

PRESTON LENNON

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization	Philosophy of AI, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Ethics, Philosophy of Mind
Areas of Competence	Epistemology, Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Sport

EMPLOYMENT

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow	Rutgers University Department of Philosophy	<i>2025-Present</i>
Postdoctoral Associate	Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science	<i>2022-2025</i>

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy Dissertation Committee	The Ohio State University ‘The Phenomenal Basis of Thought’ Declan Smithies (chair), Tristram McPherson, Richard Samuels, Charles Siewert (Rice University)	<i>2022</i>
M.A. Philosophy	Virginia Tech	<i>2016</i>
B.A. Philosophy	Sewanee: The University of the South (with honors)	<i>2012</i>

PUBLICATIONS

‘Are LLMs In-Between Believers?’ <i>Agency in the Age of Intelligent Machines</i> (eds. S. AbuMusab and J. Symons). Bloomsbury. (with André Curtis-Trudel)	<i>forthcoming</i>
‘Mechanistic Interpretability and Representationalism about Belief’ <i>Philosophy of AI</i> (with André Curtis-Trudel)	<i>forthcoming</i>
‘How Seriously Should We Take AI Welfare? Constraints from the Epistemology of Consciousness’ <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> 113(2): 441-452	<i>2026</i>
‘The Value of Cognitive Experience’ <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> , 1-16	<i>2026</i>

‘Cognitive Phenomenology: In Defense of Recombination’ <i>Inquiry</i> 68(2): 483-512	2025
‘Are Phenomenal Theories of Thought Chauvinistic?’ <i>American Philosophical Quarterly</i> 61(3): 199-213	2024
‘Athletes as Workers’ <i>Journal of the Philosophy of Sport</i> 51(3): 476-495	2024
‘Aphantasia and Conscious Thought’ <i>Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind</i> 3: 131-155 (ed. Uriah Kriegel)	2023
‘In Defense of Cognitive Phenomenology: Meeting the Matching Content Challenge’ <i>Erkenntnis</i> 88: 2391-2401	2023
‘Delusions and Madmen: Against Rationality Constraints on Belief’ <i>Synthese</i> 200: 1-30 (with Declan Smithies and Richard Samuels)	2022

AWARDS

Thirteenth Annual Essay Prize Winner (€3,000) Centre for Philosophical Psychology, University of Antwerp	2025
Recognition of Teaching Excellence Institute for Teaching, Innovation, and Inclusive Pedagogy, Rutgers University	2024
Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science Research Award (\$2,000)	2022, 2023, 2024
Summer Graduate Research Award (\$5,760) Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences, The Ohio State University	2021
Graduate Student Travel Award American Philosophical Association Central Division	2020
Fink Conference Essay Award The Ohio State University Department of Philosophy	2019, 2020
Tuition Waiver, Summer School on Cognitive Phenomenology (€400) Central European University	2019
Graduate Research Small Grant (\$500) The Ohio State University School of Arts & Humanities	2018
University Fellowship (\$22,000) The Ohio State University	2016-7
Marjorie Grene Memorial Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Virginia Tech Department of Philosophy	2016

Hugh Harris Caldwell, Jr. Award for Excellence in Philosophy
Sewanee: The University of the South Department of Philosophy

2012

PRESENTATIONS (*refereed)(† invited)

- ‘The Philosophy of Science Writ Small’ (with Joseph Sommer)
Philosophy of Science Association, San Diego CA* *November 2026*
- ‘Working Memory and Consciousness: Toward a Mechanistic Account of Experience’
Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Johns Hopkins University (poster)* *June 2026*
- ‘Evaluating Representationalist Folk Mentalism about LLMs’ (with André Curtis-Trudel)
Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam NL* *October 2025*
- ‘Formats Are Consciously Experienced’
Having a Mind and Being Conscious, University of Fribourg CH† *July 2025*
Method, Theory, and Reality Workshop, UMass Amherst† *May 2025*
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile AL* *April 2025*
- ‘AI Consciousness and AI Ethics’
Pacific University Oregon† *March 2025*
Rochester Institute of Technology† *March 2024*
C3: Complexity, Computers, and Consciousness, Imperial College London* *October 2023*
- ‘The Value of Cognitive Experience’
The Ethics of Consciousness Summer School *May 2023*
Rice University Paris Center, Paris FR*
- ‘Thinking Without Consciousness? The Unconscious Thought Paradigm in Psychology’
Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, New York University* *June 2023*
- ‘Are Phenomenal Theories of Thought Chauvinistic?’
Method, Theory, and Reality Workshop, UMass Amherst† *May 2023*
Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science Colloquium Series† *February 2023*
- ‘Athletes as Workers’
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Montreal QC* *January 2023*
First Annual Philosophy and Activism Conference, Missouri-St. Louis* *May 2022*
- ‘Aphantasia and Conscious Thought’
Extremes of Mind Wandering, University of Edinburgh* *June 2021*
- ‘Meeting the Matching Content Challenge to Cognitive Phenomenology’
North Carolina Philosophical Society* *March 2020*
American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago IL* *February 2020*
Philosophy and Representation Graduate Conference, SDSU* *April 2018*

