

# Matthew Owen

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## EDUCATION

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PhD Philosophy | University of Birmingham, UK | 2018

Dissertation title: Neo-Thomistic hylomorphism applied to mental causation and neural correlates of consciousness

External Examiners: Prof. Dr. Anna Marmodoro (University of Oxford/Durham University)

Internal Examiner: Dr. Henry Taylor (University of Birmingham)

Supervisors: Dr. Nikk Effingham (lead supervisor), Dr. Jussi Suikkanen (co-supervisor)

MA Philosophy | Biola University, La Mirada, CA | 2014

BA History | University of Washington, Seattle WA | 2007

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

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Elizabeth R. Koch Research Fellow for Tiny Blue Dot Consciousness Studies

Gonzaga University | Spokane, WA | June 2018 – September 2020

Lead Advisor of Neuroscience: Dr. Christof Koch (Allen Institute for Brain Science)

Co-Advisor of Philosophy: Dr. Brian Clayton (Gonzaga University)

## CURRENT POSITIONS

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Philosophy Faculty, Humanities Department

Yakima Valley College | Yakima, WA | September 2020 –

Affiliate Faculty, Center for Consciousness Science

University of Michigan Medical School | Ann Arbor, MI | April 2020 –

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

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Adjunct Philosophy Faculty, Humanities Department

Heritage University | Toppenish, Yakama Nation Reservation, WA | Aug. 2015 – May 2018; Jan. 2020 – May 2020

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Cognitive Neuroscience

Bioethics

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Historical Philosophy (Aristotle & Thomas Aquinas)

Philosophical Theology

Metaphysics

## BOOK/MONOGRAPH

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Owen (forthcoming 2021) *Measuring the Immeasurable Mind: Where Contemporary Neuroscience Meets the Aristotelian Tradition*. Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield.

## PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

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Owen (2020) Aristotelian Causation and Neural Correlates of Consciousness, *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy*, 39 (5), 1-12. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11245-018-9606-9>

Owen (2020) The Causal Efficacy of Consciousness. *Entropy*. 22(8). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/e22080823>

Owen (2019) Circumnavigating the causal pairing problem via hylomorphism and the integrated information theory of consciousness. *Synthese: An International Journal for Epistemology, Methodology and Philosophy of Science*, 1-23. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-019-02403-6>

Owen & Guta (2019) Physically Sufficient Neural Mechanisms of Consciousness, *Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience*, 13 (24), 1-14. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnsys.2019.00024>

Owen (2019) Neural Correlates of Consciousness and the Nature of the Mind. In Mihretu Guta (ed.) *Consciousness and the Ontology of Properties*, Routledge, 241-260.

Owen (2019) Exploring Common Ground Between the Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness and Aristotelian Metaphysics, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 26 (1-2), 163-187.

Owen & Dunne (2019) The Son of God and Trinitarian Identity Statements, *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*, 3 (1), 33-59. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14428/thl.v2i3.18413>

Owen (2015) Physicalism's Epistemological Incompatibility With A Priori Knowledge, *Teorema: International Journal of Philosophy*, XXXIV/3, 123-139.

## PEER-REVIEWED PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

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Owen (2020) Conscious Matter and Matters of Conscience: An Opinionated Précis of *The Feeling of Life Itself*. *Philosophia Christi*. 22 (1), 143-154. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5840/pc202022110>

## EDITED RESEARCH JOURNAL ISSUES

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Owen & Sanders, eds. (2019) Special Issue: The Son of God, *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*, 3 (1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14428/thl.v2i3>

## ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

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Owen & Sanders (2019) Editorial Introduction: The Son of God, *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*, 3 (1), 1-2. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14428/thl.v3i1.18423>

### *Public Philosophy*

Owen (2021) Martin Luther King Jr.'s View of Metaethics and Normative Ethics. *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*. <https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/01/18/martin-luther-king-jr-s-view-of-metaethics-and-normative-ethics/>

Owen (2020) Cerebral Organoids: Conscious Subjects or Zombies? *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*. <https://blog.apaonline.org/2020/10/01/cerebral-organoids-conscious-subjects-or-zombies/>

Owen (2018) Dusting Off Dualism? *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*. <https://blog.apaonline.org/2018/12/03/dusting-off-dualism/>

Owen (2017) Does Neuroscience Say Madonna is a Material Girl? *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*.  
<https://blog.apaonline.org/2017/11/08/does-neuroscience-say-madonna-is-a-material-girl/>

## WORKS IN-PROGRESS

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Owen, Discerning a Person's Consciousness and Death: A Thomistic Perspective. Invited chapter in Guta and Rae (eds.), *Taking Persons Seriously: Where Philosophy, Science and Bioethics Intersect*. Due June 1, 2021.

