

# HENRY TAYLOR

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**Specialisation:** Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, Metaphysics

**Competence:** Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Language, Logic

## EMPLOYMENT

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- Associate Professor. University of Birmingham. 2021-present
- Birmingham Fellow. University of Birmingham. 2017-2021.
- Leverhulme Early Career Fellow. University of Cambridge (2015-2017) and University of Birmingham (2017-2018).

## EDUCATION

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*Postgraduate Certificate of Higher Education, University of Birmingham. 2017-2019.*

*PhD Philosophy. University of Durham. 2011-2015*

- Thesis title: *Consciousness and the Heterogeneity of Attention*
- Examiners: Ned Block (NYU) and Robin Hendry (Durham)

*MPhil Philosophy, University of Cambridge. 2010-2011*

*BA (Hons, First Class) Philosophy, University of Durham. 2007-2010*

## PUBLICATIONS

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H-index: 10

### *Journal Papers*

- (2022) Consciousness as a natural kind and the methodological puzzle of consciousness. *Mind and Language*.
- (2021) A new solution to the regress of pure powers. *Analysis*.
- (2020) Redundancy masking and the identity crowding debate. *Thought*. Co-authored with Bilge Sayim.
- (2020) Fuzziness in the mind: can perception be unconscious? *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.
- (2020) The relation between subjects and their conscious experiences. *Philosophical Studies*.
- (2019) Letters lost: capturing appearance in peripheral vision reveals a new kind of masking. *Psychological Science*. Co-authored with Bilge Sayim.
- (2019) Powerful problems for powerful qualities. *Erkenntnis*.

- (2019) Whales, fish and Alaskan Bears: interest-relative taxonomy and kind pluralism in biology. *Synthese*.
- (2019) Modal combinatorialism is consistent with S5. *Thought*.
- (2018) Is panpsychism simple? *Analysis*.
- (2018) Emotions, concepts and the indeterminacy of natural kinds. *Synthese*.
- (2018) Crowding, attention and consciousness: in support of the inference hypothesis. *Mind and Language*. Co-authored with Bilge Sayim.
- (2018) Attention, psychology and pluralism. *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.
- (2017) Powerful qualities, phenomenal concepts and the new challenge to physicalism. *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- (2017) Powerful qualities and pure powers. *Philosophical Studies*.
- (2017) Conceptual fragmentation and the rise of eliminativism. *European Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. Co-authored with Peter Vickers.
- (2016) Powerful qualities, the conceivability argument and the nature of the physical. *Philosophical Studies*.
- (2015) Against unifying accounts of attention. *Erkenntnis*.
- (2013) Is the grain of vision finer than the grain of attention? Response to Block. *Thought*. NB: For a response to this paper, see Block, N. (2013). Seeing and windows of integration. *Thought*.
- (2013) Is attention necessary and sufficient for phenomenal consciousness? *Journal of Consciousness Studies*.

#### *Book chapter*

- (2019) A powerful new anomalous monism. In Guta, M. (ed). *Ontology and Consciousness*. (Routledge).

#### *Book Reviews*

- (2019) *Consciousness and Meaning* by Brian Loar. *Philosophy*.
- (2017) *From the Knowledge Argument to Mental Substance: Resurrecting the Mind* by Howard Robinson. *Times Literary Supplement*.
- (2015) *Sensory Integration and the Unity of Consciousness* by David Bennett and Christopher Hill (eds.) *Analysis*.
- (2013) *After Physicalism* by Benedikt Paul Göcke (ed.). *Mind*.

#### **FUNDING AWARDS AND INDICATORS OF ESTEEM**

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- Fellow of the Intercontinental Academia Project 4 (*Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence*). 2021-2022.
- Fellow of the Higher Education Futures institute (HEFi). 2019-present.
- Visiting Research Fellow, Washington University St Louis (Missouri). Summer 2018.
- Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (£100,982) from the Leverhulme Trust and Isaac Newton Trust. 2015-2018.
- Jacobsen Studentship (£8,000) from the Royal Institute of Philosophy. 2014-2015.
- Durham Doctoral Studentship (£35,196), University of Durham. 2011-2014.

