

Matthew Owen

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mkowen.org

EDUCATION

PhD Philosophy | University of Birmingham, UK | 2018

Dissertation title: Neo-Thomistic hylomorphism applied to mental causation and neural correlates of consciousness

Examiners: Anna Marmodoro (University of Oxford/Durham University); Henry Taylor (University of Birmingham)

Supervisors: Nikk Effingham; Jussi Suikkanen

MA Philosophy | Biola University, La Mirada, CA | 2014

BA History | University of Washington, Seattle WA | 2007

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Elizabeth R. Koch Research Fellow for Tiny Blue Dot Consciousness Studies

Gonzaga University | Spokane, WA | June 2018 – September 2020

Lead Advisor of Neuroscience (external): Christof Koch

Co-Advisor of Philosophy (internal): Brian Clayton

CURRENT POSITIONS

Philosophy Faculty, Humanities Department

Yakima Valley College | Yakima, WA | September 2020 –

Affiliate Faculty, Center for Consciousness Science

University of Michigan Medical School | Ann Arbor, MI | April 2020 –

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Adjunct Philosophy Faculty, Humanities Department

Heritage University | Toppenish, Yakama Nation Reservation, WA | Aug. 2015 – May 2018; Jan. 2020 – May 2020

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Metaphysics

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Cognitive Neuroscience

Philosophical/Analytic Theology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Historical Philosophy (Aristotle & Thomas Aquinas)

Philosophy of Religion

Ethics

PUBLISHED BOOKS

Owen (forthcoming) *Measuring the Immeasurable Mind: Where Contemporary Neuroscience Meets the Aristotelian Tradition*. Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS IN RESEARCH JOURNALS & EDITED VOLUMES

Owen (2020) Conscious Matter and Matters of Conscience: An Opinionated Précis of *The Feeling of Life Itself*. *Philosophia Christi*, 22 (1), 143-154.

Owen (2019) Circumnavigating the causal pairing problem via hylomorphism and the integrated information theory of consciousness. *Synthese: An International Journal for Epistemology, Methodology and Philosophy of Science*, 1-23. [link](#)

Owen & Guta (2019) Physically Sufficient Neural Mechanisms of Consciousness, *Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience*, 13 (24), 1-14. [link](#)

Owen (2019) Exploring Common Ground Between the Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness and Aristotelian Metaphysics, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 26 (1-2), 163-187. [link](#)

Owen (2019) Neural Correlates of Consciousness and the Nature of the Mind. In Mihretu Guta (ed.) *Consciousness and the Ontology of Properties*, Routledge, 241-260. [link](#)

Owen & Dunne (2019) The Son of God and Trinitarian Identity Statements, *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*, 3 (1), 33-59. [link](#)

Owen (2018) Aristotelian Causation and Neural Correlates of Consciousness, *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy*, 38, 1-12. [link](#)

Owen (2015) Physicalism's Epistemological Incompatibility With A Priori Knowledge, *Teorema: International Journal of Philosophy*, XXXIV/3, 123-139. [link](#)

EDITED JOURNAL ISSUES

Owen & Sanders, editors (2019) Special Issue: The Son of God, *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*, 3 (1). [link](#)

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Owen & Sanders (2019) Editorial Introduction: The Son of God, *TheoLogica*, 3 (1), 1-2. [link](#)

Owen (2018) Dusting Off Dualism? *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*. [link](#)

Owen (2017) Does Neuroscience Say Madonna is a Material Girl? *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*. [link](#)

WORKS IN-PROGRESS

Owen, The Ontology and Causal Efficacy of Phi. Planned paper for *Entropy* special issue on IIT and consciousness. [link](#)

Owen, Modern Adam: The *Imago Dei* Reflected in Black Mirror. In Amber Bowen and John Anthony Dunne (eds.), *Black Mirror and Theology*. Theology and Popular Culture Series. Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, forthcoming.

Owen, Empirically Discerning and Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness in Unresponsive Patients.

Owen, *Discerning a Person's Consciousness and Death: A Thomistic Perspective*. Invited chapter in Guta and Rae (eds.), *Taking Persons Seriously: Where Philosophy, Science and Bioethics Intersect*. Due June 1, 2021.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness

The Science of Consciousness International Conference. Hosted by Collegium Helveticum (University of Zürich, ETH Zürich, Zürich University of the Arts). Interlaken, Switzerland. 28 June 2019.

Tyndale Fellowship Conference 2019: Theology & Science. Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, UK. 24 June 2019.

71st Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference. Pacific University: 26 Oct 2019.

The Sufficiency of Neural Mechanisms of Consciousness (research poster)

Consciousness Research Network 2019 Annual Meeting. Okazaki, Japan. 23-25 Jan 2019.

Tiny Blue Dot Foundation Meeting, University of Wisconsin-Madison. 8 June 2019.

The Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness & Hylomorphism: Exploring Common Ground

Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness 22nd Annual Conference. Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. 27 June 2018.

Northwest Philosophy Conference 70th Annual Meeting. Bellevue College: 19 Nov 2018.

Neuroplasticity & Consciousness of Neural Correlates (research poster)

NeuroFutures 2016 Conference: Circuit Structure & Dynamics. Allen Institute for Brain Science, Seattle: June 20, 2016. Hosts institutions: Allen Institute, University of Washington, University of British Columbia, Oregon Health Sciences University, Northwest Neuroscience Network.

