

John Wilcox

Curriculum Vitae

john.wilcox@columbia.edu  
www.johnwilcox.org

Areas of Specialization

<b>Psychology:</b> Cognitive science (incl. Judgment and Decision-Making) Metascience Moral Psychology	<b>Philosophy:</b> Epistemology Philosophy of Science Ethics
--	---

Employment, Academic Positions and Service to the Profession

Academic and other positions:

2023-Present	<b>Founder and Chief Scientist/Technologist</b> , <a href="#">Alethic Innovations</a> <b>Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology</b> , Columbia University Responsibilities include both teaching and student project supervision
2023	<b>Visiting Scholar</b> , Stanford University <b>Adjunct Instructor</b> , Stevens Institute of Technology <b>Research Lead</b> , <a href="#">fp21</a>
2022	<b>Researcher</b> , <i>Faculty of Science</i> , The University of Melbourne
2020-	<b>Co-Director and Lead Researcher</b> , <a href="#">The Metachangemakers Project</a>
2018-2020	Service to <i>The Hume Society</i> (the Stanford University philosophy graduate society): - <b>Co-President</b> (2018-2019), <b>Professional Development Officer</b> (2019-2020)
2017	<b>Deliberation Analytics Researcher</b> , <i>SWARM project</i> , The University of Melbourne
2016-2017	<b>Research Fellow</b> , <i>Dep. of History and Philosophy of Science</i> , The University of Melbourne

Products or services provided to the following organizations:  
(as funded researcher, independent contractor or Alethic Innovations)

Governmental Organizations	1. Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity 2. Hunt Lab for Intelligence Research 3. Laboratory for Analytic Sciences 4. Other Governmental Organizations
Non-Governmental Organizations	5. Forecasting Research Institute 6. Goodly Labs 7. fp21

**Referee for:** Cambridge University Press, Princeton 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

## 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	<b>Doctor of Philosophy</b> , philosophy and psychology, <b>Stanford University</b> <i>Dissertation title:</i> "Probabilistic reasoning, actual and ideal" <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship</li> <li>- Sub-Plan in History and Philosophy of Science</li> </ul>
2016	<b>Master of Arts (First class honours)</b> , philosophy and statistics, <b>University of Auckland</b> <i>Thesis Title:</i> "From Relative Frequencies to Bayesian Probabilities" <i>Statistics advisor:</i> Brendon Brewer <i>Philosophy advisors:</i> Jeremy Seligman and Fred Kroon <i>Final grade:</i> <b>A+</b>
2014	<b>Bachelor of Arts (First class honours)</b> , philosophy, <b>University of Auckland</b> <i>Final GPA range:</i> <b>A+</b>
2013	<b>Bachelor of Arts</b> , philosophy and political studies, <b>University of Auckland</b> <i>Notable awards:</i> Senior scholar award, Jonathan Hunt first-place prize in politics <i>Final GPA range:</i> <b>A+</b>

## Writing and Publications

### Book:

1. **Wilcox, J.** (2022). [Human Judgment: How Accurate is it, and How Can it Get Better?](#) Springer Nature.

### Articles and other publications:

1. Reynante, B., **Wilcox, J.**, Lieder, F., Stephenson, O., & Lacopo, G. (Forthcoming). Cultivating Changemakers: A Review of Metachangemaking. *The Journal of Moral Education*. ([Preprint](#))
2. **Wilcox, J.** (2024). Likelihood Neglect Bias and the Mental Simulations Approach. *Judgment and Decision-Making*, 19, e14, 1-26. ([Article](#))
2. **Wilcox, J.**, & Mandel, D. (2024). Critical Review of the Analysis of Competing Hypotheses Technique: Lessons for the Intelligence Community. *Intelligence and National Security*. ([Preprint](#))
3. **Wilcox, J.** (2024). Credencess and Trustworthiness: A Calibrationist Account. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. ([Preprint](#))
4. **Wilcox, J.** (2023). Ad Hocness, Accommodation, and Consilience: a Bayesian Account. *Synthese*. ([Accessible here](#))
5. **Wilcox, J.** (2020). An Argument for the Principle of Indifference and against the Wide Interval View. *The Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 51, 65-87.
6. Fidler, F., & **Wilcox, J.** (2022). The Reproducibility of Scientific Results. In Zalta, E. (Ed.), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2018/entries/scientific-reproducibility/>.
7. **Wilcox, J.** (2016). From Relative Frequencies to Bayesian Probabilities. [Master's thesis, The University of Auckland]. <https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/2292/31095/whole.pdf>

8. **Wilcox, J.** (2014). The Green Party's SOP/MOP Strategy at the 2011 General Election in New Zealand. In Lees-Marshment, J. *Political Marketing: Principles and Applications*. Routledge.

#### **In progress or under review:**

1. **Wilcox, J.** A paper articulating a new solution to the "moral twin earth problem" in metaethics
2. **Wilcox, J.** & Tetlock, P. A paper on probability in decision-making
3. **Wilcox, J.** & Adams, B. A paper on an intervention to combat online disinformation
4. **Wilcox, J.** & Byrd, N. A paper on a social science cognitive bias and how to address it

#### **Internal *fp21* Reports:**

1. **Wilcox, J.** (2023). Understanding and Improving Decision-Making.
2. **Wilcox, J.** (2023). Analytic Best-Practices.
3. **Wilcox, J.** (2023). Objective-Setting and Strategy Formulation

---

## **Teaching**

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

#### **Psychology and Social Science:**

1. *Psyc GU4286: The Accuracy of Human Judgment*, Columbia University, Fall 2023. (Instructor)
2. *HSS 175 C: Introduction to Psychology*, Stevens Institute of Technology, Fall 2023. (Instructor)
3. *HSS 175 D: Introduction to Psychology*, Stevens Institute of Technology, Fall 2023. (Instructor)
4. *Mult 30018: Applied Research Methods*, The University of Melbourne, Winter 2016. (Sessional Tutor)

#### **Philosophy:**

5. *Phil 239: Teaching Methods in Philosophy*, Stanford University, Spring 2022. (Instructor)
6. *Phil 239: Teaching Methods in Philosophy*, Stanford University, Fall 2021. (Instructor)
7. *Phil 60: Introduction to Philosophy of Science*, Stanford University, Fall 2021. (Instructor and Teaching Assistant)
8. *Phil 74A/Humbio 174A/Ethicsoc 174: Ethics in a Human Life*, Stanford University, Fall 2020. (Teaching Assistant)
9. *Phil 184/284: Formal and Informal Epistemology*, Stanford University, Spring 2020. (Teaching Assistant)
10. *Phil 150/250: Mathematical Logic*, Stanford University, Fall 2019. (Teaching Assistant)
11. *Phil 218/338: Problems in Epistemology*, The University of Auckland, Fall 2015. (Teaching Assistant)

#### **Guest Lectures:**

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

---

## **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

## Scholarships, Achievements and Awards

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

## Referees

Ray Briggs, Department of Philosophy, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA.

rbriggs@stanford.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.

Thomas Ryckman, Department of Philosophy, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA.

tryckman@stanford.edu.

<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> From a letter dated 28 March 2014 from the University of Auckland Scholarships Office.

<sup>iii</sup> “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>.