

Mark Phelan
Lawrence University
**Department of Philosophy, Programs in Cognitive Science &
Linguistics**

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Professor, Philosophy, Lawrence University	2023 - Present
Associate Professor, Philosophy, Lawrence University	2017 - 2023
Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Lawrence University	2011 - 2017
Fellow, Cognitive Science, Yale University	2009 - 2011

PRIMARY RESEARCH TOPICS: The normative structure of communication and cooperative relationships, pragmatics/speech acts, mental state attribution

SPECIALIZATIONS & COMPETENCIES: Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Art, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science

LEADERSHIP ROLES: Chair, Department of Philosophy, Lawrence University (2017-2023);
Director, Program in Cognitive Science, Lawrence University (2022-Present);
Member, Faculty Committee on University Governance (2018-20); Chair, Faculty Committee on University Governance (2019-20)

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2010
M.A. in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2005
M.S. in Philosophy, University of Utah	2003
B.A. in English and Philosophy, Ouachita Baptist University	1999

PUBLICATIONS (JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS):

- 26 "Attribution Functionalism" *Attribution functionalism. Mind & Language*, 41(3) (2026) 363-382. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mila.70000>
- 25 "Change your self, change your friends." *IAI News* (2025). <https://iai.tv/articles/change-your-self-change-your-friends-auid-3038>
- 24 "Norm Manipulation as a Condition of Friendship" *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary*

Mark Phelan

Journal of Philosophy (2024) 67(6):1524-1530

DOI: [10.1080/0020174X.2021.1947890](https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2021.1947890)

- 23 "Experimental Philosophy of Mind: Conscious State Attribution" In Alexander Max Bauer & Stephan Kornmesser, *The Compact Compendium of Experimental Philosophy*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter. (2023) 263-288
- 22 "Rethinking Friendship." *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*, 66(5) (2023), 757-772. DOI: [10.1080/0020174X.2019.1658627](https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2019.1658627)
- 21 "Moral Objectivism and a Punishing God" (with Hagop Sarkissian) *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* 80 (2019): 1-7.
- 20 "Estimating the Reproducibility of Experimental Philosophy." (with Florian Cova et al.) *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* (2018). (Contribution produced with the help of two Lawrence students who appear as co-authors, Wenjia Hu and Navin Rambharose)
- 19 "Experimental Pragmatics in Linguistics and Philosophy." *The Blackwell Companion to Experimental Philosophy* (2016): 390-403.
- 18 "Testing Transparent Ascriptions". In *Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Language*, Ed. Jussi Haukioja. Continuum Press (2015): 173-202.
- 17 "Is Free Will Necessary for Moral Responsibility?: A Case for Rethinking Their Relationship and the Design of Experimental Studies in Moral Psychology" (with Carrie Figdor). *Mind & Language* 30:5 (2015): 603-627.
- 16 "Evidence that Stakes Don't Matter for Evidence." *Philosophical Psychology* 27:4 (2014): 488-512.
- 15 "Phenomenal Consciousness Disembodied," (with Wesley Buckwalter). In *Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Mind*, Ed. Justin Sytsma. Continuum Press (2014): 45-74.
- 14 "Experimental Pragmatics: An Introduction for Philosophers." *Philosophy Compass* 9:1 (2014): 66-79.
- 13 "Thinking Things and Feeling Things: On an Alleged Discontinuity in Folk Metaphysics of Mind," (with Adam Arico and Shaun Nichols). *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 12:4 (2013): 703-725.
- 12 "Function and Feeling Machines: A Defense of the Philosophical Conception of Subjective Experience," (with Wesley Buckwalter). *Philosophical Studies* 166:2 (2013): 349-361.
- 11 "Mere Exposure to Bad Art," (with Aaron Meskin, Margaret Moore, and Matthew Kieran). *British Journal of Aesthetics* 53:2 (2013): 139-164.
- 10 "Analytic Functionalism and Mental State Attribution," (with Wesley Buckwalter). *Philosophical Topics* 40:2 (2012): 129-154.
- 9 "Brain Damage, Mind Damage, and Dualism" (with Eric Mandelbaum and Shaun Nichols), in *Philosophy: Traditional and Experimental Readings*. Ed. Fritz Allhoff, Ron Mallon, and Shaun Nichols, Oxford University Press (2012): 212-216.
- 8 "The Moral Cognition/Consciousness Connection," (with Adam Waytz). *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* 3:3 (2012): 293-301.
- 7 "Introduction to Mental States," (with Eric Mandelbaum). In *Philosophy: Traditional and Experimental Readings*, ed. Allhoff, Mallon, and Nichols, Oxford University Press (2012): 193-199.
- 6 "Experimental Philosophy as an Elephant," *Philosophy Now* 92 (2012): 13-16.
- 5 Review of John Mikhail's *Elements of Moral Cognition: Rawls' Linguistic Analogy and the Cognitive Science of Moral and Legal Judgment*. Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, available online 2/4/2012.
- 4 "Just What Are Your Intentions?" *The Philosophers' Magazine*, 52:1 (2011): 72-77.
- 3 "The Inadequacy of Paraphrase is the Dogma of Metaphor." *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 91:4 (2010): 481-506.
- 2 "Is the Trade-off Hypothesis Worth Trading For?" (with Hagop Sarkissian). *Mind and Language* 24:2 (2009): 164-180.
- 1 "The Folk Strike Back; Or, Why You Didn't Do It Intentionally, Though It Was Bad

