

# BEN WHITE

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Department of Philosophy  
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## EDUCATION

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA Ph.D. in Philosophy	2016
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA M.A. in Philosophy	2013
Guilford College, Greensboro, NC B.A. in Philosophy	2010
B.A. in English	2010

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Logic, Early Modern Philosophy, History of Analytic Philosophy

## DISSERTATION

*Mind-Body Dualism and Mental Causation*

Committee: Gerald Vision (Chair), Kenneth Aizawa, Miriam Solomon, David Wolfsdorf

The Exclusion Argument maintains that since every physical effect has a sufficient physical cause, and instances of causal overdetermination are rare, it follows that if mental states cause physical effects as frequently as they seem to, then mental states must be physical in nature. I argue that the Exclusion Argument fails to justify the rejection of the view that the mind is non-physical but causes physical effects, and, more generally, that worries about mental causation are no good reason to do away with dualism.

## PUBLICATIONS

“A Reductive Analysis of Statements about Universals”

Forthcoming in *Synthese*.

“Attention, Gestalt Principles, and the Determinacy of Perceptual Content”

Forthcoming in *Erkenntnis*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-020-00234-3>.

“The Hard Problem Isn’t Getting Any Easier: Thoughts on Chalmers’ ‘Meta-problem’”

2021. *Philosophia*. 49: 495–506.

“Metaphysical Necessity Dualism”

2018. *Synthese*. 195: 1779–1798.

“The Realization of Qualia, Persons, and Artifacts”

2018. *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*. 99: 182–204.

“Conservation Laws and Interactionist Dualism”

2017. *The Philosophical Quarterly*. 67: 387–405.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Perceptual Phenomenology and Mental Content”

University College Cork

Cork, Ireland

February 2019

“Perceptual Phenomenology and Mental Content”

Trinity College Dublin Philosophy Department Colloquium Series

Dublin, Ireland

November 2018

## REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

“A(nother) Potential Problem for Dualist Accounts of Mental Causation”

American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting

Chicago, IL

February 2020

“Attention, Gestalt Principles, and the Determinacy of Perceptual Content”

European Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Athens, Greece

September 2019

“The Content Determining Function of Phenomenal Consciousness”

TRACE Workshop on Intentionality and Agency

Würzburg, Germany

June 2019

“Laws, Universals, and Mental Kinds” PHYSIS Conference on The Problem of Universals Madrid, Spain	May 2019
“Mind-Body Dualism and Mental Causation” American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting Kansas City, MO	March 2017
“The Realization Relation” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology New Orleans, LA	April 2015
“The Realization Relation” Arché Graduate Conference St. Andrews, Scotland	November 2014
“Why Dualists Should Reject the Metaphysical Possibility of Zombies” Society for Exact Philosophy Pasadena, CA	June 2014

#### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Associate Member of the Interdisciplinary Study of Perceptual Learning  
Principal Investigators: Kevin Connolly and Adrienne Prettyman  
June 2016 – May 2017

#### AWARDS

Nominated for the 2019-2020 Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award	2019
Temple University Pre-Doctoral Summer Research Opportunity Grant	2015
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Travel Award	2015
College of Liberal Arts Travel Award	2015
College of Liberal Arts Travel Award	2014
Nordev Prize, for best preliminary paper by Temple philosophy student	2011
Temple University Fellowship	2010 – 2014

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Colby College  
“Logic and Argumentation”  
Fall 2021

“Philosophy of Mind”

Fall 2021

Trinity College Dublin

“MPhil Seminar: Introduction to Philosophical Research”

Fall 2020

“Senior Seminar: Mental Causation”

Fall 2018, Fall 2019

“Central Problems in Philosophy: Philosophy of Mind”

Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2021

“Topics in Philosophy: Consciousness”

Fall 2019, Spring 2021

“History of Philosophy: Modern Analytic Philosophy”

Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021

“Philosophy of Mind”

Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020

Bryn Mawr College

“Introduction to Logic”

Spring 2018 (2 sections)

Temple University

“Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good”

Spring 2018 (2 sections), Fall 2017 (2 sections), Fall 2016

“Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life”

Summer 2017, Spring 2017 (2 sections), Spring 2016

“History of Philosophy: Modern”

Fall 2015, Summer 2014, Summer 2013

“Philosophy of the Human”

Spring 2014 (2 sections), Fall 2013 (2 sections), Spring 2013 (2 sections), Fall 2012 (2 sections)

Rowan University

“Philosophy of Science”

Fall 2015 (2 sections), Spring 2015, Fall 2014 (2 sections)

“Logic of Everyday Reasoning”  
Spring 2015

“Philosophy of Science” (online)  
Spring 2018, Fall 2017 (2 sections), Fall 2016

“Philosophy of Society” (online)  
Spring 2017

University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant

“Visual Studies 101: Eye, Mind, and Image”  
Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015

SUPERVISING EXPERIENCE

Trinity College Dublin

Dissertation Supervisor for MPhil students  
2019-2020: 1 student

Dissertation Supervisor for fourth-year students  
2020-2021: 5 students  
2019-2020: 2 students  
2018-2019: 4 students

ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

Trinity College Dublin: Department of Philosophy

Research Director, 2018-2021

Coordinator for outgoing study abroad students, 2019-2021

Coordinator for postgraduate program, 2020-2021

Member of selection committee for MPhil program, 2019-2021

Organizer, Public Lecture Series, 2018-2020

Member of selection committee for Long Room Hub Visiting Research Fellowship, 2019

SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION

Referee for the following journals:

*Synthese*, 2018-2020

*Mind and Matter*, 2019

*Dialectica*, 2018

*Inquiry*, 2018, 2020

*Philosophical Papers*, 2018

## PUBLIC LECTURES

“What is Humor?”

Trinity College Dublin Big Questions in Philosophy Lecture Series  
Dublin, Ireland

March 2021

“Do I Still Exist?”

Trinity College Dublin Big Questions in Philosophy Lecture Series  
Dublin, Ireland

February 2020

“Spinoza”

Trinity College Dublin Great Philosophers Lecture Series  
Dublin, Ireland

September 2019

“What Is the Relationship Between the Mind and the Brain?”

Trinity College Dublin Big Questions in Philosophy Lecture Series  
Dublin, Ireland

February 2019

“Lucretius”

Trinity College Dublin Great Philosophers Lecture Series  
Dublin, Ireland

September 2018

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Chaired debates on the personhood of AI and the legitimacy of the state’s authority  
College Historical Society, Trinity College Dublin

Quoted in *The Irish Times*

“Carrots with Minds of Their Own? The Weird Theory of Panpsychism” by Joe Humphreys  
12 November 2020

Quoted in *The Irish Examiner*

“A Seed of Doubt: Are Plants Conscious?” by Rita de Brún  
28 July 2019

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association  
European Society for Philosophy and Psychology

## LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge of Ancient Greek  
Reading knowledge of Latin

REFERENCES

Gerald Vision (Dissertation Chair)  
Professor of Philosophy  
Temple University  
gvision@temple.edu

Kenneth Pearce  
Head of Philosophy Department  
Trinity College Dublin  
pearcek@tcd.ie

Gary Hatfield  
Seybert Professor of Philosophy  
University of Pennsylvania  
hatfield@sas.upenn.edu

David Wolfsdorf (Teaching Reference)  
Professor of Philosophy  
Temple University  
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Paul O'Grady  
Professor in Philosophy  
Trinity College Dublin  
pogrady@tcd.ie

Alison Fernandes  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
Trinity College Dublin  
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