

# HENRY TAYLOR

Department of Philosophy, ERI Building,  
University of Birmingham, Edgbaston,  
B15 2TT.

j.h.taylor.1@bham.ac.uk  
henrytaylorphilosophy.com

**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*

- 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:* 11

*i-10 index:* 12

### *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) Powerful qualities and pure powers. *Philosophical Studies*.
- (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) 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*.
- (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*.

#### *Discussion of my work.*

These papers respond to, or heavily discuss, my work.

- Coates, A. 2021. Events and the regress of pure powers: Reply to Taylor. *Analysis*.
- Coates, A. 2021. Making sense of powerful qualities. *Synthese*.
- Giannotti, J. 2021. Pure powers are not powerful qualities. *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*.
- Giannotti, J. 2021. The identity theory of powers revised. *Erkenntnis*.
- Block, N. 2013. Seeing and windows of integration. *Thought*.

## 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.

## MSc PROGRAMME DESIGN

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In 2020-2022, I co-designed a new interdisciplinary MSc called *Philosophy, Mental Health and Psychology* at the University of Birmingham.

This exciting new programme features interdisciplinary teaching from the Department of Philosophy, the School of Psychology, and the Institute for Mental Health. The MSc will tap into the uniquely high level of interdisciplinary expertise at Birmingham. Students will be able to specialise in philosophy, mental health, or psychology, or to spread their interests more broadly across these disciplines.

The MSc will launch in 2023.

For more information, see here:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/phil/phil-mental-health-psychology.aspx#CourseDetailsTab>

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

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- Advisory board member for *Towards an Institute for Scientific Facts*. PI: Peter Vickers.

This is a ‘hub and spoke’ project, with Durham University as the ‘hub’, and the ‘spokes’ in universities across the world. The goal is to develop a new method for measuring scientific consensus. I am an advisor for the aspects of the project involving (the philosophy of) psychology.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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(NB: All materials available at: [henrytaylorphilosophy.com/public-outreach/](http://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.

#### *Public Events*

- New Directions in the Science of Consciousness. University of Birmingham. December 2022. Public event featuring talks by Davinia Fernández Espejo (Birmingham), Jack Lyons (Glasgow) and Heater Browning (Southampton). Co-organised with Francesco Antilici. Sponsored by the Royal Institute of Philosophy.

#### *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*

- (Forthcoming, December 2022). What is the philosophy of psychology. Lab presentation to a group of psychophysicists. University of Birmingham.
- (September 2022) The mind's eye: natural kinds and the science of working memory. *Natural Kinds in the Mind*. LSE.
- (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*

- (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 (University of Birmingham)*

<b>Date of supervision</b>	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Topic</b>
2018-present	60%	Metametaphysics, modal logic
2022-present	60%	Anxiety
2022-present	70%	Panpsychism
2020-present	40%	Mereology and time
2020-present	30%	Consciousness

2019-present	20%	Mental health classification
2018-present	20%	Causation in physics
2021-present	20%	Information theory and selfhood
2022-present	20%	Metaphysical structuralism and consciousness
2018-2022	20%	Colour perception
2018-2022	20%	Perception
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 (University of Birmingham)

*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, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, 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).

*PhD Examining.*

- External PhD examiner for King's College London.
- Internal PhD examiner for University of Birmingham

*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.

## REFEREES

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- Professor Tim Crane  
Central European University  
[timcrane@ceu.edu](mailto:timcrane@ceu.edu)
- Professor David Papineau  
King's College London and CUNY  
[david.papineau@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:david.papineau@kcl.ac.uk)
- Professor Peter Vickers  
University of Durham  
[peter.vickers@durham.ac.uk](mailto:peter.vickers@durham.ac.uk)
- Professor David Pitt  
California State University, L.A.  
[dpitt@calstatela.edu](mailto:dpitt@calstatela.edu)