

Stephen Gadsby

SENIOR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW · FONDS WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK (FWO)

Centre for Philosophical Psychology, University of Antwerp

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Research Areas

SPECIALISATION

Philosophy of mind; philosophy of psychology; philosophy of psychiatry.

COMPETENCE

Epistemology (social); bioethics (clinical); philosophy of medicine; philosophy of science.

Professional Experience

- 2024–27 **FWO Senior Postdoctoral Fellow**, Antwerp University
- 2024 **Visiting Researcher**, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge (1 month)
- 2021–24 **FWO Junior Postdoctoral Fellow**, Antwerp University
- 2022 **Visiting Fellow**, Department of Philosophy, Tilburg University (1 month)
- 2022 **Visiting Researcher**, Department of Psychology, Royal Holloway University of London (1 month)

Education

Monash University

Melbourne, Australia

PHD (PHILOSOPHY): UNUSUAL BELIEF: FROM EATING DISORDERS TO IMPOSTER SYNDROME

2017 - 2021

- Supervisors: Jakob Hohwy, Jennifer Windt

Utrecht University

Utrecht, The Netherlands

VISITING STUDENT (DEPARTMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY)

2020 - 2021

- Supervisors: Anouk Keizer, Chris Dijkerman

Macquarie University

Sydney, Australia

MASTER OF RESEARCH (PHILOSOPHY): ANOREXIA NERVOSA AND BODY REPRESENTATION

2015 - 2016

- Supervisor: Colin Klein

Macquarie University

Sydney, Australia

BACHELOR OF ARTS (PHILOSOPHY)

2011 - 2014

Publications

IMPACT

Citations: 637 **h-index:** 14 **i10-index:** 17

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Gadsby, S.** & Engel, M. (2025) Allowed response time and estimated average body size influence visual body size estimates. *Acta Psychologica*.
- Gadsby, S.** (2024). Motivational pessimism and motivated cognition. *Synthese*.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Hohwy, J. (2024). Negative performance evaluation in the imposter phenomenon. *Current Psychology*.
- Gadsby, S.** (2024). Anorexia nervosa, body dissatisfaction, and problematic beliefs. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*.
- Van de Cruys, S., Bervoets, J., **Gadsby, S.**, Gijbels, D., & Poels, K. (2024). Insight in the conspiracist's mind. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*.

- Gadsby, S.**, Zopf, R., Brooks, K., Schumann, A., de la Cruz, F., Rieger, K., Murr, J., Wutzler, U., & Bär, K. (2023). Testing visual self-misperception in anorexia nervosa using a symmetrical body size estimation paradigm. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*. (**joint first author**)
- Gadsby, S.** (2023). The rationality of eating disorders. *Mind & Language*.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Hohwy, J. (2023). Incentivising accuracy reduces bias in the imposter phenomenon. *Current Psychology*.
- Gadsby, S.** (2022). Imposter syndrome and self-deception. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- Engel, M.M., **Gadsby, S.**, Corcoran, A., Keizer, A., Dijkerman, C., & Hohwy, J. (2022). Waiting longer, feeling fatter: effects of response delay on tactile distance estimation and confidence in anorexia nervosa. *Brain and Behavior*. (**joint first author**)
- Gadsby, S.** (2021). Visual self-misperception in eating disorders. *Perception*.
- Gadsby, S.** (2020). Self-deception and the second factor: How desire causes delusion in anorexia nervosa. *Erkenntnis*.
- Gadsby, S.** (2019). Body representations and cognitive ontology: drawing the boundaries of the body image. *Consciousness and Cognition*.
- Gadsby, S.** (2019). Manipulating body representations with virtual reality: clinical implications for anorexia nervosa. *Philosophical Psychology*.
- Tappin, B., & **Gadsby, S.** (2019). Biased belief in the bayesian brain: a deeper look at the evidence. *Consciousness and Cognition*.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Williams, D. (2018). Action, affordances, and anorexia: body representation and basic cognition. *Synthese*.
- Clutton, P., & **Gadsby, S.** (2018). Delusions, harmful dysfunctions, and treatable conditions. *Neuroethics*.
- Clutton, P., **Gadsby, S.**, & Klein, C. (2017). Taxonomising delusions: content or aetiology? *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*.
- Gadsby, S.**, (2017). Explaining body size beliefs in anorexia. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*.
- Gadsby, S.**, (2017). Anorexia nervosa and oversized experiences. *Philosophical Psychology*.
- Gadsby, S.**, (2017). Distorted body representations in anorexia nervosa. *Consciousness and Cognition*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Gadsby, S.** (2024). Delusions in anorexia nervosa. *Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Delusion*, (Ed.) E. Sullivan-Bissett. Routledge.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Hohwy, J. (2022). Predictive processing and body representation. *Routledge Handbook of Bodily Awareness*, (Eds.) A. Alsmith & M. Longo. Routledge.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Hohwy, J. (2021). Why use predictive processing to explain psychopathology? The case of anorexia nervosa. *The Philosophy and Science of Predictive Processing* (Eds.) S. Gouveia, R. Mendonça, & M. Curado. Bloomsbury.

