

# WILL DAVIES

## AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology and Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Perception (esp. Colour), Philosophy of Psychiatry

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Language, Epistemology, Metaphysics

## EMPLOYMENT

**09/24-Current** Visiting Associate Professor in Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**09/19-Current** Associate Professor and Gabriele Taylor Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, St Anne's College, University of Oxford

**01/17-8/19** Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Birmingham

**03/15-12/16** Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Loebel Lectures and Research Programme and Oxford Centre for Neuroethics

**06/13-06/14** Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Antwerp

One year position on the 'Between Perception and Action' Project, led by Prof Bence Nanay.

**10/11-02/15** Junior Research Fellow (Stipendiary), Churchill College, University of Cambridge

N.B. JRF commenced while still a DPhil student at Oxford. JRF became postdoctoral in 2013, intermitted from 2013-14 for Antwerp position.

**09/04-06/06** Bechtel Corporation

## BOOKS

In preparation. *Colour, Space, and Form*.

## EDITED VOLUMES

2020. *Psychiatry Reborn: Biopsychosocial psychiatry in modern medicine*, W. Davies, J. Savulescu, & R. Roache (eds.), Oxford University Press. <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/psychiatry-reborn-biopsychosocial-psychiatry-in-modern-medicine-9780198789697>

## PAPERS

Under review. 'The Colours of Transparencies.'

Under review. 'Cortical Colour for Philosophers: The Demise of Opponent-Process Theory.'

Under review. 'Perceiving Illumination and Transparency.'

Forthcoming. 'The Nature, Structure, and Perception of Illumination.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phpr.70073>

2022. 'The paradox of colour constancy: Plotting the lower borders of perception', *Noûs*, 56(4), 787-813.

2021. 'Colour Relations in Form', *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 102(3), 574-594.
2020. 'Colour Relations in Black and White', *Harvard Review of Philosophy*, 27, 87-100.
2018. 'Colour Vision and Seeing Colours', *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 69(3), 657-90.
2017. (w. Rebecca Roache) 'Reassessing biopsychosocial psychiatry', *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 210(1), pp.3-5
2016. 'Colour Constancy, Illumination, and Matching', *Philosophy of Science*, 83(4), pp540-62.
2016. 'Externalist Psychiatry', *Analysis* 76(1), pp290-96.
2016. (w. Neil Levy) 'Persistent Vegetative State, Akinetic Mutism, and Consciousness', in *Finding Consciousness: The Neuroscience, Ethics, and Law of Severe Brain Damage*, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (ed.), New York: Oxford University Press, pp122-34.
2014. 'The Inscrutability of Colour Similarity', *Philosophical Studies*, 171(2), 289-311.
2012. 'Hyman on Colour', *Lebenswelt*, Vol. 2, pp80-85.

## EDUCATION

**May 2019**      **PGCert in Higher Education**      **University of Birmingham**

**Jul 2013**      **DPhil in Philosophy**      **Balliol College, University of Oxford**

Thesis Title: 'Essays on the Perception, Representation, and Categorisation of Colour'

Supervisors: Prof. Timothy Williamson and Prof. John Hawthorne

Examiners: Prof. Scott Sturgeon (internal) and Prof. Mark Eli Kalderon (external).

Visiting Student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, supervised by Prof. Alex Byrne, Fall Term 2010.

Visiting Student at Institut Jean Nicod, École Normale Supérieure, as part of the 'Cognitive Origins of Vagueness' Project, Fall Term 2008.

**July 2008**      **BPhil in Philosophy (Distinction)**      **Balliol College, University of Oxford**

Options: Philosophy of Mind and Action, Frege, Philosophy of Language and Logic.

Thesis: 'Vagueness, Inconsistency, and Semantic Competence'.

**July 2004**      **BA (Hons) in Philosophy (First Class)**      **University of Bristol**

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

**2022-23 Humanities Support Fund, Oxford**

£4,149 awarded for project on Perceiving Colour and Illumination

**2017-19 British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant**

£7,637 awarded for project on Colour and Form in the Disordered Mind.

**2017      Jaspers Award (Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry)**

Essay prize awarded for 'Social Explanation in Psychiatry'.

