

Nina Van Rooy

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EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy at Duke University (2020 – 2027 (expected))

Committee: Felipe De Brigard, Benjamin Eva, Michael Tomasello, Daniel McShea, Sarah Robins

- ❖ Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Neuroscience, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience
- ❖ Certificate in College Teaching, The Graduate School

MA in Philosophy at King's College, London – *Distinction* (2017 – 2018)

Dissertation: 'Reductionism and Multiple Realizability: Resolving the Stalemate'

Supervisor: Alexander Bird

BA in English Language and Literature at King's College, London – *First Class Honours* (2013-2016)

- ❖ King's Interdisciplinary Experience Award, *A Beautiful Mind: Art, Science and Mental Health*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Animal Cognition, Philosophy of AI, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Experimental Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Trey Boone, **Nina Van Rooy**, and Felipe De Brigard (2023). '[Not Every Thing Must Go](#)'. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 35(3): 376-379.

Nina Van Rooy (second-round R&R in *Synthese*). 'Does GPT-4 have Theory of Mind? On the Pitfalls of Testing for Familiar Cognitive Capacities in Large Language Models'

Nina Van Rooy (in prep). 'Is Episodic Memory a Unified Construct Across Species?'

Kaylee Miceli*, **Nina Van Rooy***, Felipe De Brigard, and Kevin O'Neill (in prep) [*denotes equal contribution]. 'Causation on a Continuum: No Normality Effects on Causal Judgments'

CONFERENCE TALKS & POSTERS

1. **Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology**, Atlanta, February 27th, 2026. Commentator on Gavin Foster's talk, 'The Pluralistic Evolution of Factive Mindreading'
2. **American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division**, Baltimore, January 10th, 2026. Commentator on Shereen Chang's talk, 'Dolphins Merge, or: How I learned to stop worrying and accept that human and nonhuman animal language faculties are continuous'
3. **Philosophy of Science Association**, New Orleans, November 15th, 2024. 'Does GPT-4 Have Theory of Mind?' (poster)
4. **Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf Workshop**, Pensacola, October 5th, 2024. 'Why We Should Stop Talking About *Episodic-like* Memory'
5. **Cognitive Science Society**, Rotterdam, July 25th, 2024. 'Causation on a Continuum: No Normality Effects on Causal Judgments' (poster)
6. **European Society for Philosophy and Psychology**, Grenoble, July 4th, 2024. 'Causation on a Continuum: No Normality Effects on Causal Judgments' (poster)
7. **European Society for Philosophy and Psychology**, Grenoble, July 4th, 2024. 'Does GPT-4 Have Theory of Mind? On the Pitfalls of Testing for Familiar Cognitive Capacities in Large Language Models'
8. **Society for Philosophy and Psychology**, Purdue, June 21st, 2024. 'Does GPT-4 Have Theory of Mind? On the Pitfalls of Testing for Familiar Cognitive Capacities in Large Language Models'
9. **American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division**, Portland, March 20th, 2024. Commentator at Scientific Explanation Symposium on Holly Andersen's talk, 'A Pragmatist Account of the Asymmetry of Explanation'
10. **Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf Workshop**, Pensacola, September 30th, 2023. 'Do Large Language Models have Theory of Mind?'
11. **Society for Philosophy and Psychology**, Pittsburgh, June 23rd, 2023. 'Do Large Language Models have Theory of Mind?' (poster)
12. **APHINE (Applied Philosophy in Neuroscience) Workshop**, Yale University, June 14th, 2023. 'Do Large Language Models have Theory of Mind?' (invited talk)
13. **Duke-UNC graduate conference**, Duke University, February 18th, 2023. 'Moving Away from an Anthropocentric Picture of Mind and Cognition'
14. **Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf Workshop**, Pensacola, September 22nd, 2022. 'What Can Neural Discriminability Do for our Cognitive Ontology?'

