

Matthew Owen

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EDUCATION

PhD Philosophy | University of Birmingham, UK | 2018

Dissertation: *Neo-Thomistic Hylomorphism Applied to Mental Causation and Neural Correlates of Consciousness*

External Examiners: Prof. Dr. Anna Marmodoro (University of Oxford/Durham University)

Internal Examiner: Dr. Henry Taylor (University of Birmingham)

Supervisors: Dr. Nikk Effingham (lead supervisor), Dr. Jussi Suikkanen (co-supervisor)

MA Philosophy of Religion & Ethics | Biola University, La Mirada, CA, USA | 2014

BA History | University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA | 2007

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Elizabeth R. Koch Research Fellow for Tiny Blue Dot Consciousness Studies, Gonzaga University | Spokane, WA, USA

Lead Advisor of Neuroscience: Dr. Christof Koch (Allen Institute for Brain Science)

Co-Advisor of Philosophy: Dr. Brian Clayton (Gonzaga University)

June 2018 – September 2020

CURRENT POSITIONS

Philosophy Faculty, Humanities Department, Yakima Valley College | Yakima, Washington, USA | September 2020 –

Affiliate Faculty, Center for Consciousness Science, University of Michigan | Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA | April 2020 –

PRIOR POSITIONS

May 2021-May 2022 | Visiting Scholar, Biosignal Interaction and Personhood Technology Lab, McGill University
Montreal, Québec, Canada

August 2015-May 2018 | Adjunct Philosophy Faculty, Humanities Department, Heritage University | Toppenish, WA,
Yakama Nation Reservation

Teaching

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Philosophy 112: Ethics & Policy in Healthcare Ethics I | Nursing Program & Humanities Dept, Yakima Valley College

Taught with nursing faculty member Debra Scheib: F 2020, W 2021, S 2021, F 2021, W 2022, S 2022, F 2022

Philosophy 212: Ethics & Policy in Healthcare II | Nursing Program & Humanities Dept, Yakima Valley College

Taught with nursing faculty member Carol Milliron (or Peggy O'Neil): F 2020, W 2021, S 2021, F 2021, W 2022,
S 2022, F 2022

Philosophy 315: Professional Ethics | Business Management Program & Humanities Dept, Yakima Valley College

Taught: W 2021, W 2022

Philosophy 210: Logic & Critical Thinking | Humanities Department, Heritage University

Taught: F 2015 (2 sections), S 2016 (1 sections), F 2016 (2 sections), S 2017 (2 sections), F 2017 (2 sections), S 2018 (2 sections), S 2020

Environmental Science 440: Environmental Ethics | Department of Natural Science, Heritage University

Taught: S 2016

Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy | Humanities Department, Yakima Valley College

Taught: F 2020, S 2021, F 2021, W 2022, S 2022, F 2022

Philosophy 115: Critical Thinking | Humanities Department, Yakima Valley College

Taught: F 2020, W 2021, S 2021, W 2022, S 2022

Philosophy 220: Philosophy of Religion | Humanities Department, Yakima Valley College

Taught: F 2022

*NOTE: All courses from Fall 2020 through Fall 2021 were taught online due to the pandemic

COURSES IN-DEVELOPMENT

Philosophy 225: Bioethics, Yakima Valley College. Scheduled for Spring 2023 at Yakima Valley College.

Research

RESEARCH FUNDING

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

Project Title: Hylomorphism and the Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness | Timeline: June 2018-Sept 2020

Objective: Investigate continuity between Aristotelianism & the Integrated Information Theory of consciousness as they relate to the metaphysical possibility of empirically discerning and quantifying consciousness in unresponsive patients.

ACADEMIC BOOK

Owen (2021) *Measuring the Immeasurable Mind: Where Contemporary Neuroscience Meets the Aristotelian Tradition*. Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield. rowman.com/ISBN/9781793640123/

Reviews published in *Journal of Consciousness Studies* (by Javier Sánchez-Cañizares) and *Choice Reviews*.

RESEARCH JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

Matthew Owen, Aryn D. Owen, & Anthony G. Hudetz (forthcoming) An Aristotelian-Thomistic Framework for Detecting Covert Consciousness in Unresponsive Persons. In Mihretu P. Guta and Scott B. Rae (eds.), *Taking Persons Seriously: Where Philosophy, Science and Bioethics Intersect*, Pickwick/Wipf and Stock.

