

# Peter Fisher Epstein

*Curriculum Vitae*

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Department of Philosophy  
Brandeis University  
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## EMPLOYMENT

**Brandeis University, Department of Philosophy, 2020-**  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

**Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, 2017-2020**  
Junior Research Fellow (Randall Dillard Research Fellowship)

## VISITING POSITIONS

**National Humanities Center, Spring 2023**  
Resident Associate

**New York University, Department of Philosophy, 2017-2019**  
Visiting Scholar

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind

Epistemology

Philosophy of Science

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics

Philosophy of Physics

Philosophy of Language

## EDUCATION

**University of California, Berkeley, 2008-2017**  
Ph.D., Philosophy, August 2017

Dissertation: *Sensible Concepts: Experience and the A Priori* (Committee: John Campbell (co-chair); Barry Stroud (co-chair); Geoffrey Lee; Tania Lombrozo)

**Harvard University, 2000-2004**  
A.B., *summa cum laude*, Philosophy (with Certificate in Mind, Brain, and Behavior), June 2004

Thesis: *Comparing Qualia* (Supervisor: Susanna Siegel; Readers: Michael Martin and RiKi Heck)  
Awarded George Plimpton Adams Prize for best dissertation or undergraduate thesis in philosophy

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

Epstein, P. F. (2022). "In Defense of the Armchair: Against Empirical Arguments in the Philosophy of Perception." *Noûs*. (Early view)

Epstein, P. F. (2018). "Shape Perception in a Relativistic Universe." *Mind* 127 (506):339-379.

Epstein, P. F. (2018). "A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof," *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 118 (3):407-417.

Epstein, P. F. (2017). "The Fine-Tuning Argument and the Requirement of Total Evidence," *Philosophy of Science* 84 (4):639-658.

## CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

Epstein, P. F. (forthcoming). “The Anti-Relationalist’s Hard Problem.” To appear in F. Masrour & O. Beck (eds.), *The Relational View of Perception: New Essays*. Routledge.

Epstein, P. F. (forthcoming). “Content-Magnitude Explanation (Comments on Peacocke).” To appear in O. Beck & M. Vuletic (eds.), *Perceptual Experience and Empirical Reason*. Springer.

## WORK UNDER REVIEW AND UNDER AGREEMENT

Epstein, P.F. & U. Sethi (under review). “An *A Priori* Constraint on What Science Can Tell Us About Perception.”

Epstein, P.F. (under agreement). “Appearances and Phenomenological Concepts.” To appear in a volume of essays on the work of Anil Gupta (R. Rosenhagen, ed.).

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

“Grounding Sensible Qualities” Project (Co-Principal Investigator), New Directions in the Study of the Mind, University of Cambridge (led by Tim Crane), 2016-2017

*£10,000 research grant, awarded for year-long project on metaphysics of color and shape*

Mabelle McLeod Lewis Fellowship, Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fund, 2015-2016

*One of four research fellowships awarded annually to humanities Ph.D. candidates in Northern California*

Mary Gordon Roberts Fellowship, Harvard University, 2003

*Research grant awarded by Mind, Brain, and Behavior Interfaculty Initiative (faculty sponsor: Ned Block)*

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Faculty Essay Prize, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress, 2018

*For best essay among those submitted by non-tenured faculty (“A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof”)*

Fink Prize, UC Berkeley Philosophy Department, 2015-2016

*For best essay by a graduate student (“Shape Perception in a Relativistic Universe”)*

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2013-2014

*Campus-wide honor for teaching excellence*

George Plimpton Adams Prize, Harvard University, 2004

*For best dissertation or undergraduate thesis in philosophy (Comparing Qualia)*

Certificate in Mind, Brain, and Behavior, Harvard University, 2004

*First philosophy concentrator to receive interdisciplinary research certificate*

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS (\* = invited; † = refereed; ^ = comments)

^ Comments on Robert Audi, “Perceptualism: Seeing, Apprehending, and Knowing.”

*Cornell Workshop on Mind and Value, Ithaca, August 2023*

\* “The Anti-Relationalist’s Hard Problem.”

*APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, April 2023*

\* “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”

*American Mathematical Society Joint Mathematics Meeting, Boston, January 2023*

\* “Perceiving Color and Shape.”

*Eastham Philosophy Workshop, Eastham, MA, October 2022*

\* “Do Empirical Considerations Refute Naïve Realism?”

*New Directions in Relationalism Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, May 2021*

\* “Empirical Science and the Philosophy of Perception.”

