

# Henry Shevlin

Philosopher, Google DeepMind · Associate Director, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, Cambridge

Researching machine minds, human-AI relationships, and making AI futures go well. Congenital AI optimist.



## PROFILE

A philosopher working inside frontier AI, on consciousness, machine minds, moral patiency, human-AI relationships, and human flourishing.

Philosopher at Google DeepMind, contributing to AGI readiness and the human-flourishing programme, and Associate Director (Education) at Cambridge's Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence.

Co-founder and academic lead of the UK's first master's programmes in AI ethics, with oversight of 100+ graduate students. Author of 20+ peer-reviewed publications, a forthcoming Cambridge University Press monograph, and a trade book on AI consciousness in development with a major publisher.

## EXPERIENCE

Philosopher, Google DeepMind	2026 —
Research on machine minds, human-AI relationships, and the AGI & human flourishing programme.	
Associate Director (Education), Leverhulme CFI, Cambridge	2023 —
Strategic lead for the Centre's education programmes and 100+ graduate students.	
Senior Researcher, Leverhulme CFI, Cambridge	2021 —
Programme Director, Kinds of Intelligence, Cambridge	2023 – 26
Researcher, Leverhulme CFI, Cambridge	2017 – 21

## ADVISORY & CONSULTING

Advisor on AI strategy, ethics, and capabilities to organisations including AstraZeneca, Citigroup, Accenture, and Vodafone, spanning governance of emerging technologies, generative media, and frontier-model assessment.

## SELECTED TALKS & KEYNOTES

Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican	— panel on AI, youth & relationships (2026)
AstraZeneca AI Day	— keynote (2026) · Seoul AI Policy Convention (2025)
Princeton Center for Human Values	(2023) · Models of Consciousness 5 — opening keynote (2024)
The Next Turing Tests	, King's College Cambridge (2025)
AI Consciousness & Welfare workshops	— Eleos AI (Berkeley) and Google (New York) (2025)
Cambridge Union	— first proposition, debate on AI (2026)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Ethics of Social AI	— monograph, Cambridge University Press (forthcoming)
"Aeroplanes Also Fly: a reply to Anil Seth"	— Behavioral & Brain Sciences (forthcoming)
"Three Frameworks for AI Mentality"	— Frontiers in Psychology (2026)
"Disambiguating Anthropomorphism and Anthropomimesis in HRI"	— HRI (2026)
"All Too Human? Ethical Risks of Social AI"	— Law, Ethics & Technology (2024)
"Beyond the Imitation Game" (BIG-bench), et al.	— Transactions on Machine Learning Research (2024)
"Non-human Consciousness and the Specificity Problem"	— Mind & Language (2021)
"Which Animals Matter?"	— Philosophical Topics (2020)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D, Philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center (Honors)	2016
Supervisor: Peter Godfrey-Smith.	
BPhil, Philosophy, Trinity College, Oxford	2009
BA, Classics, St Anne's College, Oxford (Double First)	2006

## CONTACT

Phone	+44 7974 274939
Email	hfshevlin@gmail.com
Website	henryshevlin.com polytropolis.com
Location	Leverhulme CFI, 16a Mill Lane, Cambridge

## REACH & PLATFORM

- ~34k followers on X (@dioscuri), concentrated in AI and tech-policy circles.
- ~6k subscribers to the Polytopolis Substack.
- Co-host of two podcasts, *Conspicuous Cognition* and *Exploring Machine Consciousness*.

## KEY STRENGTHS

### Frontier-AI fluency

Qualitative assessment of new model releases grounded in cognitive science; expert AI forecasting panels.

### Leadership & strategy

Co-founded and runs the UK's first AI-ethics master's programmes.

### Governance & impact

Ethical and policy frameworks for emerging technologies and generative media.

### Media & communication

BBC, Sky News, France 24, GB News; commentary for CNN and *The Times*.

## RECOGNITION

- \$50,000 Google research gift for work on AI, empathy, and human-AI relationships.
- MSt in AI Ethics & Society named 'Best Course in AI', CogX Awards.
- Berggruen Institute Essay Prize shortlist (25 of 3,000+ entrants).

## LANGUAGES

Latin & Ancient Greek (proficient) · French & Italian (intermediate) · Japanese, German & Tagalog (elementary).