John Donaldson

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Areas of Specialisation & Competence

- **AOS**   Philosophy of mind, metaphysics of mind, metaphysics of science
- **AOC**   Metaphysics, philosophy of cognitive science, philosophy of science, philosophy of perception, history of analytic philosophy, philosophy of art, philosophy of religion, elementary logic.

Education

- **PhD**   **University of Glasgow**. Philosophy, 2007 – 2014 (part-time).
  Thesis: *The Super-Overdetermination Problem*.
  Supervisors: Dr David Bain, Dr Stephan Leuenberger, Prof Fiona Macpherson.
  Examiners: Prof Derk Pereboom, Dr Campbell Brown, Prof Michael Brady (Chair).
  Result: pass with no corrections (viva date: January 16th 2015).

- **MSc**   **University of Edinburgh**. Philosophy, 2007.
  Dissertation: *Not so Clever: Why Intelligence Research is not a Scientific Discipline*.
  Supervisor: Professor Matthew Nudds.

- **MA**   **University of Glasgow**. Philosophy, 2006.

Selected Employment

2007 - Present	University of Glasgow, School of Humanities	Tutor in Philosophy
2011 - Present	University of Glasgow, Short Courses	Tutor in Philosophy
2019 - Present	University of Glasgow, Student & Academic Services	Warden
2011 - Present	Self-employed	Private tutor
2016 - 2019	University of Glasgow, School of Humanities	Lecturer in Philosophy (ad hoc)
2017 - 2018	University of Glasgow, FOCUS West	Widening Participation Lecturer (ad hoc)
2011 - 2019	University of Glasgow, FOCUS West	Widening Participation Tutor
Apr. - Sept. 2016	Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience, GU	Contributing editor: *Illusions Index*
2014 - 2016	Glasgow School of Art, Forum for Critical Inquiry	Visiting Lecturer
2009 - 2010	University of Stirling, Department of Philosophy	Tutor in Philosophy
2008 - 2010	University of Glasgow, IT Services	IT Tutor

Selected Teaching

2007 – Present, Philosophy, School of Humanities, University of Glasgow

- *SH10 Philosophy of Perception* – I was the lecturer and tutor for this senior honours philosophy of perception course in 2018-19.

- *MLitt Metaphysics* - I lectured and tutored all of the metaphysics component for the Philosophy MLitt in 2016-17 and 2018-19.

- *JH8: Metaphysics* – I lectured all and tutored more than half of this junior honours metaphysics course in 2016-17, and lectured and tutored half of this course in 2017-18. I tutored on this course in 2019-20.

- *2K: Knowledge, meaning, and inference* – I lectured all of the philosophy of science component of this second-year course in 2016-17 and 2018-19. I also tutored on this course in 2010-2011 and 2015-2018, covering Russell's *The Problems of Philosophy*, elementary formal logic, and the philosophy of science.

- *JH1: History of modern philosophy* – I tutored on this third-year history of modern philosophy course in 2016-17 and 2019-20, covering epistemology and metaphysics in the modern period, especially the work of Hume, Locke, and related thinkers.

- *JH7: Philosophy of mind* – I lectured on a short mental causation section for this third-year philosophy of mind course in 2015-16.

- *1A How should I think?* – I have tutored on this first-year course since 2019, covering critical thinking, applied ethics, elementary formal logic, and the philosophy of mind.

- *1B How should I live?* – I will tutor on this first-year course in 2020-21, covering topics in normative and applied ethics, the meaning of life and death.

- *2A What am I?* – I have tutored on this second-year course since 2019, covering the philosophy of mind, the free will debate, and issues in political philosophy to do with our identities as individuals and members of societies.

- *2B What is there?* - I have tutored on this second-year course since 2019, covering formal logic, metaphysics, philosophy of science, and philosophy of religion.

- *1k: Knowledge and the world* – I lectured on the perception module of this first-year course in 2017 and tutored from 2007-2018 covering Descartes' *Meditations* and related topics in epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of mind and perception.

- *1M Right and wrong* – I tutored on this first-year course in 2007-11 and 2014-16, covering normative and applied ethics, Plato's *Republic*, and some topics in political philosophy including democracy and punishment.

2014 – 2016, Glasgow School of Art, Forum for Critical Inquiry

- *Introduction to philosophy and aesthetics* – I was the lecturer and tutor for this second-year course which focussed on aesthetics but also covered related topics in epistemology and metaphysics.

- *The art of thought* – I was the lecturer and tutor for this 'informal logic for art school students' course which was delivered to second and third-year students.

2012 - Present, Short Courses, University of Glasgow

I teach a number of credit bearing, open access courses for Short Courses:

- *What is consciousness?* – covers core topics in the philosophy of mind including mind-body theories, cognitive science, and theories of consciousness.

- *Twentieth century philosophy: The dawn of analysis* – surveys some of the history of analytic philosophy.

- *Souls, minds, and matter: An Introduction to the philosophy of human nature* – examines what the issue of personal identity, free will, and the significance of God's existence or non-existence can tell us about human nature.

