

**Academic CV**

Dr. Alan Jurgens  
1 Grand Ct Unit 202 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519 AU  
ajurgens@uow.edu.au  
mobile number: +61410053153

**Education:**

Degree: PhD in Philosophy

University of Wollongong 2015-2021

Concentrations: Philosophy of Mind, Social Cognition and Philosophy of Science

Thesis Title: New Developments in Enactive Social Cognition

Thesis supervisors: Dr. Glenda Satne, Dr. Michael Kirchhoff and Prof. Shaun Gallagher

Thesis Examiners: Prof. Tadeusz Zawidzki, Dr. Joel Krueger

Degree: M.A. in Philosophy

University of Copenhagen 2012-2014

Concentrations: Specialization in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind

Thesis Title: Understanding Empathy

Thesis supervisor: Prof. Dan Zahavi

University of Kathmandu 2010

Center for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute

Concentrations: Buddhist Philosophy

No degree attained, one semester as visiting student.

Degree: B.A.s in Philosophy, English Literature, and German

University of Wisconsin Madison, 2006-2010

Concentrations: Philosophy, English Literature, German and Religious Studies

**PhD Research:**

My PhD thesis focused on examining philosophical and psychological theories of understanding other. In particular, I examined how children develop the skills to engage with and understand others. Drawing on empirical data and theoretical work, I examined the concept and practice of empathy within therapeutic contexts. Additionally, my work aimed to further develop the neurodiversity paradigm, and our understanding of autism and the relationship autistic individuals have with neurotypical institutions and social practices. Much of my work was informed by narrative approaches to understanding minds and our interaction with our socio-cultural environments. Essentially, my research work is centered around empathy, arguing that there are advantages to conceiving of empathy, as enactive and exploratory in the sense that when we empathize with others we understand them in a deeper, richer way, by exploring their self-authored narratives.

**Current Research:**

My most recent research has focused on developing alternative models for disability, drawing on work from the neurodiversity paradigm and mad studies literature. As opposed to the orthodox medical model approach, I argue that we need to embrace an ecological functional model, that recognizes disability as a phenomenon that can only be understood across the individual and social levels. As such, cognitive and physical disabilities are not necessarily pathological. Instead, in order to understand disability, we also need to examine the socio-material conditions of our societies and institutions.

**Publications:**

- Jurgens, A. (Under Review) Body Social Models of Disability: Examining Enactive and Ecological Approaches. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- Jurgens, A. (Under Review) Master narratives: Embodying ideology. *Journal of Philosophy of Emotion*.
- Jurgens, A. (2022) Autopoiesis and ontogenetics: Investigating the compatibility. *Constructivist Foundations*, 17(3): 198-200.
- Jurgens, A. (2022) False-belief task know-how. *Synthese*.
- Jurgens, A. (2021) Re-conceptualizing the role of stimuli: An enactive, ecological explanation of spontaneous-response tasks. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*.
- Jurgens, A. (2020). Neurodiversity in a neurotypical world: An enactive framework for investigating autism and social institutions. In N. Chown, A. Stenning, and H. Bertilsson-Rosqvist (Eds.) *Neurodiversity Studies: A New Critical Paradigm*, pp. 73-88.
- Jurgens, A., and Kirchhoff, M. D. (2019). Enactive social cognition: Diachronic constitution & coupled anticipation. *Consciousness and Cognition* 70, pp. 1-10.
- Hutto, D. D. and Jurgens, A. (2018). Exploring enactive empathy: Actively responding to and understanding others. In D. Matravers and A. Waldo (Eds.) *Philosophical Perspectives on Empathy: Theoretical Approaches and Emerging Challenges*, pp. 111-128

**Reviewer Work:**

I have refereed for well established philosophy, psychology and cognitive science journals such as *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, *Constructivist Foundations*, *Adaptive Behavior*, *Cogent Psychology*, and *Diametros*.

**Teaching Experience:**

- The role of Subject Coordinator at UOW involves designing the subject curriculum, assessment tasks, and managing tutors and students' performance.
- Lecture roles involve designing and presenting 2 hour lectures for both in person and online formats.

-Tutoring involves running 1-2 hour discussion tutorials on lecture content, marking assessments and consulting students. Head tutoring positions include further responsibilities such as managing e-learning platforms, coordinating other tutors for the course, compiling attendance and assessment marks for the course and assisting other tutors with any issues that arise for them.

Subject Coordinator, Lecturer, Tutor (Teaching Assistant) and Head Tutor (Tutor Supervisor) at the University of Wollongong:

Spring 2022:

Head Tutor for Philosophy 151 Logic: The Art of Reasoning. This was an intro-level course on logic.

Autumn 2022:

Subject Coordinator, Lecturer and Tutor Philosophy 219 Knowledge, Science, and Understanding. This was a mid-level course on epistemology and philosophy of science.

Tutor for Philosophy 226 Global Ethics. This was a mid-level course on ethics, democracy, and justice.

