

JONATHON JACOB VANDENHOMBERGH

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AOS

Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, (Bio)ethics

AOC

Philosophy of Language/Logic, History of Philosophy, Epistemology

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	2024	Philosophy	University of Wisconsin-Madison
M.A.	2016	Philosophy	University of Houston
B.S., <i>magna cum laude</i>	2013	Philosophy, Psychology	Aquinas College

DISSERTATION

The One Is the Type of the Many Defended on: 06/2024

Farid Masrour (chair); Alan Sidelle, Bruno Whittle (committee members)

EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Fellow, Clinical Center Department of Bioethics
at the National Institutes of Health

2024-

PUBLICATIONS

“Hallucination as Perceptual Synecdoche”

The Australasian Journal of Philosophy, forthcoming.

“Consciousness, Conceivability, and Intrinsic Reduction”

Erkenntnis (85) 2020, pp. 1129-51.

“Inconceivable Physicalism”

Analysis (77)1 2017, pp. 116-25.

UNDER REVIEW

“The One Is the Type of the Many,” 26 pp.

In response to the problem of the many, I defend an overlooked solution—typism—in which material objects are uniquely constituted by the abstract type whose tokens are their many candidate constituters.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Is Death a Relief?,” 20 pp.

I argue that the “relief from irremediable suffering” condition for justified euthanasia legislation is untenable: either it presupposes a contentious view of the afterlife (and so is inappropriate to secular lawmaking) or it does not (and so it cannot make sense of the intended relief).

[TITLE TBD] (with Farid Masrour), p. 40

In response to some recent developments, we defend the relationalist view of perception.
 “A Niladic Answer to the Ultimate Question,” 25 pp.

In response to a circularity challenge for the question of why anything exists—namely, that any answer presupposes the existence of something—I defend a *niladic answer*, on which anything’s existing is zero-grounded, i.e., grounded, but not by anything at all.

“A Kantian Challenge for Autonomous AI,” 15 pp.

I argue that many beneficial uses of future AI will require its autonomy, and that such uses therefore violate Kant’s principle of humanity.

“The Independent Absurd,” 20 pp.

I explore a mind-independent notion of “the absurd,” grounded in the dialetheically justified idea that the world’s existence is logically equivalent to its non-existence—and hence that its existence is metaphysically arbitrary.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

“A Structuralist Answer to the Ultimate Question”	
11 th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Vienna*	2023
“The Inner Part of Chaotic Hallucination”	
73 rd New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society, El Paso*	2023
“The Inner Part of Chaotic Hallucination”	
114 th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville	2023
“Conceptual Sieves”	
69 th New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society, Houston	2018
“Conceptual Sieves”	
Third International Conference on Philosophy of Mind, Braga	2017
“Conceptual Sieves”	
91 st Aristotelian Society and Mind Association, Edinburgh*	2017
“Conceptual Sieves”	
The Long Island Philosophical Society, New York City*	2017
“Continuous Qualia”	
9 th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Munich*	2017
“Predictive Coding and Three-Dimensional Reductivism”	
20 th Assoc. for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Buenos Aires*	2016
“Phenomenal Concepts and the Disjunction Problem”	
108 th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville	2016
“The Logic of Quantified Two-Dimensional Conceivability Arguments”	
Masterclass Conference with David Chalmers, Stockholm	2015

(* denotes accepted but unable to attend)

HONORS

UW-Madison Philosophy Department Graduate Fellowship	2022-23, 2021, 2016-17
One of two cohort-wide recipients of a two-year fellowship, and recipient of a summer fellowship	
Marcus G and Blanche L Singer Fellowship	2022
Recipient of an endowed summer fellowship	
UW-Madison L&S Teaching Fellow Nominee	2021
One of two department-wide nominees for university-wide award	

TEACHING-FULL RESPONSIBILITY**Introduction to Philosophy (UW-Madison)**

In this lecture format course, students were introduced to basic philosophical issues (the existence of God, the nature of mind, the limits of knowledge, etc.) and equipped with the tools philosophers use to examine them (conceptual analysis, deductive and inductive arguments, informal rhetoric, etc.).