#### **2009-11 Jowett Senior Scholarship (Balliol College, University of Oxford)**

One of two scholarships, value £2,000 per year plus high table dining rights, awarded annually in competition open to all graduate students of Balliol College.

#### **2008-11 Laces Trust Graduate Scholarship (University of Oxford)**

Full fees and maintenance; departmental scholarship, open competition for all students entering onto DPhil or Probationary Research Status.

#### **2008-11 Arts and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Award**

#### **2010 Arts and Humanities Research Council Overseas Study Visit Grant**

Value £4,000, supported research trip to MIT.

#### **2008-09 Philosophical Fellowship Fund**

Financial Support for Three Months' Study at Institut Jean Nicod in Paris, France

#### **2007-08 Jacobsen Fellowship, Royal Institute of Philosophy**

One Year Research Fellowship, awarded in UK-wide competition

**2007 John Locke Prize (*Proxima Accessit*) University of Oxford**

**2004 Cicely Coulson Prize University of Bristol**

Prize for best performance by a final year undergraduate in philosophy.

### **TEACHING**

#### **At Oxford (2019-):**

##### **DPhil Supervision**

Co-supervisor for Reuben Oreffo, MT19.

Primary supervisor for Nick D'Aloisio-Montilla. MT21-

##### **BPhil Supervision**

Multiple students in Philosophy of Mind, and Philosophy of Psychology and Cognitive Science, MT19-

Thesis: Nick D'Aloisio-Montilla. HT21-TT21. (Received highest thesis mark in cohort.)

Thesis: Fionn Kennedy. HT22-TT22.

##### **Graduate Classes for Faculty**

Philosophy of Cognitive Science, TT21, TT23

Colour and Appearance, TT22.

##### **Undergraduate Lecturing for Faculty**

104 Philosophy of Mind, MT19, MT20, MT21, MT22, TT24

### **Tutorial Teaching (multiple colleges)**

General Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Knowledge and Reality, Philosophy of Logic and Language.

### **At Birmingham:**

### **PhD Supervision**

Co-supervisor for Alex Miller-Tate, May 2017-February 2019. (Passed viva with no corrections.)

Co-supervisor for William Sharpe, March 2018-August 2019

Co-supervisor for Ray Schuur, September 2018-August 2019

### **MA Courses**

MA Module in Philosophy of Cognitive Science, 2017, 2018, 2019

MA Module (via Distance Learning) in Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science, 2017, 2018, 2019

MA Thesis Supervision: multiple, 2017, 2018, 2019

### **Undergraduate Courses**

Foundations of Philosophy (1<sup>st</sup> year), 2017, 2018, 2019

Colour and Consciousness (3<sup>rd</sup> year), 2018, 2019

Philosophical Project Convenor (3<sup>rd</sup> year), 2017-18

### **At Oxford and Cambridge (2009-15):**

### **Lectures and Seminars**

Part IB (2nd year undergraduate) lectures on Primary and Secondary Qualities, Cambridge, Easter Term 2013; Lent Term 2015

Part II (3rd year undergraduate) lectures on Knowledge of Other Minds, Cambridge, Lent Term 2013.

Graduate seminar on 'Topics in Colour, Consciousness, and Content', co-taught with Prof. Tim Crane and Dr. Adrian Boutel, Lent Term 2012.

### **Graduate Supervision**

Supervisor for MPhil coursework essays on colour, Cambridge, Lent Term 2013; Lent Term 2015.

Supervisor for MPhil dissertation on personal identity, Cambridge, Easter Term 2013.

Supervisor for MPhil coursework essay on semantic and content externalism, Cambridge, Easter Term 2012.

### **Undergraduate Tutorials**

Supervisor for undergraduate dissertation on consciousness and the explanatory gap, Jesus College, Cambridge, Lent Term 2013 and Easter Term 2013.

Tutor (1 on 1) for Metaphysics and Epistemology, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Michaelmas Term 2012 and Lent Term 2013.

Tutor (1 on 1) for Philosophy of Mind, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Michaelmas Term 2011.

Tutor (1 on 1) for Philosophy of Mind, New College, Oxford, Hilary Term 2010.

