John Donaldson

Post: Philosophy, School of Humanities, 67-69 Oakfield Avenue, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 0QA
Email: john.donaldson@glasgow.ac.uk
Web: www.drdonaldson.org

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

2018 – Present	University of Glasgow, FOCUS West	Widening Participation Lecturer
2016 – Present	University of Glasgow, School of Humanities	Lecturer in Philosophy (ad hoc)
2012 – Present	University of Glasgow, Short Courses	Tutor in Philosophy
2011 – Present	University of Glasgow, FOCUS West	Widening Participation Tutor
2007 – Present	University of Glasgow, School of Humanities	Tutor in Philosophy
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* - lecturer and tutor in 2018-19.

- *1A: How should I think?* - addresses three key questions: How do I think critically? How do I think critically about subjects that matter? How do I reason formally? I have tutored on this course since 2018.

- *MLitt Metaphysics* - I lectured and tutored the metaphysics component for Glasgow University's philosophy MLitt from 2016-17 to 2017-18.

- *JH8: Metaphysics* - I lectured all and tutored most of this course in 2016-17, and lectured half and tutored half of this course in 2017-18. I tutored on this course in 2018-19.

- *2K: Knowledge, Meaning, and Inference* - focusses on Russell's *The Problems of Philosophy*, elementary formal logic, and the philosophy of science. I lectured all of the philosophy of science component in 2016-17 and 2018-19. I also tutor on this second-year course (2010-2011; 2015-present).

- *JH1: History of Modern Philosophy* - examines epistemology and metaphysics in the modern period, especially the work of Hume, Locke, and related thinkers. I tutored on this third-year course in 2016-17.

- *JH7: Philosophy of Mind* - introduces core topics in the philosophy of mind. I lectured on a short mental causation module for this third-year course for the second semester of 2015-16. I tutored on this course in 2018-19.

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

- *1M Right and Wrong* - introduces normative and applied ethics, Plato's *Republic*, and some topics in political philosophy including democracy and punishment. I tutored on this first-year course 2007-2011, 2014-2016.

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

- *Introduction to Philosophy and Aesthetics* - covered epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics (50%), and Aesthetics (50%); I wrote, lectured, and tutored the entire course delivered to second-year undergraduates.

- *The Art of Thought* - informal logic and critical thinking. I lectured and tutored the entire course which was delivered to second and third-year undergraduates.

2012 - Present, Short Courses, University of Glasgow

I lecture and tutor 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, mental causation, perception, cognitive science, consciousness (20 2-hour classes over 20 weeks).

- *20th Century Philosophy* - surveys the history of analytic philosophy (10 2-hour classes over 10 weeks).

- *Souls, minds, and matter: An Introduction to the philosophy of human nature* - examines what the mind-body problem, free will, and the significance of God's existence or non-existence can tell us about human nature (10 2-hour classes over 10 weeks).

- *Morality, nature, and beauty: An introduction to the philosophy of value* - examines whether value properties like being good or beautiful are objective, and addresses core topics in normative and applied ethics. (10 2-hour classes over 10 weeks).

- *Scottish Philosophy: An introduction* - examines historical and contemporary Scottish philosopher's contribution to philosophy (10 2-hour classes over 10 weeks).

- *Life, the Universe, and Everything: An Introduction to Philosophy* - covers philosophy of perception, mind, and ethics at an elementary level (10 2-hour classes over 20 weeks, ran 2011-2017).

- *God, Faith, Science, and Reason: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion* - covers 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 (1-day, 6-hour weekend course, ran 2011-2017).

- *It's Alive! An Introduction to the Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence* - addresses a range of issues in cognitive science to do with the development of artificial intelligence, including background issues in the philosophy of mind like the mind-body problem and functionalist analyses of mental states, as well more specific issues like the distinction between modular and non-modular processes, the framing problem, and the singularity (1-day, 6-hour weekend course, ran 2011-2017).

- *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 (10 2-hour classes over 20 weeks, ran 2011-2015).

- *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 (1-day, 6-hour weekend course, ran 2011-2015).

- *Science Fiction and Philosophy* - introduced the philosophy of time, and explored the issues of time travel, personal identity, and radical scepticism (1-day, 6-hour weekend course, ran 2014-2015).

- *The Philosophy of Emotion* - covered the core topics in this area, including the metaphysics of emotion, and the rationality of emotion. (2020 2-hour classes over 20 weeks, ran 2012-2013).

I also teach a variety of popular culture and philosophy courses, some of which have generated a large amount of press in the national and international media:

- *Westworld and Philosophy: Artificial Intelligence, Consciousness, and Human Nature* - covers the Turing Test, the Chinese Room, and the extent to which human beings are 'natural born cyborgs' (1-day, 6-hour weekend course).

- *D'oh! The Simpsons Introduce Philosophy* - covers normative ethics, moral epistemology, and the meaning of life (1-day, 6-hour weekend course).

- *Game of Thrones and Philosophy: Politics, Power, and War* - covers elementary game theory, political obligation, and just war theory (1-day, 6-hour weekend course).

- *Star Wars and Philosophy: Destiny, Justice, and the Metaphysics of The Force* - covers 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 (1-day, 6-hour weekend course).

- *Dr Who and Philosophy: Time, Time Travel, and the Nature of Reality* - examines the metaphysics of time, and classic problems and solutions to time travel 1-day, 6-hour weekend course).

- *The Wire and Philosophy: Drugs, Diogenes, and the Death of the American Dream* - examines the relationship between sociology and psychology, and how that relationship helps to inform The Wire's message that many of the causes of social ills are institutional. Also examines moral luck (1-day, 6-hour weekend course).

- *Stand-up Comedy and Philosophy: It's Only Funny if Somebody Laughs* - examines the issues of free speech and censorship, and the metaphysics of comedy (1-day, 6-hour weekend course).

2014, Coursera, University of Edinburgh

- *Critical Thinking in Global Challenges* - an online course which introduces basic concepts in critical thinking and applies them to global issues like climate change and obesity. I tutored on this course, both online and in person, for the first semester of 2014-15.

2009-2010, Department of Philosophy, University of Stirling

- *Philosophy - What is it all about?* - Introduced topics in epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. I tutored on this course.

- *Mind, Value, and Reality* - focused on elementary metaphysics and ethics. I tutored on this course.

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 forthcoming).

- I have articles in progress and under review at present. In the interests of ensuring blind review, I am not listing those articles here. Details available upon request.

Selected Research Activities

- 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, April, and 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 Work Experience & Volunteering

- Reviewer for *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 SLSA at Queen Margaret Residences.

- 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

- 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 interview 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

Professor Derk Pereboom (External Examiner)
Susan Linn Sage Professor
Stanford H. Taylor '50 Chair
Sage School of Philosophy
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY
14853-3201
+1 607 255 6825
dp346@cornell.edu

Dr David Bain (PhD Supervisor)
Reader
Philosophy, School of Humanities
University of Glasgow
Glasgow
G12 8QQ
+44 (0)141 330 8768
David.Bain@glasgow.ac.uk

Dr Stephan Leuenberger (PhD Supervisor)
Senior Lecturer
Philosophy, School of Humanities
University of Glasgow
G12 8QQ
+44 (0)141 330 4276
Stephan.Leuenberger@glasgow.ac.uk

Professor Fiona Macpherson (PhD Supervisor)
Head of Philosophy
Director of the CSPE
Philosophy, School of Humanities
University of Glasgow
G12 8QQ
+44 (0)141 330 8761
Fiona.Macpherson@glasgow.ac.uk