

HENRY TAYLOR

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Specialisation: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Robotics.

Competence: Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Language.

EMPLOYMENT

- 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

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

H-index: 13

i-10 index: 14

Journal Papers

- (2024) Cluster kinds and the developmental origins of consciousness. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*. With Andrew Bremner.
- (2023) Does cultural robotics need culture? Conceptual fragmentation and the problems of merging culture with robot design. *International Journal of Social Robotics*. With Masoumeh Mansouri.
- (2023) Compound powerful qualities: properties as compounds of distinct powers and qualities. *Synthese*.
- (2023) Attention as a patchwork concept. *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*.
- (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*. 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*. 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*. 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 Philosophy of Science*. 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 chapters (peer reviewed)

- (forthcoming) What is 'culture' in cultural robotics? A framework for understanding culture in human-robot interaction. In: M. Nørskov, S. Nørskov, and R. Hakli (eds). *Culturally Sustainable Robotics*. (Palgrave Macmillan). With Masoumeh Mansouri.
- (2019) A powerful new anomalous monism. In M. Guta (ed). *Ontology and Consciousness*. (Routledge).

Book Reviews

- (2023) *Movements of the Mind* by Wayne Wu. *Notre Dame Philosophical 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.

- Bayne, T., Frohlich, J., Cusack, R., Moser, J. and Naci, L. 2024. Infants and markers: reply to Taylor and Bremner. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.
- 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

- Advisory board member for *Institute for Ascertaining Scientific Consensus*. This project involves over 80 universities across the world (the PL is Peter Vickers). 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. 2022-present.
- Fellow of the Intercontinental Academia Project 4 (*Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence*).
- 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

I co-designed a new interdisciplinary MSc called *Philosophy, Mental Health and Psychology* at the University of Birmingham, which launched in 2023-2024.

This exciting programme features interdisciplinary teaching from the Department of Philosophy and the School of Psychology. The MSc will tap into the uniquely high level of interdisciplinary expertise at Birmingham, including at the Institute for Mental Health. For more information, [see here](#).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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

Popular articles

- (2024) Why robots can be culturally insensitive – and how scientists are trying to fix it. *The Conversation*. With Masoumeh Mansouri.
- (2021) Sometimes, paying attention means we see the world less clearly. *Psyche/Aeon*.

- (2020) Visual illusion that may help explain consciousness: new study. *The Conversation*. With Bilge Sayim. Reads on *The Conversation*: over 162,000.
- (2020) Blindsight: a strange neurological condition that could help us explain consciousness. *The Conversation*. Reads on *The Conversation*: over 179,000.
- (2019) What is a species? The most important concept in all of biology is a complete mystery. *The Conversation*. Reads on *The Conversation*: over 44,000.
- (2019) Microbiology and the species problem: response to Jerry Coyne. *Medium*.

Radio interviews and podcasts

- (2024) An interview with me about robotics is part of *AI Futures*, a University-wide public engagement project at the University of Birmingham (running throughout 2024).
- (2023) The philosophy of mind vs the science of consciousness. *Parker's Pensées*.
- (2021) Philosophy and cognitive science. *Free Range Podcast*.
- (2021) Aristotelian metaphysics and Islamic philosophy. *Voice of Islam*.
- (2020) Emotions and ethics. *Voice of Islam*.
- (2018) Will we ever be able to apparate? *Fantastic Research*. University of Birmingham podcast.

Public events

- (forthcoming) *Pint of Science*. Pub-based discussion between myself, Andy Bremner, and the public, on how to measure when infants become conscious.
- (2024) *Botbuilders!* This was a family-oriented event, where children built robots out of craft materials. It was based on my work on cultural robotics with Masoumeh Mansouri.
- (2023) *What is Consciousness? Two answers*. This was a public talk for The Philosophers' Yard, which is a philosophy public engagement philosophy organisation based in Birmingham. It took place at The Exchange in central Birmingham.
- (2022) *New Directions in the Science of Consciousness*. University of Birmingham. 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.
- (2016) *What can zombies teach us about consciousness?* Public lecture for The Royal Institute of Philosophy. It took place at Darwin College, Cambridge.

Press releases and blogposts

- (2024) Researchers propose a new way to identify when babies become conscious. Press release for the University of Birmingham.
- (2021) What is the relationship between your conscious mind and yourself? Blogpost for the University of Birmingham.
- (2021) Computational indeterminacy: what is your computer really doing? Blogpost for the *Intercontinental Academia Project*.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited

- (June 2023). Powerful qualities, empowering qualities, and colour. *John Heil @ 80*. University of Durham.

- (May 2023). Experiences are subjects instantiating properties at times. *The Nature of Conscious Subjects and Their Experiences*. University of Fribourg.
- (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.
- (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

- (July 2024) Attention as a patchwork concept. *Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association*. University of Birmingham.
- (November 2022) What is it like to be a baby? Natural kinds and infant consciousness. *Philosophy of Science Association*. University of 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*. 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.
- (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.

TEACHING

PhD supervision (University of Birmingham)

Date of supervision	Supervisory Contribution	Topic
2022-present	70%	Panpsychism
2020-present	70%	Consciousness
2020-present	40%	Mereology and time
2019-present	20%	Mental health classification
2021-present	20%	Information theory and selfhood
2022-2023	20%	Metaphysical structuralism and consciousness
2022-2023	60%	Anxiety
2018-2023	60%	Metaphysics, modal logic
2018-2022	20%	Colour perception
2018-2022	20%	Perception
2019-2021	60%	Perception, attention

Teaching (University of Birmingham).

Module name	Module level	Teaching role	Dates taught	Approx. student numbers
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-present	55

Fantastic Beasts and how to Understand Them: topics in the philosophy of biology.	Third year undergraduate	Co-convener	2018-2020, 2021-2022.	40
Philosophy of Mind	MA	Co-convener	2019-2020, 2023-2024.	25
Problems of Philosophy	First year undergraduate	Lecturer and seminar leader.	2022-2024	>200
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)

PHD FUNDING PANEL MEMBERSHIP

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

Admin roles. (University of Birmingham)

- Programme lead for MSc *Philosophy, Mental Health, and Psychology*. (2023-present).
- Postgraduate Senior Tutor (2018-2020 and 2021-2023).
- Assessment and Progress Lead (2019).
- Philosophy Society organiser (2018-2019).

PhD Examining.

- External PhD examiner for King's College London, Western University (Ontario) and Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele
- 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.

REFEREES

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