Introduction to Ethics (UW-Madison and Lone Star Community College)

In this online lecture format course, students learned the background, meaning, and relative (de)merits of standard theories in metaethics (relativism, objectivism, the divine command theory, etc.) and normative ethics (utilitarianism, Kantianism, virtue ethics, etc.).

Contemporary Moral Issues (6x, UW-Madison)

In this course—taught in lecture and small class formats, both in person and online—students grappled with a range of issues in applied ethics (abortion, euthanasia, climate change, etc.) and the moral theories used to address them (utilitarianism, Kantianism, virtue ethics, etc.).

Introduction to Philosophy (11x, Lone Star Community College)

In this course—taught in lecture format, both in person and online—students were introduced to basic philosophical issues (the existence of God, the nature of mind, the limits of knowledge, etc.) and equipped with the tools philosophers use to examine them (conceptual analysis, deductive and inductive arguments, informal rhetoric, etc.).

Formal Logic (Lone Star Community College)

In this lecture format course, students were taught the fundamentals of sentential logic (translations, truth tables, natural deduction, etc.), in addition to some basic concepts from upper-level logic (predicates and quantifiers, modal operators, soundness and completeness, etc.).

TEACHING-TEACHING ASSISTANT**Elementary Logic (2x, UW-Madison, with John McKay and Josh Mund)**

In these discussion sections (both for lecture format courses), students practiced the fundamentals of sentential and predicate logic (translations, semantics, proof theory, etc.).

Introduction to Ethics (UW-Madison, with Emily Fletcher)

In this discussion (for a lecture format course), students engaged in learning activities (case studies, group debates, general discussion, etc.) centered on course readings and lectures (on ancient Chinese ethics, feminist ethics, utilitarianism and Kantianism, etc.).

Introduction to Ethics (University of Houston, with Tamler Sommers)

Grader (for a lecture format course) for participation, essays, and exams.

Introduction to Philosophy (University of Houston, with Helen Hattab)

Grader (for a lecture format course) for participation, essays, and exams.

Introduction to Mind (University of Houston, with Josh Weisberg)

Grader (for a lecture format course) for participation, essays, and exams.

SERVICE

Referee for *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophia*, and *Ratio*.
Session Chair, 2022 Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago.
Commenter, 2018 Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, San Antonio.

HOBBIES

Playing music (piano, guitar, vocals), writing fiction (short stories, sci-fi, poetry), volunteering (The Literacy Network, Interim Hospice), cooking (badly)

REFERENCES

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Dept. of Philosophy

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GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Courses taken in Philosophy of Mind/Cognitive Science

Externalism (Farid Masrouf)
Consciousness (Josh Weisberg)
Mental Representation (Cameron Buckner)
Philosophy of Mind, 80's and 90's (Larry Shapiro)
Belief (Jesse Steinberg)
Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Cameron Buckner)

Courses taken in Metaphysics

Philosophy of Religion (Justin Coates)
Free Will (Martha Gibson)
Meta-Ethical Constructivism and Constitutivism (Mike Titelbaum)
Contemporary Big Pictures in Metaphysics (Alan Sidelle)
Grounding (Bruno Whittle)*

Courses taken in Philosophy of Language and Logic

Modal Logic (James Garson)
Philosophy of Mathematics (James Garson)
Counterfactuals (John Mackay)
Logic and Ontology (James Garson)

Courses taken in History of Philosophy

Early Analytic (Martha Gibson)
Aristotle's Scientific Method and Metaphysics (Cynthia Freeland)
Epistemology from Hume to Quine (Bredo Johnsen)

Courses taken in Epistemology

Fine-Tuning (Elliott Sober)
Philosophy of Social Science (Josh Weisberg)
Philosophy of Science (Josh Weisberg)
Epistemology of Logic (Mike Titelbaum)*

* denotes audited class _____