

Curriculum Vitae - Dr Tom McClelland

Areas of Research

- Areas of Specialisation: Philosophy of Mind/Cognitive Science, Philosophy of AI, Ethics
- Areas of Competence: Aesthetics, 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

- Director of Studies in HPS for Emmanuel College (2026 onward)
- 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 – 2026)
- 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

- Perceptual Wrongs and Perceptual Injustice, revise and resubmit with *Ethics*
- How Does Affordance Perception Depend on Motor Imagery?: An Experimental Study (co-authored with M. Dunin-Kozicka, M. Szubielska and P. Fortuna) revise and resubmit with *Review of Philosophy & Psychology*

Journal Articles

1. Consciousness in Biobots (co-authored with Marta Halina), *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences* (special issue on artificial consciousness), forthcoming
2. AI Consciousness and the Limits of Artificial Creativity, *AI & Society*, 2026
3. Agnosticism About Artificial Consciousness, *Mind & Language*, 2025
4. Seeing Others as Objects: Perceptual Objectification and Affordances (co-authored with Paulina Sliwa), *European Journal of Philosophy*, 2025
5. Attention and Attendabilia: The Perception of Attentional Affordances, *European Journal of Philosophy*, 2024
6. Affording Imagination, (co-authored with Monika Dunin-Kozicka), *Philosophical Psychology*, 2024
7. Gendered Affordance Perception and Unequal Domestic Labour (co-authored with Paulina Sliwa), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 107(2): 501-524, 2022
8. Perceptual Motivation (co-authored with Marta Jorba), *Review of Philosophy & Psychology*, 2022
9. Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Scene Perception and the Admissible Contents of Perceptual Experience, *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*. 2: 1-27, 2021
10. The Mental Affordance Hypothesis, *Mind*, 129(514): 401-427, 2020
11. 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

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

Anthology Contributions

25. What Should We Do If We're Uncertain About AI Consciousness?, *The Ethics of Artificial Consciousness*, Routledge CRC Press, forthcoming.
26. 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
27. 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
28. 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
29. 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
30. Self-Representational Theories of Consciousness, in U. Kriegel (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Consciousness*, OUP, 458-481, 2020
31. 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
32. The Knowledge Argument is Either Indefensible or Redundant, in S. Coleman (ed.) *The Knowledge Argument*, CUP, 180-197, 2019

Monographs

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

Edited Collections

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

Book Reviews

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

Conference Proceedings

43. How to Navigate Uncertainty About AI Consciousness, *Proceedings of the AISB Symposium*, 2026
44. Misembodied Experiences of Artificial Art, *Proceedings of the ICCC'22 Workshop: The Role of Embodiment in the Perception of Human & Artificial Creativity*, 2022
45. AI and Affordances for Mental Action, *Proceedings of the AISB Symposium*, 372-379, 2017
46. Receptivity and Phenomenal Self-Knowledge, *Thought*, Special Issue: Proceedings of the Northern Institute of Philosophy Early Career Conference, 2(4), 293-302, 2013
47. Consciousness, Ignorance and the Explanatory Gap, *Philosophical Writings*, Special Issue: Proceedings of the Fourteenth BPPA Conference, 45-57, 2011

Letters in Academic Journals

48. The Winds of Culture: AI Art Generators and the Aeolian Harp, letter in *AI & Society*, 2025.
49. 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

