

Stephen Gadsby

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW · FONDS WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK (FWO)

Centre for Philosophical Psychology, University of Antwerp

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Research Areas

SPECIALISATION

- Philosophy of Cognitive Science / Psychology
- Philosophy of Psychiatry
- Philosophy of Mind

COMPETENCE

- Philosophy of Science
- Experimental Psychology

Education

Monash University

Melbourne, Australia

PHD (PHILOSOPHY): UNUSUAL BELIEF: FROM EATING DISORDERS TO IMPOSTER SYNDROME

2017 - 2021

- Supervisors: Jakob Hohwy, Jennifer Windt

Utrecht University

Utrecht, The Netherlands

VISITING STUDENT (DEPARTMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY)

2020 - 2021

- Supervisors: Anouk Keizer, Chris Dijkerman

Macquarie University

Sydney, Australia

MASTER OF RESEARCH (PHILOSOPHY): ANOREXIA NERVOSA AND BODY REPRESENTATION

2015 - 2016

- Supervisor: Colin Klein

Macquarie University

Sydney, Australia

BACHELOR OF ARTS (PHILOSOPHY)

2011 - 2014

Professional Experience

2021-2024 **FWO Junior Postdoctoral Fellow**, Centre for Philosophical Psychology, Antwerp University

Project: Understanding Self-Deception, Supervisors: Bence Nanay, Agnes Moors

2022 **Visiting Fellow**, Department of Philosophy, Tilburg University w. Matteo Colombo (1 month)

2022 **Visiting Researcher**, Department of Psychology, Royal Holloway University of London w. Ryan McKay (1 month)

Publications

IMPACT

Citations: 390

h-index: 11

i10-index: 11

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Gadsby, S. (2024). Motivational pessimism and motivated cognition. *Synthese*. 203, 119, 1-18.

Gadsby, S., & Hohwy, J. (2024). Negative performance evaluation in the imposter phenomenon. *Current Psychology*, 43, 9300–9308.

- Van de Cruys, S., Bervoets, J., **Gadsby, S.**, Gijbels, D., & Poels, K. (2023). Insight in the conspiracist's mind. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 1-23.
- Gadsby, S.** (2023). Anorexia nervosa, body dissatisfaction, and problematic beliefs. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 1-20.
- Gadsby, S.**, Zopf, R., Brooks, K., Schumann, A., de la Cruz, F., Rieger, K., Murr, J., Wutzler, U., & Bär, K. (2023). Testing visual self-misperception in anorexia nervosa using a symmetrical body size estimation paradigm. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*, 56(11), 2149-2154. (**joint first author**)
- Gadsby, S.** (2023). The rationality of eating disorders. *Mind & Language*, 38(3), 732-749.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Hohwy, J. (2023). Incentivising accuracy reduces bias in the imposter phenomenon. *Current Psychology*, 42(32), 27865-27873.
- Gadsby, S.** (2022). Imposter syndrome and self-deception. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 100(2), 247-261.
- Engel, M.M., **Gadsby, S.**, Corcoran, A., Keizer, A., Dijkerman, C., & Hohwy, J. (2022). Waiting longer, feeling fatter: effects of response delay on tactile distance estimation and confidence in anorexia nervosa. *Brain and Behavior*, 1-13. (**joint first author**)
- Gadsby, S.** (2021). Visual self-misperception in eating disorders. *Perception*, 50(11), 933-949.
- Gadsby, S.** (2020). Self-deception and the second factor: How desire causes delusion in anorexia nervosa. *Erkenntnis*, 85(3), 609-626.
- Gadsby, S.** (2019). Body representations and cognitive ontology: drawing the boundaries of the body image. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 74, 102772.
- Gadsby, S.** (2019). Manipulating body representations with virtual reality: clinical implications for anorexia nervosa. *Philosophical Psychology*, 32:6, 898-922.
- Tappin, B., & **Gadsby, S.** (2019). Biased belief in the bayesian brain: a deeper look at the evidence. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 65, 107-114.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Williams, D. (2018). Action, affordances, and anorexia: body representation and basic cognition. *Synthese*, 195(12), 5297-5317.
- Clutton, P., & **Gadsby, S.** (2018). Delusions, harmful dysfunctions, and treatable conditions. *Neuroethics*, 11(2), 167-181.
- Clutton, P., **Gadsby, S.**, & Klein, C. (2017). Taxonomising delusions: content or aetiology?. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*, 22(6), 508-527.
- Gadsby, S.**, (2017). Explaining body size beliefs in anorexia. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*, 22(6), 495-507.
- Gadsby, S.**, (2017). Anorexia nervosa and oversized experiences. *Philosophical Psychology*, 30, 594-615.
- Gadsby, S.**, (2017). Distorted body representations in anorexia nervosa. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 51, 17-33.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Gadsby, S.** (in press). Delusions in anorexia nervosa. *Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Delusion*, (Ed.) E. Sullivan-Bissett. Routledge.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Hohwy, J. (2022). Predictive processing and body representation. *Routledge Handbook of Bodily Awareness*, (Eds.) A. Alsmith & M. Longo. Routledge.
- Gadsby, S.**, & Hohwy, J. (2021). Why use predictive processing to explain psychopathology? The case of anorexia nervosa. *The Philosophy and Science of Predictive Processing* (Eds.) S. Gouveia, R. Mendonça, & M. Curado. Bloomsbury.