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2026-2027: Duke Institute for Brain Sciences dissertation fellowship (\$20,000)

2025 (Fall): Semester fellowship from the Philosophy Department at Duke University for visiting studentship at UC Santa Barbara under the supervision of Colin Allen (\$14,000)

2025 (Fall): Domestic Travel Award from Duke University for visiting studentship at UC Santa Barbara under the supervision of Colin Allen (\$1400)

2025: Society for Philosophy and Neuroscience (SPAN) Conference Award, for the SPAN meeting in St. Louis, May 1-3rd, 2025 (\$700)

2024: National Science Foundation Travel Grant, for the Philosophy of Science Association meeting in New Orleans, November 14-17th, 2024 (\$470)

2024: Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference Award, for the SPP meeting at Purdue University, June 19-22, 2024 (\$200)

2022: National Science Foundation Travel Grant, for the Philosophy of Science Association meeting in Pittsburgh, November 11-13th, 2022 (\$465)

2017-2018: Royal Belgian Benevolent Society Award, for my Masters in Philosophy (2017-2018) at King's College London (£3000)

2017-2018: Sorabji Graduate Bursary from the Philosophy Department, King's College London for my Master's in Philosophy (2017-2018; £2000)

2013: Summer School Award for tuition fees and living expenses from King's College London, for the Summer School program at Renmin University of China (~£1500)

TEACHING

As Instructor of Record

Introduction to Formal Logic (online, Summer 2026)

Problems in Philosophy of Science (Spring 2025)

Introduction to Formal Logic (Fall 2024)

Philosophy of Biology, co-taught with Daniel McShea (Spring 2024)

Introduction to Formal Logic (Fall 2023)

As Teaching Assistant

Let's Talk about Climate Change (Fall 2026)

The Metaphysics of Free Will, taught by Reuben Stern (Spring 2023)

Introduction to Philosophy, taught by Alex Rosenberg (Fall 2022)

Paradoxes of Rational Choice, taught by Benjamin Eva (Spring 2022)

Philosophy and Neuroscience, taught by Felipe De Brigard (Fall 2021)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2026 (Spring): Organizer of the Philosophy Writing Accountability Group at Duke University

2024-2026: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion graduate representative for Philosophy at Duke University

Program committee member for the inaugural conference of the Society for Philosophy and Neuroscience (SPAN) (1-3 May, 2025), Washington University at St. Louis

Refereeing for 50th meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (June 19-21st, 2024), Purdue University

Refereeing for the *On Purpose* Conference (May 5-7th, 2024), Duke University

Co-organizer for the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society (March 3-4th, 2023), Duke University

MENTORSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

2026-2027: Writing Consultant at the Thompson Writing Center, Duke University

2023-present: Debate competition judge at the National High School Ethics Bowl, for the regional, divisional and national competitions (the Parr Center for Ethics, UNC Chapel Hill)

2025: Cognitive Neuroscience Research Internship (CNRI) mentor (Duke University)

2017-2019: Specialist Philosophy Teacher with The Philosophy Foundation, teaching 8-week interactive philosophy courses to several cohorts of high school students (London, UK)

2017-2018: mentor with DebateMate, coaching a high school team for debating competitions (London, UK)

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

2025: Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute (DISI) in St Andrews, Scotland

2024: CIFAR Neuroscience of Consciousness Winter School in Cancun, Mexico

2020-present: member of the Imagination and Modal Cognition Lab, PI: Felipe De Brigard

2020-present: member of the Moral Attitudes and Decisions Lab, PI: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

2018: Specialist Philosophy Teacher Accreditation with The Philosophy Foundation, London

2016: Summer School in Psychology and Mandarin Chinese at Renmin University of China, Beijing

TECHNICAL SKILLS

JavaScript (beginner)

JASP (intermediate)

R (beginner)

Experiment and survey design: Qualtrics,
Prolific, JsPsych package for JavaScript

LANGUAGES

English (advanced), Dutch (advanced), Danish (advanced), French (intermediate)

REFERENCES

Felipe De Brigard

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