COMMENTS AND TEACHING PRESENTATIONS

On Quinn Gibson's 'AI Companionship, Understanding, and Rule-Following' American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Boston MA	January 2027
On Charles Siewert's 'Consciousness, Thought, and Self-Expression' Texas Area Mind and Value Workshop, Texas Tech University	February 2026
On Gary Bartlett's 'Conscious Experience and Activity' Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile AL	April 2025
On Matthias Michel and Ned Block's 'Blank Access' Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati OH	March 2024
'Attitudes Toward Consciousness Across Cognitive Science' RuCCS Hivemind, Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science	March 2024
'What is Cognitive Science?' Cognitive Science Club, Rutgers University	October 2022
'Delusions and Rationality' (with Declan Smithies) Cognitive Science Club, The Ohio State University	November 2019
On Sanford Diehl's 'Hegel and Natural Teleology in Dewey's Later Thought' Virginia Tech Graduate Conference	November 2014

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

'What Can Aphantasia Tell Us About Conscious Thought?' <i>The Junkyard</i> , a scholarly blog about the imagination (ed. Amy Kind)	September 2022
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TEACHING

Rutgers University Department of Philosophy (Instructor of Record)	
Minds, Machines, and Persons	Spring 2026
Minds, Machines, and Persons	Fall 2025
Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (Instructor of Record)	
Minds, Machines, and Computation	Summer 2026
Introduction to Cognitive Science	Summer 2025
The Philosophy of Consciousness, AI, and Sport	Spring 2025
Introduction to Cognitive Science	Spring 2025
The Philosophy of Consciousness, AI, and Sport	Fall 2024

Introduction to Cognitive Science	<i>Summer 2024</i>
The Philosophy of Consciousness, AI, and Sport	<i>Spring 2024</i>

Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (Teaching Assistant)

Human Nature and Human Diversity (for Jake Quilty-Dunn)	<i>Spring 2024</i>
Introduction to Cognitive Science, Honors (for Ryan Rhodes)	<i>Fall 2023</i>
Introduction to Cognitive Science (for Ryan Rhodes)	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Introduction to Cognitive Science (for Ryan Rhodes)	<i>Fall 2022</i>

The Ohio State University Department of Philosophy (Instructor of Record)

Introduction to Philosophy	<i>Summer 2022</i>
Engineering Ethics	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Contemporary Social and Moral Problems in the U.S.	<i>Fall 2021</i>
Contemporary Social and Moral Problems in the U.S.	<i>Spring 2021</i>
Introduction to Philosophy	<i>Fall 2020</i>
Philosophy and Video Games	<i>Summer 2020</i>
Introduction to Ethics	<i>Fall 2020</i>
Contemporary Social and Moral Problems in the U.S.	<i>Fall 2019</i>

The Ohio State University Department of Philosophy (Teaching Assistant)

Asian Philosophy (for Steve Brown)	<i>Spring 2019</i>
Introduction to Ethics (for Justin D'Arms)	<i>Fall 2018</i>
Introduction to Ethics (for Abe Roth)	<i>Spring 2018</i>
Introduction to Philosophy (for Eden Lin)	<i>Fall 2017</i>

Virginia Tech Department of Philosophy (Instructor of Record)

Global Ethics (online)	<i>Summer 2016</i>
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Virginia Tech Department of Philosophy (Teaching Assistant)

Modern Philosophy (for Nate Rockwood)	<i>Spring 2016</i>
Morality and Justice (for Nate Rockwood)	<i>Fall 2015</i>
Morality and Justice (for Michael Moeller)	<i>Spring 2015</i>
Knowledge and Reality (for Joseph Pitt)	<i>Fall 2014</i>

ADVISING

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor for Zuhayr Thange, Rutgers Cognitive Science	<i>2024-5</i>
Title: "Deus Ex Machina: On the Possible Deification of AI"	

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science Badge for Professional Excellence	<i>2024</i>
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Course Design Institute, The Ohio State University	<i>2019</i>
<i>Developed a course in the philosophy of sport</i>	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Refereeing

Acta Analytica, *Analysis* (x3), *Argumenta*, *Asian Journal of Philosophy* (x2), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (x2), *Ergo* (x2), *Erkenntnis*, *Ethics*, *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, *Journal of Artificial Intelligence and Consciousness*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Studies* (x3), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (x4), *Philosophy and Technology*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy* (x2), Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Ohio Philosophical Association

Service, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science

Organizer of Speaker Visits (Jorge Morales, Grace Helton, Matthias Michel, Ned Block)	2024-6
Undergraduate Advising in Cognitive Science	2024-5
Cognitive Science Booth, Rutgers Day	2024
Lead RuCCS Hivemind talk, "Attitudes toward consciousness across cognitive science"	2024

Service, Ohio State Department of Philosophy

Chair of Graduate Recruitment Committee	2021
Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences Student Group, President	2018-2020
Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences Student Group, Treasurer	2016-18, 2020-22
Ohio State Philosophy and Critical Thinking Summer Camp, Instructor	2018

Service, Virginia Tech Department of Philosophy

Graduate student member of metaethics hiring committee	2016
Research assistant for Tristram McPherson	2015
Organized 12 th Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference on Analytic Metaphysics	2015

Affiliations

American Philosophical Association
Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

REFERENCES

Declan Smithies

Professor of Philosophy
The Ohio State University
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Brian McLaughlin

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and
Cognitive Science
Rutgers University
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Charles Siewert

Robert & Kathryn Hayes Chair in Humanities
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Richard Samuels

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Justin D'Arms (teaching reference)

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