Teaching Assistant for General Philosophy, Magdalen College, Oxford, Hilary Term 2010.

Tutor (1 on 1) for Philosophy of Logic and Language, Wadham College, Oxford, Michaelmas Term 2009.

Tutor (1 on 1) for Introductory Logic, Hertford College, Oxford, Trinity Term 2009.

## PRESENTATIONS

‘The Nature, Structure, and Perception of Illumination’

27 Mar ‘25      University of Toronto

‘The Colours of Transparencies’

28 Mar ‘25      Centre for Vision Research, York University

8 Feb ‘25      University of California, San Diego

12 Dec ‘24      Massachusetts Institute of Technology

29 Oct ‘24      University of California, Berkeley

‘The Heterogeneity of Colour Perception’

28 Aug ‘23      European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Prague

‘Wittgenstein and Westphal on White’

28 June ‘23      Université de Luxembourg

‘Seen the light?’

31 Oct ‘22      Oxford Undergraduate Philosophy Society

‘Colour Relations in Form, and the Paradox of Colour Constancy’

24 Feb ‘22      Massachusetts Institute of Technology

‘The Philosophy of Colour’

1 Feb ‘22      *Brain and Mind Series*, St Hilda’s College, Oxford

‘Visual Border Disputes’

7 Sep ‘19      European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Athens

17 Oct ‘18      Philosophy, Psychology, and Informatics Group, University of Edinburgh

‘On Edge: Colour, Contour, and Cerebral Achromatopsia’

3 May ‘18      Colour and Form in the Disordered Mind Conference, University of Birmingham

‘Relational Colour Constancy’

- 27 Nov '17      Philosophy, Psychology, and Neuroscience Research Seminar, Glasgow
- 21 Sep '17      UK Mind Network, University of Nottingham
- 14 Aug '17      European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, University of Hertfordshire

‘Social Causation in Psychiatry’

- 7 May '18      American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, New York
- 6 April '18      4E Cognition and the Landscapes of Mental Disorder, University of Exeter
- 13 Nov '17      Psychiatry Research Seminar, University of Birmingham

‘Social Mechanisms in Psychiatry’

- 4 Nov '15      University of Bucharest

‘Colour Constancy and Pathology’

- 23 April '14      University of Cambridge (HPS)

‘Colour Constancy and Discrimination’

- 26 Aug '13      University of Antwerp
- 7 Feb '13      University of California, Los Angeles.
- 30 Jan '13      Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge.

‘Colour Physicalism and the Argument from Similarity’

- 22 Feb '12      Queens' College Arts Seminar, University of Cambridge.
- 4 Nov '11      Philosophy Faculty Colloquium, University of Cambridge.
- 7 Mar '11      Balliol College, University of Oxford.

‘Colour constancy, Illumination, and Perceptual Hierarchy’

- 10 Nov '10      Work in Progress Seminar, MIT.

‘The Representational Contents of Colour Perception’

- 29 Jan '10      Work in Progress Seminar, University of Oxford.

‘On Inconsistency Theories of Vagueness: What can we learn from LEW?’

- 21 Nov '08      Workshop on the Philosophy and Psychology of Vagueness, Institut Jean Nicod.

‘Supervaluationism as a Theory of Understanding?’

- 27 Oct '08      Departmental Vagueness Seminar, Institut Jean Nicod.

‘Vagueness, Inconsistency, and Semantic Competence’

- 27 Jun '08      3rd Oxford-Paris Workshop in Philosophy of Language and Ontology, Paris.

26 Jun '08	Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Biology, University of Edinburgh.
4 Mar '08	Ockham Society, University of Oxford.

