

# M Folescu

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## Positions

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, USA || 2019–*present*

Humboldt Research Fellow at Hamburg University, Hamburg, Germany || June–July 2025

Humboldt Research Fellow at the Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany || August, 2022–July 2023

Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, UK || February–July, 2022

American Philosophical Association Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, UK || September–October, 2017

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, USA || 2013–2019

## Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Southern California, 2013

M.A. Art History, Western University, Canada, 2005

M.A. Philosophy, University of Bucharest, Romania, 2003

B.A. Art History, National University of Fine Arts, Romania, 2002

## Areas of Specialization

History of Modern Philosophy (18th and 19th centuries), Aesthetics, Action Theory

## Areas of Competence

Logic, Metaphysics and Epistemology

## Publications

Folescu, M. (forthcoming) “Locke’s Legacy in Reid’s and in Shepherd’s work”, *Oxford Handbook of John Locke*, Patrick Connolly (ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press (8,879 words; draft available upon request).

Folescu, M. (forthcoming) “Mary Shepherd’s Epistemology”, *Blackwell Companion to Epistemology*, Kurt Sylvan (ed.), Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing (3,268 words; draft available upon request).

Folescu, M. & Zhou, T. (forthcoming) “Reid and Shepherd on Beauty and the Subjectivity of Taste”, *Essays on Mary Shepherd: Causation, Mind, and Knowledge*, Keota Fields (ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press (9,557 words; draft available upon request).

Folescu, M. (2024) “Thomas Reid on Powers and Abilities”, *Powers and Abilities in Early Modern Philosophy*, Sebastian Bender and Dominik Perler (eds.), pp. 326-342, New York: Routledge (7,522 words).

Folescu, M. “Mary Shepherd on the Role of Proofs in Our Knowledge of First Principles.” *Noûs* 56(2) (2022): 473-493 (13,500 words).

Recognized by *Noûs* as a top cited article for 2022-2023.

Folescu, M. “Perception As A Multi-Stage Process: A Reidian Account.” *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*. 19(1) (2021): 57-74 (8,399 words).

Folescu, M. “Relinquishing Control: What Romanian *De Se* Attitude Reports Teach Us About Immunity To Error Through Misidentification.” In Alessandro Capone, Manuel Garcia-Carpintero, and Alessandra Falzone (eds.), *Indirect Reports and Pragmatics in the World Languages*, (p. 299-313). Springer International Publishing, 2019.

Folescu, M. “Using Benevolent Affections To Learn Our Duty.” *Mind* 127(506) (2018): 467-489.

Folescu, M. “Reid’s View of *Memorial* Conception.” *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 16(3) (2018): 211–226.

Folescu, M. “A Reidean Account of (Episodic) Memory.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 97(2) (2018): 304-321 (Published online in 2016).

Folescu, M. “Thinking About Different Nonexistents Of The Same Kind.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93(3) (2016): 627-649.

Folescu, M. “Perceiving Bodies Immediately: Thomas Reid’s Insight.” *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 32(1) (2015): 19-36.

Folescu, M. “Perceptual and Imaginative Conception: The Distinction Reid Missed.” In Todd Buras and Rebecca Copenhaver (eds.), *Mind, Knowledge, and Value: Essays in Honor of Reid’s Tercentenary* (p. 52-74). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Folescu, M. and J. Higginbotham. “Two Takes on the *De Se*.” In Simon Prosser and François Recanati (eds.), *Immunity to Error Through Misidentification: New Essays* (p. 46-62). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

## Encyclopedia Entries

Markie, P. & Folescu, M. “Rationalism vs. Empiricism.” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rationalism-empiricism/>

Folescu, M. “Reid’s Philosophy of Mind.” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. <https://iep.utm.edu/reidmind/>

## Work in Progress

Folescu, M. *Thinking Through The Past: Reid On The Epistemic Value Of Memory* (book manuscript, in preparation).

Folescu, M. "On Two Kinds of Photographs: Distinguishing between Documentaries and Photographic Works of Fiction" (draft available upon request).

## Non-Academic Art Writing

Folescu, M. (2023). From Cinematic to Static: Isa Genzken's 75/75 Retrospective in Berlin.

*Momus*, Toronto, Canada

<https://momus.ca/from-cinematic-to-static-isa-genzkens-75-75-retrospective-in-berlin/>

Folescu, M. (2023). "Decolonizing Our Ancestors: Review of Julius von Bismarck's "When Platitudes Become Form"." *Curatorial Affairs*

<https://curatorialaffairs.com/Decolonizing-our-Ancestors>

Folescu, M. (2023). "Art Basel 2023: Anul oglinzii" ("Art Basel 2023: The Year of the Mirror", published in Romanian). *Observator Cultural* 1165: 20.

