

MATTHEW SIMS

Curriculum Vitae

Edinburgh, UK
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ms3174@cam.ac.uk

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2026–2027

Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University
(Project: *Cognition All the Way Up*)

2025–

Research Affiliate, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

2025–2026

Research Consultant, Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University
(Project: *Cognition All the Way Up*)

2024–2025

Research Associate, Institute for Technology and Humanity
Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge
(Templeton Foundation project: *Major Transitions in the Evolution of Cognition*)

2023–2024

Biology and Cognition Postdoctoral Fellow
Institute of Philosophy II, Ruhr University Bochum

2021–2023

Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow
Institute of Philosophy II, Ruhr University Bochum

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Philosophy of Biology
Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science
Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

History and Philosophy of Evolutionary Biology
Philosophy of Science
Ethics
Metaphysics

EDUCATION

PhD, Philosophy, University of Edinburgh (2021)
Supervisors: Andy Clark, Dave Ward, Julian Kiverstein
Examiners: Eva Jablonka; Alistair Isaac
Doctorate awarded with no corrections

MRes, Philosophy by Research, University of Edinburgh (2017) — *Distinction*

BA (Hons), Philosophy, University of London (2016) — *First Class*

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Sims, M. (2025). *Slime Mould and Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Sims, M. & Fábregas-Tejeda, A. (forthcoming). “Conrad Waddington’s Agential Turn” In A. Fábregas-Tejeda & F. Vergara-Silva (eds), *The Waddingtonian Landscape: Rediscovering Conrad Hal Waddington’s Legacies in Biology and Beyond*. MIT.

Sims, M. (forthcoming). “Memory without Learning: A Case Study with Acellular Slime Mould.” In G. Ramsey & B. Aaby (eds), *Psychodiversity: Cognition and Sentience Beyond Humans*. Routledge.

Sims, M. (2026). “Making Sense of Monitor Cognition: Ecological Drivers of Divergent Cognitive Evolution.” *Biological Theory*.

Sims, M. & Fábregas-Tejeda, A. (2025). “On the Prospects of Basal Cognition Research Becoming Fully Evolutionary.” *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*.

Sims, M. (2024). “The Principle of Dynamic Holism: Guiding Methodology for Investigating Cognition in Non-Neuronal Organisms.” *Philosophy of Science*.

Sims, M. (2023). “Many Paths to Anticipatory Behaviour.” *Biological Theory*.

Sims, M. (2022). "Concern Across Scales: A Biologically Inspired Embodied Artificial Intelligence." *Frontiers in Neurorobotics*.

Sims, M. & Kiverstein, J. (2022). "Externalized Memory in Slime Mould and the Extended Mind." *Cognitive Systems Research*.

Sims, M. (2021). "Continuum of Intentionality: Linking Biogenic and Anthropogenic Approaches to Cognition." *Biology & Philosophy*.

Sims, M. & Pezzulo, G. (2021). "Modelling Ourselves: What the Free Energy Principle Reveals about Representation." *Synthese*.

Kiverstein, J. & Sims, M. (2021). "Is Free Energy Minimization the Mark of the Cognitive?" *Biology & Philosophy*.

Sims, M. (2020). "How to Count Biological Minds." *Synthese*.

Sims, M. (2019). "Minimal Perception." *Philosophical Psychology*.

Sims, M. (2019). "Coupling to Variant Information." *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Linehan, H & Sims, M. "Natural Born Historians." *Memory Palace*

Sims, M. (2025). "What Slime Mould Can Teach Us About Memory." *Aeon Magazine*.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- *Extending Personhood Across Life*
 - *Agential Loss and Gain: A Response Dimensionality Framework for Biological Agency*, M. Sims & P. Bourrat
 - *Memory, Interactors, and Cognitive Adaptation*, M. Sims & P. Bourrat
-

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (INSTRUCTOR)

2026

Lecturer, course organiser, and examiner, Undergraduate Philosophy of Biology Course
Peking University and University of Notre Dame Summer School
Peking University

2025

Instructor and Lecturer, Sino-Australian Philosophy of Life Sciences Postgraduate Summer

School
Fudan University

2023–2024

Lecturer, Postgraduate Seminar: *Basal Cognition and Related Topics*
Ruhr University Bochum

2022

Guest Lecturer, University of Wollongong; Ruhr University Bochum; Max Planck School of Cognition

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (ASSISTANT)

Logic; Philosophy of Science; Mind, Matter and Language; Knowledge and Reality
University of Edinburgh (2019–2021)

SUPERVISION AND MENTORING

MPhil supervision, History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge
Mentoring of PhD and Master's students (Ruhr University Bochum; Fudan University; Indian Institute of Technology Ropar)

SERVICE AND ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Assessor, Lecturer Recruitment Process, Leverhulme Centre (2025)
Journal referee for *Philosophy of Science*, *BJPS*, *Biology & Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *HPLS*, *Biological Theory*, *Philosophical Psychology*
Book referee for Springer
Conference organisation and symposia leadership (BSPS, ESPP, University of Edinburgh)
Conference submissions referee for BSPS (2026)

INVITED TALKS AND SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

London School of Economics; University of Murcia, University of Oviedo, Australian National University; University of Edinburgh; University of Leeds; Konrad Lorenz Institute; Peking University; University of Lisbon; University of Wollongong; Allan Discovery Centre (Boston); Schweitzer Institute, University of Cambridge

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

MIRC Catalyst Workshop Grant (\$7000 US dollars)
Centre for Diverse Intelligences Workshop Grant (£17,579)
Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (€66,000)
University of Wollongong Visiting Research Grant (\$5000 AU Dollars)
University of Edinburgh Training and Development Fund (£3000)

AWARDS

Edinburgh Teaching Award — Nomination (2019)

SKILLS

Programming: R
Languages: English (native); German (advanced)

REFERENCES

Dr Pierrick Bourrat: pierrick.bourrat@mq.edu.au
Professor Marta Halina: mh801@cam.ac.uk
Professor Andy Clark: Andy.Clark@sussex.ac.uk
Professor Tobias Schlicht tobias.schlicht@rub.de