- Offered tuition fees waiver (£4,530) for an MA in Philosophy, University of Durham. 2010.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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(NB: All materials available at: <https://henrytaylorphilosophy.com/public-outreach/>)

### Popular Articles

- (2021) Sometimes, paying attention means we see the world less clearly. *Psyche/Aeon*.
- (2021) What is the relationship between your conscious mind and yourself? Blogpost.
- (2020) Visual illusion that may help explain consciousness: new study. *The Conversation*. Co-authored with Bilge Sayim. Reads on *The Conversation*: over 143,000. **Total reads: over 1,715,300**
- (2020) Blindsight: a strange neurological condition that could help us explain consciousness. *The Conversation*. Reads on *The Conversation*: over 159,000. **This paper was translated into Arabic.**
- (2019) What is a species? The most important concept in all of biology is a complete mystery. *The Conversation*. Reads on *The Conversation*: over 27,000.
- (2019) Microbiology and the species problem: response to Jerry Coyne. *Medium*.

### Radio Interviews

- Aristotelian metaphysics and Islamic philosophy. *Voice of Islam*. January 2021.
- Emotions and ethics. *Voice of Islam*. October 21st 2020.

### Blogpost

- Computational indeterminacy: what is your computer really doing? Blogpost for the *Intercontinental Academia Project*. October 2021.

### Public Lecture

- *What can zombies teach us about consciousness?* Royal Institute of Philosophy Public Lecture. December 2016. Darwin College, Cambridge.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited

- (September 2021) Compound powerful qualities. *The Mereology of Potentiality*. University of Durham.
- (June 2020) Attention: one thing or many? *Neural Oscillations Research Group*. University of Birmingham.
- (November 2019) Naïve Realism without disjunctivism. University of Oxford.
- (November 2019) Naïve realism without disjunctivism. *Royal Institute of Philosophy Seminar Series*. Keele University.
- (July 2019) Wakeful consciousness. (Symposium chair. Speakers: Professor Matthew Soteriou and Dr James Stazicker). *Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society*. University of Durham.
- (May 2019) Peripheral vision, attention and consciousness. Glasgow University.
- (November 2018) A powerful new anomalous monism. Umeå University.
- (July 2018) Modal combinatorialism is consistent with S5. *Dubrovnik Metaphysics Conference*.

- (August 2017) Powerful Qualities and Pure Powers. *Powers, Qualities and the Mind*. University of Durham.
- (January 2016) Powerful Qualities and Pure Powers. *Moral Sciences Club*. University of Cambridge.
- (March 2015) Powerful Qualities and Consciousness. *Powers and Human Agency*. University of Durham.
- (May 2014) Peripheral Vision, Attention and Fineness of Grain. *(Sense) Perception in the North*. University of York.

#### Refereed

- (Forthcoming, November 2022) What is it like to be a baby? Natural kinds and infant consciousness. *Philosophy of Science Association*. Pittsburgh.
- (September 2019) The mystery of the missing letter: resolving the identity crowding debate. *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*. Athens.
- (July 2019) A new visual effect reveals the relation between attention and consciousness. *Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society*. University of Durham
- (September 2018) Two notions of kindhood: is disjunctivism inconsistent with psychology? *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*. University of Rijeka.
- (January 2018) Russellian monism without panpsychism *Eastern APA*. Savannah, Georgia. Commentator: Nicholas Rimell.
- (August 2017) Colour Constancy, Cerebral Achromatopsia and Perception as a Natural Kind. *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*. University of Hertfordshire.
- (August 2017) Conscious experiences as Kimian Events. *European Congress of Analytic Philosophy*. LMU Munich.
- (July 2016) Pure Powers and Consciousness. *Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society*. University of Cardiff.
- (June 2015) Identity Crowding does not Demonstrate Consciousness without Attention. *Toward a Science of Consciousness*. University of Helsinki.
- (April 2014) Attention and Consciousness: asking the right questions.” *Toward a Science of Consciousness*. Tucson, Arizona.
- (December 2012) Indeterminacy and visual experience. *MINDGRAD*. University of Warwick. Respondent: Professor Matthew Nudds.