Mark Phelan

and You Knew It," (with Hagop Sarkissian). *Philosophical Studies* 138 (2008): 291-8.

EDITORIAL WORK:

Consciousness and Moral Cognition, (co-edited with Adam Waytz). Special issue of *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. 3:3 (2012).

"Mental States," (co-edited with Eric Mandelbaum). Section in *Philosophy: Traditional and Experimental Readings*, Ed. Fritz Allhoff, Ron Mallon, and Shaun Nichols, Oxford University Press (2012): 212-216.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (*=INVITED):

"Can an LLM have Intentions?" 6th International Conference on Philosophy of Mind: Artificial Intelligence (Porto, Portugal), May 2026

"Can an LLM have Intentions?" AI and Philosophy Conference (New Orleans, LA), April 2026.

"Meta-prompting for Metacognition," AI and the Liberal Arts Symposium (New London, CT), October 2025.

"Friendship and Culture," Auburn University Department of Philosophy (Auburn, AL), August 2025.*

"Saying without Meaning in the Online Context," Bodaken Philosophy Symposium Workshop: Living Together Online: Social Epistemology, Ethics, and the Internet (Fort Collins, CO), October 2019.

"Propositional Content and Perlocutionary Effect," symposium presentation at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Denver, CO), February 2019.*

"Gradability and Multidimensionality in Aesthetic Adjectives," at the Conference of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics (Vienna, Austria), August 2016.

"Gradability and Multidimensionality in Aesthetic Adjectives," at the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (San Francisco, CA), March 2016.

"Believing Qua Member," at the Society for Social Cognition (Bloomington, IN), Sept. 2014.

"Believing Qua Member," at the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (San Francisco, CA), March 2013.

"Function and Feeling Machines: A Defense of the Philosophical Conception of Subjective Experience" (with Wesley Buckwalter) at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology's 104th Annual Meeting (Savannah, GA), March 2012.

"Function and Feeling Machines: A Defense of the Philosophical Conception of Subjective Experience" (with Wesley Buckwalter) at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology's 104th Annual Meeting (Savannah, GA), March 2012.

"Making the Metaphor Move: Differentiating Figurative and Literal Language," at the Department of Philosophy, University of Leeds (Leeds, UK), December 2011.*

"Mental State Attributions and the Qua Members Principle," at the European Workshop on Experimental Philosophy, Eindhoven Uni. of Technology (Netherlands), October, 2011.*

"Who Thinks When Boeing Thinks?" at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology's 103rd Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA), March 2011.*

"Making the Metaphor Move: Differentiating Figurative and Literal Language," at the Department of Philosophy, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign, IL), February 2011.*

"Making the Metaphor Move: Differentiating Figurative and Literal Language," at the Department of Philosophy, Lawrence University (Appleton, WI), January 2011.*

"The Primacy of the Figurative Utterance" at the Department of Computer Science, University of Birmingham (Birmingham, UK), July 2010.*

Mark Phelan

"Linguistic Contextualism and Figurative Language" at the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (San Francisco, CA), April 2010.

