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## NICHOLAS SILINS

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Cornell University  
Sage School of Philosophy  
218 Goldwin Smith Hall  
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### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind

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### AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Metaphysics, Aesthetics, Classical Asian Philosophy

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### EDUCATION

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Oxford University, D.Phil in Philosophy, 2004  
Dissertation: *Reasons and Armchair Knowledge*  
Supervisor: Timothy Williamson

Oxford University, B.Phil in Philosophy, 2001  
Thesis: *Content and Self-Knowledge*  
Supervisor: Timothy Williamson

Princeton University, B.A. in Comparative Literature, *magna cum laude*, 1999

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### APPOINTMENTS

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Field Member of Cognitive Science, Cornell University, 2018-present  
Professor of Philosophy, Cornell University, 2020-present  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Cornell University, 2012-2020  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Yale-NUS College, 2013-2016  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Cornell University, 2006-2012  
Research Fellow, Australian National University, RISS, Centre for Consciousness,  
Jan-July 2007, Jan-July 2009  
Bersoff Fellow, New York University, 2004-2006

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### PUBLICATIONS

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- To Appear    “Speak, Memory: Dignāga, Consciousness, and Awareness”, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- “‘The Conscious Theory of Higher-Orderness’”, *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind*  
(Preprint on philpapers.org, at <https://philpapers.org/rec/SILTCT-5>)
- 2021            “Perceptual Experience and Perceptual Justification”, revised and expanded,  
[Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

- 2020 "The Evil Demon in the Lab: Skepticism, Introspection, and Introspection of Introspection", *Synthese* Online First
- "Reading the Bad News about Our Minds", *Philosophical Issues* 30: 293-310
- 2019 "Attention and Perceptual Justification", with Susanna Siegel, for A. Pautz and D. Stoljar (eds.) Blockheads! Themes From Ned Block's Philosophy of Mind and Consciousness (MIT)
- "On *Aesthetics as Philosophy of Perception*", *Studi di Estetica*, 4: 227-233
- 2018 "The Evil Demon Inside", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, Early View Online
- "The Structure of Episodic Memory: Ganeri's 'Mental Time Travel and Attention'", with Susanna Siegel, *Australasian Philosophical Review* 4: 374-394
- 2016 "Cognitive Penetration and the Epistemology of Perception", *Blackwell Compass* 11: 24-42
- 2015 "Perceptual Experience and Perceptual Justification", Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- "The Epistemology of Perception", with Susanna Siegel, in (ed.) M. Matthen, The Oxford Handbook of Perception (OUP)
- 2014 "The Agony of Defeat?", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 88: 505-532
- "Experience Does Justify Belief?", in R. Neta (ed.) Current Controversies in Epistemology (Routledge)
- "Consciousness, Attention, and Justification", with Susanna Siegel, in D. Dodd and E. Zardini (eds.) Scepticism and Perceptual Justification (OUP)
- 2013 "Introspection and Inference", *Philosophical Studies* 163: 291-315
- "The Significance of High-Level Content", in (ed.) B. Brogaard, special volume of *Philosophical Studies* 162: 13-33
- 2012 "Judgment as a Guide to Belief?", in (eds.) D. Smithies and D. Stoljar, Introspection and Consciousness (OUP)
- 2011 "Seeing Through the 'Veil of Perception'", *Mind* 120: 329-67
- "Explaining Perceptual Entitlement", *Erkenntnis*, Online First
- 2008 "Basic Justification and the Moorean Response to the Skeptic", *Oxford Studies in Epistemology: Volume 2*, also reprinted in (ed.) R. Neta Critical Concepts in Epistemology (Routledge)
- 2005 "Transmission Failure Failure", *Philosophical Studies* 126: 71-102
- "Deception and Evidence", *Philosophical Perspectives* 19: 375-404

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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2018      Review of Sebastian Watzl's *Structuring Mind*, for *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*

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## MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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"The Lamp that Lights Itself: Consciousness and Inner Awareness", for CUP volume on  
Consciousness and Inner Awareness

"Attention, Perception, and Epistemology: the Unconscious Side of the Debate", for  
special volume of *Synthese*

"Attention and Aesthetic Experience", available on request

"No Yourself: Self Cultivation without Self Knowledge in Classical Chinese Philosophy"

*The Days and The Years: The Value of Consciousness*, book proposal available on request

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## PRESENTATIONS (excluding job talks)

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"The Conscious Theory of Higher-Orderness"

2023 (August)    Lingnan University, Hong Kong

2023 (June)      ASSC, NYU

"No Yourself: Self Cultivation without Self Knowledge"

2023 (Sep)      NUS, Singapore

2023 (May)      Bled Epistemology Conference, Slovenia

"Speak, Memory: Dignāga, Consciousness, and Awareness"

2023 (June)      IUSS Kinds of Minds Seminar Series (zoom)

2023 (April)     Columbia University Comparative Philosophy Seminar

2023 (January)   Eastern Division APA

"Attention and Aesthetic Experience"

2023 (July)      Tmfest, Oxford University (short version only)

2022 (March)    Cornell Cognitive Science Speaker Series

My spring 2020 talks scheduled in Antwerp and Nijmegen had to be cancelled for pandemic reasons

Roundtable Comments on Aesthetic Normativity

2019 (May)      Harvard-NYU Workshop on Aesthetic Normativity

Comments on Lu Teng's "The Epistemic Insignificance of the Feeling of Presence"

2018 (Oct)      NYC-China Epistemology Conference, Fordham University

"The structure of episodic memory: Ganeri's 'Mental time travel and  
attention'", with Susanna Siegel

2017 (Dec)      Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University

Comments on Antonia Peacocke's "The Special Value of Self-Knowledge"

2017 (Nov)      *Introspection and Self-Knowledge*, Universidad Panamericana

"The Epistemology of Experience and Imagery"

2017 (March)    *Mental Imagery and Cognitive Penetration*, University of Antwerp

“Self-Knowledge and Its Limits”

2016 (Sept) National Taiwan University, AWPL-TPLC

Comments on Barry Allen’s *Vanishing Into Things*

2016 (April) Pacific APA, Author-Meets-Critics

Comments on Bence Nanay’s *Aesthetics as Philosophy of Perception*

2016 (April) Pacific APA, Author-Meets-Critics

“Reading the Bad News about Our Minds”

2017 (June) *Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills*, Bled, Slovenia

2015 (June) *Defeat and Epistemic Responsibility*, University of St. Andrews

Comments on David Sosa’s ‘What Does it Matter What it is Like?’

2015 (Jan) Sociedad Filosofica Iberica Americana, Huatulco Mexico

“The Evil Demon Inside”

2018 (April) *Introspection and Self-Knowledge*, CSU Chico

2017 (Nov) *Introspection and Self-Knowledge*, Universidad Panamericana

2017 (Sep) *Epistemology Seminar (Declan Smithies)*, The Ohio State University

2017 (July) *Perception Week*, Institut Jean Nicod

2015 (Oct) Nanyang Technological University

2015 (June) *The Intersection of Epistemology and the Philosophy of Mind*, Bled, Slovenia

2014 (Aug) *On the Reliability of First-Person Data*, University of Bergen

2013 (Sept) *The New Evil Demon Problem*, University of Geneva

Comments on Keya Maitra’s ‘Consciousness and Attention in the *Bhagavad Gita*’

2013 (Sept) *Mind and Attention in Indian Philosophy*, Harvard University

“What is the Scope of Aesthetic Experience?”

2018 (March) *Virtues of Attention: Global Philosophical Perspectives*, NYU-Shanghai

2014 (Sep) British Society of Aesthetics Annual Conference, Oxford

2014 (Feb) National University of Singapore

2013 (Aug) *Perception*, Barnard College

2013 (April) Lewis and Clark College

2012 (Dec) *Philosophy of Perception and Aesthetics*, University of Antwerp

2012 (Nov) Philosophy of Mind and Psychology Research Seminar, Glasgow

“Consciousness, Attention, and Justification”

2015 (Feb) *Forefronts of Epistemology*, CAPE, Kyoto University

2013 (Sept) UNAM, Mexico City, *Knowledge and Skepticism*

2013 (Feb) Central APA (invited symposium)