COMMENTARIES

- Gadsby, S.** (2023). Bad beliefs: automaticity, arationality, and intervention. *Philosophical Psychology*.
- Gadsby, S.** (2018). How are the spatial characteristics of the body represented? A reply to Pitron & de Vignemont. *Consciousness and Cognition*.
- Gadsby, S.** (2018). Is the sense of bodily ownership related to pre-reflective bodily awareness? A reply to Kuhle. *Philosophical Psychology*.

IN PROGRESS

- Gadsby, S.** (under review) Behavioural economic models of misbelief.
- Gadsby, S.** (under review) Conspiracy theories and the sense of insight.
- Gadsby, S.** (under review) Psychiatric classification in anorexia.
- Gadsby, S.** (under review) The role of 'functional benefits' in psychiatric models of eating disorders.
- Gadsby, S.** (under review) The moral relevance of tattoos.

Gadsby, S. (under review) A non-dysfunctional route to valuing thinness.

Gadsby, S. (in prep.) Workplace culture, social identity, and imposter syndrome.

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

2024-27	Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship , Research Foundation, Flanders (FWO)	
2022	Visiting Fellowship Award , Tilburg University	€2,000
2021-24	Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship , Research Foundation, Flanders (FWO)	
2021	Postgraduate Publication Award , Monash University	\$5,551
2017-2021	Monash University Research Training Program Scholarship. , Monash University	\$26,682 p/a
2017-2021	Monash University Graduate Excellence Scholarship , Monash University	\$10,000 p/a
2019	Postgraduate Publication Prize - High Commendation , Monash University	
2018	Humanities, Arts and Literature “Early Career Leader” , Australian Education Magazine	
2018	Karl Jaspers Award - Honourable Mention , Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry	
2016	Postgraduate Presentation Prize , Australasian Association of Philosophy	\$ 500
2016	MRes Research Training Program Scholarship , Macquarie University	\$ 26,682
2015	BPhil (Session 2) Research Training Program Scholarship , Macquarie University	\$ 4,000
2015	BPhil (Session 1) Research Training Program Scholarship , Macquarie University	\$ 4,000

Selected Presentations

March, 2026. *Anorexia nervosa and self-identification*. ‘Senses of Self’ conference, Lisbon University.

June, 2025. *Anorexia nervosa, thinness values, and experiential knowledge*. ‘Who knows what in mental health care?’ conference, Radboud University.

June, 2025. *Anorexia nervosa and self-identification*. ‘Social emotions, social bonds’ conference, Oxford University. **INVITED**

February, 2025. *Anorexia nervosa and the value of thinness*. Mental Sciences Club, University of Cambridge. **INVITED**

July, 2024. *Evolving pleasurable beliefs*. Mind and Perception Seminar Series, Taiwan Association for Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science and Technology. (Online) **INVITED**

July, 2024. *Deliberate self-deception*. Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University. **INVITED**

May, 2024. *Anorexia: A case study in pathological desire*. Institut für Philosophie, Heinrich-Heine-Universität. **INVITED**

February, 2024. *Anorexia nervosa and the value of thinness*. ‘Delusions at the Intersection’ workshop, University of Zürich.

Aug., 2023. *Tattoos as social signals*. European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Conference, Czech Academy of Sciences.

Sep., 2022. *Imposter syndrome: What’s the situation?*. Department of Philosophy, Tilburg University. **INVITED**

July, 2022. *Imposter syndrome and motivated reasoning*. Society for Philosophy and Psychology & European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Joint Conference, University of Milan.

June, 2022. *Bad Beliefs: Automaticity, arationality, intervention*. Symposium on the work of Neil Levy, Festival of Arguments, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford. (Online). **INVITED**

Oct., 2020. *The rationality of eating disorders*. Institute for Mental Health, University of Birmingham. (Online). **INVITED**

Oct., 2020. *Explaining misbeliefs in anorexia*. Body, Self, and Plasticity Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Zurich. (Online) **INVITED**

September, 2019. *Explaining False Body Size Beliefs in Anorexia Nervosa*. Centre for Philosophical Psychology, University of Antwerp. **INVITED**

September, 2019. *Surrogates, Simulation, and Structure: A Deeper Look at the Representational Characteristics of the Body Schema* - Recent Development in Situated Cognition, Ruhr University. (Poster)

