

T. Ben Baker, JD PhD

Colby College
Department of Philosophy
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023-present Colby College, Dept of Philosophy, Davis AI Institute
Assistant Professor

2020-2023 University of Pennsylvania, Dept of Neuroscience, Kordinglab
Provost Postdoctoral Fellow

EDUCATION

2020 University of Pennsylvania, PhD Philosophy
Dissertation: "Cognition in Nature: Information, Explanation, Embodiment"

2014 Yale Law School, JD
Substantial Analytic Writing: "Less Than Murder"
Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic

2010 Brown University, BA
Concentrations: Philosophy (honors thesis), Economics

PUBLICATIONS

* = peer reviewed publication

2024 [Computational Kinematics of Dance: Distinguishing Hip Hop Genres](#)
B Baker, T Liu, J Matelsky, F Parodi, J Krakauer, K Kording
*Frontiers in Human Robotics and AI**

2024 Unraveling Complexity: An Ecological View of Complex Agents
B Baker, S Roberts, L Titus
Manuscript submission process

- 2023 [Commentary on Favela and Machery](#) “Investigating the concept of representation in the neural and psychological sciences.”
Symposium contribution for The Brains Blog
- 2022 Three Aspects of Representation in Neuroscience
B Baker, B Lansdell and K Körding
*Trends in Cognitive Sciences**
- 2022 Creativity in AI-Dance Art
Proceedings of International Conference on Computational Creativity*
- 2022 Prospective Learning: Back To The Future
Position Paper on [arXiv 2201:07372](#), J Vogelstein et al. working group
- 2021 “What Makes Representations ‘Useful’?”
B Baker, R Lange, A Achille, R Cao, N Kriegeskorte, O Schwartz, X Pitkow
[CCN Generative Adversarial Collaboration](#)
- 2021 “[Natural Information, Factivity, and Nomicity](#),”
*Biology & Philosophy**
- 2021 “[Referee Report of \(hypothetical\) Philosophy101 Textbook](#),”
*Teaching Philosophy**
[Spanish Translation](#) by Fredy H.P. Galindo, 2023
*Cuestiones Filosofía**
- 2016 “[What Does Engaged Philosophy Look Like?](#)”
B Baker, L Daoust and R Willison
Guest Post on DailyNous.com
- 2013 “[Before Their Time](#): Challenges to Implementing the Prohibition
Against Child Marriage in Sierra Leone”
B Baker, A Elbogen, S Keene
Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic

SELECTED TALKS

- 2023 Six Forms of Dance Cognition
[Mind the Body](#): creativity, improvisation and play in philosophy and dance
- 2022 So You Think AI Can Dance?
Eye, Mind, and Image; Themes from Visual Studies (UPenn)
- 2021 Symposium: Affirming Black Excellence in Neuroscience
Cognitive Neuroscience Society (virtual), March 15
- 2020 Representation in Neuroscience
Neuromatch Conference 3.0 (virtual), October 28
- 2019 The Factivity and Nomicity of Information

- 2017 Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati OH, March 8
Learning to Dance with Dynamic Systems
- UPenn Graduate BEN Talks, Philadelphia PA, March 17
- 2017 Neural Dynamics and Inner Representations
SUNY Potsdam Conference on “Representing Reality,” May 6
- 2015 Weakness of Will in Desire-First Accounts of Rational Action
Philosophers’ Cocoon Conference, Tampa FL, November 8

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2019 Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student, UPenn
- 2019 Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Graduate Certificate, UPenn
- 2018 Center for Teaching and Learning, Graduate Certificate, UPenn
- 2014 Fontaine Fellow, UPenn

ORGANIZER

- 2024 Artists’ Residency, The Flavor Continues, a multimedia introduction
to breaking and Hip Hop Culture, February 21-22
- 2024 Kingsley Birge Memorial Lecture in Sociology
- 2021 Cross-disciplinary workshop: What Makes Representations “Useful”?
Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Conference (virtual), Oct 1
Generative Adversarial Collaboration, co-organizer Richard Lange
- 2018-19 Reading Group: Indian Philosophy, UPenn
- 2017 Minorities and Philosophy, UPenn Chapter
Co-organizer Allauren Forbes
- 2016 Conference: Philosophy and Engagement
Co-organizers Louise Daoust and Rob Willison
- 2013-14 Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic

TEACHING

Colby College

Central Philosophical Issues: Mind & Machine (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)
Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Fall 2023)

University of Pennsylvania

Philosophy and Visual Perception (Spring 2020)
Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2019, Summer 2018)
Ethics (Spring 2019)
Introduction to Philosophy (assisting Gary Purpura, Summer 2019)
Eye, Mind, and Image (assisting Gary Hatfield and Michael Leja, Spring 2017)
Mind and Language (assisting Lisa Miracchi, Fall 2016)
Justice, Law and Morality (assisting Samuel Freeman, Spring 2016)
Ethics (assisting Errol Lord, Fall 2015)

Yale University

Existentialism (assisting Scott Edgar, Spring 2013)