2012 (Nov) University of Leeds

2011 (Dec) *The Normative Significance of Consciousness*, Fribourg Switzerland

2011 (Oct) University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2011 (July) Australian National University, RISS, *Perceptual Capacities*

2011 (May) University of Geneva, Epistemology of Perception Workshop

2011 (April) Harvard University, Attention Workshop

2010 (Oct) Brown University, Epistemology Seminar (Scott Sturgeon)

University of Edinburgh

Arché, University of St Andrews

Northern Institute of Philosophy, University of Aberdeen

“The Significance of High-Level Content”

- 2010 (May) Columbia University, *New Directions in Philosophy of Mind*
- 2010 (April) University of Arizona  
Harvard University, Philosophy of Perception seminar
- 2010 (Jan) Jawarharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, *Consciousness and Thought*

“Introspection and Inference”

- 2010 (March) Columbia University
- 2009 (Nov) Princeton University
- 2009 (June) Hong Kong Polytechnic, *Towards a Science of Consciousness*
- 2009 (March) Australian National University, RSSS
- 2008 (Sept) University of St Andrews, Arché Basic Knowledge Workshop

“The Agony of Defeat?”

- 2008 (Aug) Dubrovnik, *Consciousness and Thought*
- 2007 (May) Australian National University, RSSS, *The Epistemology of Experience*

“Immediate Justification and Mediated Content” (now “Seeing Through the ‘Veil of Perception’”)

- 2008 (Sept) University of Rochester, Mellon Epistemology Workshop
- 2008 (March) University of St Andrews, Arché Basic Knowledge Workshop  
University of Toronto
- 2007 (Feb) ANU Kioloa Coastal Campus, *Consciousness at the Beach 2*

“Mental Causation and the Basing Relation”

- 2007 (May) Australian National University, RSSS

“Basic Justification and the Moorean Response to the Skeptic”

- 2006 (June) University of Geneva (in French)
- 2005 (April) UNC, Epistemology Seminar (Ram Neta)
- 2004 (Oct) *Themes from Peacocke*, Columbia University

“Comments on E.J. Coffman’s ‘Williamson’s Evidence’”

- 2006 (April) Central APA

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**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

Editor, *The Philosophical Review*, 2015-2023 (editor-in-chief 2020-2023)  
Associate Editor, *Episteme*, 2013-2015

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**EVENTS ORGANIZED**

*NEH Summer Institute: Presuppositions and Perception: Reasoning, Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics*  
6/26-7/21, 2016  
Cornell University  
co-organized with Susanna Siegel  
Funded by a grant from the National Endowment of Humanities of \$192, 461  
*Predictions and Motives in Perception*

9/11-9/12, 2010  
Cornell University, A.D. White House  
co-organized with Susanna Siegel  
Funded by the departments of Philosophy, Psychology, and Cognitive Science

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### TEACHING

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Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Philosophy of Mind, Introduction to Epistemology  
Philosophy and Political Thought  
Proseminar in Philosophy  
Aesthetics: Art and the Mind  
Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Self-Knowledge / Perception, Memory, Imagination / Mental Content)  
Topics in Epistemology (Psychology of Belief Formation / Perception / Knowledge and the Danger of Error)  
Topics in Metaphysics (Color and Color Experience / Time and Personal Identity)  
Independent Study on Classical Chinese Philosophy

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### THESIS SUPERVISION

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Cornell Graduate Students (as primary, now completed): Lu Teng (now at NYU-Shanghai), Jonna Vance (now at NAU), Ru Ye (now at Wuhan), Alicia Patterson (now at Georgetown as a post-doc)  
Cornell Graduate Students (as primary, ongoing): Shao-Pu Kang, Edvard Meza  
Cornell Undergraduates: Garrett Katz (2006), Peter Devlin (2012), Noam Weinrich (2017), Lorenzo Benitez (2018)

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### CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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2012-13: *Philosophy and Political Thought*, a year-long sequence for first-year undergraduates that includes Western, Chinese, Indian, and Arabic philosophy  
2007-2008: *Sage Seminar*, Cornell University's proseminar in philosophy for first-year graduate students