
CHRISTOPHER BURR

(+44) 7545 136322

christopher.burr@oii.ox.ac.uk

Oxford Internet Institute,

University of Oxford

41 St Giles

Oxford

OX1 3JS

United Kingdom

[https://oxford.academia.edu/](https://oxford.academia.edu/ChristopherBurr)

[ChristopherBurr](https://oxford.academia.edu/ChristopherBurr)

Profile

Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Oxford, Oxford Internet Institute.

Currently working with Professor Luciano Floridi and Mariarosaria Taddeo on a project titled, 'The Ethics of Digital Wellbeing', which explores how digital technologies have reshaped our understanding of wellbeing and the new opportunities and risks that these technologies pose for human flourishing.

Previously worked with Professor Nello Cristianini on an ERC-funded project (thinkBIG), which investigated the ethical and epistemological challenges that arise from an increased use of artificial intelligence and big data technologies in society.

PhD in Philosophy and Cognitive Science, awarded in 2017, and completed as part of an ERC-funded project led by Professor Richard Pettigrew titled *Epistemic Utility Theory: Foundations and Applications* (2013–16).

Areas of Specialism: Philosophy of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence (including Digital Ethics), Decision Theory, and Philosophy of Mind.

Areas of Competence: Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, and Contemporary Ethics.

Employment

University of Oxford, UK

Postdoctoral Researcher, Oxford Internet Institute (October 2018–Present)

University of Bristol, UK

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Computer Science (2017–2018)

University of Bristol, UK

Teaching Associate, Department of Philosophy (2014–2017)

Education

PhD in Philosophy (2013–2016)

Degree awarded by University of Bristol

Thesis Title: Embodied Decisions and the Predictive Brain

Examination Committee (14/12/16): Prof. Andy Clark (University of Edinburgh); Prof. Samir Okasha (University of Bristol). Doctorate awarded with no corrections.

MA (with Distinction) in History and Philosophy of Science (2009–2011)
Degree awarded by University of Bristol

BA (Hons) (1st Class) in Philosophy (2005–2008)
Degree awarded by University of Exeter

Honours and Awards

European Research Council PhD Scholarship (3 years). Funding included tuition fees, full maintenance grant, and additional research expenses.

International Rationality Summer Institute 2016 (Aurich, Germany). Travel and accommodation grant (declined due to scheduling conflict).

Articles

- Burr, C., & Cristianini, N. (Under Review). Can Machines Read Our Minds? Submitted to: *Minds and Machines*.
- Tabor, A., & Burr, C. (Under Review) Bayesian learning models of pain. Submitted to: *Current Opinions in Behavioural Science*.
- Burr, C., Cristianini, N. & Ladyman, J. (2018). An Analysis of the Interaction Between Intelligent Software Agents and Human Users. *Minds & Machines*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11023-018-9479-0>
- Burr, C., and Keeling, G. (2018) Building machines that “learn and think” about morality. In: *Proceedings of the Society for Artificial Intelligence and the Simulation of Behaviour, 2018*.
- Burr, C. (2017). Embodied Decisions and the Predictive Brain. In Metzinger, T., & Wiese, W. (Eds.) *OpenMIND: The Philosophy of Predictive Processing*, DOI: 10.15502/9783958573086.
- Burr, C. & Jones, M. (2016). Body as Laboratory: Prediction-Error Minimisation, Embodiment and Representation, *Philosophical Psychology*, 29(4), pp. 586–600.
- Burr, C. (2016). Book Review of Unifying the Mind: Cognitive Representations as Graphical Models by David Danks, *Philosophical Psychology*, DOI:10.1080/09515089.2016.1146243.

Work in Progress

-
- Burr, C. & Dewhurst, J., (Draft). Normative Folk Psychology and Decision Theory. Intended Journal: *Synthese*.
 - Tabor, A., Jones, M., Burr, C. (Draft). Painful Possibilities: An Embodied Approach to Pain Experience. Intended Journal: *Consciousness and Cognition*.

