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John Wilcox

Resume

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Background

Dr. John Wilcox has worked on a variety of projects in a variety of capacities, ranging from adjunct professor at Columbia University, to lead scientist on research projects, to web application programmer for software development projects. He currently directs and coordinates *Alethic Innovations*, an organisation which delivers training and other products and services to improve judgment and decision-making.

Employment History

2023-Present	**Founder and Chief Scientist/Technologist**, Alethic Innovations: • Produced training materials, coded software and coordinated a team of researchers developing products to enhance probabilistic reasoning • Performed consulting services for non-profit and for-profit organisations
2024	**Consultant** for the following organisations: • Forecasting Research Institute: Designed experiments, produced training materials and wrote reports about improving forecasting • New Zealand's Ministry of Education: Produced a report about evaluating a program to improve climate change awareness in schools • Alan Wilcox Associates/Unitec: Assisted with the production of a report about improving enrolment outcomes
2023-2026	**Adjunct Professor/Research Scientist of Psychology**, Columbia University: • Taught a course and supervised three students who completed theses, two of whom won awards from Columbia University for the quality of their work
2023	**Visiting Scholar,** Stanford University & **Research Lead,** fp21: • Conducted research projects and produced three reports about improving decision-making in US foreign policy (ironic) **Adjunct Instructor,** Stevens Institute of Technology: • Taught a course in introductory psychology, including research methods **Consulting work** for Goodly Labs: • Designed experiments to test and improve the efficacy of a web-platform to improve reasoning
2022	**Researcher,** The Hunt Lab, The University of Melbourne, & Laboratory for Analytic Sciences, North Carolina State University: • Designed evaluation projects, produced reports and designed and coded software to improve reasoning among intelligence analysts
2020-2023	**Co-Director and Lead Researcher,** The Metachangemakers Project: • Coordinated research and presentations, resulting in this publication
2018-2020	Service to *The Hume Society* (the Stanford University philosophy graduate society): • **Co-President** (2018-2019), **Professional Development Officer** (2019-2020)
2017	**Deliberation Analytics Researcher**, *SWARM project*, The University of Melbourne:

	• Designed and executed a research project to evaluate software to improve reasoning among intelligence analysts
2016-2017	**Research Fellow,** *Dep. of History and Philosophy of Science*, The University of Melbourne: • Conducted research on the reproducibility of scientific results which culminated in this publication

Technical and Research Skills

From work as a data analyst, PhD research and coursework at Stanford and Auckland:

- Experimental methods (in-lab and online)
- Survey design and sampling methodology
- Training in research ethics and reproducible practices
- Computer simulation methods
- Data visualization techniques
- Probabilistic programming
- Web application/software programming
- Machine learning (supervised and unsupervised methods)
- Standard statistical techniques (Bayesian and frequentist methods)
- Programming languages*: R, WebPPL/JavaScript, Python*
- Qualitative research methods

Education and Qualifications

2023	***Doctor of Philosophy,*** **Stanford University,** philosophy, psychology and politics *Notable achievement:* Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship
2016	***Master of Arts (First class honours),*** **University of Auckland,** philosophy and statistics *Final grade:* **A+**
2014	***Bachelor of Arts (First class honours),*** **University of Auckland,** philosophy *Final GPA range:* **A+**
2013	***Bachelor of Arts,*** **University of Auckland,** philosophy and political studies *Notable awards:* Senior scholar award, Jonathan Hunt first-place prize in politics *Final GPA range:* **A+**

Selective List of Publications

Books:

- **Wilcox, J.** (2025). *The Alethic Handbook of Probabilistic Reasoning: Evidence-Based Training Modules* (C. Acosta, J. Caballero & M. Richmond, Eds.). Alethic Publishing.
- **Wilcox, J.** (2022). *Human Judgment: How Accurate is it, and How Can it Get Better?* Springer Nature.

Academic articles and other publications:

- **Wilcox, J.** (2025). What really is good for people? A practical theory for impact-making, policy evaluation and life more generally. *Societal Impacts*, *5,* 100114. (Article)
- **Wilcox, J.** (2024). Likelihood Neglect Bias and the Mental Simulations Approach. *Judgment and Decision-Making, 19,* e14, 1-26. (Article)
- **Wilcox, J.,** & Mandel, D. (2024). Critical Review of the Analysis of Competing Hypotheses Technique: Lessons for the Intelligence Community. *Intelligence and National Security*. (Preprint)

Public-facing publications:

- **Wilcox, J.** (2025). "Does Money Really Make Us Happier?". *Psychology Today.* https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/rationality-judgment-and-decision-making/202503/does-money-really-make-us-happier.
- **Wilcox, J.** (2025). "How to Find the Truth Where Other Cannot". *Psychology Today.* https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/rationality-judgment-and-decision-making/202502/how-to-find-the-truth-where-others-cannot.

- **Wilcox, J.**, and Reynante, B. (2024). "What is a 'social impact scholar'?". *LSE Impact Blog*. https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2024/11/21/what-is-a-social-impact-scholar/.

Scholarships, Achievements and Awards

2019	***Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship***
2017	***Stanford University PhD Scholarship/Fellowship***
2015	***The University of Auckland Masters/Honours/PGDip Scholarship*** - 45 given university wide, one of the "most lucrative and prestigious scholarships"[i]
	School of Humanities Research Fund Award
2014	***The University of Auckland Masters/Honours/PGDip Scholarship***
	Summer Research Scholarship (*Research focus:* Fictionalism in philosophy of science)
	First in Course Award in ***Phil 762:*** *God and Morality,* ***Politics 704:*** *Political Management in Government* and ***Politics 769:*** *Advanced Research Skills*
2013	***Senior Scholar Award*** in the Faculty of Arts at The University of Auckland - "These prestigious awards are granted to the students … who achieved the highest overall grades in their degree programme"[ii]
	The Jonathan Hunt Prize - The prize is "for the full-time undergraduate student majoring in Politics and International Relations who achieved the highest GPA in that major."[iii]
	Summer Research Scholarship (*Research focus:* Science and naturalism)
	First in Course Award in ***Phil 200:*** *Philosophy of Mind,* ***Phil 306:*** *Language, Truth and Meaning,* ***Phil 327:*** *Philosophy of Religion* and ***Politics 345:*** *Political Marketing*
2012	Inclusion on **Dean's List for Academic Excellence**, **Victoria University of Wellington**
2011	Inclusion on **Dean's List for Academic Excellence**, **Victoria University of Wellington**

Referees

Ray Briggs, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA.
rabriggs@uchicago.edu.
Patricia Lindemann, Department of Psychology, Columbia University, New York, New York, USA.
pgl2@columbia.edu.
James L. McClelland, Department of Psychology, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA.
jlmcc@stanford.edu.
Brandon Reynante, Haas Center for Public Service, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA.
reynante@stanford.edu.

[i] From a website description, formerly available at http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/notices/notices-2014/10/prestigious-scholarships-for-postgraduate-students-closing-1-nov.html. These scholarships were not offered after 2015.
[ii] From a letter dated 28 March 2014 from the University of Auckland Scholarships Office.
[iii] "Jonathan Hunt Prize in Politics and International Relations". Accessed July 31, 2021. https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/scholarships-and-awards/find-a-scholarship/jonathan-hunt-prize-in-politics-and-international-relations-p892-art.html.