

John Wilcox

Curriculum Vitae

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Areas of Specialization

Psychology:
Cognitive Psychology
Metascience
Moral Psychology**Philosophy:**
Epistemology
Philosophy of Science
Ethics**Politics:**
Intelligence analysis
Research methods
Political decision-making

Education and Qualifications

2022	Doctor of Philosophy , philosophy, psychology and politics, Stanford University <i>Dissertation title: "Probabilistic reasoning, actual and ideal"</i> <i>Psychology readers:</i> James L. McClelland and Samuel Gershman (Harvard University) <i>Philosophy readers:</i> Ray Briggs, Thomas Icard and Krista Lawlor <i>Notable achievements:</i> - Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship - Sub-Plan in History and Philosophy of Science
2016	Master of Arts (First class honours) , philosophy and statistics, University of Auckland <i>Thesis Title: "From Relative Frequencies to Bayesian Probabilities"</i> <i>Statistics advisor:</i> Brendon Brewer <i>Philosophy advisors:</i> Jeremy Seligman and Fred Kroon <i>Final grade: A+</i>
2014	Bachelor of Arts (First class honours) , philosophy, University of Auckland <i>Final GPA range: A+</i>
2013	Bachelor of Arts , philosophy and political studies, University of Auckland <i>Notable awards:</i> Senior scholar award, Jonathan Hunt first-place prize in politics <i>Final GPA range: A+</i>

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 (<i>Research focus:</i> 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 (<i>Research focus:</i> 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

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 and web application programming
- Machine learning (supervised and unsupervised methods)
- Standard statistical techniques (Bayesian and frequentist methods)
- Programming languages: *R*, *WebPPL/JavaScript*, *Python*
- Qualitative research methods

Academic Positions and Service to the Profession

Referee for: *Cambridge University Press*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Synthese*, *The British Journal of Philosophy of Science*, *The European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *The Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, *BioSciences* and *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing*

2023-	Visiting Scholar , Stanford University Research Lead in Analysis and Decision-Making , fp21
2022	Researcher , <i>Faculty of Science</i> , The University of Melbourne
2020-	Co-Director and Lead Researcher , The Metachangemakers Project
2018-2020	Service to <i>The Hume Society</i> (the Stanford University philosophy graduate society): - Co-President (2018-2019), Professional Development Officer (2019-2020)
2017	Deliberation Analytics Researcher , <i>SWARM project</i> , The University of Melbourne
2016-2017	Research Fellow , <i>Dep. of History and Philosophy of Science</i> , The University of Melbourne

Writing

Book:

1. [Human Judgment: How Accurate is it, and How Can it Get Better?](#) (Springer Nature, 2023).

Articles and other publications:

2. "Ad Hocness, Accommodation, and Consilience: a Bayesian Account", *Synthese* (2023). ([Preprint](#))
3. "An Argument for the Principle of Indifference and against the Wide Interval View", *The Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 51 (2020): 65-87.
4. With Fiona Fidler, "The Reproducibility of Scientific Results," *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2018/entries/scientific-reproducibility/>.
5. "From Relative Frequencies to Bayesian Probabilities." Master of Arts' thesis. The University of Auckland, 2016. Published online via ResearchSpace at the University of Auckland.
6. "The Green Party's SOP/MOP Strategy at the 2011 General Election in New Zealand." In Jennifer Lees-Marshment, *Political Marketing: Principles and Applications*. New York: Routledge, 2014.

Internal fp21 Reports:

1. "Understanding and improving decision-making", report, 2023.
2. "Analytic Best-Practices", report, 2023.
3. "Objective-Setting and Strategy Formulation", report, 2023.

Under Review:

1. With David Mandel, "Critical Review of the Analysis of Competing Hypotheses Technique: Lessons for the Intelligence Community"
2. A paper on when degrees of belief or credences are justified (*R&R Review of Psychology and Philosophy*)
3. A cognitive science paper about a new cognitive bias and a new method to correct it
4. A paper articulating a new solution to the "moral twin earth problem" in metaethics

Teaching

As lecturer and teaching assistant, John has taught various courses in philosophy and the social sciences.

Instructor or Lecturer:

1. *Phil 239: Teaching Methods in Philosophy*, Stanford University, Spring 2022.
2. *Phil 239: Teaching Methods in Philosophy*, Stanford University, Fall 2021.
3. *Phil 60: Introduction to Philosophy of Science*, Stanford University, Fall 2021.

Guest Lectures:

1. "Conditional Commitment" – *Phil 184/284: Formal and Informal Epistemology*, Stanford University, Spring 2020.
2. "Probability, Logic and Probability Logic" – *Phil 150/250: Mathematical Logic*, Stanford University, Fall 2019.
3. "Bayesian Epistemology" - *Phil 218/338: Problems in Epistemology*, The University of Auckland, Fall 2015.
4. "Euteleology" - *Phil 743: Philosophy of Religion 2*, The University of Auckland, Fall 2014.

Teaching Assistant:

1. *Phil 60: Introduction to Philosophy of Science*, Stanford University, Fall 2021.
2. *Phil 74A/Humbio 174A/Ethicsoc 174: Ethics in a Human Life*, Stanford University, Fall 2020.
3. *Phil 184/284: Formal and Informal Epistemology*, Stanford University, Spring 2020.
4. *Phil 150/250: Mathematical Logic*, Stanford University, Fall 2019.
5. *Mult 30018: Applied Research Methods*, The University of Melbourne, Winter 2016.
6. *Phil 218/338: Problems in Epistemology*, The University of Auckland, Fall 2015.

Academic Presentations

"Metachangemaking and Life Improvement Science":

- Life Improvement Science Conference, June 13, 2021 (video available [here](#)).

"A recipe for a maximally rational collective":

- The International Rationality Summer Institute, September 7, 2018

"Computational sufficiency and the mind-brain identity theory":

- The Science of Consciousness Conference, April 4, 2018

"Real-world reasoning in the cyber realm":

- Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, July 4, 2017
- SWARM Project gathering, June 27, 2017

"Touchstones for evaluating norms of belief-formation":

- Stanford Graduate Student Workshop, October 26, 2017
- Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, July 3, 2017
- Logic Seminar, University of Melbourne, May 18, 2017
- History and Philosophy of Science Seminar, April 12, 2017

Referees

Ray Briggs, Department of Philosophy, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, USA.
rbriggs@stanford.edu.

James L. McClelland, Department of Psychology, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, USA.
jlmcc@stanford.edu. (650) 725-1232.

Dan Spokojny, fp21, Washington DC, USA. dan@fp21.org.

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>.