#### TEACHING

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*PhD supervision 2017-present (University of Birmingham)*

Date of supervision	Contribution	Topic
2018-present	60%	Metametaphysics, modal logic
2022-present	60%	Anxiety
2020-present	40%	Mereology and time
2020-present	30%	Consciousness

2018-present	20%	Colour perception
2019-present	20%	Mental health classification
2018-present	20%	Perception
2018-present	20%	Causation in physics
2021-present	20%	Metaphysical structuralism and consciousness
2019-2021	60%	Perception, attention

*Teaching (University of Birmingham).*

<b>Module name</b>	<b>Module level</b>	<b>Teaching role</b>	<b>Dates taught</b>	<b>Approx. student numbers</b>
Philosophy of Mind and Language	Second year undergraduate	Co-convener	2021-2023	89
Philosophy of Mental Health	Second year undergraduate	Co-convener	2021-2023	110
Science and Nature	Second year undergraduate	Co-convener	2021-2023	55
Fantastic Beasts and how to Understand Them: topics in the philosophy of biology.	Third year undergraduate	Co-convener	2018-2020 and 2021-2022	40
Philosophy of Mind	MA	Co-convener	2019-2020.	25
Philosophy of Language	MA	Convener	2017-2020	14
Key Readings	First year undergraduate	Convener	2019-2020	80
Metaphysics	MA	Convener	2017-2019	20

**Other Teaching:** MA and undergraduate dissertation supervision.

*Teaching 2015-2017 (University of Cambridge)*

**Lecturer:** Metaphysics (third year undergraduate),

**Supervision:** 1-1 supervision of MPhil and undergraduate students.

*Teaching 2012-2015 (University of Durham)*

**Lecturer:** Metaphysics (third year undergraduate), Knowledge and Reality (first year undergraduate).

**Tutor:** Philosophy of Mind (second year undergraduate), Philosophical Logic (second year undergraduate), Knowledge and Reality (first year undergraduate), Ethics and Values. (first year undergraduate).

## **PHD FUNDING PANEL MEMBERSHIP**

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Assessor and panellist for Midlands 4 Cities PhD funding applications. 2021-2022.

*Note: Midlands 4 Cities is an organisation that assigns AHRC funding to doctoral students across eight Midlands-based universities.*

## **ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANISING ACTIVITIES**

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*Admin roles. (University of Birmingham)*

- Postgraduate Senior Tutor (2018-2020 and 2021-2022).
- Assessment and Progress Lead (2019).
- Philosophy Society organiser (2018-2019).

*Undergraduate Admissions. (University of Cambridge).*

- Undergraduate admissions interviewer for Queens' College. (2015).

*Conference and Workshop organisation*

- *Consciousness in challenging cases: Toward an interdisciplinary methodology.* Sole organiser. Supported by the *Institute of Advanced Studies*. January 2021. University of Birmingham.
- *Objects and Properties: generating dialogue.* June 2018. University of Cambridge
- *E. J. Lowe memorial conference.* Joint organiser. July 2014. University of Durham.
- *Perceiving the light workshop.* Joint organiser. March 2014. University of Durham.
- *Attention and consciousness.* Joint organiser. June 2013. University of Durham.
- *Concept acquisition and language.* Joint organiser. July 2013. University of Durham.
- *Eidos postgraduate conference.* Sole organiser. July 2012. University of Durham.

For these conferences, I have secured a variety of external funding from e.g. *The Mind Association, The Aristotelian Society, The Analysis Trust, The Centre for Academic Development.*

## **REFEREES**

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| • Professor Tim Crane<br>Central European University<br><a href="mailto:timcrane@ceu.edu">timcrane@ceu.edu</a>                         | • Dr Peter Vickers<br>University of Durham<br><a href="mailto:peter.vickers@durham.ac.uk">peter.vickers@durham.ac.uk</a>      |
| • Professor David Papineau<br>King's College London and CUNY<br><a href="mailto:david.papineau@kcl.ac.uk">david.papineau@kcl.ac.uk</a> | • Professor David Pitt<br>California State University, L.A.<br><a href="mailto:dpitt@calstatela.edu">dpitt@calstatela.edu</a> |