

Contact Information

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Academic Appointments and Affiliations

2024—present Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska
Omaha
2021—present Neuroscience Program Faculty, University of Nebraska, Omaha
2020—present Affiliate Member, Interprofessional Academy of Educators,
University of Nebraska Medical Center
2018—present Medical Humanities Faculty, University of Nebraska, Omaha
2018—2024 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska,
Omaha
2016—2018 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy & Philosophy-
Neuroscience-Psychology Program. Washington University in St. Louis

Education

2016 Ph.D., History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh
2016 Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Neuroscience, Center for the Neural
Basis of Cognition, University of Pittsburgh & Carnegie Mellon University
2007 B.A., Biology with Minor in Philosophy, *Magna cum laude*, Colorado
College

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Neuroscience and Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science

Areas of Competence

Medical Humanities (Neuroethics, Bioethics, Philosophy of Psychiatry), Philosophy of Biology,
Moral Psychology

Philosophy Publications

2023 McCaffrey, J. “Evolving Concepts of Functional Localization.”
Philosophy Compass, e12914.
2022 McCaffrey, J. and Wright, J. “Neuroscience and Cognitive Ontology:
a Case for Pluralism.” In De Brigard, F. and Sinnott-Armstrong, W.
(Eds.) *Neuroscience and Philosophy*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
2022 McCaffrey, J. and Danks, D. “Mixtures and Psychological Inference in
Resting State fMRI” *British Journal for Philosophy of Science* 73(3),
583-611.

- 2016 McCaffrey, J. and Machery, E. “The Reification Objection to Bottom Up Cognitive Ontology Revision,” commentary on *Précis of After Phrenology: Neural Reuse and the Interactive Brain*,” by Michael Anderson, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* (39), 1-45.
- 2015 McCaffrey, J. “The Brain’s Heterogeneous Functional Landscape,” *Philosophy of Science*, 82(5), 1010-1022.
- 2015 McCaffrey, J. “Reconceiving Conceptual Vehicles: Lessons from Semantic Dementia,” *Philosophical Psychology*, 28(3), 337-354.
- 2013 McCaffrey, J. “Concepts in the Brain: Neuroscience, Embodiment, and Categorization,” *Protosociology*, 30, 167-190.
- 2012 McCaffrey, J. and Machery, E. “Philosophical Issues about Concepts,” *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, 3(2), 265-279

Medical Humanities & Biology Publications

- 2024 Horak, S., Dickey, P., Ammons, S., Barone, T.L., Culross, B., Berke, M., Duran, A., Berke, M., Duran, A., Hawkins, D., Langan, S., McCaffrey, J. and Morris, A. “Broadening the View of Holistic Care: Integrating Arts and Humanities into Physician Assistant Education.” *The Journal of Physician Assistant Education*, 35(3), 221-227.
- 2011 McCaffrey, J. and Galen, C. “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Impact of Nesting Behavior on the Altitudinal Range of an Alpine Ant, *Formica neorufibarbis*,” *Environmental Entomology*, 40(3), 534-540.

Other Philosophical Writing

- 2023 McCaffrey, J. Concepts: Pluralism, Etiology, and Neural Implementation. *Brains Blog* symposium contribution for Muhammad Ali Khalidi’s book *Cognitive Ontology: Taxonomic Practices in the Mind-Brain Sciences* (2023, Cambridge Press).

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

- 2022 University of Nebraska Collaboration Initiative Team Formation Grant. I See It. Don’t You? Examining Individual Differences in Visual Imagery (Co-Investigator. PI: Dr. Seth Long, U. Nebraska, Kearney) (\$7,449.00)
- 2022 University of Nebraska Collaboration Initiative Grant. Introduction of Arts and Humanities in Physician Assistant Education (IHAPAE) (Co-Investigator. PI: Pamela Dickey, PA-C) (\$39,977.00)
- 2017 Sub Award, Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy (SSNAP) and Duke Institute for Brain Sciences (DIBS), “Philosophy, Neuroscience, and Cognitive Ontology” (PI) (\$6,615.00)
- 2017 Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy (SSNAP) Fellowship, Duke University (\$1,500.00)
- 2016 Travel Award, Oral History Training Workshop, Chemical Heritage Foundation