<https://www.observatorcultural.ro/articol/art-basel-2023-anul-oglinzii/>

Folescu, M. (2023). "ART Paris – Angajamente si Promisiuni" ("Art Paris – Commitments and Promises", published in Romanian). *Observator Cultural* 1157: 19.

<https://www.observatorcultural.ro/articol/art-paris-angajamente-si-promisiuni/>

Folescu, R. (2005). "Interview cu Stacey Lancaster" ("Interview with Stacey Lancaster", published in Romanian). *ARThoc* 34: 3-4.

Folescu, R. (2003). "Despre obiectivitate in interpretarea operelor de arta" ("On Objective Interpretation of Artworks", written in Romanian). *ARThoc* 32: 4.

Folescu, R. (2003). "Video/artefact al alteritatii" ("Video/Artefact of the Alterity"). *ARThoc* 25: 7.

Folescu, R. (2003). "Cristalizarea vrajii beuysiene" ("The Chrystalization of the Beuysian Spell", published in Romanian). *ARThoc* 24: 11.

Folescu, R. (2002). "Convorbire cu ULAY" ("Interview with ULAY", published in Romanian). *ARThoc* 18: 2-5.

## **Honors, Fellowships, and Grants**

A&S Writing Fellows program; 2025-2026

(competitive College of Arts and Science fellowship, granting 1 course release)

Humboldt Foundation Fellowship for a Renewed Research Stay (€6,400); Summer 2025

(competitive international residential fellowship)

University of Missouri Arts & Humanities Research and Creative Works Fellows (\$12,500); 2023-2025

(competitive university fellowship, granting 1 semester of research leave)

Humboldt Foundation Fellowship for Experienced Researchers (€38,040); 2022-2023

(competitive international residential fellowship)

Visiting Research Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities,

University of Edinburgh, UK (£1,000 travel funds); 2021-2022

(competitive international residential fellowship)

University of Missouri Research Council Research Grant (\$10,000); 2021-2022

(competitive university award sponsoring the visiting fellowship at the University of Edinburgh)

University of Missouri Research Board Tier 3 Award (\$25,000); 2021-2022

(competitive university system fellowship, granting 12 months of research leave)

The Journal of the History of Philosophy Masterclass (\$1,750); 2018

(competitive international summer research seminar, conducted at the New York University;

Leader: Don Garrett)

The APA Edinburgh Fellowship; 2017-2018

(competitive international residential fellowship, at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, UK)

University of Missouri Research Council Research Grant (\$10,000); 2017-2018

(competitive university award sponsoring the visiting fellowship at the University of Edinburgh)

University of Missouri Research Board Award (\$20,000); 2015-2016

(competitive university system fellowship, granting 12 months research leave)

The Mentoring Project for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy; Mentee, Summer 2015

USC Michael McCann Award for Excellence in the History of Philosophy; 2012

(competitive philosophy department award)

Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association International Scholarship (\$1,500); 2012

(competitive award, given to international students, judged to be worthy of induction in PBK)

British Society for the History of Philosophy Graduate Student Essay Prize, for

“Reid on the Objects of Perception” (£500 GBP); 2011

## Selected Invited Presentations

Folescu, M. "Reid on Powers and Abilities"

Department of Philosophy Colloquium, King's College London, UK, March 2024

Philosophy Colloquium, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, February 2024

Philosophy Speaker Series, Union College, Schenectady, NY, February 2024

Department of Philosophy Colloquium, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Nov 2023

Faculty Speaker Series, University of Missouri, Columbia, August 2023

Powers and Abilities in Early Modern Philosophy Conference

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, March 2023

Folescu, M. & Zhou, T. "Reid and Shepherd on Beauty and the Subjectivity of Taste"

Workshop on Shepherd's Philosophy, Paris-Nanterre, November 2022

Colloquium Series, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2022

Early Modern Philosophy Colloquium, Humboldt University, Berlin, November 2022

Philosophy Seminar, University College Dublin, November 2022

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd's Philosophy"

Work in progress talk, The Institute for the Advanced Studies in the Humanities

Edinburgh UK, July 2022

Folescu, M. "Some remarks on Mary Shepherd's Essays on the Perception of an External Universe"

Early Modern Philosophy Workshop, St Andrews, UK, June 2022

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on the Role of Proofs in Our Knowledge of First Principles."

University College London – Philosophy Department Research Talk, UK, March 2022

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on the Role of Proofs in Our Knowledge of the External World."

