhuman Animals.” *Canadian Philosophical Association, Congress 2021*, University of Alberta, June 1.

2021 “The Grammar of Bird Cognition: Wittgenstein, Corvids, and Nonlinguistic Concepts.” *Canadian Society of the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Conference*, University of Alberta, May 29.

2020 “Kantian Morality without Reason: Markers for Moral Endowments in Nonhuman Animals.” *Canadian Philosophical Association, Congress 2020*, University of Western Ontario, Canceled.

2020 “The Grammar of Bird Cognition: Wittgenstein, Corvids, and Nonlinguistic Concepts.” *Canadian Society of the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Conference*, University of Western Ontario, Canceled.

2019 “What Reason Requires for Morality: A Kantian Approach to Proto-Morality in Nonhuman Animals.” *19th Annual University of Toronto Graduate Philosophy Conference: “Reconstructing Reason: Developing the Concept of Reason through History,”* University of Toronto, November 15.

2019 “Explicit Nonlinguistic Mental Content: Inferentialism, Connectionism & Chickens.” *The Atlantic Region Philosophers Association Annual Conference*, Cape Breton University, October 19.

2019 “The More Speech Objection: Mill, Langton, and Antifa.” *Canadian Philosophical Association, Congress 2019*, University of British Columbia, June 4.

2019 “The Return of Mind Design: Cognitive Science and the Turing/Ashby Debate” (with Darren Abramson). *Canadian Society of the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Conference*, University of British Columbia, June 1.

2018 “The Grammar of Bird Cognition: Wittgenstein, Clark’s Nutcrackers, and Nonlinguistic Concepts.” *The Atlantic Region Philosophers Association Annual Conference*, Saint Francis Xavier University, October 19.

2017 “The Inferences of Tortoises: The Role (or lack thereof) of Logical Rules in Inferential Capabilities.” *The Atlantic Region Philosophers Association Conference*, Saint Mary’s University, October 14.

2015 “Explicating Epistemology: Methodology in Naturalized Epistemology.” *The Third Annual Philosopher’s Cocoon Philosophy Conference*, University of Tampa, November 7.

- 2015 “Explicating Epistemology: Methodology in Naturalized Epistemology.” *The Atlantic Region Philosophers Association Annual Conference*, University of New Brunswick, October 31.
- 2015 “Skeptical Symmetry: A Wittgensteinian Approach to Scientific Reasoning.” *Philosophy and Environment, Science and Policy-Making, Annual GPSA Conference*, Concordia University, April 17.

C. Departmental Talks

- 2019 “A Kantian Argument for Proto-Morality in Nonhuman Animals.” *Philosophy Department Colloquium*, Dalhousie University, November 8.
- 2019 “The Return of Mind Design: Cognitive Science and the Turing/Ashby Debate.” *Philosophy Department Colloquium*, Dalhousie University, May 24.
- 2018 “The Grammar of Bird Cognition: Wittgenstein, Corvids, and Nonlinguistic Concepts.” *Philosophy Department Colloquium*, Dalhousie University, November 2.
- 2018 “Violence Might Be Necessary: Mill, Langton, and Antifa.” *Philosophy Department Colloquium*, Dalhousie University, May 4th.
- 2017 “What Frege Asked Alex the Parrot.” *Philosophy Department Colloquium*, Dalhousie University, May 12.
- 2015 “The Ghost of Thrasymachus: Rationality in Ethics and Economics.” *Concordia Graduate Philosophy Colloquium*, Concordia University, February 20.

Fellowships & Awards

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| 2018 | Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (105 000 CAD) |
| 2017 | Special Provost Alumni Scholarship, Dalhousie University (80 000 CAD) |
| 2016 | Vladimir Zeman Award, Concordia University (300 CAD) |
| 2015 | Chair Research Fund Grant, Concordia University (6000 CAD). |
| 2015 | Rose and Norman Goldberg Graduate Award, Concordia University (1000 CAD). |
| 2014 | Concordia Merit Fellowship, Concordia University (10 000 CAD). |

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record:

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| 2021 | Philosophy 1810 <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> (Winter Semester), Dalhousie University |
| 2018 | Philosophy 2560 <i>Introduction to Cognitive Science</i> (Fall Semester), Dalhousie University |
| 2018 | Philosophy 2560 <i>Introduction to Cognitive Science</i> (Winter Semester), Dalhousie University |

Teaching Assistantships:

2020	Philosophy 1820 <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University
2020	Philosophy 1010Y <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University
2019	Philosophy 1010X <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University
2019	Philosophy 1010Y <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University
2017	Computer Science 3101/Philosophy 2490 <i>Social/Ethical/Professional Issues in Computer Science</i> , Dalhousie University
2017	Philosophy 1010Y <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University
2016	Philosophy 1010X <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University
2016	Philosophy 210 <i>Critical Thinking</i> , Concordia University
2016	Philosophy 201 <i>Problems of Philosophy</i> , Concordia University
2015	Philosophy 214 <i>Deductive Logic</i> , Concordia University
2015	Philosophy 265 <i>Introduction to Metaphysics</i> , Concordia University
2014	Philosophy 214 <i>Deductive Logic</i> , Concordia University

Tutoring Experience:

2017 – Present	Writing Assistant at the Dalhousie Writing Centre
2016	Writing Assistant at the Concordia Aboriginal Resource Centre
2015 – 2016	Writing Assistant at the Concordia Writing Centre

Comprehensive Exams Completed

Ethics

Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Mind

Early Modern Philosophy

Graduate Coursework

Université du Québec à Montréal

Summer School in Cognitive Sciences: The Other Minds Problem/Animal Sentience and Cognition (Audit)

Dalhousie University

Philosophy of Race

Kantian Ethics

Philosophy of Medicine

Logical Theory II

Work in Critical Animal Philosophy

Topics in the Philosophy of Psychology

Philosophy of Animal Cognition (Audit)

Concordia University

Topics in Metaphysics: Concepts

Origins of Contemporary Logic

Advanced Epistemology: Experimental and Naturalized Epistemology

Advanced Political Philosophy: Dignity and Human Rights

Virtue Ethics

Philosophy of Language

Service to the Profession

Conference and Colloquia Organization

2016 Organizer of the *Revolutions: Scientific and Social Graduate Philosophy Conference*, April 1 & 2 at Concordia University.

2015-2016 Organizer of the Concordia Graduate Philosophy Colloquia Series.

Refereeing

Gnosis