- *Morality, nature, and beauty: An introduction to the philosophy of value* - examines whether value properties like being good or beautiful are objective alongside topics in normative and applied ethics.

- *Scottish philosophy: An introduction* - examines modern Scottish philosophers' contribution to philosophy.

- *Life, the universe, and everything: An introduction to philosophy* - covered philosophy of perception, mind, and ethics at an elementary level (2011-17).

- *The philosophy of emotion* – covered the core topics in this area, including the metaphysics of emotion, and the rationality of emotion (2012-13).

- *Philosophy - in Technicolour!* – introduced key issues in the philosophy of art (both high and low), including the origin of art, interpretation, subjectivism versus objectivism, and defining art (2011-15).

I have also taught a variety of non-credit bearing courses for Short Courses, including some 'pop-culture and philosophy' courses which have gained media attention:

- *God, faith, science, and reason: An introduction to the philosophy of religion* – covered core topics in the philosophy of religion, including arguments for and against the existence of the Abrahamic, monotheistic God, the nature of religion, and religious pluralism (day event, 2011-17).

- *It's alive! An introduction to the philosophy of artificial intelligence* – introduced a range of issues in cognitive science related to the development of artificial intelligence, such as functionalist analyses of mental states, the distinction between modular and non-modular processes, the framing problem, and the singularity (day event, 2011-17).

- *Is science compatible with religion?* – addressed the question and attendant issues in the philosophy of science, and religion, including the demarcation problem, the nature of the scientific method, and the epistemic status of natural beliefs (day event, 2011-15).

- *Science fiction and philosophy* – introduced the philosophy of time and explored the issues of time travel, personal identity, and radical scepticism (day event, 2014-15).

- *Westworld and philosophy: artificial intelligence, consciousness, and human nature* - covered the Turing Test, the Chinese Room, and the extent to which human beings are 'natural born cyborgs' (day event, 2017-18).

- *D'oh! The Simpsons introduce philosophy* – addressed issues in normative ethics, moral epistemology, and the meaning of life (day event, 2014-18).

- *Game of Thrones and philosophy: Politics, power, and war* - introduced elementary game theory, political obligation, and just war theory (day event, 2017-18).

- *Star Wars and philosophy: Destiny, justice, and the metaphysics of the Force* – examined the connection between free will and moral responsibility and how moral praise or blame can be justified in a universe in which fates are predetermined (day event, 2017-18).

- *Dr Who and philosophy: Time, time Travel, and the nature of reality* – introduced the metaphysics of time, and classic problems and solutions to time travel (day event, 2017-19).

- *The Wire and philosophy: Drugs, Diogenes, and the death of the American Dream* – examined the relationship between sociology and psychology, how that relationship helps to inform The Wire's message that many of the causes of social ills are institutional, and moral luck (day event, 2017-18).

- *Stand-up comedy and philosophy: It's only funny if somebody laughs* – addressed the issues of free speech and censorship as well as the metaphysics of comedy (day event, 2017-18).

<u>2014, Coursera, University of Edinburgh</u>

- *Critical thinking in global challenges* – I tutored on this course, both online and in person, covering basic concepts in critical thinking and how to apply them to global issues like climate change and public health problems.

<u>2009-2010, Department of Philosophy, University of Stirling</u>

- *Philosophy – What is it all about?* – I tutored on this first-year course, which included topics in epistemology, metaphysics and ethics.

- *Mind, value, and reality* – I tutored on this first-year course which focused on elementary metaphysics and ethics.

Publications & Work in Progress

- Vertical Versus Horizontal: What is really at issue in the exclusion problem? *Synthese*, 2019

- Mental Causation, *Oxford Bibliographies*
  Oxford University Press, 2018

- *David Hume's Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*
  A short introductory text published by the Macat Library, Routledge, in 2017 (2nd edition under contract).

- To ensure blind review, details of work in progress in available upon request.

Selected Research Activities

- April 2020: Toward a Science of Consciousness, University of Arizona, *paper accepted* (conference postponed due to coronavirus).

- October 2017: 3rd annual Society for the Metaphysics of Science, Fordham University, *paper presented* – 'Vertical versus horizontal: choosing the best version of the exclusion problem'.

- March 2017: Early Career Network Future Minds Conference, Warwick University, *paper presented* – 'Why reductionism faces an overdetermination problem'.

- September 2016: 2nd International Conference on Philosophy of Mind, University of Minho; *paper presented* – 'Reduction and overdetermination'.

- May 2016: Satellite 5 Conference, Glasgow; *plenary speaker* – 'Can machines be conscious?'

- May 2016: San Francisco State University; *paper presented* – 'Getting over overdetermination'.

- April – May 2016: visiting researcher at Berkeley.

- March – April 2016: visiting scholar at CalTech; *paper presented* – 'Overdetermination and non-reductive physicalism'.

- June 2015: Toward a Science of Consciousness, University of Helsinki; *paper accepted* (could not attend due to conflicting commitments).

- May 2015: Emergence and Grounding Conference, University of Glasgow.

- April 2015: Justice Without Retribution Conference, University of Aberdeen.