- December, 2018. *Body Representation, Misperception and Eating Disorders – A two-factor account of false body size beliefs in anorexia nervosa*. Science of the Self Mini-Workshop, Macquarie University.
- August, 2018. *Sense of Bodily Ownership: What the hell are they talking about?*. Self Workshop, Monash University.
- June, 2018. *Motivation, Social Cognition and Harmful Belief in Anorexia Nervosa*. New Perspectives & Methods on Social Cognition Summer School, Aegina. (Poster)
- February, 2018. *Bayesian Explanation and the Two-factor Theory: Promises and Pitfalls*. The Nature of Delusions Workshop, Monash University.
- November, 2017. *Measuring and Manipulating Body Representations in Anorexia*. Science of Self Workshop, Macquarie University.
- November, 2017. *What causes false body size beliefs in anorexia?*. Medical Humanities Seminar Series, Macquarie University. **INVITED**
- April, 2017. *Disorders, Body Representations and Virtual Reality*. The Role of the Body in Virtual Reality Workshop, University of Wollongong. **INVITED**
- October, 2016. *Anorexia Nervosa and the Oversized Experience*. Platonic Society, Macquarie University. **INVITED**
- July, 2016. *Anorexia Nervosa and the Oversized Experience*. Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference **WINNER OF THE 2016 POSTGRADUATE PRESENTATION PRIZE**

Teaching and Supervision

COURSE DESIGN

- Knowledge, belief, and action, Monash University, 2021 (w. Jakob Hohwy)

TEACHING ASSOCIATE

- Knowledge, belief, and action, Monash University, 2021
- Philosophy of mind, Monash University, 2019
- Philosophy of mind, Monash University, 2018

SUPERVISION

- Clinical psychology, master's project (3 students), Royal Holloway, University of London, 2022. (w. Ryan McKay)
- Experimental psychology, bachelor thesis (3 students), Utrecht University, 2019 (w. Manja Engel)
- Experimental psychology, bachelor thesis (3 students), Utrecht University, 2019. (w. Manja Engel)

GUEST LECTURES / SEMINARS

- *Anorexia nervosa and self-identity*, Philosophy of neuroscience master's seminar, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 2026
- *Pathological desire*, Moral psychology and meta-ethics research master's seminar, Antwerp University, 2024
- *Studying body representations*, Experimental psychology research masters, Utrecht University, 2024
- *Eating disorders and misbelief*, Philosophy of neuroscience master's seminar, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 2024
- *Behaviourism*, Philosophy of mind bachelor's course, Monash University, 2019
- *Bodily awareness*, Contemporary issues in philosophy of mind honours' seminar, Monash University, 2019
- *Predictive coding and consciousness*, The neuronal basis of consciousness bachelor's course, Monash University, 2018

Outreach and Professional Development

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Pathologizing values: When should patients be treated against their will? – Article at *Prindle Post*

5 questions: The benefits of self-deception – Interview at *Bladspiegel*

Conspiracy theories and the sense of insight – Article at *Psyche* (w. Sander Van de Cruys)

Is imposter syndrome really a syndrome? – Article at *Culturico*

Is 'feeling fat' really a manifestation of underlying sadness? – Article at *Psyche* (w. Bence Nanay)

Eating disorders and irrational beliefs – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions*

Imposter syndrome and self-deception – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions*

Biased belief in the Bayesian brain – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions* (w. Ben Tappin)

A two-factor account of false body size beliefs in anorexia nervosa – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions*

Taxonomising delusions – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions* (w. Colin Klein & Peter Clutton)

PEER REVIEW

AI & Society, Annals NY Academic Science, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Biology & Philosophy, British Journal of Psychology, Cognitive Neuropsychiatry, Consciousness and Cognition, Current Psychology, Experimental Brain Research, Frontiers in Psychology, Heliyon, Inquiry, Journal of Consciousness Studies, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of Philosophical Research, Journal of Philosophy, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Mind & Language, Neuroethics, Neuropsychology, Palgrave-Macmillan (printing-press), Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophy, Philosopher's Imprint, Philosophy of Medicine, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Psychiatry Research, Res Publica, Synthese, Social Epistemology, Topoi.

ORGANISING

- Various international speakers for the Centre for Philosophical Psychology, Antwerp University, 2021–2026.
- Structural Mental Representation Workshop (w. Iwan Williams & Andy McKilliam). Monash University, 2019.
- Cognition and Philosophy Writing Retreat. Apollo Bay, 2019.
- Science of the Self Workshop (w. Regine Zopf). Macquarie University, 2018.

SKILLS

- **Statistical analysis:** JASP, SPSS, R Studio.
- **Experiment building:** MATLAB, Gorilla, Qualtrics.
- **Participant management:** SONA, Prolific.
- **Languages:** English (native), Dutch (intermediate, B1+).