"Figurative Language and Linguistic Contextualism" at Connecticut College (New London, CT), March 2010.*

"Who's Thinking Boeing's Thoughts?" at the London School of Economics (London, UK), February 2010.*

"Evidence that Stakes Don't Matter for Evidence" at University at Buffalo, SUNY, Experimental Epistemology Workshop (Buffalo, NY), October 2009.*

"Striking Metaphors: A Theory of Figurative Language" at Koç University (Istanbul, Turkey) February 2009.*

"Evidence that Stakes Don't Matter to Evidence" at the 1st annual Interdisciplinary Approaches to Philosophical Issues Conference (Mobile, AL), September 2008.*

"Only Intellectuals are Anti-Intellectualists" at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 34th Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA), June 2008 (Poster Presentation).

"Dirty, Cheap Contextualism" at the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Pasadena, CA), March 2008 (Winner, Graduate Student Outstanding Paper Prize)

"The Explicit Perlocution and Metaphor" at the joint meeting of the North and South Carolina Philosophical Societies (Chapel Hill, NC), March 2008.

"The Explicit Perlocution and Metaphor" at the University of Helsinki (Helsinki, Finland), December 2007.*

"The Difficulty of Paraphrase is the Dogma of Metaphor" at the 3rd Int. Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Communication (Riga, Latvia), December 2007.

"The Difficulty of Paraphrase is the Dogma of Metaphor" at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 33rd Annual Meeting (Toronto, ON), June 2007.

"The Folk Strike Back; Or, Why You Didn't Do It Intentionally, Though It Was Bad and You Knew It" (with Hagop Sarkissian), at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Chicago, IL), April 2007 (Winner, Graduate Student Outstanding Paper Prize).

"The Red Herring of Compositionality and Beyond" at the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Portland, OR), March 2006 (Winner, Graduate Student Outstanding Paper Prize).

"The Red Herring of Compositionality and Beyond" at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 31st Annual Meeting (Winston-Salem, NC), June 2005 (Poster Presentation).

"Two Types of Object of Perception" at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology's 96th Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA), April 2004.

"Expanding the Higher-Order Representational Account to Perceptual Consciousness" at the University of Texas, San Antonio Philosophy Symposium (San Antonio, TX), November 2002.

"On Numerous Coincident Objects of the Same Kind" at the Mountain and Plains Philosophy Conference (Las Vegas, NV), October 2002.

"On Numerous Coincident Objects of the Same Kind" at the Northwest Philosophy Conference (Portland, OR), October 2002.

COMMENTARIES:

On Samuel Elgin "Question Begging and Analytic Content" at the Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL February 2018

On Shen-yi Liao & Aaron Meskin "The Relative, the Absolute, and the Aesthetic" at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Charleston, SC February 2014

On John Brunero "Instrumental Rationality, Symmetry and Scope" at the Eastern

Mark Phelan

Division Meeting of the APA. Boston, MA December 2010

On Blake Myers-Schulz & Eric Schwitzgebel "Judgments of Belief and Knowledge: Interactive yet Independent" at the Experimental Philosophy Society Group Meeting, at the Eastern Division Meeting of the APA. NYC, NY December 2009

On Antti Kauppinen "The Pragmatics of Transparent Belief Reports" at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Savannah, GA April 2009

On George Schueler "A Puzzle About the Humean Theory of Motivation" at the Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. San Francisco, CA March 2005.

On Saikat Guha "Against Substantivalism" at Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference. Las Vegas, NV October 2002

On Matthew H. Haber "The Applicability of Probability to Systematics" at the Northwest Philosophy Conference. Portland, OR October 2002

COURSES TAUGHT:

At Lawrence University

Studies in Philosophy (Senior Seminar): Winter 2025, Winter 2022, Spring 2019, Spring 2016 with Ingrid Albrecht, Spring 2014

Enlightenment Selves: Winter 2023, Spring 2018, Winter 2016 all with Celia Barnes (English)

Philosophy of Mind: Winter 2026, Winter 2023, Fall 2021, Winter 2020, Spring 2017, Spring 2015, Fall 2012

How to Do Things with Words: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Winter 2021, Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Winter 2015, Spring 2013

