

PRESTON LENNON

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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

EMPLOYMENT

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

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)	2022
M.A. Philosophy	Virginia Tech	2016
B.A. Philosophy	Sewanee: The University of the South (with honors)	2012

PUBLICATIONS

'Mechanistic Interpretability and Representationalism about Belief' <i>Philosophy of A.I.</i> (with André Curtis-Trudel)	<i>provisionally accepted</i>
'The Value of Cognitive Experience' <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i>	<i>forthcoming</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'	2024

Journal of the Philosophy of Sport 51(3): 476-495

‘Aphantasia and Conscious Thought’ 2023
Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind vol. 3: 131-155 (ed. Uriah Kriegel)

‘In Defense of Cognitive Phenomenology: Meeting the Matching Content Challenge’ 2023
Erkenntnis 88: 2391-2401

‘Delusions and Madmen: Against Rationality Constraints on Belief’ 2022
Synthese 200: 1-30 (with Declan Smithies and Richard Samuels)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

‘How Seriously Should We Take AI Welfare? Constraints from the Epistemology of Consciousness’
minor revisions at Philosophy and Phenomenological Research

AWARDS

Thirteenth Annual Essay Prize Winner (€3,000) 2025
Centre for Philosophical Psychology, University of Antwerp

Recognition of Teaching Excellence 2024
Intitute for Teaching, Innovation, and Inclusive Pedagogy, Rutgers University

Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science Research Award (\$2,000) 2022, 2023, 2024

Summer Graduate Research Award (\$5,760) 2021
Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences, The Ohio State University

Fink Conference Essay Award 2020
The Ohio State University Department of Philosophy

Graduate Student Travel Award 2020
American Philosophical Association Central Division

Tuition Waiver, Summer School on Cognitive Phenomenology (€400) 2019
Central European University

Fink Conference Essay Award 2019
The Ohio State University Department of Philosophy

Graduate Research Small Grant (\$500) 2018
The Ohio State University School of Arts & Humanities

University Fellowship (\$22,000) 2016-7
The Ohio State University

Marjorie Grene Memorial Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student 2016
Virginia Tech Department of Philosophy

Hugh Harris Caldwell, Jr. Award for Excellence in Philosophy 2012
Sewanee: The University of the South Department of Philosophy

PRESENTATIONS (*refereed)(† invited)

‘The Philosophy of Science Writ Small’ (with Joseph Sommer) November 2026
Philosophy of Science Association, San Diego CA*

‘Working Memory and Consciousness: Toward a Mechanistic Account of Experience’ June 2026
Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Johns Hopkins University (poster)*

‘Evaluating Representationalist Folk Mentalism about LLMs’ (with André Curtis-Trudel) October 2025
Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence, Vrije University, Amsterdam NL*

‘Formats Are Consciously Experienced’ July 2025
Having a Mind and Being Conscious, University of Fribourg CH†
Method, Theory, and Reality Workshop, UMass Amherst† May 2025
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile AL* April 2025

‘AI Consciousness and AI Ethics’ March 2025
Pacific University Oregon†
Rochester Institute of Technology† March 2024
C3: Complexity, Computers, and Consciousness, Imperial College London* October 2023

‘The Value of Cognitive Experience’ May 2023
The Ethics of Consciousness Summer School
Rice University Paris Center, Paris FR*

‘Thinking Without Consciousness? The Unconscious Thought Paradigm in Psychology’ June 2023
Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, New York University*

‘Are Phenomenal Theories of Thought Chauvinistic?’ May 2023
Method, Theory, and Reality Workshop, UMass Amherst†
Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science Colloquium Series† February 2023

‘Athletes as Workers’ January 2023
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Montreal QC*
First Annual Philosophy and Activism Conference, Missouri-St. Louis* May 2022

‘Aphantasia and Conscious Thought’ June 2021
Extremes of Mind Wandering, University of Edinburgh*

‘Meeting the Matching Content Challenge to Cognitive Phenomenology’ North Carolina Philosophical Society*	<i>March 2020</i>
American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago IL*	<i>February 2020</i>
Philosophy and Representation Graduate Conference, SDSU*	<i>April 2018</i>
Graduate Student Workshop, The Ohio State University	<i>March 2018</i>

COMMENTS AND TEACHING PRESENTATIONS

Comments on Charles Siewert’s ‘Consciousness, Thought, and Self-Expression’ Texas Area Mind and Value Workshop, Texas Tech University	<i>February 2026</i>
Comments on Gary Bartlett’s ‘Conscious Experience and Activity’ Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile AL	<i>April 2025</i>
Comments on Matthias Michel and Ned Block’s ‘Blank Access’ Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati OH	<i>March 2024</i>
‘Attitudes Toward Consciousness Across Cognitive Science’ RuCCS Hivemind, Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science	<i>March 2024</i>
‘What is Cognitive Science?’ Cognitive Science Club, Rutgers University	<i>October 2022</i>
‘Delusions and Rationality’ (with Declan Smithies) Cognitive Science Club, The Ohio State University	<i>November 2019</i>
Comments on Sanford Diehl’s ‘Hegel and Natural Teleology in Dewey’s Later Thought’ Virginia Tech Graduate Conference	<i>November 2014</i>

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

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

Rutgers University Department of Philosophy (Instructor of Record) Minds, Machines, and Persons	<i>Spring 2026</i>
Minds, Machines, and Persons	<i>Fall 2025</i>

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

The Philosophy of Consciousness, AI, and Sport *Spring 2024*

Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (Teaching Assistant)

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

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

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

The Ohio State University Department of Philosophy (Teaching Assistant)

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

Virginia Tech Department of Philosophy (Instructor of Record)

Global Ethics (online) *Summer 2016*

Virginia Tech Department of Philosophy (Teaching Assistant)

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

ADVISING

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

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science Badge for Professional Excellence *2024*

Course Design Institute, The Ohio State University *2019*
Developed a course in the philosophy of sport

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Refereeing

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

Service, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science

Organizer of Speaker Visits (Jorge Morales, Grace Helton, Matthias Michel)	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
Letter writer for over 40 letters of recommendation for cognitive science undergraduates	2022-6

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
Professor of Philosophy
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Jake Quilty-Dunn

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Justin D'Arms (teaching reference)

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