- March 2014: Three Minute Thesis finalist & Arts College Heat winner, University of Glasgow.

- May 2013: Metaphysics of Mind and Science Workshop, University of Edinburgh.

- March 2013: Sensory Substitution and Augmentation Conference, British Academy.

- May 2012: Workshop: Perceptual Learning and Perceptual Recognition II, University of Toronto; *Co-reporter*.

- February 2012: Technologies of the Mind Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Computing Science Department, University of Glasgow; *paper presented* – 'What is the Problem of Mental Causation?'

- March 2011: Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference, Harvard University.

- September 2010: Workshop on Types of Explanation in the Special Sciences, University of Cologne.

- July 2009: First Graduate International Summer School in Cognitive Science and Semantics, University of Latvia & Kansas State University; *scholarship recipient & paper presented* – 'Why believe in multiple realisation?'

- July 2009: Metaphysics of Mind Graduate Conference, University of Edinburgh; *paper presented* – 'Kim's Dilemma'.

- December 2008: Ontological Categories Workshop, Durham University.

Grants

- *The Emergence Project, University of Glasgow*
Travel, accommodation, and subsistence grant to visit CalTech and Berkeley for a research trip in March - May 2016.

- *The Network for Sensory Research*
Travel and accommodation grant to attend and report on the Perceptual Learning and Perceptual Recognition II, University of Toronto: 2012.

- *The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust*
Subsistence grant: 2006-2007; 2008-2009; 2010-2011.

- *The McGlashan Trust*
Subsistence grant: 2006 – 2014.

- *University of Cologne*
Travel and accommodation grant to attend the Types of Explanation in the Special Sciences Workshop: 2010.

- *University of Latvia & Kansas State University*
Attendance grant for the International Summer School in Cognitive Science and Semantics: 2009.

Selected Professional Development

- In 2020-21 I will be undertaking the University of Glasgow course: Developing as a Teacher in Higher Education.

- I have reviewed for *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Erkenntnis*, *Dialectica*, *Theoria*, and Wiley.

- Editor of the *Psychophysical Reduction*, *Exclusion Problem*, *Multiple Realisation* and *Nonreductive Materialism* categories of PhilPapers <http://philpapers.org/profile/6926>.

- University of Glasgow GTA Small Group Teaching Award runner-up, 2017.

- Graduate Associate of the Network for Sensory Research <http://networksensoryresearch.utoronto.ca>, 2013-15.

- Graduate Assistant at the Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/humanities/research/philosophyresearch/cspe/>, 2007-2015.

- University of Glasgow Three Minute Thesis Finalist, and College of Arts Heat Winner, 2015.

- Departmental Representative for Graduate Teaching Assistants, 2009-10; 2012-13.

- Co-chair of the Department's postgraduate seminar, 2009-10.

- Co-organiser of the summer 2010 postgraduate conference held under the auspices of the Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience: Mind, Science, and Everything!

- Trustee of The Children's Wood Charity <http://thechildrenswood.com/>, 2015-2017.

- Steering Group Member of Flag Up Scotland Jamaica <http://www.flagupscotjam.uk/>, 2015-2017.

- Representative for Casual Workers, and Glasgow Branch Committee Member, University and College Union <http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/organisations/ucug/>, 2015-2017.

Selected public engagement

I am an active academic presence on social media, primarily on Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. In addition, I have engaged with the public in a variety of other forums:

- November 2019, Glasgow Skeptics Society, *talk given* – Are we alone in the universe?

- May 2018, Glasgow Skeptics Society, *talk given* – Star Wars and philosophy.

- April 2018: various media interviews to discuss the ethics of using ethnic stereotypes in comedy, including: The Guardian, BBC Scotland Timeline¸ Newstalk Ireland, and 680 CJOB Canada.

- December 2017: various media interviews to discuss the launch of the online version of the Star Wars and Philosophy course, including: STV's Live at Five, BBC News Online, The Herald, Accessible Media Radio Canada.

- December 2017: long-form interview on Game of Thrones and philosophy for SRF Kultur (Swiss Television).

- June 2017: interview with BBC Radio Scotland Social Media on Dr Who and philosophy.

- May 2017: October 2017, various appearances on STV's Live at Five to discuss news items.

- May 2017: various media interviews to discuss the launch of the Short Courses day event Star Wars and Philosophy, including: Al Jazeera English, STV News, and The Scotsman.

- December 2016: helped launch a social media campaign for the course The Simpsons Introduce Philosophy, which reached 44,588 people, and generated almost 500 Facebook likes, 109 comments and 85 shares.

Within days of going live, the campaign was reported in major media outlets around the world, including BBC News Online, Time Magazine, The Hollywood Reporter, The Washington Post, BBC Radio, German, Mexican, and Australian radio, Al Jazeera English and STV, among many others. In addition, the campaign trended twice on Twitter and made it into Google's Hot Trends.

There were five consecutive days of intense news coverage with more than fifty online and print pieces, and I gave over twenty interviews, some of which can be found on my website: drdonaldson.org.

Referees

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