

Jacob Browning

Curriculum Vitae

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Areas of Specialization

History and Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence, Modern, Philosophy of Mind

Areas of Competence

Ethics of Digital Technologies, Cognitive Science, History of Philosophy

Positions

Visiting Scientist, New York University Computer Science Department	2021-24
Post-Doctoral Associate, New York University Center for Data Science	2019-21
Berggruen/Templeton World Charity Fellow	
Visiting Researcher, MIT Brain and Cognitive Science	2019
Berggruen/Templeton World Charity Fellow	

Education

PhD, Philosophy	2018
The New School for Social Research	
Dissertation: "Inventing Perceptual Content: The Given from Kant to McDowell"	
M.A., Philosophy	2011
The New School for Social Research	
B.A., Religion	2003
Pepperdine University	

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"The Unimaginability of Non-Human Minds: Kant on Animal and Divine Consciousness"	2024
<i>History of Philosophy Quarterly</i>	
"Getting it Right: The Limits of Fine-Tuning Large Language Models"	2024
<i>Ethics of Information Technology</i>	
"Why Twitter Does Not Gamify Communication"	2023
Co-authored with Zed Adams. <i>Inquiry</i>	
"Language, Common Sense, and the Winograd Schema Challenge"	2023
Co-authored with Yann LeCun. <i>Artificial Intelligence</i>	
"Personhood and AI: Why Large Language Models Don't Understand Us"	2023
<i>Artificial Intelligence and Society</i>	
"The History of Qualia and C.I. Lewis's Role in It"	2023
<i>British Journal for the History of Philosophy</i>	
"Putting Explainable AI in Context"	2022
Co-authored with Mark Theunissen. <i>Ethics of Information Technology</i>	
"C.I. Lewis: Pragmatist or Reductivist?"	2022
<i>International Journal of Philosophical Studies</i>	
"Kant and the Determinacy of Intuition"	2022
<i>European Journal of Philosophy</i>	
"The Pittsburgh Kantians: Brandom, Conant, Haugeland and McDowell on Kant"	2021
<i>History of Philosophy & Logical Analysis</i>	
"Meier, Reimarus, and Kant on Animal Minds"	2021
<i>Kantian Review</i>	
"How Color Qualia Became a Problem"	2020
Co-authored with Zed Adams. <i>Journal of Consciousness Studies</i>	
"McDowell and the Contents of Intuition"	2019
<i>dialectica: A Journal of Analytic Philosophy</i>	

Other Academic Publications

- “Two Arguments for Medium-Dependency: Response to Chirimuuta’s *The Brain Abstracted*”**
Co-authored with Zed Adams. *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences* 2025
- “Intentionality All-Stars Redux: Do language models understand what they’re talking about?”** 2025
Communicating with AI. Oxford University Press
- “Neural Networks”** 2025
Co-authored with Joseph Lemelin. *Handbook on the Aesthetics of Machine Vision*.
- Review of Carlos Montemayor’s *The Prospects of a Humanitarian AI*** 2023
AI & Society
- “Kant’s Canon: ‘The Philosopher Must Not Increase the Principles of Cognition without Cause’”** 2022
Rethinking Kant. Cambridge University Press
- Review of Daniel Baumeister’s *Kant on the Rational Animal: Anthropology, Ethics, Race*** 2022
Kantian Review
- “Philosophy and Science of Color in the 20th Century”** 2021
Co-authored with Zed Adams. In *A Cultural History of Color in the Modern Age*. Bloomsbury

Books

- Giving a Damn: Essays in Dialogue with John Haugeland.*** 2017
Co-edited and introduction with Zed Adams. MIT Press

Popular Press Publications

- “AI Chatbots Don’t Care About Your Social Norms”** 2023
Co-authored with Yann LeCun. *Noema Magazine*
- “AI And the Limits of Language”** 2022
Co-authored with Yann LeCun. *Noema Magazine*
- “What AI Can Tell Us About Intelligence”** 2022
Co-authored with Yann LeCun. *Noema Magazine*
- “A Whiggish History of Computer Vision”** 2021
Co-Developed with Philipp Schmitt.
- “Making Common Sense”** 2021
Noema Magazine
- “What Computers can Explain about how Humans Learn”** 2021
Public Seminar
- “Learning without Thought”** 2020
Noema Magazine
- “Timeline of AI”** 2020
Co-Developed with Philipp Schmitt. *Uncanny Valley: AI Art*. De Young Gallery Press

Presentations (Selected)

- “Wittgenstein’s Woodsellers and Apparently Irrational AI”** 2025
Co-authored with Mark Theunissen. Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable.
- “The Normativity of Artifacts”** 2025
Co-authored with Zed Adams. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology
- “Yes, Language Models Need Sensory Grounding”** 2023
Philosophy of Deep Learning Workshop at New York University
- “Two Models of Understanding—and Two Ways of Representing the World”** 2023
“AI and the Barriers to Meaning Working Group” at Santa Fe Institute
- “Is Twitter a Game? Gamification and Social Media”** 2023
Co-authored with Zed Adams. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Courses Taught (Selected)

Introduction to Philosophy	Great Books I & II
Critical Thinking	Social and Political Philosophy
Philosophy of Mind	Ancient Philosophy
Ethics	Modern Philosophy
Ethics of Information Technology	Philosophy of Law

Fellowships and Awards

Beyond the Ivory Tower Fellowship	2024
Berggruen/Templeton World Charity Research Fellowship MIT University and New York University	2019-21
List Holocaust Memorial Dissertation Fellowship New School for Social Research	2016-7
Teaching Fellowship New School for Public Engagement	2017
Research Assistantship New School for Social Research	2011-16
Tuition Scholarship New School for Social Research	2007-11

Referee Service

<i>AI and Society</i>	<i>Erkenntnis</i>
<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Philosophical Studies</i>
<i>Episteme</i>	<i>Synthese</i>
<i>European Research Council</i>	<i>Continental Philosophy Review</i>

Public Consulting

“The Future of Generative AI”

Policy Horizons Social Foresight, Canadian Government Report

“Plagiarism Engine: Google’s Content-Swiping AI Could Break the Internet”

Avram Piltch, *Tom’s Hardware*

“Why are the people who pushed for artificial intelligence now signing so many doomsday manifestos?”

Jordi Pérez Colomé, *El Pais*

Languages

German – Proficient Reading Knowledge

Ancient Greek – Competent Reading Knowledge

Academic References

Zed Adams, Associate Professor — The New School for Social Research

AdamsZ@newschool.edu (212) 229-5707 x3020

Jay M. Bernstein, University Distinguished Professor — The New School for Social Research

BernsteJ@newschool.edu (212) 229-5707 x3072

Yann LeCun, Silver Professor — New York University

Yann@cs.nyu.edu (212) 998-3283

Teaching References

Ruth Maher, Adjunct Associate Professor — William Paterson University

maherr2@wpunj.edu (973) 720-3912