## TEACHING

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Philosophy 210: Logic & Critical Thinking, Heritage University. Taught: F 2015 (2 sections), S 2016 (1 sections), F 2016 (2 sections), S 2017 (2 sections), F 2017 (2 sections), S 2018 (2 classes) S 2020 (1 section\*)

Environmental Science 440: Environmental Ethics, Heritage University. Taught: S 2016 (1 section)

Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy, Yakima Valley College. Taught: F 2020 (1 section\*)

Philosophy 115: Critical Thinking, Yakima Valley College. Taught: F 2020 (1 section\*), forthcoming W 2021 (1 section\*)

Philosophy 112: Ethics and Policy in Healthcare Ethics I (taught with Debra Scheib, MSN, RN), Yakima Valley College. Taught: F 2020 (1 section\*), forthcoming W 2021 (1 section\*)

Philosophy 212: Ethics and Policy in Healthcare II (taught with Carol Milliron, MSN, RN), Yakima Valley College. Taught: F 2020 (1 section\*), forthcoming W 2021 (1 section\*)

Philosophy 315: Business Ethics, Yakima Valley College. Taught: forthcoming W 2021 (1 section\*)

\* symbolizes online due to the coronavirus

## SELECTED CONFERENCE RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

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### Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness

The Science of Consciousness International Conference. Hosted by Collegium Helveticum (University of Zürich, ETH Zürich, Zürich University of the Arts). Interlaken, Switzerland. 28 June 2019.

Tyndale Fellowship Conference 2019: Theology & Science. Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, UK. 24 June 2019.

71<sup>st</sup> Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference. Pacific University: 26 Oct 2019.

### The Sufficiency of Neural Mechanisms of Consciousness (research poster)

Consciousness Research Network 2019 Annual Meeting. Okazaki, Japan. 23-25 Jan 2019.

Tiny Blue Dot Foundation Meeting, University of Wisconsin-Madison. 8 June 2019.

### The Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness & Hylomorphism: Exploring Common Ground

Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. 27 June 2018.

Northwest Philosophy Conference 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Bellevue College: 19 Nov 2018.

#### Neuroplasticity & Consciousness of Neural Correlates (research poster)

NeuroFutures 2016 Conference: Circuit Structure & Dynamics. Allen Institute for Brain Science, Seattle: June 20, 2016. Hosts institutions: Allen Institute, University of Washington, University of British Columbia, Oregon Health Sciences University, Northwest Neuroscience Network.

#### A Hylomorphic Solution to the Causal Pairing Problem

Society of Christian Philosophers - Pacific Meeting. Biola University: 1 Apr 2017.

68<sup>th</sup> Northwest Philosophy Conference. Gonzaga University: 15 Oct 2016.

#### A Reply to Kim's Causal Argument

SoCal Philosophy Conference. San Diego State University: 19 Oct 2013.

#### Physicalism's Epistemological Incompatibility with A Priori Knowledge

65<sup>th</sup> Northwest Philosophy Conference. Pacific University: 5 Oct 2013.

Embodied Reason Philosophy Conference. California Baptist University: 12 Apr 2014.

#### The Trinity & the Meaning of 'Is'

66<sup>th</sup> Northwest Philosophy Conference. Central Washington University: 8 Nov 2014.

Embodied Reason Philosophy Conference. California Baptist University: 12 Apr 2014.

Davenant Institute Convivium Irenicum West. Lake Chelan, Washington: 18 Aug 2017.