COMMENTARIES

- Gadsby, S.** (2023). Bad beliefs: automaticity, arationality, and intervention. *Philosophical Psychology*, 36(4), 778-791.
- Gadsby, S.** (2018). How are the spatial characteristics of the body represented? A reply to Pitron & de Vignemont. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 62, 183-168.
- Gadsby, S.** (2018) Is the sense of bodily ownership related to pre-reflective bodily awareness? A reply to Kuhle. *Philosophical Psychology*, 31(4), 629-637.

IN PROGRESS

Gadsby, S. (under review). A paper about self-deception.

Van de Cruys, S., & **Gadsby, S.** (under review). Conspiracy theories and the sense of insight. — Commissioned by *Psyche* (<https://psyche.co/>)

Gadsby, S. (in prep.). Artificial intelligence and embodied cognition.

Gadsby, S. (in prep.). The morality of tattoos.

Gadsby, S. (in prep.). Imposter syndrome and epistemic hostility.

Gadsby, S., Williams, D., & McKay, R. (in prep.). Belief-based utility.

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

2022	Visiting Fellowship Award , Tilburg University	€2,000
2021-2024	Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship , Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO)	
2021	Postgraduate Publication Award , Monash University	\$5,551
2017-2021	Monash University Research Training Pathway Scholarship. , Monash University	\$26,682 p/a
2017-2021	Monash University Graduate Excellence Scholarship. , Monash University	\$10,000 p/a
2019	Postgraduate Publication Prize (High Commendation) , Monash University	
2018	“Early Career Leader” in the Humanities, Arts and Literature , Education Magazine (The Australian), https://tinyurl.com/2nyspxht	
2018	Karl Jaspers Award (Honourable Mention) , Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry	
2016	Full Year (MRes) Macquarie University Research Training Pathway Scholarship , Macquarie University	\$ 26,682
2016	Postgraduate Presentation Prize , Australasian Association of Philosophy	\$ 500
2015	Session 1 (BPhil) Macquarie University Research Training Pathway Scholarship , Macquarie University	\$ 4,000
2015	Session 2 (BPhil) Macquarie University Research Training Pathway Scholarship , Macquarie University	\$ 4,000

Selected Presentations

February, 2024. *Anorexia nervosa and the value of thinness*. Delusions at the Intersection Workshop, University of Zürich.

August, 2023. *Tattoos as social signals*. European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Conference, Prague.

September, 2022. *Imposter syndrome: What’s the situation?*. Department of Philosophy, Tilburg University. **INVITED**

July, 2022. *Imposter Syndrome and Motivated Reasoning*. Society for Philosophy and Psychology & European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Joint Conference, University of Milan.

June, 2022. *Bad Beliefs: Automaticity, Arationality, Intervention*. Symposium on the work of Neil Levy, Festival of Arguments, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford. (Online Talk). **INVITED**

October, 2020. *In Defence of the Rationality of Eating Disorders*. Lunchtime Seminar, Institute of Mental Health, University of Birmingham. (Online Talk). **INVITED**

October, 2020. *Explaining False Body Size Beliefs in Anorexia Nervosa*. Body, Self, and Plasticity Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Zurich. (Online Talk) **INVITED**

October, 2019. *Explaining False Body Size Beliefs in Anorexia Nervosa*. Colloquium, Department of Experimental Psychology, Utrecht University. **INVITED**

September, 2019. *Explaining False Body Size Beliefs in Anorexia Nervosa*. Centre for Philosophical Psychology, University of Antwerp. **INVITED**