Philosophy of Art: Spring 2025, Spring 2021, Winter 2019, Winter 2017

Relativism: Spring 2020

Science vs. Pseudoscience/(Formerly Philosophy of Science): Winter 2024, Spring 2021, Fall 2017, Fall 2015, Winter 2012

Experimental Philosophy: Winter 2013

Epistemology: Fall 2025, Fall 2022

Descartes, Locke, and Leibniz: Fall 2013, Fall 2011

Computation & Cognition: Winter 2026, Spring 2025

Symbolic Logic: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2020, Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Winter 2013, Spring 2012

Philosophy & Literature: D-Term 2017, D-Term 2016

Introduction to Cognitive Science: Winter 2025, Winter 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Winter 2016, Winter 2015, Winter 2014

Philosophy in the 21st Century (2 3-credit sections when taught): Winter 2023, Winter 2022

Introduction to Philosophy: Spring 2019, Winter 2014, Spring 2013, Winter 2012

First-Year Studies: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2015, Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Fall 2011

1-3 Student proposed one-on-one independent studies courses each year.

At Yale University

Junior Seminar in Cognitive Science, Spring 2010, Spring 2011

Mind and Thought (Theories of Mental Content and Concepts), Fall 2010

At Connecticut College

Theory of Knowledge, Spring 2010

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2009

UNIVERSITY SERVICE (AT LAWRENCE):

Co-Director, AI Working Group 2025-Present

Mark Phelan

Federal Action Task Force, President's Committee on Diversity Affairs, Winter 2025-Present
President's Committee on Diversity Affairs, 2024-Present
Director of the Program in Cognitive Science, 2022-Present
Chair of the Department of Philosophy, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23
Assessment Committee, 2022-24
Faculty Governance Committee, 2018-19, Chair: 2019-20
Freshman Studies Lectures: Waldron *The Harm in Hate Speech*, Winter 2022, '23; Plato *Republic*, Fall 2014, '15, '16
Freshman Studies Symposia: *The Harm in Hate Speech*, Winter 2022, '23; Plato *Republic*, Fall 2015; Feynman's *The Character of Physical Laws*, Winter 2013, '14
External Committee Member for Neuroscience, Physics, and Spanish Faculty Member Searches.
Pedagogy Committee, 2015-18
Freshman Studies Committee, 2015-17
Committee on Honors, Winter & Spring 2015
Institutional Review Board, Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Winter 2015, Fall 2014
Liberal Arts in the Century of the Brain, Mellon Grant Project Planning Committee, Fall 2014-Summer 2016
Humanities Institute Planning Committee, Fall 2013—Spring 2015
Committee on Honors, Fall 2013—Winter 2014
Committee on Public Occasions, Fall 2012—Winter 2013
Main Hall Forum Coordinator, Fall 2012—Winter 2013

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND PRIZES:

Numerous Travel and Research Grants from Lawrence University
CIC Project Grant to start a Philosophy Club (\$3000), August 2023
Mellon Course Redesign Grant for Inclusivity and University Curricular Development Grant for redesign of PHIL 105: Symbolic Logic with Chloe Armstrong (~\$7500)
APA Grant (\$5000), *Helping Philosophers Engage Empirically* Program (Director), December 2009
Lawrence University Summer Research Grant (~\$5000): Summer 2018, 2014, 2012
NEH Summer Institute Participant Grant (Experimental Philosophy), June—July 2009
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2008—2009 (~\$40,000)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee: *Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*, *Inquiry*, *Analysis*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Mind and Language*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Cognition*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Cognitive Science*, *Consciousness and Cognition*, *Synthese*, *European Review of Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *Acta-Analytica*, *Studia Philosophica Estonica*, *Topics in Contemporary Philosophy* Vol. 10, and numerous professional conferences.
Reviewer for National Grant Competitions, *Czech Republic*, *Netherlands*, and *Switzerland*.

Mark Phelan

Organizer Consciousness and Experimental Philosophy Workshop, NYU (April, 2011)

Director, Metro Experimental Research Group for Philosophers (Fall 2009 to June 2011)

Organizer Meta-Ethics and Experimental Philosophy Workshop, NYU (May, 2010)

Editor, *PhilPapers* (Experimental Philosophy category, 2008-2011)