

Ben Jeffares

Website: benjeffares.net

Email: benjeffares@gmail.com

E d u c a t i o n

Ph.D., Australian National University, 2003-2008: Thesis: *Testing Times: Confirmation in the Historical Sciences*. Supervisors: Kim Sterelny (ANU), Peter Godfrey-Smith (Harvard University)

M.A. with Distinction, Victoria University of Wellington, 2003: Thesis: *The Scope and Limits of Biological Explanations in Archaeology*. Supervisor: Kim Sterelny

B.A. Honours First Class, Victoria University of Wellington, 2000

B.F.A., Otago Polytechnic, 1996

E m p l o y m e n t

2021 to Present. Advisor, Communities Against Alcohol Harm, Registered Charity. (Part-time)

2018 - October 2019. Director, Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor

2017 – July 2018. Senior Research Adviser, Weltec and Whitireia

2012- 2017: Research Assessor, research funding, Royal Society of New Zealand

2011- 2012: Researching commercialization of New Zealand research and industry development, assisting in writing a business case to government.

2008 - 2011: Marsden Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Victoria University of Wellington. Research Project: *Human Uniqueness: A Bio-cultural Synthesis*. Primary Researcher: Professor Kim Sterelny

2008 - 2011: Co-supervisor, 2 Philosophy PhD student, 1 History PhD Student, 1 Religious Studies PhD student, 1 Philosophy Masters Student, 1 Philosophy Honours Student

2008: 4 Weeks Lecturing; Phil104: Argument and Analysis, Victoria University of Wellington

2008: 4 Weeks Lecturing; Phil318/418: Philosophy of Science, Victoria University of Wellington

2006: Co-Teaching; Phil319/419: The Evolution of Life and Mind, Victoria University of Wellington

2006: Co-Teaching, Phil316/416: Philosophy of Mind, Victoria University of Wellington

2006: Guest Lecturer, Phil/Pols 269/369: Philosophy of Sex and Sexuality, Victoria University of Wellington

2005: Course Organiser and Lecturer, Phil263/Phil363: Philosophy of Biology, Auckland University. (Prepared all course materials, dealt with students, marked essays and exams)

2005: Guest Lecturer, Phil264/Phil364: Philosophy of Social Science, Auckland University

2004: Course Organiser and Lecturer, Phil263/Phil363: Philosophy of Biology, Auckland University. (Prepared all course materials, dealt with students, marked essays and exams)

2002: Guest Lecturer, Phil269/Phil369: Philosophy of Sex, Victoria University of Wellington

2000-2003: Tutor for Phil104: Argument and Analysis and Phil105: The Big Problems

1999-2001: Course Organiser and Tutor for Introduction to Printmaking Classes, Inverloch Art School

1998-2001: Caretaker, Inverloch Art School

1987-1988: Manager and live in Caretaker, Queenstown YHA Summer Overflow Hostel

1985-1987: Assistant purchasing clerk, Donalds Presses, Masterton, New Zealand

P u b l i c a t i o n s

Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6941-2896>

Articles

- Jeffares, B. Jonathan Boston, Juliet Gerrard, Shaun Hendy, Wendy Lamer. (2019) Science Advice in New Zealand: Opportunities for Development. *Policy Quarterly*. 15 (2).
- Jeffares, B. (2013). "Back to Australopithecus: Utilizing New Theories of Cognition to Understand the Pliocene Hominins. *Biological Theory*. Online First.
- Jeffares, B. (2012) "Thinking tools: Acquired skills, cultural niche construction, and thinking with things" *Behavioural and Brain Sciences* 35(4): 203-218. (Peer Commentary)
- Jeffares, B. (2010). "The co-evolution of tools and minds: cognition and material culture in the hominin lineage." *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 9(4): 503-520.
- Jeffares, B. (2010). *The Evolution of Technical Competence: Economic and Strategic Thinking*. ASCS09: Proceedings of the 9th Conference of the Australasian Society for Cognitive Science. W. Christensen, E. Schier and J. Sutton. Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science, Sydney, Australia: 162-169.
- Jeffares, B. (2010) "Guessing the Future of the Past" *Biology and Philosophy* 25 (1)
- Jeffares, B. (2008) "Testing Times: Regularities in the Historical Sciences" in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 39, pp 469-475
- Jeffares, B. (2005) "Regaining Archaeology's Nerve: Culture and Biology in Archaeological Theory." *Biology and Philosophy*. 20:545-556
- Jeffares, B. (2004) "Dead Men Telling Tales: Homo Fossils and What to Do With Them." *Biology and Philosophy*. 19 (1): 159-165
- Jeffares, B. (2002) "The explanatory limits of cognitive archaeology." *Behavioural and Brain Sciences* 25(3): 410-412. (Peer Commentary)