- September, 2019. *Surrogates, Simulation, and Structure: A Deeper Look at the Representational Characteristics of the Body Schema* - Recent Development in Situated Cognition, Ruhr University. (Poster)
- December, 2018. *Body Representation, Misperception and Eating Disorders – A two-factor account of false body size beliefs in anorexia nervosa*. Science of the Self Mini-Workshop, Macquarie University.
- August, 2018. *Sense of Bodily Ownership: What the hell are they talking about?*. Self Workshop, Monash University.
- June, 2018. *Motivation, Social Cognition and Harmful Belief in Anorexia Nervosa*. New Perspectives & Methods on Social Cognition Summer School, Aegina. (Poster)
- February, 2018. *Bayesian Explanation and the Two-factor Theory: Promises and Pitfalls*. The Nature of Delusions Workshop, Monash University.
- November, 2017. *Measuring and Manipulating Body Representations in Anorexia*. Science of Self Workshop, Macquarie University.
- November, 2017. *What causes false body size beliefs in anorexia?*. Medical Humanities Seminar Series, Macquarie University. **INVITED**
- April, 2017. *Disorders, Body Representations and Virtual Reality*. The Role of the Body in Virtual Reality Workshop, University of Wollongong. **INVITED**
- October, 2016. *Anorexia Nervosa and the Oversized Experience*. Platonic Society, Macquarie University. **INVITED**
- July, 2016. *Anorexia Nervosa and the Oversized Experience*. Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference **WINNER OF THE 2016 POSTGRADUATE PRESENTATION PRIZE**

Teaching and Supervision

- 2021 **ATS3876 - Knowledge, belief, and action**, Teaching Associate and Course Designer (w. Jakob Hohwy) , Monash University
- 2020 **Experimental Psychology, Bachelor Thesis (3 students)**, Supervisor (w. Manja Engel), Utrecht University
- 2019 **Experimental Psychology, Bachelor Thesis (3 students)**, Supervisor (w. Manja Engel), Utrecht University
- 2019 **ATS2840 - Philosophy of mind**, Teaching Associate, Monash University
- 2019 **ATS2840 - Philosophy of mind (lecture on behaviorism)**, Guest Lecturer, Monash University
- 2018 **ATS2840 - Philosophy of mind**, Teaching Associate, Monash University
- 2018 **PSY3280 - The neuronal basis of consciousness (lecture on predictive coding)**, Guest Lecturer (w. Julian Mathews), Monash University

Outreach and Professional Development

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Is imposter syndrome really a syndrome?** – Blog post at *Culturico* (<https://tinyurl.com/52v4k8nn>)
- Is ‘feeling fat’ really a manifestation of underlying sadness?** – Article at *Psyche* (w. Bence Nanay) (<https://tinyurl.com/mrxzdhdh>)
- Eating disorders and irrational beliefs** – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions* (<https://tinyurl.com/yn3n7xjx>)
- Imposter syndrome and self-deception** – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions* (<https://tinyurl.com/36ubbc3d>)
- Biased belief in the bayesian brain** (w. Ben Tappin) – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions* (<https://tinyurl.com/2svum27d>)
- A two-factor account of false body size beliefs in anorexia nervosa** – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions* (<https://tinyurl.com/a426t4fm>)
- Taxonomising delusions** (w. Colin Klein & Peter Clutton) – Blog post at *Imperfect Cognitions* (<https://tinyurl.com/mwc9bssx>)

PEER REVIEW

Annals NY Academic Science, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Biology & Philosophy, British Journal of Psychology, Cognitive Neuropsychiatry, Current Psychology, Experimental Brain Research, Frontiers in Psychology, Heliyon, Inquiry, Journal of Consciousness Studies, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Neural Mechanisms (web conference), Neuropsychology, Palgrave-Macmillan (printing press), Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophy, Philosophy of Medicine, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Studies, Psychiatry Research, Res Publica, Synthese, Social Epistemology, Topoi.

ORGANISING

- Various international speakers for the Centre for Philosophical Psychology, Antwerp University, 2021-2024.
- Structural Resemblance and Mental Representation Workshop (co-organisers: Iwan Williams & Andy McKilliam). Monash University, December, 2019.
- Cognition and Philosophy Lab Writing Retreat. Apollo Bay, January, 2019.
- Science of the Self Mini-Workshop: Body Representation, Misperception and Eating Disorders (co-organiser: Regine Zopf). Macquarie University, December, 2018.

SKILLS

- Statistical analysis in JASP and SPSS.
- Experiment building in MATLAB, Gorilla, and Qualtrics.
- Participant management through SONA and Prolific.
- Languages: English (Native), Dutch (B1).

References

- 1 **Bence Nanay**, Professor of Philosophy, Antwerp University, bence.nanay@uantwerpen.be
- 2 **Jakob Hohwy**, Professor of Philosophy, Monash University, jakob.hohwy@monash.edu
- 3 **Ryan McKay**, Professor of Psychology, Royal Holloway University of London, ryan.mckay@rhul.ac.uk
- 4 **Lisa Bortolotti**, Professor of Philosophy, University of Birmingham, l.bortolotti@bham.ac.uk
- 5 **Chris Dijkerman**, Professor of Psychology, Utrecht University, c.dijkerman@uu.nl