2016	Young Investigator Award, Rethinking the Taxonomy of Psychology Conference
2015-2016	Josephine de Karman Fellowship Award
2015	Wesley C. Salmon Travel Fund
2014-2015	Center for Philosophy of Science Program Assistant Fellowship
2014	National Science Foundation, Philosophy of Science Association Travel Grant
2012	William James Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay, 38 th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology
2011	Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2007	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>

Conference Presentations

Invited

2024	“Are Concepts Psychologically Unified?” Invited talk at the Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy 2024 at Duke University (Raleigh Durham, NC)
2024	“Are Concepts Psychologically Unified?” Keynote for Creighton University’s Midwest Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (Omaha, NE)
2023	Commentary on “Intertheoretic Reduction of the Concept ‘Decision’” by Dr. Daniel Burnston. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (Louisville, KY)
2022	Commentary on “Collective Mental Content” by Dr. Nick Tebben. Central States Philosophical Association (Lincoln, NE)
2021	“The Place of Human Values in Mental Health and Illness.” University of Nebraska Medical Center Psychiatry Grand Rounds Presentation (Virtual, Omaha NE)
2021	“Does the Brain Respect Basic Emotion Theory?” University of Victoria Philosophy Colloquium Series (Virtual, Victoria, BC)
2021	“Evolving Concepts of Localization.” University of Nebraska, Omaha Virtual Seminar Series, Brains and Minds: What We Do (and Do Not) Know (Virtual, Omaha NE)
2020	“Atlas of the Mind: Neural Degeneracy and Pluralistic Ontologies.” Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science, Problem of Cognitive Ontology (Virtual, Pittsburgh PA)
2019	“Cognitive Ontology Revision: a Case for Pluralism” with Jessey Wright. Duke University (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
2017	“The Brain’s Heterogeneous Functional Landscape: Functional Complexity in Human Brain Mapping.” University of Missouri St. Louis Philosophy Colloquium (St. Louis, MO)
2017	“Cognitive Inferences in Multivariate Neuroimaging,” St. Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association (SLAPSA) (St. Louis, MO).
2017	“Are We Looking at a Network? Mixtures and Functional Inference in Resting State fMRI,” Washington University in St. Louis Medical School (St. Louis, MO)
2015	“Cognitive Ontology Revision: Structure and Function,” Workshop on Free Will and Cognitive Ontologies (Berlin, Germany).

- 2013 “Varieties of Neural Multi-Functionality” (poster), Conference on Experimentation in Neuroscience (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Refereed*
- 2024 “Contexts, Constraints, and Controllers: The Influence of Cognitive Strategy on Contextual Mappings.” Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf VII (Pensacola, FL)
- 2023 “Does Neural Contextualism Imply Holism?” Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf VI (Pensacola, FL)
- 2023 “Tracking the Eye of the Imagination: Eye-Tracking, Mental Imagery, and Neuro-Divergent Writing Strategies,” with Seth Long, Katherine Moen, and Michael Dodd. Computers and Writing 2023 (Davis, CA)
- 2023 “Neural Degeneracy, Multiple Realization, and the Interdependence of Psychology and Neuroscience,” with Trey Boone and Nina Van Rooy. Society for Philosophy and Psychology (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 2022 “Functional Localization in Cognitive Neuroscience: Foundations and Conceptual Change.” Philosophy of Neuroscience at the Gulf V (Pensacola, FL)
- Neurocognitive Foundations of Mind (Online Conference)
- 2020 “Understanding Brains from Blood-flow: How Theories are Structured around Technological Limitations,” with Eric Hochstein. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Symposium on Technology in Neuroscience (Louisville, KY)
- 2016 “Does the Brain Respect Basic Emotion Theory? Pattern Classification and Correspondence in fMRI Research” Philosophy of Science Association (Atlanta, GA)
- Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (Savannah, GA)
- 2016 “Neuroimaging and Cognitive Ontologies: Does Discriminability Warrant Kind Splitting?” (poster), Rethinking the Taxonomy of Psychology (London, Ontario, Canada)
- 2016 “Is Memory (a form of) Episodic Simulation?” with Sarah Robins, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (Louisville, KY)
- (poster), Society for Philosophy and Psychology (Austin, TX)
- 2015 “Pernicious Stipulations,” with David Colaço and Joshua Alexander, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
- 2015 “The Brain’s Heterogeneous Functional Landscape,” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (New Orleans, LA)
- 2014 “Neural Multi-Functionality and Mechanistic Role Functions,” Philosophy of Science Association (Chicago, IL)
- 30th Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science (Boulder CO)
- 2012 “The Investigative Role of Prefrontal Lobotomy,” History of Science Society (San Diego, CA)
- 2012 “Reconceiving Conceptual Vehicles: Lessons from Semantic Dementia,” Society for Philosophy and Psychology (Boulder, CO)