The *Cogtweeto* Philosophy Workshop Series, organized by Jen Foster (USC) and Cassie Finley (University of Iowa), January 2021

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on Our Knowledge of Ourselves and of the External World."

Early Modern Virtual Workshop – organized by Anat Schechtman, University of Wisconsin, July 2020

Folescu, M. "Some Remarks on Mary Shepherd's Views on the Perception of the External World"

APA – Eastern, Philadelphia, January 2020

Folescu, M. "Perception as a Multi-stage Process: A Reidian Account."

University of York, UK – Department of Philosophy, November 2019

University of Edinburgh, UK – Department of Philosophy, April 2019

University of Massachusetts, Amherst – Department of Philosophy, January 2019

Folescu, M. "Some Remarks on Reid's View of *Memorial* Conception"

Philosophy Club Talk, University of St. Andrews, October 2017

Work in progress talk, The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities  
Edinburgh, UK, September 2017

Folescu, M. "Using Benevolent Affections to Learn our Duty"

Faith and Philosophy, Washington University – St. Louis, May 2016

Folescu, M. "A Reidean Account of (Episodic) Memory"

University of Kansas – Department of Philosophy, January 2016

### Conference Talks

Folescu, M. & Zhou, T. "Reid and Shepherd on Beauty and the Subjectivity of Taste"

Reappearing Ink: Workshop on Early Modern Philosophy and Metaphilosophy,  
University of Groningen, Netherlands, March 2023

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on the Role of Proofs in Our Knowledge of First Principles"

The Traveling Early Modern Philosophy Organization, online, June 2021

Folescu, M. "Perception as a Multi-stage Process: A Reidian Account"

ECAP 10 – The Tenth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Utrecht, Netherlands, August 2020  
(delivered online)

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on Our Knowledge of Ourselves and of the External World"

Berlin-Hamburg Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, Humboldt University, Berlin, June 2020  
(delivered in person in 2022)

Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands, August 2020  
(delivered online in 2021)

Folescu, M. "Perception As A Two-Stage Process: A Reidean Account"

Margaret Wilson Conference, Northern Arizona University, June 2016

The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) 11

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, June 2016

Folescu, M. "Reid on Remembering Events"

APA – Central, St. Louis, February 2015

The British Society for the History of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh, May 2014

Folescu, M. "Benevolent Affections and Moral Agents in Reid's Action Theory"

Sentiment and Reason in Early Modern Ethics, State University of New York  
Buffalo, March 2014

Folescu, M. "The Role of Sympathy in Reid's Action Theory"

APA – Pacific, San Francisco, March 2013

Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy Spring Conference, Princeton, March 2012

- Folescu, M. "Reid on the Objects of Perception"  
Margaret Wilson Conference, Dartmouth College, June 2012
- Folescu, M. "Reid's Account of Perception as a Two-Stage Process"  
The Early Modern Circle at Caltech, Pasadena, Oct 2011  
Conceptual Content – History and Prospects, University of Cambridge, UK, Sep 2011
- Folescu, M. "The Peculiar Photographic Character of Documentaries"  
APA – Pacific, San Diego, April 2011  
American Society for Aesthetics – Pacific, Pacific Grove, April 2010
- Folescu, M. "Some Remarks on Reid's Theory of Imagination"  
South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Texas A & M University,  
November 2010  
Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University,  
Canada, July 2010
- Folescu, M. "An Inconsistency in Reid's Construal of the Power of Conception"  
The British Society for the History of Philosophy, University of Aberdeen and  
University of Glasgow, March 2010
- Folescu, M. "Hume's Law Is (Still) Standing"  
Second Buenos Aires Metaethics Workshop, Centro de Estudios Filosoficos y Fenomeno-  
logicos Avanzado, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2009

## Comments

- David Landy. "Shepherd on Judgment, Predication, and the Representation of Causal Relations"  
50th Hume Conference, Oxford, UK; July 3, 2024
- Sandra Lindblom. "The Epistemic Humility in Mary Shepherd's Anti-Humean Theory of Causal-  
ity: Exploring its Kantian Origin"  
Extending New Narratives Monthly Works-in-progress Seminar for Early Career Researchers  
A Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Partners initiative;  
November 23, 2020
- Jessica Adkins. "Aesthetic Value of Anatomical Displays of Plastinated Bodies"  
APA – Eastern, New York, NY; January 2019
- Alicia Hall. "Bridging the Gap Between Well-being Research and Policy"  
APA – Pacific, San Francisco; March 2016
- Lewis Powell. "Reid vs. Hume on the Objects of Belief"  
APA – Central, Chicago; March 2016
- Bryan Pickel. "Rigidification and Attitudes"  
Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference # 13: *Reference and Referring*, Washington  
State University, Pullman WA and University of Idaho; May 2010
- Brian Laetz and Joshua J. Johnston. "On Fantasy"  
American Society for Aesthetics – Pacific, Pacific Grove; April 2007

