
NICHOLAS SILINS

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics, Aesthetics, Classical Asian Philosophy

EDUCATION

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

APPOINTMENTS

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

PUBLICATIONS

To Appear “Speak, Memory: Dignāga, Consciousness, and Awareness”, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*

2024 “The Conscious Theory of Higher-Orderness”, *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind*

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

BOOK REVIEWS

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

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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

"Blindsight, Blandsight, and Blindsight: On Unconscious Perception and Attention", 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

PRESENTATIONS (excluding job talks)

"Blindsight, Blandsight, and Blindsight: On Unconscious Perception and Attention"

2024 (Oct) Keynote at Graduate Conference in Epistemology, University of Rochester

"The Lamp that Illuminates Itself: Consciousness and Inner Awareness"

2024 (Sep) VinUniversity, Hanoi

2024 (June) Kobe University

2024 (March) Université de Montréal

"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 (Jan) Eastern Division APA

"Attention and Aesthetic Experience"

2025 (Jan) Workshop on Consciousness, Tokyo University Komaba Campus

2024 (Aug) World Congress of Philosophy, Rome

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

2022 (March) Cornell Cognitive Science Speaker Series

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) Jawaharlal 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, RISS
- 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, RISS, *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, RISS
- “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

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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

Associate Editor, *Episteme*, 2013-2015

GRANTS/EVENTS

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

TEACHING

Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Philosophy of Mind, Introduction to Epistemology

Philosophy and Political Thought (global philosophy survey)

Proseminar in Philosophy

Aesthetics: Art and the Mind

Topics in Epistemology (Psychology of Belief Formation / Perception / Knowledge and the Danger of Error)

Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Self-Knowledge / Perception, Memory, Imagination / Mental Content)

Topics in Metaphysics (Color and Color Experience / Time and Personal Identity)

Independent Study on Classical Chinese Philosophy

THESIS SUPERVISION

Cornell Graduate Students (as primary, now completed): Lu Teng (now at NYU-Shanghai, moving to the ANU), Jonna Vance (now at Northern Arizona University), Ru Ye (now at Wuhan), Alicia Patterson (now at Oregon State University), Shao-Pu Kang (post-doc at Academia Sinica in Taiwan)

Cornell Graduate Students (as primary, ongoing): Edvard Meza, Maria Camila Maldonado

Cornell Undergraduates: Garrett Katz (2006), Peter Devlin (2012), Noam Weinrich (2017), Lorenzo Benitez (2018)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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