Book Chapters

- Jeffares, B. and K. Sterelny (2014) "Darwinism and its influences" in A. Gardner, M. Lake and U. Sommer. (Eds) *Oxford Handbook to Archaeological Theory*
- Sterelny, K. and B. Jeffares (2012) "Evolutionary Psychology" in Eric Margolis, Richard Samuels and Steve Stich (Eds) *The Oxford Handbook to Cognitive Science*
- Sterelny, K. and B. Jeffares (2010). *Rational Agency in Evolutionary Perspective*. In T. O'Connor and C. Sandis, (Eds) *A Companion to the Philosophy of Action*.
- Jeffares, B. (2008) "Philosophy of Archaeology" in Aviezer Tucker (Ed.) *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*, pp 330-341

S e l e c t e d C o n f e r e n c e P r e s e n t a t i o n s

- 2018: What kind of where you are: Does a Pleistocene Shift to discontinuous environments lend itself to "category" thinking? New Zealand Association of Philosophy Conference. Otago University, Dunedin.
- 2016: The ape that stayed: hominin life history over the Miocene/Pliocene transition. New Zealand Empirical Philosophy Workshop. Victoria University of Wellington.
- 2015: Hawkes Hierarchy. Invitational Workshop: Symbols and communicative behaviour in Pleistocene Hominins. Sydney University, Sydney, Australia. November 20th-22nd
- 2012: Back to Australopithecus. Invitational workshop: Signs, Symbols and the Archaeological Record. Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. 1st-2nd November 2012
- 2010: The Limits of Biological Explanations of Behaviour. Invitational MMM-CCC Workshop. Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science (MACCS) Sydney Australia, 18th – 19th October
- 2010: Models and Explanations: From General Models to Specific Accounts. Society for American Archaeology, 75th Anniversary Conference. Saint Louis, MO, April 14th-18th

- 2009: The Co-evolution of Tools and Minds: The Extended Mind in the Hominin Lineage. Invited Workshop on Embodied Cognition, Enactivism and the Extended Mind. Wollongong University, NSW, Australia
- 2009: The Evolution of Technical Competence: Economic and Strategic Thinking. 9th Meeting of the Australasian Society for Cognitive Science, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
- 2009: The Evolution of Technical Intelligence. Meeting for the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Brisbane, Australia
- 2009: Composite Models and the Historical Sciences. Australasian Association for Philosophy, Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia
- 2009: Human Uniqueness: A Bio-cultural Synthesis. New Zealand Archaeological Association Conference. Wellington, New Zealand
- 2007: The Archaeology of Cultural Inheritance in Early Homo. Meeting for the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Exeter, England
- 2005: Signals and Noise in Sedimentary Records. Australasian Archaeometry Conference 2005, Canberra, Australia

Academic Refereeing

Biology and Philosophy, Current Anthropology, Philosophy of Science, British Journal of Philosophy of Science, Australasian Society for Cognitive Science

V o l u n t e e r i n g & p r o f e s s i o n a l s e r v i c e

Organization and volunteer work

- 2022 Judge, AIDA World Freediving Championship, Roatan, Honduras
- 2016-2019: Board Member; Freediving New Zealand
- 2015: Assisted Experiencing Marine Reserves Trust with application for Curious Minds grants.
- 2013-2014: President, Lazy Seal Freediving Club.
- 2011: Co-Organiser of Wellington Winter Champs Freediving Competition.
- 2010-2013: Treasurer and club organiser Lazy Seal Freediving Club
- 2009: Coordinator, Philosophy of Biology Stream, Australasian Association of Philosophy (New Zealand) Conference, Massey University, 7th-10th December, 2009
- 2008: Coordinator, Philosophy of Biology Stream, Australasian Association of Philosophy (New Zealand) Conference, Canterbury University, 7th-11th December, 2008
- 2006: Supervisor, Post-Graduate Weekend Workshop, Victoria University of Wellington
- 2005: Inaugural Organiser, Philosophy of Biology Post-graduate Workshop, Kioloa NSW, 4th-5th November 2005
- 2000-2001: Committee Member, Inverloch Art School, Wellington, New Zealand
- 1998-2000: Co-founder and Convener, Victoria University of Wellington Philosophy Post-Graduate Seminars