

## HENRY SHEVLIN

Adjunct Assistant Professor • Department of Philosophy, Baruch College

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Website: www.henryshevlin.com

### EMPLOYMENT

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Research Associate, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge  
(June 2017 – June 2020).

### EDUCATION

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*Ph.D, Philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center, September 2016 (Honors)*

Thesis: Consciousness, Perception, and Short-Term Memory (Supervisor: Peter Godfrey-Smith)

Committee: Ned Block, Eric Mandelbaum, David Papineau, Jesse Prinz.

*BPhil, Philosophy, Trinity College, University of Oxford, June 2009.*

Thesis: Linking Phenomenal and Access Consciousness (Supervisor: Tim Bayne)

*BA Classics, St Anne's College, University of Oxford, June 2006 (Double First).*

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Cognitive and Biological Science

Animal Minds

### AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Moral Philosophy

Philosophy of Science

Epistemology

Metaphysics

### PUBLICATIONS

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“Conceptual Short-Term Memory: A Missing Part of the Mind?” (2017, *The Journal of Consciousness Studies*)

“The Lower Bounds of Desire” (2017, *The Journal of Consciousness Studies*; winner of the Fifth Annual Essay Prize at the Centre for Philosophical Psychology)

## PRIZES

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**2017:** Winner, President's Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching, Baruch College.

**2016:** Joint winner, Fifth Annual Essay Prize at the Centre for Philosophical Psychology.

**2015:** Joint winner, University of Oxford Future of Humanity Institute Thesis Prize.

## FELLOWSHIPS

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**2015 – 2016:** Dissertation Fellowship, CUNY Interdisciplinary Science Studies Committee (\$10,000).

**2015:** Joint winner, University of Oxford Future of Humanity Institute Thesis Prize (£400.00)

**2014:** CUNY Doctoral Students Research Grant (\$1500)

**2010 – 2015:** Enhanced Chancellor's Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (\$18,000 p.a.)

**2010 – 2015:** Mellon Scholar, CUNY Graduate Center (\$5000 p.a.)

**2011:** Nominated for AHRC funding for D.Phil, University of Oxford (declined to transfer to CUNY)

**2009 – 2010:** Graduate Scholarship, Trinity College, Oxford (£14,000)

**2007 – 2009:** Cecil Lubbock Scholar, Trinity College, Oxford (£15,000 p.a.).

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Student Committee Member, Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (2015-2018).

Referee for *Philosophical Psychology* (2016) and *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* (2013-2014).

Commentator on Radu Bogdan, "Self-Consciousness," *Consciousness Online* 2012.

Peer Mentor, CUNY Graduate Center, 2012-2016, and Teaching Mentor, Baruch College, 2013-2016.

## SELECT PRESENTED PAPERS

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**May 2017** – Invited speaker at the Fifth Annual Conference on Advances in Cognitive Systems.

Paper title: "Conceptual Short-Term Memory: an interface for perception and cognition"

**July 2016** – Speaker at the 90<sup>th</sup> Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society & the Mind Association.

Paper title: "On Feeling Bad: The Psychological Basis of Suffering."

**November 2015** – Invited speaker at Navy Center for Applied Research in Artificial Intelligence.

Paper title: "CSTM: A Missing Piece in the Puzzle of Consciousness."

**July 2015** – Speaker at the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness.

Paper title: "Conceptual Short-Term Memory and the Richness of Experience."

**June 2015** – Speaker at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Duke University.

Paper title: "Conceptual Short-Term Memory: A Missing Part of the Mind."

**July 2013** – Speaker at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness.

Paper title: "Generic Phenomenology and Partial Report Paradigms."

**May 2013** – Speaker at 9th International Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Communication.

Paper title: "Do We Experience Color and Shape Generically?"

**December 2009** – Speaker, University of Warwick Mindgrad Conference.

Paper title: "Two Different Interpretations of Partial Report Paradigms"

## PHILOSOPHY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Teaching Adjunct/Adjunct Assistant Professor, Baruch College, 2011-2016.

- **Science Fiction and Philosophy (PHI3900)**  
Fall 2016
- **Ethics and Critical Thinking (PHI 1100)**  
Fall 2016 (2 sections)  
Spring 2016 (2 sections)  
Fall 2015 (2 sections)
- **Philosophy of Sex and Love (PHI 4900)**  
Summer 2015
- **Philosophy of Psychology (PHI/PSY 3035)**  
Spring 2015
- **Thought and Reality (PHI/PSY 3030)**  
Fall 2014  
Fall 2013  
Fall 2012
- **Minds and Computers (PHI 3040)**  
Summer 2014  
Summer 2013
- **Experimental Philosophy (PHI 3220)**  
Spring 2014  
Fall 2012
- **Computer Ethics (CIS/PHI 3270)**  
Summer 2012
- **Major Issues in Philosophy (PHI 1500)**  
Spring 2014 (2 sections)  
Fall 2013  
Spring 2013 (2 sections)  
Fall 2012  
Spring 2012 (2 sections)  
Fall 2011 (2 sections)

## OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**2007 – 2010:** ESL teacher, Oxford School of English, Oxford.

**2009:** Non-Fiction Writing/Speech & Debate tutor, Oxbridge Academic Programs.

**2007:** ESL Teacher, International House, Milan.

## LANGUAGES

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French, Italian: Advanced written and spoken.