Conference Presentations

2018

- An Analysis of the Interaction Between Intelligent Software Agents and Human Users — MANCEPT 2018, Paternalism, Nudging and the Digital Sphere (University of Manchester Centre for Political Theory)
- Can Machines Read our Minds: A Study of Psychometrics and Artificial Intelligence — thinkBIG Workshop on the Ethical and Social Challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (Cumberland Lodge, Windsor)
- Building machines that “learn and think” about morality — *Society for Artificial Intelligence and the Simulation of Behaviour, 2018* (University of Liverpool)

2017

- Normative Folk Psychology and Decision-Making — *Normative Folk Psychology Conference* (University of York)
- Intelligent Agents and the Control of Human Choice Behaviour — *Philosophy and Theory of Artificial Intelligence* (University of Leeds)

2016

- Decision-Making and Social Embodied Cognition (Symposium: Interacting Bodies, Philosophical and Neurocognitive Perspectives) — *24th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology* (St Andrews)
- Embodied Decisions and the Predictive Brain — *MIND23 Workshop: Philosophy of Predictive Processing* (Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies)

2015

- Embodied Decision-Making: How the Body Affects Decisions — *Embodied Mind, Embodied Design Workshop* (University of Edinburgh)
 - Body as Laboratory, Prediction-Error Minimisation, Embodiment and Representation — *2015 ASSC Workshop on Sensorimotor Theory* (Descartes University, Paris)
-

-
- Body as Laboratory, Prediction-Error Minimisation, Embodiment and Representation — *Philosophy, Psychology and Informatics Seminar* (University of Edinburgh)

Teaching

Seminar Tutor

1st Year Undergraduate

(2014–2016) Introduction to Philosophy — Metaphysics & Epistemology (5 Groups)

(2014–15) Introduction to Philosophy — Political & Moral Philosophy (2 Groups)

(2016) Contemporary Ethics (1 Group)

2nd Year Undergraduate

(2014 & 2016) Philosophy of Mind (7 Groups)

(2014) Epistemology (1 Group)

(2016) Contemporary Ethics (1 Group)

(2017) Death, Dying and Disease (4 Groups)

3rd Year Undergraduate

(2017) Death, Dying and Disease (2 Groups)

Postgraduate (MA)

(2016) Philosophical Writing and Research (1 Group)

Lecturer

2nd Year Undergraduate

(2016) Extended Mind Hypothesis (Philosophy of Mind unit)

3rd Year Undergraduate

(2016) Predictive Processing and Perception (Philosophy of Perception unit)

Professional and Community Service

- Journal Referee: *Synthese*, *Mind*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *OpenMIND*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, and *British Journal of Undergraduate Philosophy*.
 - Conference Organisation:
 - thinkBig Workshop on Ethical and Social Challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (Cumberland Lodge, June 2018)
 - thinkBig Workshop on Digital Humanities and Computational Social Sciences (Cumberland Lodge, June 2018)
-

-
- Bristol-Groningen Formal Epistemology Summer School and Conference (University of Bristol, July 2015)
 - Postgraduate Philosophy Conference (University of Bristol, July 2016)
 - Project Supervisor for Foundation Year in Arts and Humanities (University of Bristol). This role involved supervising an independent research project that was undertaken by several students who were registered on the Foundation Year in Arts and Humanities run by the University of Bristol: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/study/foundation/>
 - Postgraduate Research and Teaching Assistant Representative, University of Bristol.
 - Completion of SAPERE (Society for the Advancement of Philosophical Enquiry and Reflection in Education) Level 1 Course for 'Philosophy for Children, Colleges and Communities'. This required completion of the relevant training, and subsequent planning and delivery of several philosophical enquiries (over the course of 12 weeks) with a year 5 class at Sefton Park Primary School.

References

Academic/teaching references and student feedback forms available upon request.
