

Curriculum Vitae - Dr Tom McClelland

Areas of Research

- Areas of Specialisation: Philosophy of Mind (inc. Cognitive Science and AI), Value Theory, Aesthetics
- Areas of Competence: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science

University Appointments

- Teaching Associate (fixed-term), Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge (2022 – present)
- Lecturer in Philosophy (fixed-term), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge (2019 – 2022)
- Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow, ‘The Mental Action and Cognitive Phenomenology Project’, University of Warwick (2016 – 2019)
- Postdoctoral Research Associate, ERC-funded ‘The Architecture of Consciousness Project’, University of Manchester (2013 – 2016)
- Lecturer in Philosophy (fixed-term), University of Glasgow (2012 – 2013)

Other Affiliations

- Associate Fellow, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (2025 onward)
- Associate of the Senior Combination Room and Director of Studies, King’s College (2025 onward)
- College Research Associate and Director of Studies, Clare College (2019 – 2025)
- External Director of Studies for: Selwyn College; Christ’s College; Gonville & Caius College (2020 – 2023)

Education

- AHRC-Funded PhD in Philosophy, University of Sussex (2009 – 2012)
- M.A. by Research in Philosophy, University of York (2008 – 2009)
- B.A. in Philosophy, Clare College, University of Cambridge (2004 – 2008)

RESEARCH

Works Under Review

- Paper on Perceptual Wrongs
- Paper on AI Consciousness and AI Creativity
- Co-authored paper on affordances and motor imagery
- Invited chapter for volume on AI ethics, *What Should We Do If We're Uncertain About AI Consciousness?*,
- Invited contribution to SI of *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences* on AI consciousness, *Consciousness in Biobots* (co-authored with Marta Halina).

Journal Articles

1. Agnosticism About Artificial Consciousness, *Mind & Language*, (forthcoming)
2. Seeing Others as Objects: Perceptual Objectification and Affordances (co-authored with Paulina Sliwa), *European Journal of Philosophy*, 2025
3. Attention and Attendabilia: The Perception of Attentional Affordances, *European Journal of Philosophy*, 2024
4. Affording Imagination, (co-authored with Monika Dunin-Kozicka), *Philosophical Psychology*, 2024
5. Gendered Affordance Perception and Unequal Domestic Labour (co-authored with Paulina Sliwa), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 107(2): 501-524, 2022
6. Perceptual Motivation (co-authored with Marta Jorba), *Review of Philosophy & Psychology*, 2022
7. Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Scene Perception and the Admissible Contents of Perceptual Experience, *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*. 2: 1-27, 2021
8. The Mental Affordance Hypothesis, *Mind*, 129(514): 401-427, 2020
9. Ignorance and the Meta-Problem of Consciousness, *Journal of Consciousness Studies: Special Issue on the Meta-Problem of Consciousness*, 27(5-6): 108-119, 2020

10. Ensemble Representation and the Contents of Visual Experience (co-authored with Tim Bayne), *Philosophical Studies*, 176: 733-753, 2019
11. Representing Our Options: The Perception of Affordances for Bodily and Mental Action, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 26(3-4): 155-180, 2019
12. Against Virtual Selves, *Erkenntnis*, 84: 21-40, 2019
13. The Problem of Consciousness: Easy, Hard or Tricky?, *Topoi*, 36(1): 17-30, 2017
14. Gappiness and the Case for Liberalism About Phenomenal Properties, *Philosophical Quarterly*, 66 (264): 536-558, 2016
15. Can Self-Representationalism Explain Away the Apparent Irreducibility of Consciousness?, *Synthese*, 193(6), 1755-1776, 2016
16. Concepts, Contents and Consciousness (co-authored with Tim Bayne), *Neuroscience of Consciousness*, (Vol. 1) 2016
17. Finding the Feel: The Matching Content Challenge to Cognitive Phenomenology (co-authored with Tim Bayne), *Phenomenology and Mind*, 10, 26-43, 2016
18. Affording Introspection: An Alternative Model of Inner Awareness, *Philosophical Studies*, 172(9): 2469-2492, 2015
19. In Defence of Kantian Humility, *Thought*, 1: 62-70, 2012
20. Philosophy of Film & Film as Philosophy, *Cinema: Journal of Philosophy & the Moving Image*, Vol. 2, 2011
21. The Neo-Russellian Ignorance Hypothesis: A Hybrid Account of Phenomenal Consciousness, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 20(3-4): 125-51, 2013
22. What is it Like to Be John Malkovich?, *The Postgraduate Journal of Aesthetics*, 7(2), 2010

