

Alex B. Kiefer

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind, Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Psychology

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Logic, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics

EDUCATION

Ph.D., The Graduate Center, CUNY, Program in Philosophy, February 2019
Dissertation “A Defense of Pure Connectionism” defended with Honors October 2018
Committee: David Rosenthal (advisor), Eric Mandelbaum (chair), Jakob Hohwy, Gary Ostertag, Richard Brown
Completed requirements, Interdisciplinary Concentration in Cognitive Science

B.F.A. (Honors), Tyler School of Art at Temple University, May 2004

ACADEMIC HONORS

Qualifying paper, “Inscrutability and the Theory of Reference,” awarded Honors, CUNY Graduate Center, 2010

Chancellor’s Graduate Teaching Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center, 2005-2010

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, William Paterson University, Fall 2013-present

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Brooklyn College, CUNY, Fall 2008-Spring 2013

Graduate Teaching Fellow, CUNY Graduate Center/Brooklyn College, Fall 2006-Spring 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Kiefer, A. and Hohwy, J. (2017). "Content and misrepresentation in hierarchical generative models". *Synthese*: Special issue on predictive brains (M. Kirchhoff, ed.).

Kiefer, A. (2005). "The Intentional Model in Interpretation". *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 63 (3): 271-281, 2005.

Invited Chapters

Kiefer, A. (2017). "Literal Perceptual Inference". Metzinger, T. and Wiese, W. (eds.), *Philosophy and predictive processing*. Frankfurt am Main: MIND Group.

Forthcoming Chapters

Kiefer, A. and Hohwy, J. (in print). "Representation in the Prediction Error Minimization framework". J. Symons, P. Calvo, & S. Robins (eds.), *Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Psychology*. Routledge.

PRESENTATIONS

"Mental representation as the projection of information", invited poster presentation, 2016 *Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Workshop: Predictive Coding*, at Dartmouth College, Summer 2016

"Efficient Coding and Higher-Order Representation", invited talk, *CUNY Graduate Center Cognitive Science Speaker Series*, Summer 2014

"Higher-Order Representation Without Representation", refereed presentation, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Savannah, GA, 2012

"The Epistemic Status of the Transitivity Principle in Higher-order Theories of Consciousness", refereed presentation, *Toward a Science of Consciousness*, Tucson, AZ, 2010

"Peripheral Self-Awareness and Higher-order Content", refereed poster presentation, *Toward a Science of Consciousness*, Tucson, AZ, 2008

"Same-Order Representation and the Character of Conscious Experience", invited talk, *CUNY Graduate Center Cognitive Science Speaker Series*, Summer 2008

“The Self-Representationalist Challenge to HOT Theory”, invited talk, *CUNY Graduate Center Cognitive Science Speaker Series*, Fall 2007

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

Commentary on Corey Maley’s “What Analog Computation Is and Why it Matters”, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, San Antoni, TX, 2018

Commentary on Pete Mandik’s “Conscious State Anti-Realism”, *Consciousness Online* 4, 2012

Commentary on Richard Dub’s “Rationality and Non-doxasticism about Delusions”, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Savannah, GA, 2012

Commentary on Kaija Mortensen’s “Intuitions and Expertise”, *CUNY Graduate Center Graduate Student Philosophy Conference*, 2008

Commentary on Elizabeth Picciuto’s “The Pleasure of Supposition”, *American Society for Aesthetics Eastern Division meeting*, Philadelphia, PA, 2007

Referee for several journals (multiple times in many cases), including *Synthese*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Theory & Psychology* and *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*

Chaired session on Content for the 2018 meeting of the *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, San Antonio, TX

Commentary for the *First CUNY Undergraduate Philosophy Conference*, LaGuardia CUNY, 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

At William Paterson University:

History and Systems of Psychology (Graduate level)

Introduction to Philosophy

Logic

Ethics

Ethical Well-Being

Concepts of the Person

Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy of the Future

Liberal Studies Colloquium

At Brooklyn College:
Knowledge, Reality, & Values
Philosophy of Literature & Film
Moral Issues in Business

At LaGuardia CUNY:
Critical Thinking