## ADMINISTRATION

- Chair of Exam Board for MSc Philosophy, Psychology, and Linguistics, 2021-22.
- Tutor for admissions, postgraduate taught programmes at Birmingham, Jan 2017-
- Postgraduate Teaching Assistant Coordinator and Mentor at Birmingham, Sep 2017-August 2018

## IMPACT WORK

- With Prof Hanna Pickard, I am co-lead on an Impact Case Study for REF 2021, entitled 'Responsibility Without Blame in Personality Disorder and Addiction.'
- Activities include:
  - i) Attending and supporting training sessions on the Responsibility Without Blame (RWB) framework within the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, provided by Dr Jonathan Hurlow for mental health nurses, case workers, and and clinical psychiatrists.
  - ii) Developing applications of RWB framework within the educational sector, through programmes provided by the Family Links charity.
  - iii) Preparing documents, evidence, and drafting supporting narratives for the REF Impact Case Study submission.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Area editor for the journal *Ergo*. July 2023-
- Convenor of the Oxford Philosophy of Mind Seminar, October 2022-.
- Organised conference on Colour and Form in the Disordered Mind, University of Birmingham, 3-4 May 2018. Speakers included Kathleen Akins, Keith Allen, Derek Brown, Mazviita Chirimuuta, Karl Gegenfurtner, Elena Gheorghiu, Robert W. Kentridge, and Fiona Macpherson.
- Organised Loebel Lectures in Psychiatry by Prof Essi Viding, 2 & 3 November 2016.
- Organised Loebel Workshop in Philosophy of Psychiatry 2016, Oxford Martin School, 4<sup>th</sup> November. Speakers included Peter Dayan, Matthew Parrott, Charlotte Cecil, Neil Levy, Nik Steinbeis, Eamon McCrory, Richard Holton, and Sara Jaffee.
- Organised Loebel Lectures in Psychiatry by Prof Steven Hyman, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
- Organised Loebel Workshop in Philosophy of Psychiatry 2015, Oxford Martin School, 5<sup>th</sup> November. Speakers included Derek Bolton, Sanneke De Haan, Jonathan Glover, Liz Meins, Barbara Sahakian, and Tim Thornton.
- Organised workshop on Colour and Content, University of Antwerp, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013
- Philosophy admissions for Magdalene College, Cambridge, December 2012.

- Organised inaugural Oxford Philosophy of Psychiatry Symposium, 28th May 2009, St. Cross College, University of Oxford. Speakers included Martin Davies, John Campbell, Tim Thornton, and Tim Bayne.

#### GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN

Seminar for First Year Graduates, Anita Avramides (Oxford, 2006-7)

Philosophy of Mind, Elizabeth Fricker (BPhil Graduate Class, Oxford, 2007)

Philosophy of Language and Logic, Volker Halbach & Timothy Williamson (BPhil Graduate Class, Oxford, 2007)

Topics in Metaphysics, John Hawthorne & Timothy Williamson (Oxford, 2007)

Consciousness, Tim Bayne & Martin Davies (Oxford, 2007)

Philosophy of Action, John Hyman (BPhil Graduate Class, Oxford, 2008)

Frege, Dan Isaacson (BPhil Graduate Class at Oxford, 2008)

Introduction to Semantics, Ofra Magidor & Timothy Williamson (Oxford, 2008)

Content and Consciousness in Decision and Action, Tim Bayne & Nick Shea (Oxford, 2008)

Foundational Issues in Consciousness and Content, Tim Bayne & Nick Shea (Oxford, 2008)

Representational Content in Cognitive Science, Nick Shea, (Oxford 2008)

Singular Thought, John Hawthorne (Oxford, 2008)

Some Varieties of Perception, Ian Phillips & Louise Richardson (Oxford, 2009)

Topics in Truth and Meaning, James Higginbotham (Oxford, 2009)

Formal Topics in Epistemology, Timothy Williamson, (Oxford, 2009)

Epistemic Norms, Scott Sturgeon, (Oxford, 2009)

Semantics, Emmon Bach (Oxford [Linguistics], 2009)

Perception, Scott Sturgeon, (Oxford, 2010)

Topics in Metaphysics, Cian Dorr & John Hawthorne (Oxford, 2010)

Semantics and Metasemantics, Brian Ball, (Oxford, 2010)

Animal Minds, Peter Godfrey-Smith (Harvard, 2010)

Topics in Moral Philosophy, Julia Markovits (MIT, 2010)

Topics in Theory of Knowledge, Bob Stalnaker (MIT, 2010)

The Limits of Rationality, Caspar Hare & Agustin Rayo (MIT, 2010)