2008 “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Rock-Nesting as Thermoregulation in the Ant *Formica neorufibarbis gelida wheeler*” with Candace Galen, Tass Kelso, and Adam McKinley (poster), Ecological Society of America (Milwaukee, WI)

Teaching & Pedagogical Training

Pedagogical Training

2018— University of Nebraska, Omaha Pedagogy and Philosophy Community of Practice (Omaha, NE)

2019 Teaching and Learning Seminar, American Association of Philosophy Teachers (Lincoln, NE)

Teaching

University of Nebraska, Omaha, Philosophy

Instructor of Record

2024 PHIL 4250: Limits of Consciousness
PHIL 1030: Introduction to Philosophy: Brains, Minds, and Machines
PHIL 3000: Philosophy Writing Seminar
PHIL 2300: Biomedical Ethics

2023 PHIL 2300: Human Values in Medicine
PHIL 1030: Introduction to Philosophy: Brains, Minds, and Machines
PHIL 4250: Limits of Consciousness

2022 PHIL 3960: Readings in Philosophy: Selfhood and Self Knowledge (Independent Study)
PHIL 1010: Introduction to Philosophy: The Meaning of Life
PHIL 4260: Moral Psychology

2021 PHIL 3960: Readings in Philosophy: Philosophy of Neuroimaging (Independent Study)
PHIL 4250: Limits of Consciousness
PHIL 1030: Introduction to Philosophy: Brains, Minds, and Machines
PHIL 4260: Moral Psychology (remote)
PHIL 1030: Introduction to Philosophy: Brains, Minds, and Machines (remote)

2020 PHIL 4250: Limits of Consciousness (remote)
MEDH 1000: Introduction to Medical Humanities (remote)
PHIL 3960: Readings in Philosophy: Philosophy of Memory (Independent Study)
PHIL 1010: Introduction to Philosophy: The Meaning of Life

2019 PHIL 4250: Limits of Consciousness
MEDH1000: Introduction to Medical Humanities
PHIL 2300: Human Values in Medicine (online)
PHIL 1210: Critical Reasoning (online)

2018 PHIL 2300: Human Values in Medicine (online)

Washington University in St. Louis, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology

Instructor of Record

2018	PNP 496: PNP Seminar: Rethinking Psychological Kinds PNP 201: Inquiry in the Cognitive Sciences (co-taught with Carl Craver)
2017	PNP 201: Inquiry in the Cognitive Sciences (co-taught with Carl Craver)
2016	PNP 496: PNP Seminar: Philosophical Issues in Brain Imaging

University of Pittsburgh, History and Philosophy of Science

Instructor of Record

2013	HPS 0613: Morality and Medicine
2012	HPS 0427: Myth and Science

Teaching Assistant

2011	HPS 0612: Mind and Medicine (supervisor: Edouard Machery)
2010	HPS 0605: The Nature of the Emotions (supervisor: James Lennox)

University of Missouri, Division of Biological Sciences

Teaching Assistant

2009	BIO-SCI 1500: Introduction to Biological Systems Laboratory (supervisor: RichardDaniels)
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Graduate and Undergraduate Thesis Supervision

Graduate Program in Neuroscience & Behavior, University of Nebraska, Omaha

Committee Member, Juan Torres

Master's Thesis in Neuroscience and Behavior (in progress): The Protective Effect of D1 Antagonism on Methamphetamine-Induced Oxidative Stress in Microglia.

