# ADHAM EL SHAZLY

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## RESEARCH AREAS

AOS    Epistemology | Ethics

AOC    Philosophy of Mind | Medieval Islamic Philosophy | Early Modern Philosophy

## EDUCATION

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|---|---|
| 2021 – Present | Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Cambridge. |
| | - Primary Supervisor: Alexander Bird |
| | - Secondary Supervisor: Jessie Munton |
| 2021 | MA in Philosophy, Queen's University. |
| | - Thesis: 'The Clarity of Understanding' |
| | - Supervisor: Elliot Samuel Paul |
| 2019 | BA Honours in Philosophy, Carleton University. |
| | - Senate Medal for Outstanding Academic Achievement |

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Under Review    A paper on understanding and testimony.

In progress    'Clarity, Abilities and Grasping.'

MA Thesis    'The Clarity of Understanding'

- *Abstract.* A platitude about understanding is that it involves grasping. But what is grasping? In this thesis, I develop a novel account of grasping that is rooted in phenomenal consciousness. According to this account, grasping is a matter of having a distinct kind of conscious experience: clear perception. Clear perception has a distinct cognitive phenomenology that characterizes it. Call this the *clarity account of grasping*. I go on to argue that the dominant view of grasping in the literature, the ability account of grasping, is false. Using the new clarity account, I argue that grasping is not only distinct from the cognitive abilities associated with understanding, but also explanatory prior to them. Finally, I argue that the clarity account implies that

understanding cannot be transmitted through testimony, because clear perception cannot be acquired on the basis of testimony. As such, clear perception plays key cognitive and epistemic roles in understanding and coming to understand.

## WORKSHOPS & SUMMER SCHOOLS

2020    Logic and Philosophy of Science Summer Program, University of California, Irvine. (Cancelled due to Covid-19.)

2019    Pittsburgh Summer Program in Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh.

## PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

- *Presentations*

2021    "The Clarity Account of Grasping"
Postgraduate Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge.

"Clarity, Abilities, and Grasping"
Workshop on Phenomenological Approaches to Epistemology, First Austrian Summer School in Phenomenology, University of Graz. September 2021.

2020    "Can Understanding be Transmitted Through Testimony?"
Graduate Colloquium, Queen's University, August 2020.

"Grasping the Moral Realm"
Graduate Colloquium, Queen's University, February 2020.

2019    "Practical Identities and Normative Justification"
Western Canadian Undergraduate Conference, University of Victoria, March 2019.

2018    "Socially Extended Selves"
Summer Research Scholarship Reception, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Carleton University, September 2018.

"Identity, Society and the Good"
Philosophical Issues Series, Carleton University Philosophy Society, Carleton University, November 2018.

- *Comments*

2021        "Moral Inquiry" by Paulina Sliwa.
                Cologne Knowledge Router, University of Cologne.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

2020        A.R.C. Duncan Award for Excellence in Teaching, Queen's University.

2019        Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
                Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

2019        FASS Dean's Award for Social Justice, Queen's University.

2019        Master's Tri-Agency Recipient Recognition Award (TARRA), Queen's University.

2019        Ontario Graduate Scholarship (declined for SSHRC).

2019        Senate Medal for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Carleton University.

2016-19     Dean's Honour List, Carleton University.

2018        Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarship, Faculty of Arts and
                Social Science, Carleton University.

2018        Carleton Academic Scholarship, Carleton University.

2016-17     J. Lorne Gray Scholarship, Carleton University.

## TEACHING

- *As Teaching Assistant*:

Summer 2021        PHIL204: Life, Death, Meaning
                        Queen's University

Winter 2021         PHIL351: Philosophy of Mind
                        Queen's University

Fall 2020          PHIL301: Bioethics
                        Queen's University (Professor Udo Schüklenk)

Fall 2020          PHIL259: Critical Thinking
                        Queen's University (Professor Nancy Salay)

| Winter 2020 | PHIL250: Epistemology and Metaphysics |
| | Queen's University (Professor Joshua Mozersky) |

| Fall 2019 | PHIL250: Epistemology and Metaphysics |
| | Queen's University (Professor Elliot Samuel Paul) |

| Winter 2019 | PHIL2001: Introduction to Symbolic Logic |
| | Carleton University. |

## RESEARCH LANGUAGES

English (Fluent)
Arabic (Native)

## REFERENCES

Alexander Bird
Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy
University of Cambridge
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