Tagalog: Intermediate written and spoken.

Spanish, Japanese: Conversational written and spoken.

Latin, Ancient Greek: Advanced written.

## GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN

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### **CUNY Graduate Center**

Philosophy of Motion Pictures (Noel Carroll, Fall 2013)

Quine and Sellars on Thought and Language (David Rosenthal, Fall 2013)

Non-Classical Logic (Graham Priest, Spring 2013)

The Body and the Mind (Frederique de Vignemont, Spring 2013)

Descartes & Contemporary Issues (David Rosenthal, Fall 2012)

Philosophy of Mind (Jesse Prinz, Fall 2012)

The Evolution of Meaning (Peter Godfrey-Smith, Spring 2012)

Philosophy of Biology (Peter Godfrey-Smith, Fall 2011)

Epistemology (Mike Levin, Fall 2011)

Plato's Republic (Iakovos Vasiliou, Spring 2011)

The Function of Consciousness (David Rosenthal, Spring 2011)

Aesthetic Psychology (Jesse Prinz, Spring 2011)

Philosophical Issues in Buddhism (Graham Priest, Fall 2010)

Science vs. Pseudoscience (Massimo Pigliucci, Fall 2010)

Proseminar (Stephen Neale & David Rosenthal, Fall 2010)

### **University of Oxford**

The Varieties of Perception (Ian Phillips & Louise Richardson, Fall 2009)

Linking phenomenal and access consciousness (BPhil Thesis, Summer 2009)

Philosophy of Psychology (Martin Davies, Summer 2008, class)

Metaphysics and Epistemology (Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereira, Summer 2008, tutorial)

Kant (Ralph Walker, Spring 2008, tutorial)

Philosophy of Mind (Scott Sturgeon, Fall 2007, tutorial)

The Unity of Consciousness (Tim Bayne, Fall 2007, class)

## REFERENCES

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### **Peter Godfrey-Smith (Dissertation Supervisor).**

Distinguished Professor, Philosophy Department, CUNY Graduate Center.

Email: [p.godfrey.smith@gmail.com](mailto:p.godfrey.smith@gmail.com)

**Ned Block (Dissertation Committee Member).**

Silver Professor of Philosophy, Psychology and Neural Science, New York University.

Email: [ned.block@nyu.edu](mailto:ned.block@nyu.edu)

**Jesse Prinz (Dissertation Committee Member).**

Distinguished Professor, Philosophy Department, CUNY Graduate Center.

Email: [jesse@subcortex.com](mailto:jesse@subcortex.com)

**David Papineau (Dissertation Committee Member)**

Visiting Presidential Professor, Philosophy Department, CUNY Graduate Center.

Email: [david.papineau@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:david.papineau@kcl.ac.uk)

**Eric Mandelbaum (Dissertation Committee Member and Teaching Reference)**

Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department, Baruch College.

Email: [eric.mandelbaum@gmail.com](mailto:eric.mandelbaum@gmail.com)

**Douglas Lackey (Teaching Reference)**

Professor and former Chair (2000-2016), Philosophy Department, Baruch College.

Email: [dlackey@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:dlackey@gc.cuny.edu)

**DISSERTATION ABSTRACT**

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When we engage in almost any perceptual activity – recognizing a face, listening out for a phone-call, or simply taking in a sunset – information must be briefly stored and processed in some form of short-term memory. For philosophers attempting to develop an empirically grounded account of perception and conscious experience, it is therefore crucial to engage with scientific theories of the kinds of short-term memory mechanisms that underlie our moment-to-moment retention of information about the world.

To that end, in my dissertation I review recent scientific evidence for a new form of memory, dubbed Conceptual Short-Term Memory (CSTM), and claim it is a key missing piece in philosophical debates about the mind. In Chapters 1 and 2, I present data for CSTM, arguing that it is distinguished from other forms of short-term memory via its unique combination of features such as its high capacity, brief duration, and conceptual format. In Chapter 3, I suggest that CSTM offers a powerful new way to explain categorical perception, that is, our capacity to rapidly and effortlessly classify and recognize what we perceive. In Chapter 4, I claim this capacity for categorical perception is closely bound up with consciousness itself, and present a new theory of consciousness which claims that experience arises when information reaches CSTM and is encoded in respect of basic categories. Finally, in Chapter 5, I present data showing that numerous non-human animals engage in categorical perception, and thus, by the lights of the theory given in the preceding chapters, are likely to enjoy conscious experience. I close by showing how the arguments of the thesis can be applied to assessment of suffering in non-human animals.