Committee Member, Nicholas Weber

Master's Thesis in Neuroscience and Behavior (successfully defended 11/20/2023): Neural Response of the Chorda Tympani Nerve is Altered but Maintained Following Neonatal Lingual Trigeminal Nerve Transection.

Undergraduate Mentorship & Independent Study Supervision

University of Nebraska, Omaha

Independent Study

2022	Brianna Larson (Ph.D. candidate, University of Cincinnati) Selfhood and Self Knowledge
2022	Quinton Rasser Philosophy of Mental Health
2021	Hannah Im Philosophy of Neuroimaging
2020	Paul Brunetti Philosophy of Memory

Honors Contract

2024	Alex Eberspacher Metaphysics of Mind (topic), Limits of Consciousness (course)
2024	Galilea Santillan Epicureanism (topic), Introduction to Philosophy: the Meaning of Life (Course)
2023	Thomas Eilers Behaviorism (topic), Limits of Consciousness (course)

Service

University of Nebraska, Omaha

Medical Humanities

2022	Committee Member: Memory Serves Symposium and Exhibition (Dr. Mark Gilbert)
2021—2022	Research Coordinator, Medical Humanities
2020—present	Research Group: Medical Humanities Physician Assistant Program Study
2019—2020	Medical Humanities Executive Committee
2019—2020	Taught first MEDH1000 Introduction to Medical Humanities Course and Trained New Instructors
2019	Contributed to “Big Ideas” Grant Proposal for Ted Kooser Health Humanities Center (TKHHC)
2019—present	Attended Meetings of UNMC’s Interprofessional Academy of Educators Interest Group in Medical Humanities
2019	Commenter: Matt McCarthy “Superbugs” Kaneko Passages Series
2018—2019	Curriculum Committee for MEDH1000 Introduction to Medical Humanities

Departmental and University Service

2024	University Educational Policy Committee (EPC)
2024	Search Committee, Philosophy of Neuroscience / AI Tenure Track
2022—present	Departmental Colloquium Committee
2019—2020	Search Committee, Philosophy of Medicine / Bioethics Tenure Track
2019—2020	Search Committee, Philosophy of AI / Technology Tenure Track
2018—2019	Search Committee, Philosophy Instructor
2019—2020	Ethics Bowl Judge

Service to Profession

Editorial Board—Teaching Ethics

Journal Referee

Mind, Philosophy Compass, British Journal for Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Science, Erkenntnis, Philosophical Psychology, Mind and Language, Synthese, Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science, Brain and Cognition, Lato Sensu, Acta Analytica

Philosophy of Science Association

Poster Program Committee, 28th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association (Pittsburgh, PA)

Conference Organization

- 2023 Co-Organizer, “Natural Kinds: Ancient and Contemporary Perspectives,” University of Nebraska, Omaha (Omaha, NE)
- 2019 Organizer, “Philosophy of Medicine and Mental Health,” Conference University of Nebraska, Omaha (Omaha, NE)
- 2018 Organizer, “Fitting the Mind to the Brain: Deliberations on Cognitive Ontology,” Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)
- 2016—2017 Co-Organizer, Washington University in St. Louis Philosophy and Neuroscience Colloquium Series (St. Louis, MO)
- 2015 Program Assistant, Workshop on Diagrams as Vehicles for Scientific Reasoning, Center for Philosophy of Science (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 2015 Program Assistant, Philosophy Meets Cultural Diversity, Center for Philosophy of Science (Pittsburgh, PA)

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

- 2015—2019 William James Prize Selection Committee

Professional Memberships

American Association of Philosophy Teachers
Philosophy of Science Association
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology
American Philosophical Association
Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Dissertation

Mental Function and Cerebral Cartography: Functional Localization in fMRI Research

Committee: Edouard Machery (Director, University of Pittsburgh HPS)
Peter Machamer (Director, University of Pittsburgh HPS)
Mazviita Chirimuuta (University of Pittsburgh HPS)
David Plaut (Carnegie Mellon, Psychology)
David Danks (Carnegie Mellon, Philosophy)