Owen (2021) 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. doi.org/10.1007/s11229-019-02403-6

Owen (2020) Aristotelian Causation and Neural Correlates of Consciousness, *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy*, 39 (5), 1-12. doi.org/10.1007/s11245-018-9606-9

Owen (2020) The Causal Efficacy of Consciousness. *Entropy*. 22(8). doi.org/10.3390/e22080823

Owen & Mihretu P. Guta (2019) Physically Sufficient Neural Mechanisms of Consciousness, *Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience*, 13 (24), 1-14. doi.org/10.3389/fnsys.2019.00024. Also published in: Alain Destexhe, Kathinka Evers, Tommaso Fellin, Olivia Gosseries, Steven Laureys, Marcello Massimini, et al. (2022) *Brain States and Neural Mechanisms of Consciousness*. Frontiers eBook. doi.org/10.3389/978-2-83250-123-8

Owen (2019) Neural Correlates of Consciousness and the Nature of the Mind. In Mihretu P. Guta (ed.) *Consciousness and the Ontology of Properties*, Routledge, 241-260. doi.org/10.4324/9781315104706

Owen (2019) Exploring Common Ground Between the Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness and Aristotelian Metaphysics, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 26 (1-2), 163-187. ingentaconnect.com/content/imp/jcs/2019

Owen & John Anthony 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. doi.org/10.14428/thl.v2i3.18413

Owen (2015) Physicalism's Epistemological Incompatibility With A Priori Knowledge, *Teorema: International Journal of Philosophy*, XXXIV/3, 123-139. [jstor.org/stable/26370128](https://www.jstor.org/stable/26370128)

PEER-REVIEWED PHILOSOPHICAL NOTE

Owen (2020) Conscious Matter and Matters of Conscience: An Opinionated Précis of *The Feeling of Life Itself*. *Philosophia Christi*. 22 (1), 143-154. DOI: doi.org/10.5840/pc202022110

EDITED JOURNAL ISSUE

Owen & Fred Sanders, eds. (2019) Special Issue: The Son of God, *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*, 3 (1). DOI: doi.org/10.14428/thl.v2i3

Academic Presentations

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED 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.

“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.

“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.

“Environmental Ethics & Theism”

Fifth International Conference on Contemporary Philosophy of Religion. University of Tehran, Iran: 24-25 Jan 2017. Presentation cancelled for personal reasons (given political tensions at the time); the abstract was published.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS, LAB TALKS, & LECTURES

Title TBD. Invited presenter at the Conscious Persons Conference. Oakland University, forthcoming summer 2023.

“Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness in Unresponsive Patients.” Biosignal Interaction and Personhood Technology Lab, McGill University: 28 Jan 2021. *online

“Quantifying Irreducible Consciousness in Unresponsive Patients.” Center for Bioethics, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile: 29 Apr 2020. *online

“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 HU Ethics Bowl team, Heritage University: February 2017.

Public Engagement

PUBLIC-FACING PHILOSOPHY ESSAYS & INTERVIEWS

Owen (2022) [Dissertating Like a Distance Runner](#). *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*.

Owen and Schmidt (2021) [Recently Published Book Spotlight: Measuring the Immeasurable Mind](#). *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*.

Owen (2021) [Martin Luther King Jr.'s View of Metaethics and Normative Ethics](#). *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*.

Owen (2020) [Cerebral Organoids: Conscious Subjects or Zombies?](#) *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*.

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

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Member of Yakima Valley College Speakers Bureau, May 2022 – Present. As a faculty representative of Yakima Valley College, I am available for public talks on philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, and bioethics. The purpose of these talks is to engage our Yakima community and introduce the public to our scholarship while making information more widely available and accessible.

Continuing 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 Service, Memberships, & References

SERVICE & ADMINISTRATION

Academic Advising

Nursing Program, Yakima Valley College: Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

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.

Authored Course Descriptions and Outcomes Proposed to YVC Curriculum Committee

Philosophy 315: Professional Ethics, Yakima Valley College, Spring 2021

Philosophy 220: Philosophy of Religion, Yakima Valley College, Spring 2021

Philosophy 225: Bioethics, Yakima Valley College, Spring 2021

Reviewed Course Descriptions and Outcomes Proposed to YVC Curriculum Committee
Philosophy 112: Healthcare Ethics and Policy I, Yakima Valley College, Winter 2023
Philosophy 212: Healthcare Ethics and Policy II, Yakima Valley College, Winter 2023

Committee Member

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

Session Chair

1st Canadian Consciousness Research Symposium. Session: Disorders of Consciousness and Delirium. Biosignal Interaction and Personhood Technology Lab, McGill University: 19 May 2021.

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. Session: 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:

Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience; *Journal of Consciousness Studies*; *Frontiers in Psychology*; *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*; *Philosophia Christi*; *Journal for Religious Ethics* (Wiley); *Religious Studies: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion* (Cambridge University Press); *Acta Analytica* (Springer); *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press); *Foundations of Science* (Springer)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association, Member (since 2013)

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

REFERENCES

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

Address: 615 Westlake Ave N, Seattle, WA, USA 98109 | Office phone: **** | Cell: ****

Primary email: ****

Prof. Dr. Anna Marmodoro | Chair of Metaphysics, *University of Durham & Affiliate Faculty, University of Oxford*

Address: 50 Old Elvet, DH1 3HN, UK | Office Phone: **** | Personal Phone: ****

Primary email: ****

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

Address: 3240 Fort Road, Toppenish, WA, USA 989109 | Office phone: **** | Cell: ****

Primary email: ****