*Vermont Philosophy Workshop, Waitsfield, VT, August 2021*

\* “Perceiving Spatial Properties.”

*Perceiving Properties Workshop, University of Oxford, April 2021*

\* “Appearances and Phenomenological Concepts.”

*Conference on Anil Gupta’s Conscious Experience, Ashoka University, New Delhi, February 2020*

- \* “Literal and Metaphorical Spaces.”  
*Warwick Mind and Action Workshop, University of Warwick, May 2019*
- \* “Spatial Experience: More Than Mere Structure.”  
*Cambridge Philosophy of Science Seminar Series, Cambridge, UK, February 2019*
- \* “A Priori Concepts in Spatial Experience.”  
*Philosophy Department Colloquium, Temple University, February 2019*
- \* “A Priori Concepts in Spatial Experience.”  
*Philosophy Department Colloquium, Brandeis University, February 2019*
- \* “A Priori Concepts in Spatial Experience.”  
*Philosophy Department Colloquium, UC Riverside, January 2019*
- ^ Comments on E.J. Green and Gabe Rabin, “Spatial Functionalism Meets Vision Science.”  
*Foundations of Meaning: Pictures, Perception, and Consciousness. NYU Abu Dhabi, January 2019*
- † “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”  
*Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress, UQAM, June 2018 (Faculty Essay Prize).*
- \* “Spatial Representation.”  
*Philosophy Department Colloquium, York University, Toronto, February 2018*
- \* “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”  
*Philosophy Department Colloquium, University College London, February 2018*
- \* “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”  
*Center for Science and Thought, University of Bonn, November 2017*
- \* “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”  
*Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of York (UK), October 2017*
- \* “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”  
*Philosophy of Mind Discussion Group, NYU, October 2017*
- † “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”  
*Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference, Fordham University, New York, October 2017*
- † “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”  
*European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, University of Hertfordshire, August 2017*
- † “A Priori Concepts in Euclidean Proof.”  
*Philosophy of Mathematics: History, Theories and Practice, University of Trento, July 2017*
- † “Shape Perception in a Relativistic Universe.”  
*Objectivity, Space and Mind BPPA Masterclass, University College London, May 2015*
- † “Rethinking Decision Theory’s Foundation.”  
*Formal Epistemology Workshop (FEW), University of Southern California, May 2011*

## TEACHING

### Brandeis

Philosophy of Mind (Fall 2023)  
 Graduate Proseminar (Fall 2020, Fall 2022, Fall 2023)  
 Philosophy of Science (Fall 2021, Fall 2022)  
 Mental Content: Mind, World, and Meaning (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)  
 Foundations of Decision Theory and Game Theory (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)  
 Graduate Seminar: Consciousness and Empirical Science (Fall 2021)

### Cambridge

#### *Lecturer*

Metaphysics (Lent & Michaelmas Terms 2018)

#### *Supervisor*

Epistemology and Metaphysics (Michaelmas Term 2018-2019)  
 Philosophy of Mind (Lent Term 2018 & Michaelmas Term 2018-2019)  
 Philosophy of Science (Easter Term 2020)

#### *Examiner*

Philosophy of Science (2018)

**DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE (BRANDEIS)**

Director of Graduate Studies, Philosophy (2022-present)  
Graduate Council (2022-present)  
Masters Faculty Advisory Committee (2022-present)  
Curriculum Committee, Philosophy (2020-2023)  
Colloquium Committee (Chair), Philosophy (2020-2023)  
Anti-Racism Task Force, Philosophy (2020-2021) (Chair, Spring 2021)  
Search Committee, Philosophy (2021-2022)

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Organizer, International Conference and Bi-Weekly Workshop: “Grounding Sensible Qualities,”  
New Directions in the Study of the Mind Project, UC Berkeley, 2016-2017  
Book Referee, Oxford University Press, University of Pittsburgh Press  
Article Referee, *Analysis*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Journal for the History of Analytic Philosophy*, *Noûs*, *Philosopher’s Imprint*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy of Science*

**OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

D.E. Shaw & Co., 2005-2008  
*Investment Associate at New York-based financial firm*  
Harvard Business School, Business, Government, and International Economy Unit, 2004-2005  
*Research Associate for David Moss, John G. McLean Professor of Business Administration*  
Harvard Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, 2002-2003  
*Research Assistant, Laboratory of Neurophysiology (PI: Allan Hobson; Supervisor: Bob Stickgold)*

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Member of the American Philosophical Association

**LANGUAGES**

French (reading and speaking proficiency)  
Latin (basic reading proficiency)