Tutor for Philosophy 227 The Meaning of Life. This was a mid-level course on existentialism and other theories related to the meaning of life.

Spring 2021:

Head Tutor for Philosophy 151 Logic: The Art of Reasoning. This was an intro-level course on logic.

Tutor for Philosophy 256 Environmental Philosophy: Animals, Nature and Ethics. This was a mid-level course on the history and development of environmental philosophy and the ethics of human relationships with animals and nature.

Autumn 2021:

Head Tutor for Philosophy 107 Introduction to Philosophy. This was an intro-level course on philosophy.

Tutor for Philosophy 219 Knowledge, Science, and Understanding. This was a mid-level course on epistemology and philosophy of science.

Tutor for Philosophy 326 Bio-Ethics. This was an upper-level course focusing on contemporary moral controversies within the healthcare industry.

Spring 2020:

Head Tutor for Philosophy 106 Media, Art, and Society. This was an intro level course on ethics, epistemology, and political philosophy.

Tutor for Philosophy 151 Logic: The Art of Reasoning. This was an intro-level course on logic.

Autumn 2020:

Tutor for Philosophy 219 Knowledge, Science, and Understanding. This was a mid-level course on epistemology and philosophy of science.

Spring 2019:

Tutor for Philosophy 106 Media, Art, and Society. This was an intro level course on ethics, epistemology, and political philosophy.

Tutor for Sociology 344 Emotion, Bodies, and Society. This was an upper level course on emotion and it's relation to bodies and societies.

Spring 2018:

Tutor for Philosophy 106 Media, Art, and Society. This was an intro level course on ethics, epistemology, and political philosophy.

Spring 2017:

Tutor for Philosophy 106 Media, Art, and Society. This was an intro level course on ethics, epistemology, and political philosophy.

Autumn 2017:

Tutor for Philosophy 314 Understanding Other Minds. This was an upper level course on folk psychology and social cognition.

Spring 2016:

Tutor for Philosophy 106 Media, Art, and Society. This was an intro level course on ethics, epistemology, and political philosophy.

Autumn 2016:

Tutor for Philosophy 314 Understanding Other Minds. This was an upper level course on folk psychology and social cognition.

**Conferences and Workshops:**

2023 New Work in Theory of Mind Conference, University of Bucharest.  
Presentation to be given on my (2022) paper 'False-belief task know-how' in February 2023

2023 Post-Diagnosis Support for Neurodivergent Individuals. *Currently co-organizing for July 2023 with Prof. Amanda Webster at UOW.*

- Public facing event aimed at professionals working with the neurodivergent, parents of neurodivergent children, and neurodivergent individuals themselves to help with post-diagnosis support in helping neurodivergent individuals find and establish their identity, and improve their capacities for self-determination.
- 2022 Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference. Presentation given on my (2022) paper 'False-belief task know-how' in July 2022.
- 2022 Central American Philosophical Association Conference. Invited by the *Journal of Philosophy of Emotion* to presented 'Master narratives: Embodying ideology' a commentary on *The Mind-Body Politic* (Maiese & Hanna, 2019).
- 2019 E-Approaches to Social Difference and Disparity Conference [Co-organizer of Conference; Awarded AAP funds for conference] Presentation given on an enactive approach for understanding implicit bias.
- 2018 ASPP Symposium: Enculturated Minds: E-Cognition Perspectives on Collective Intentionality, Social Cognition and Perception. Presentation given on an enactive approach to false-belief tasks.
- 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Wollongong Robotics Workshop. Presentation given on using robots to redesign and refine experimental designs of false belief tasks.
- 2016 Therapy's Choice: Narrative Practices, Cognitive Neuroscience or Both?—University of Wollongong. Presentation given on an enactive approach for neurodiversity.
- 2016 Sydney Philosophy of Psychology Conference—Sydney University. Presented PhD thesis topic on the problems of inferential explanations of social cognition.
- 2016 Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference 2016—Australian National University. Presentation given on the problems with the Canberra Plan and a priori analysis in theories of social cognition.
- 2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Sydney International Winter Graduate School Workshop—Sydney University. Presented on enactive accounts of social cognition.
- 2014 Mind and Life International Symposium for Contemplative Studies—Boston. Presentation given on the concept of empathy based on my M.A. thesis.

**References**

Prof. Patrick McGivern  
Professor  
University of Wollongong  
Wollongong NSW 2522 Australia  
Email: patrickm@uow.edu.au

Prof. Shaun Gallagher  
Professor  
University of Memphis  
Memphis TN 38152 USA  
Email: s.gallagher@memphis.edu

Prof. Dan Hutto  
Professor  
University of Wollongong  
Wollongong NSW 2522 Australia  
Email: ddhutto@uow.edu.au

Dr. Glenda Satne  
Senior Lecturer  
University of Wollongong  
Wollongong NSW 2522 Australia  
Email: gsatne@uow.edu.au