Anthology Contributions

23. The Ability Strategy: Seeking a Middle-Ground in the Inner Awareness Debate, in D. Bordini, A. Dewalque & A. Giustina eds. *Consciousness and Inner Awareness*, CUP, forthcoming
24. Mental Action and the Scope of Affordance Perception, (co-authored with Max Jones), in M. Mangalam, ed. *The Modern Legacy of Gibson's Affordances for the Sciences of Organisms*, Resources for Ecological Psychology, pp. 71-82, 2024
25. Four Impediments to the Case for Mineness, in M. Guillot & M. García-Carpintero (eds.) *Self Experience: Essays on Inner Awareness*, OUP, pp.50-76, 2023
26. Suffering and Affordances for Mental Action, in D. Bain, M. Brady and J. Corns (eds.) *The Philosophy of Suffering: Metaphysics, Value and Normativity*, Routledge Press, pp.37-54, 2020
27. Self-Representational Theories of Consciousness, in U. Kriegel (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Consciousness*, OUP, 458-481, 2020
28. Film as Philosophical Thought Experiment: Some Challenges and Solutions, in C. Rawls, D. Neiva & S. Gouveia (eds.) *Philosophy and Film: Bridging Divides*, Routledge Press, 92-115, 2019
29. The Knowledge Argument is Either Indefensible or Redundant, in S. Coleman (ed.) *The Knowledge Argument*, CUP, 180-197, 2019

Monographs

30. *What is Philosophy of Mind?*, Polity Press, 2021

Edited Collections

31. *Intruders in the Mind: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Thought Insertion*, (co-edited with Pablo López Silva), OUP, 2024
32. Consciousness and Inner Awareness, (co-edited with Jonathan Farrell) Special issue of *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 8(1), 2017

Book Reviews

33. Commentary on Christopher Devlin Brown's *The Hope and Horror of Physicalism*, invited author-meets-critic commentary for *Philosophia*, 2025
34. Review of Varela, Thompson, Rosch, *The Embodied Mind* (Revised Ed.), *Phenomenological Reviews*, 2017
35. Review of U. Kriegel *The Varieties of Consciousness*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, 2015
36. Review of R. Howell *Consciousness and the Limits of Objectivity*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 21(5-6): 236-241, 2014
37. Review of D. Pereboom *Consciousness and the Prospects of Physicalism*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 20(9-10), 193-200, 2013
38. Review of M. Rowlands *Can Animals be Moral*, *Metapsychology Online Reviews*, 17(29), 2013

Conference Proceedings

39. Misembodied Experiences of Artificial Art, *Proceedings of the ICCC'22 Workshop: The Role of Embodiment in the Perception of Human & Artificial Creativity*, 2022
40. AI and Affordances for Mental Action, *Proceedings of the 10th AISB Symposium*, 372-379, 2017
41. Receptivity and Phenomenal Self-Knowledge, *Thought*, Special Issue: Proceedings of the Northern Institute of Philosophy Early Career Conference, 2(4), 293-302, 2013
42. Consciousness, Ignorance and the Explanatory Gap, *Philosophical Writings*, Special Issue: Proceedings of the Fourteenth BPPA Conference, 45-57, 2011

Letters in Academic Journals

43. The Winds of Culture: AI Art Generators and the Aeolian Harp, letter in *AI & Society*, 2025.
44. Ensemble Coding and Two Conceptions of Perceptual Sparsity (co-authored with Tim Bayne), letter in *Trends in Cognitive Science*, 20 (9), 641-642, 2016.