#### Environmental Ethics & Theism

Fifth International Conference on Contemporary Philosophy of Religion. University of Tehran, Iran: 24-25 Jan 2017. Presentation cancelled for personal reasons. Abstract published at: [philorconf.org/2017/](http://philorconf.org/2017/).

#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness in Unresponsive Patients. Biosignal Interaction and Personhood Technology Lab, McGill University: January 28, 2021. \*online

Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness in Unresponsive Patients. Center for Bioethics, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile: April 29, 2020. \*online

Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness: Coupling the Mind-Body Powers Model of Neural Correlates and the Integrated Information Theory. Lab talk at Center for Sleep and Consciousness, University of Wisconsin-Madison: 4 June 2019.

The Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness and Hylomorphism. Tiny Blue Dot Foundation Meeting, Medical University of South Carolina: 6 Apr 2018.

Commentary on 'Predictive Processing and Environmental Training: Breaking Bad?' by Dr. Adrienne Cochran.' 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference. Pacific University: 26 Oct 2019.

En-forming Neuroscience. Gonzaga Socratic Club, Gonzaga University: 2 December 2019.

Normative Systems of Ethics. Presentation for Heritage University Ethics Bowl team. February 2017.

An Analytic Remix of C.S. Lewis's Argument from Reason. Talbot Philosophical Society Orientation. Biola University: 26 Aug 2014.

## RESEARCH FUNDING

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2018-2020

Project: Hylomorphism & the Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness

Tiny Blue Dot Foundation Research Fellowship. Value: \$168,000.00 USD

Objective: Investigate common ground between Aristotelianism and the integrated information theory as they relate to the metaphysical possibility of empirically discerning and quantifying consciousness in unresponsive patients.

## CONTINUED EDUCATION: SUMMER SCHOOLS & WORKSHOPS

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Neuroscience School of Advanced Studies. Advanced Course: Consciousness: From Theory to Practice. Coordinator: Giulio Tononi. Island of San Servolo, Venice, Italy. 30 June - 7 July 2018. Participation funded by TBD Foundation.

University of Oxford: Power Structuralism Project. (Neo-)Aristotelian approaches to the metaphysics of the mind Summer School & Conference. Director: Dr. Anna Marmodoro. Naples, Italy: 26 Sept - 2 Oct 2016.

Teaching with Learning in Mind: Practical Strategies for Increasing Student Success in Hispanic Serving Institutions. Yakima Valley College, Yakima, WA: 14 July 2017. Participation funded by ESCALA Educational Services.

## ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION & SERVICE

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### Academic Advising

College of Nursing, Yakima Valley College, Fall 2020

### Committee Service

Compensation Committee, Heritage University, Fall 2016-Spring 2018.

### Assistant Organizer

Fifth Annual California Metaphysics Conference, on Parthood. University of Southern California: 15-16 Jan 2016.

Fourth Annual California Metaphysics Conference, on the Relationship Between Logic and Metaphysics. University of Southern California: 24 Jan 2015.

### Session Chair

American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Eighty-Ninth Annual Meeting. Colloquium: Philosophy of Religion. Vancouver, British Columbia: 4 Apr 2015.

Society of Christian Philosophers – Pacific Meeting. Topic: analytic theology. Biola University: 31 Mar 2017.

Fifth Annual California Metaphysics Conference. University of Southern California: 16 Jan 2016.

Fourth Annual California Metaphysics Conference. University of Southern California: 24 Jan 2015.

65<sup>th</sup> Northwest Philosophy Conference. Pacific University: 5 Oct 2013.

3<sup>rd</sup> Center for Christian Thought Conference: Psychology and Spiritual Formation. Biola University: 9 May 2014.

### Journal article referee for:

*Journal of Consciousness Studies; Frontiers in Psychology; TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology; Philosophia Christi; Religious Studies: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Member (since 2016)  
American Philosophical Association, Member (since 2013)

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Christof Koch  
President & Chief Scientific Officer  
*Allen Institute for Brain Science*

Prof. Dr. Anna Marmodoro  
Chair of Metaphysics  
*University of Durham*  
Affiliate Faculty & Official Fellow in Philosophy  
*University of Oxford*

Dr. Blake Slonecker  
Chair of Humanities Department & Professor of History  
*Heritage University*