- AI Consciousness and the Scope of Consciousness Models, keynote at *Models of Consciousness*, Prague 2027
- Can Tests for Artificial Consciousness be Validated?, *Departmental Seminar*, Bristol 2027
- The Validation Problem for Markers of AI Consciousness, *ISPSM*, 2026
- Can Tests for Artificial Consciousness be Validated?, *Jowett Society*, Oxford 2026
- Salience, Skills and Models in Scientific Enquiry, *10th Conference on Model Based Reasoning*, Rome, 2026
- How to Navigate Uncertainty About AI Consciousness, *AISB*, Sussex, 2026
- Biobot consciousness, *AI and Normative Theory Group*, Cambridge 2026
- Consciousness Science and AI Welfare Policy, *Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange*, 2026
- Commentary: Ethics of Collective Attention, *Perspectives on Perspectives*, Princeton, 2025
- Perceptual Wrongs and Perceptual Injustice, *Perception, Cognition and the Role of Consciousness*, Bergen 2025
- Agnosticism About Artificial Consciousness, *Joint Sessions*, Glasgow, 2025
- Does Artificial Creativity Require Artificial Consciousness?, *Uppsala-Vienna AI Colloquium*, Online, 2025
- Discussant for *Neural Mechanisms Online*, Block on 'Only a Meat Machine Can be Conscious', 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
- Mental Affordances and Psychopathology, *Philosophy of Psychiatry Workshop*, University of Cambridge, 2023
- Perceptual Wronging and Perceptual Injustice, *Logos Colloquium*, Barcelona, 2023
- Being Human in an AI World, *ZJU Summer Lecture Series*, 2022
- Misembodied Experiences of Artificial Art, *ICCC'22 Workshop*, Bolzano, 2022

TEACHING

Courses Taught

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Hume's Dialogues
- Philosophy of Science
- Philosophy of Mind
- 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 to 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 AI (2023-present):
 - Radio interview for *Times Radio* on legal personhood of AIs
 - Extended interview for *Economic Thought*
 - Interview for *The Daily Mail* and *Publico* coverage in papers including *La Razón*, *Die Presse*, and *La Nación*
 - Letter in *The Guardian* on artificial consciousness and AI ethics
 - Interviews for *Metro* on pursuit of artificial consciousness and *How it Works Magazine* on LLMs
- 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*.
- Podcast appearances:
 - Interview on *Empathy Unbound* podcast on AI (2026)
 - Interview on *Beneath the Obvious* podcast on AI (2026)
 - Interview on *Mindchat* podcast on AI consciousness (2026)
 - Interview on the *Panpsychist* podcast on gender and domestic labour (2024)
 - Two-time discussant on *Philosophy Takes on the News* podcast on current affairs (2022)
- Two talks for the *Cambridge Festival* on AI consciousness and on domestic labour and panellist for festival event on neuroscience and consciousness (2024-2026)
- Pre-Film Talks for *Made in East Anglia* film festival on meta-film and on AI (2025/2026)
- APA public philosophy blog on *Barbie as Philosophy* (2024)
- Speaker at *Cambridge Rotary Club* on the gendered division of domestic labour (Jun 2023)
- 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 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

- Contributor to *Prism* summit on AI consciousness (2025)
- Workshop on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and talk on Flexible skills for *Gilead Sciences* (2025)
- Panellist for UK-China forum on *AI Ethics and Governance* hosted by the British Embassy in Beijing (2023)
- Interview for *We Not Me* team management podcast on salience in group dynamics (2024)
- Consultant and course leader for professional development business *Outstanding Global*. Delivered workshops on transferable skills to: *Gilead Sciences*; *The Officers' Association* and *HSBC*. (2019-present)
- Professional development workshop at *Black Country Reinvestment Society* on how to promote trust (2019)
- Keynote speaker at *Capgemini's* 'Future Leaders' programme talking 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

- Nominated for the current round of the *Pilkington Prize* in teaching
- Associate of the Higher Education Academy (AHEA)
- Bergen 3-year postdoctoral research 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

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
- BPS Programme Committee, 2024
- Co-organiser of the *Saliency, 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

- Postgraduate Admissions Officer
- Postgraduate Training Officer
- Chair of the Directors of Studies Committee
- AI Policy Group member
- Part II Senior Examiner and MPhil Examiner
- PBS Departmental Liaison
- Departmental rep for the Public Engagement Advisory Group
- Departmental rep for the Technology and Teaching Advisory Group

Previous Roles

- UG and PG Examiner
- Equalities Working Group member
- Health and Safety Officer
- HPS Paper 4 Paper Manager

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*; *Ergo*; *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 Filosofice*; *New Review of Film & Television Studies*; *Academy of Management*; *Palgrave*; *Routledge Press*; *Agenda Press*; *Psychology Press*; *Bloomsbury Press*; *OUP*.