Selected Talks From Last 5 Years

- Objectifying Images and Objectifying Actions, *Visiting Speaker Seminar*, University of Bristol, Feb 2026
- Commentary: Ethics of Collective Attention, *Perspectives on Perspectives*, Princeton, Oct 2025
- Perceptual Wrongs and Perceptual Injustice, *Perception, Cognition and the Role of Consciousness*, Bergen, Jul 2025
- Does Artificial Creativity Require Artificial Consciousness, *CamPoS*, Cambridge, Nov 2025
- Agnosticism About Artificial Consciousness, *Joint Sessions*, Glasgow, Jul 2025
- Does Artificial Creativity Require Artificial Consciousness?, *Johannesburg AI Seminar*, Online, May 2025
- Hosting Round Table on Artificial Consciousness, *Coleridge Literary and Philosophical Society*, Cambridge, Apr 2025
- Does Artificial Creativity Require Artificial Consciousness?, *Uppsala-Vienna AI Colloquium*, Online, Apr 2025
- Invited discussant for *Neural Mechanisms Online*, Block on 'Only a Meat Machine Can be Conscious', Feb 2025
- Salience, Skill and Asking the "Right" Questions", *Salience Symposium at BSPS*, York, 2024
- Imaginative Affordances in Virtual Worlds, *Imagination, Affordances & Aesthetics Experience*, Antwerp, 2024
- Agnosticism About Artificial Consciousness, *Cambridge Neuroscience Seminar*, Cambridge, 2024
- On Seeing Women as Objects (with Paulina Sliwa), *CEPPA Talk*, St. Andrews, 2023
- Perceptual Wrongs and Perceptual Injustice, *Departmental Seminar*, Open University, 2023
- Mental Affordances and Psychopathology, *Philosophy of Psychiatry Workshop*, University of Cambridge, 2023
- Perceptual Wrongs and Perceptual Injustice, *Logos Colloquium*, Barcelona, 2023
- The Ethics of Dreams, *Cambrain Neurotalks*, Cambridge, 2023
- Being Human in an AI World, *ZJU Summer Lecture Series*, 2022
- Misembodied Experiences of Artificial Art, *ICCC'22 Workshop*, Bolzano, 2022
- Gendered Affordance Perception (with Paulina Sliwa), *Society for Women in Philosophy*, Joint Sessions, 2021
- Perceptual Motivation for Action (with Marta Jorba), *Consciousness and Agency*, Barcelona, 2020
- New Work for Mental Affordances, invited webinar with respondents, *University of Campinas*, 2020

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Teaching Associate, History and Philosophy of Science, Univ. of Cambridge (Sep 2022 – present)

N.B. Nominated by HPS for the current round of the *Pilkington Prize*

- Ethics and Politics of Technology
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science
- Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine
- AI and Philosophy of Art
- Ethical Issues in Psychiatry
- Writing Skills

Lecturer in Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy, Univ. of Cambridge (Sep 2019 – Jul 2022)

- Metaphysics
- Philosophy of Language
- Epistemology
- Philosophy of Mind
- Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art
- Research Methods

Distance-learning course leader for CCIR and ICE (June 2020 – Jan 2023)

- Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- Business Ethics
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science
- Philosophy and Entrepreneurship
- Epistemology
- Philosophy of Mind

Leverhulme Research Fellow, University of Warwick (Sep 2016 – Aug 2018)

- Research Methods
- Mind and Action Graduate Seminar

Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Manchester (Sep 2013 – Aug 2016)

- Philosophy of Psychology
- Philosophy of Mind

Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Glasgow (Nov 2012 – Aug 2013)

- Philosophy of Science
- Philosophy of Mind
- Logic, Epistemology and Metaphysics

Associate Tutor in Philosophy, University of Sussex (Sep 2009- Jul 2012)

- Hume's Dialogues
- Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Science
- Metaphysics

Outreach

- Session leader the Clare College Outreach webinar series (2023-2025)
- Eight online talks introducing philosophy to secondary school students in Bulgaria, India, Indonesia, USA and the UK (2021-present).
- Course leader for the Cambridge *Sutton Summer School* outreach programme in Philosophy & Theology, introducing marginalised secondary school students to university study (2020-2022).
- Contributor the *Cambridge Applicant Support Programme*, running information sessions and mock interviews for applicants from deprived areas (2020-2021).
- Judge for the *Re:Think* international essay competition for school students writing about COVID-19 (2021)
- Participant in the AHRC *Researchers in Residence* scheme running philosophy of religion workshops for students at a Brighton school (2011)

IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

Public Engagement

- Media engagement for work on artificial consciousness (2023-present):
 - Interview for *The Daily Mail* and coverage in news outlets including *La Razón*, *Die Presse*, and *La Nación*
 - Letter in *The Guardian* on artificial consciousness and AI ethics
 - Interviewee for *Metro* on pursuit of artificial consciousness
 - Interviewee for *How it Works Magazine* on ChatGPT and artificial intelligence
- Media engagement for co-authored paper on gendered division of domestic labour (2022-2023):
 - Radio interviews for *Times Radio*; *LBC*; *Radio Cambridgeshire*; *Radio Kildare*
 - Television interview for German TV network RTL and New Zealand network NZTV
 - Interviewee for article in the *Daily Telegraph*
 - Co-authored blog piece on the research for *The Conversation* with over 85,000 reads
 - Press release picked up in UK and International media including *The Guardian*; *The Times*; *The Telegraph*; *The Independent*; *The Daily Mail*; *ITV News*; *Clarín*; *South China Morning Post*.
- Talk on Artificial Consciousness for the *Cambridge Festival* (forthcoming 2026)
- Pre-Film Talk for *Made in East Anglia* film festival on meta-films (2025)
- Panellist for *Cambridge Festival* event on neuroscience and consciousness (2025)
- APA public philosophy blog on *Barbie as Philosophy* (2024)
- Speaker at Cambridge Festival talking on gender and domestic labour (2024)
- Interviewee on the *Panpsychast* podcast on gender and domestic labour (2024)
- Speaker at *Cambridge Rotary Club* on the gendered division of domestic labour (Jun 2023)
- Discussant on two episodes of *Philosophy Takes on the News* podcast, exploring the ethics of watching the Qatar Men's Football World Cup and the politics of monarchism in the UK (2022)
- Speaker at *Barnes Philosophy Club* on artificial consciousness (2022)
- Speaker at the *Cambridge Film Festival* introducing philosophically engaged cinema (2021)
- Speaker at the *Fitzwilliam Museum* public talk series, presenting on art and simulation (2020)
- Speaker at the *Pint of Science Festival*, presenting on art, action and neuroscience (2019)
- Finalist on AHRC/Radio 3 New Generation Thinker scheme (including day of media training at the BBC) (2019)
- Discussant on the *Philosophy Now* radio show on Resonance FM, discussing consciousness (2014)
- Speaker in public debate on religion at the Manchester Debating Union, with participants including Mr Peter Hitchens and Prof Helen Beebe (2013)

Business and Policy Engagement

- Workshop on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and talk on Flexibility and Reinvention for *Gilead Sciences* (2025)
- Panellist for UK-China forum on *AI Ethics and Governance* hosted by the British Embassy in Beijing.
- Interview for *We Not Me* team management podcast on salience in group dynamics.
- Consultant and course leader for professional development business *Outstanding Global*. Delivered workshops on transferable skills to: *Gilead Sciences*; *The Officers' Association* and *HSBC*. Co-developed online workshop on empowering language in the workplace (2019-present)
- Professional development workshop at *Black Country Reinvestment Society* on how to promote trust (2019)
- Keynote speaker at the launch of *Capgemini's* 'Future Leaders' programme with a talk on innovative thinking (2018)
- Graduate of the University of Warwick's 'Venture Into Business Engagement' programme (2018)
- Public blog on 'Philosophy in Business' (ongoing)

FUNDING, ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES

Funding, Awards and Recognitions

- Bergen 3-year postdoctoral fellowship (declined)
- Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellowship, University of Warwick, 2016-2019
- AHRC Doctoral Research Grant, University of Sussex, 2009-2012
- Scholar of Clare College Cambridge, 2006
- Associate of the Higher Education Academy (AHEA)

Selected Events Organised

- Co-organiser of the *Normative Theory and Artificial Intelligence* seminar series, Cambridge, 2025 - present
- Co-organiser of the *Mental Sciences Club* seminar series, University of Cambridge, 2019 - present
- BSPS Programme Committee, 2024
- Co-organiser of the *Salience, Priority and Attention* discussion group, 2021 – 2022
- Organiser of *Actions: The Bodily and the Mental*, University of Warwick, 2019
- Co-organiser of *The Admissible Contents of Experience*, University of Manchester, 2015
- Lead organiser of *The Subjective Structure of Consciousness*, University of Manchester, 2014
- Organiser of *The Philosophy of Tyler Burge*, University of Glasgow, 2013

Administrative Roles

Current Roles

- HPS Postgraduate Admissions Officer
- Chair of the Directors of Studies Committee
- HPS Paper 4 Paper Manager
- MPhil Examiner
- Part II Examiner
- PBS Departmental Liaison
- Departmental rep for the Public Engagement Advisory Group
- Departmental rep for the Technology and Teaching Advisory Group

Roles in Previous Departments

- UG and PG Examiner
- Member of Equalities Working Group
- Health and Safety Officer
- Administration for funded projects

Peer Reviewing

- *Noûs*; *Mind*; *Philosophy of Science*; *Scientific Reports*; *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*; *Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Mind & Language*; *Frontiers in Neuroscience*; *Frontiers in Psychology*; *Neuroscience of Consciousness*; *Synthese*; *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Philosophical Psychology*; *Journal of Cognitive Science*; *Erkenntnis*; *Topoi*; *Dialectica*; *Debates in Aesthetics*; *Theoria*; *American Philosophical Quarterly*; *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*; *Acta Analytica*; *Journal of Consciousness Studies*; *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*; *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*; *Phenomenology of Mind*; *The Journal of Philosophical Research*; *Ratio*; *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*; *Disputatio*; *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*; *Discipline Filosofiche*; *New Review of Film & Television Studies*; *Academy of Management*; *Routledge Press*; *Agenda Press*; *Psychology Press*; *Oxford University Press*.