## Teaching Development

Faculty Inclusive Teaching Course, Teaching for Learning Center, University of Missouri: Fall 2023  
 Online Teaching Certification Seminar, University of Missouri: Spring 2021

## Teaching Experience

*Aesthetics*: Fall 2024, Fall 2023

*Elementary Logic*: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2017

*Introduction to Philosophy*: Spring 2021 (H), Spring 2020, Spring 2019 (H), Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Spring 2015 (H), Fall 2014 (H)

*Modern Philosophy*: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Spring 2015 (WI), Fall 2014

*Philosophy of Film*: Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2018, Spring 2014

*Reasonable Devils, Dark Visions* (3rd installment – covering the early modern period – in a Great Books Humanities Honors sequence): Fall 2024

*Topics in Modern Philosophy* (Graduate Seminar): Fall 2023, Fall 2019

*The Empiricists* (Graduate Seminar): Spring 2025, Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Spring 2014

## Guest Lectures

Aesthetics (Instructor: Philip Robbins); November 8, Fall 2013

Aesthetics and the Film; November 30, Fall 2011

Instructor: George M. Wilson

British Empiricism; December 2, Fall 2010

Instructor: James Van Cleve

## Professional Memberships and Activities

Co-organizer (with Stephan Schmid) of the Hamburg Reid Workshop, at the University of Hamburg, Germany, 2025

American Philosophical Association (member since 2007)

British Society for the History of Philosophy (member since 2022)

International Association of Art Critics – AICA (member since 2002)

APA Central Division Nominating Committee – elected member; 2022-2023

Organizer of the “Women Philosophers in the (Early) Modern Era” Symposium

*British Society for the History of Philosophy*, Edinburgh, UK, 2022

APA Central Division Program Committee – member; 2021, 2017

Referee for: *Berkeley Studies*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Edinburgh University Press*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Hume Studies*, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Polish Journal of Philosophy*, *Research Foundation Flanders – FWO*, *Routledge*, *Synthese*

## Service

Chair of the Awards Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2024-2025

Chair of the Awards Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2023-2024

Chair of the PFFIE Search Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2023-2024

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2020-2021

Member of the Raise Advisory Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2020-2021

Member of the Search Committee for Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of the Raise Advisory Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Revision of Standards for Promotion and Tenure  
Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of CORE 42 Faculty Discipline Review Group for Philosophy and Religion  
A state-wide Initiative for Missouri; 2019-2020

Creator of the Newsletter for the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2018-2019

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2018-2019

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2018-2019

Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Journal and Press Assessment  
Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri; 2018-2019

Member of the Search Committee for Assistant/Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2017-2018

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2016-2017

Job Mentoring Program for Women in Philosophy – Mentor; 2015–2016

Organizer of the Spring 2015 Kline Workshop (MU Department of Philosophy): *Philosophy and Science in The British Empiricist Tradition*; 2015

Member of the Placement Committee of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2014-2015

Member of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Future of the Department of Philosophy  
University of Missouri; 2013-2014

## Graduate Supervision

Argon Gruber – MA Thesis first reader (defended in 2021): *Personal identity and scattered objects*

Tieying Zhou – Chair of PhD dissertation committee (defended in 2022): *An Investigation of Aesthetic Appreciation*

MA Research paper first reader (defended in 2020): *Distance theory in art appreciation*

Phillip Zema – Co-chair of the PhD dissertation committee (defended in 2016)

PhD proposal second reader (defended in 2014): *Reid on moral perception*

Seokman Kang – MA Research paper second reader (defended in 2014): *Perceptual content*

David Swerling – MA Thesis second reader (defended in 2014): *Conceptual vs. non-conceptual content*

## Languages

English (bilingual proficiency)

French (reading: professional working proficiency)

Italian (reading: professional working proficiency)

Romanian (native proficiency)

## References

Rebecca Copenhaver – Department of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis  
Email: rcopenhaver@wustl.edu; Office Phone: 314-935-5834.

Don Garrett – Department of Philosophy, New York University  
Email: don.garrett@nyu.edu; Office Phone: 212-998-8320.

Antonia LoLordo – Corcoran Department of Philosophy, University of Virginia  
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