

JOSEPH NEISSER

Associate Professor

Department of Philosophy & Program in Neuroscience, Grinnell College

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind: Subjectivity and Consciousness

Philosophy of Science: Neurobiology and Cognitive Science, Psychology, Evolutionary Biology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics, Phenomenology & Existentialism, Philosophy & Literature, Logic, Ethics, 19th & 20thc.

Continental Philosophy, American Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Language

EDUCATION

Duke University, Durham, NC

Ph.D. in Philosophy 1997

Dissertation: *The Embodied Approach to Cognition: A Defense*

Director: Owen Flanagan, James B. Duke Professor of Philosophy & Professor of Neurobiology
Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

B.A. Honors in Philosophy & Psychology 1989

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Center for Subjectivity Research (CFS), Visiting Researcher 2013

University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Harris Faculty Research Fellowship, Grinnell College 2012

National Endowment for the Humanities 1998

Summer Institute: *Mind, Self, and Psychopathology*

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

PUBLICATIONS

Book: ***The Science of Subjectivity***. Palgrave Macmillan Press 2015

Podcast: "Consciousness from an empirical stance" 3/7/17

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/consciousness-from-an-empirical-stance/id503937750?i=1000382331535&mt=2>

Journals:

1. What subjectivity is not. *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy* (2017) 36:41-53

2. Neural correlates of consciousness reconsidered. *Consciousness and Cognition* 21 (2012) 681–690

Journals, continued

3. Neural mechanisms and functional realization. *Consciousness and Cognition* 21 (2012) 693–694
4. Subjectivity and the limits of narrative. *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 15, no.2 (2008), pp.51-66.
5. Unconscious subjectivity. *Psyche: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Consciousness* 12, no.3 (Sept. 2006).
6. Making the case for unconscious feeling. *Southwest Philosophy Review* 22(1), 129-138 (2006).
7. Psychoneural reduction and the future of psychology. *Phenomenology & The Cognitive Sciences* v.4, no.3, pp.259 - 269 (2005).
8. The swaying form: Metaphor, imagination, embodiment. *Phenomenology & The Cognitive Sciences*, v.2, no.1, pp.27-53 (2003).
9. The metaphorical animal. *Language*, v.77, no.1, pp.166-178 (2001).
10. Probing for relevance: What metacognition tells us about the power of consciousness. *Consciousness and Cognition*, v.9, no.2, pp.172-177 (2000). Co-authored with George Graham.
11. On the use and abuse of *dasein* in cognitive science. *Monist*, v.82, no.2, pp.347-361 (1999).

PRESENTATIONS

1. March 2017: “Cognitive Psychology and the philosophy of mind”
Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology (SSPP). Savannah, Ga
2. March 2017: “Temporal Consciousness and psychophysical research”
American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division. Kansas City, Mo
3. February 2017: “Through a glass darkly: Empiricism and the minimal conscious state”
North Carolina Philosophical Society. Wilmington, NC
4. February 2017: “Consciousness from an empirical stance”
Center for Mind, Brain and Culture at Emory University. Atlanta, Ga
5. June 2016: “Metacognition and animal subjectivity”
2016 DIVIDNORM Workshop: Metacognitive diversity. Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France.
6. March 2016: “Philosophy of emotion and the problem of affect”
Center for the Humanities at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
7. March 2016: “Philosophy of Touch”
Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology. Louisville, Ky
8. June 2015: “Coordinating Consciousness”
Towards a Science of Consciousness 2015. Helsinki, Finland
9. October 2014: “A sense of where you are”
Alumni Lectures, Macalester College Department of Philosophy. St. Paul, Mn
10. April 2014: “Explaining subjective temporality”
Towards a Science of Consciousness 2014. Tucson, Az
11. May 2013: “How to put the *neuro* in neurophenomenology”
CFS Public Lecture. University of Copenhagen, Denmark
12. February 2013: “Getting beyond the paradox of subjective duality”
Center for Subjectivity Research, Copenhagen, Denmark

13. April 2012: "Metacognition: reflections on current research"
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Annual Meeting. Savanna, Ga
14. November 2010: "What the problem of subjectivity is not"
Iowa Philosophical Society, Annual Meeting. Grinnell, IA
15. July 2010: "Neural correlates reconsidered"
The Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association 2010 Joint Session. University College Dublin, Ireland.
16. February 2010: "Correlates, causes and the neurobiology of consciousness"
CO2: The Second Annual Consciousness Online Conference.
17. November 2009: "Rethinking the NCC concept"
Iowa Philosophical Society, Annual Meeting. Iowa City, IA
18. April 2009: "Subjectivity, neurobiology and the explanatory gap"
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Annual Meeting. Savanna, Ga
19. April 2009: "Pick up the pace: Lamme, Todd, and unreportable experience"
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Annual Meeting. Savanna, Ga
20. January 2009: "Subjectivity considered as the first-person point of view"
Invited Colloquium Grinnell College Department of Philosophy. Grinnell, IA
21. March 2008: "Can narrative account for subjectivity?"
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meetings. Pasadena, Ca.
22. April 2007: "On the meaning of 'meaning': Berendzen, McDowell, Merleau-Ponty"
American Philosophical Association Central Division Meetings. Chicago, IL.
23. February 2006: "Access Consciousness and Agency in Clinical Perspective"
Broken Minds/Broken Bodies: Cognitive Science and Neuro-Psycho-Pathologies Conference at the University of Central Florida. Orlando, Fla.
24. November 2005: "Making the Case for Unconscious Feels"
Southwestern Philosophical Society, 67th Annual Meeting
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.
25. September 2005: "On Unknown Experiences"
Invited Colloquium at the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies
Ithaca College. Ithaca, NY.
26. October 2004: "What is it Like to Have an Unconscious Emotion?"
Central States Philosophical Association
University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA.
27. March 2004: "Do We Know How Happy We Are?"
APA Pacific Division Meeting, Symposium on Self-Knowledge
Pasadena, CA.
28. February, 2004: "The Very Idea of an Unconscious Emotion"
Invited Colloquium at the Department of Philosophy
Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland, OH.
29. November 2003: "On the Subjective Nature of the Unconscious"
The Iowa Philosophical Society Meeting
Grinnell College. Grinnell, IA.