A Hylomorphic Solution to the Causal Pairing Problem

Society of Christian Philosophers - Pacific Meeting. Biola University: 1 Apr 2017.

68th Northwest Philosophy Conference. Gonzaga University: 15 Oct 2016.

A Reply to Kim's Causal Argument

SoCal Philosophy Conference. San Diego State University: 19 Oct 2013.

Physicalism's Epistemological Incompatibility with A Priori Knowledge

65th Northwest Philosophy Conference. Pacific University: 5 Oct 2013.

Embodied Reason Philosophy Conference. California Baptist University: 12 Apr 2014.

The Trinity & the Meaning of 'Is'

66th Northwest Philosophy Conference. Central Washington University: 8 Nov 2014.

Embodied Reason Philosophy Conference. California Baptist University: 12 Apr 2014.

Davenant Institute Convivium Irenicum West. Lake Chelan, Washington: 18 Aug 2017.

Environmental Ethics & Theism

Fifth International Conference on Contemporary Philosophy of Religion. University of Tehran, Iran: 24-25 Jan 2017. Presentation cancelled for personal reasons. Abstract published at: philorconf.org/2017/.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness: Coupling the Mind-Body Powers Model of Neural Correlates and the Integrated Information Theory. Lab talk at Center for Sleep and Consciousness, University of Wisconsin-Madison: 4 June 2019.

The Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness and Hylomorphism. Tiny Blue Dot Foundation Meeting, Medical University of South Carolina: 6 Apr 2018.

Commentary on 'Predictive Processing and Environmental Training: Breaking Bad?' by Dr. Adrienne Cochran.' 71st Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference. Pacific University: 26 Oct 2019.

En-forming Neuroscience. Gonzaga Socratic Club, Gonzaga University: 2 December 2019.

Normative Systems of Ethics. Presentation for Heritage University Ethics Bowl team. February 2017.

An Analytic Remix of C.S. Lewis's Argument from Reason. Talbot Philosophical Society Orientation. Biola University: 26 Aug 2014.

COURSES TAUGHT

Philosophy 210: Logic & Critical Thinking, Heritage University.

Fall 2015 (2 classes)

Spring 2016 (1 class)

Fall 2016 (2 classes)

Spring 2017 (2 classes)

Fall 2017 (2 classes)

Spring 2018 (2 classes)

Spring 2020 (1 class – hybrid in-class & online)

Environmental Science: 440 Environmental Ethics, Heritage University.

Spring 2016 (1 class)

RESEARCH FUNDING

2018-2020

Project: Hylomorphism & the Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness

Tiny Blue Dot Foundation Research Fellowship. Value: \$168,000.00 USD

Objective: Investigate common ground between Aristotelianism and the integrated information theory as they relate to the metaphysical possibility of empirically discerning and quantifying consciousness in unresponsive patients.

CONTINUED EDUCATION: SUMMER SCHOOLS & WORKSHOPS

Neuroscience School of Advanced Studies. Advanced Course: Consciousness: From Theory to Practice. Coordinator: Giulio Tononi. Island of San Servolo, Venice, Italy. 30 June - 7 July 2018. Participation funded by TBD Foundation.

University of Oxford: Power Structuralism Project. (Neo-)Aristotelian approaches to the metaphysics of the mind Summer School & Conference. Director: Dr. Anna Marmodoro. Naples, Italy: 26 Sept - 2 Oct 2016.

Teaching with Learning in Mind: Practical Strategies for Increasing Student Success in Hispanic Serving Institutions. Yakima Valley College, Yakima, WA: 14 July 2017. Participation funded by ESCALA Educational Services.

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION & SERVICE

Committee Service

Compensation Committee, Heritage University, Fall 2016-Spring 2018.

Assistant Organizer

Fifth Annual California Metaphysics Conference, on Parthood. University of Southern California: 15-16 Jan 2016.

Fourth Annual California Metaphysics Conference, on the Relationship Between Logic and Metaphysics.

University of Southern California: 24 Jan 2015.

Session Chair

American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Eighty-Ninth Annual Meeting. Colloquium: Philosophy of Religion. Vancouver, British Columbia: 4 Apr 2015.

Society of Christian Philosophers – Pacific Meeting. Topic: analytic theology. Biola University: 31 Mar 2017.

Fifth Annual California Metaphysics Conference. University of Southern California: 16 Jan 2016.

Fourth Annual California Metaphysics Conference. University of Southern California: 24 Jan 2015.

65th Northwest Philosophy Conference. Pacific University: 5 Oct 2013.

3rd Center for Christian Thought Conference: Psychology and Spiritual Formation. Biola University: 9 May 2014.

Journal article referee for:

Journal of Consciousness Studies; Frontiers in Psychology; TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology; Philosophia Christi; Religious Studies: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion (Cambridge University Press)

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Member (since 2016)

American Philosophical Association, Member (since 2013)

REFERENCES

Dr. Christof Koch
President & Chief Scientific Officer
Allen Institute for Brain Science

Prof. Dr. Anna Marmodoro
Chair of Metaphysics
University of Durham
Affiliate Faculty & Official Fellow in Philosophy
University of Oxford

Dr. Blake Slonecker
Chair of Humanities Department & Professor of History
Heritage University