30. July 2003: "Looking For the Emotions in Spinoza, Descartes, and Damasio"
Invited Colloquium at the Department of Philosophy
Grinnell College. Grinnell, IA.
31. May 2003: "Metacognition and Mindfulness"
Invited Colloquium at the Division of Humanities
Champlain College. Burlington, VT.
32. March 2003: "Damasio's Error: The Medical Model of Emotion and Embodiment"
Invited Colloquium at the Department of Philosophy
Morehead State University. Morehead, KY.
33. October 2002: "The Role of Phenomenology in the Philosophy of Emotion"
Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and The Human Sciences / SPEP
Loyola University. Chicago, IL.
34. July 2002: "Nothing to Sneeze At: Imagination vs. Biofunctional Explanation"
Conference of the Society for Phenomenology & The Cognitive Sciences
Richmond University. London, UK.
35. May 2002: "Imagination and the Phenomenology of Embodiment"
Invited Colloquium Washington & Lee University Dept. of Philosophy. Lexington, VA.
36. February, 2001: "Embodied Consciousness and the Interpretation of Metaphor"
Invited Colloquium at the Department of Philosophy and the Program in Science &
Technology Studies (STS). Virginia Tech University. Blacksburg, VA.
37. March 2000: "History of an Error: Constructivism and the Information for Perception"
Invited Colloquium at the Philosophy – Neuroscience - Psychology Program
Washington University in St. Louis.
38. July 1999: "From Stimuli to Affordances"
Conference of the Merleau-Ponty Circle
North Eastern Wales Institute. Wrexham Wales, U.K.
39. April 1998: "Getting There: What Andy Clark's *Being There* Doesn't Say About Embodiment"
Conference of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology
New Orleans, LA.
40. March 1993: "Snap-On - The Right Tool for the Right Job: Technology and the Body"
Conference of the Southern Society for the Humanities
University of Alabama. Huntsville, AL.

TEACHING

Courses in my areas of specialization:

- Neurophilosophy
- Sellars and His Legacy
- Neurobiology of Sex, Gender, and Sexuality
- Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Science
- Cognitive Science and Philosophy
- Consciousness Inside & Out

Teaching, continued

- Self & Psychopathology
- Imagination
- Experience & Embodiment
- Persons, Selves, Bodies

Other courses:

- Metaphysics
- Existentialism
- Origins of the Analytic/Continental Divide
- Philosophy & Literature
- Philosophy Through Film
- Early Modern Philosophy
- Kant & The 19th Century
- 19th Century Continental Philosophy
- Symbolic Logic
- Critical Thinking & Informal Logic
- Ethical Theories
- Contemporary Ethical Issues
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Cultural Perspectives (Humanities Course)

Independent Studies and Mentored Projects

- Consciousness, Science, and the New Measurement Problem
- The Neurobiological Basis of Intersubjectivity
- Wittgenstein's Philosophy of Mathematics
- Logic For Legal Analysis
- Beauvoir's *Generosity* and the Ethics of Care

MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Society (APA)
Aristotelian Society
Mind Association
Center for Consciousness Studies (CCS)
North Carolina Philosophical Society (NCPS)
Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP)
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP)
Nordic Society for Phenomenology (NoSP)
Society for Phenomenological and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)
Merleau-Ponty Circle
Iowa Philosophical Society
Central States Philosophical Association
Southern States Philosophical Association

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Referee

Journal of Consciousness Studies

Phenomenology & The Cognitive Sciences

Journal of Philosophical Research

Consciousness & Emotion

Synthese

Monograph Referee

Routledge Press

Oxford University Press

Conference Referee

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP)

Nordic Society for Phenomenology (NoSP)

Society for Philosophy & Psychology (SPP)

Iowa Philosophical Society (IPS)

PRIOR FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor 2009-2015

Department of Philosophy
Grinnell College, Grinnell IA

Assistant Professor 2006-2009

Department of Psychology & Philosophy
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX

Visiting Assistant Professor 2003-2006

Department of Philosophy
Grinnell College, Grinnell IA

Visiting Assistant Professor 2001-2003

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies
Radford University, Radford

Visiting Assistant Professor 2000-2001

Philosophy – Neuroscience – Psychology Program (PNP)
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Visiting Assistant Professor 1997-1999

Department of Philosophy
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama