

Joshua Myers

joshualmyers.com

joshualmyers@gmail.com

Carrer de Montalegre 6, 08001 Barcelona, Spain

Academic Employment

University of Barcelona

LOGOS Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2023-2025

Education

New York University

PhD in Philosophy, May 2023

Dissertation: The Epistemic Structure of the Imagination

Committee: Paul Boghossian (Chair), David Chalmers, Jane Friedman

Abstract: Traditionally, philosophers have been skeptical of the epistemic relevance of the imagination. After all, how could merely imagining something give you any reason to believe that it is true? Recently, some philosophers have begun to push back against this orthodoxy. But even then, most contemporary discussions focus on *whether* the imagination can justify belief, rather than *how* the imagination justifies belief. My dissertation fills this lacuna by canvassing the theoretical landscape of the epistemology of imagination and developing a novel account of imaginative justification. In short, the core idea behind this account is that the imagination is a distinctive kind of ampliative reasoning, and that it plays this cognitive and epistemic role by combining the analog format of imagery with the evidence-sensitive function of belief.

University of Miami

B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2017

Research Areas

Areas of Specialization:

Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Areas of Competence:

Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics, Philosophy of Language, Value Theory

Academic Writing

Published:

The Structure of Analog Representation.

with Andrew Lee and Gabriel Rabin. Equal contributions from all authors.

Noûs (2023), 57(1):209-237.

The Epistemic Status of the Imagination.

Philosophical Studies (2021), 178(10):3251–3270.

Reasoning with Imagination.

in *Epistemic Uses of Imagination* (eds. Amy Kind and Christopher Badura)
Routledge (2021), 103-121.

Under Review:

The Epistemic Role of Vividness (revise and resubmit at *Analysis*)

How Imagination Informs (revise and resubmit at *Philosophical Quarterly*)

Imaginative Beliefs (revise and resubmit at *Inquiry*)

Popular Writing

Two posts on *The Junkyard of the Mind*, an academic blog about imagination curated by Amy Kind:

‘The Epistemic Irrelevance of Imaginative Vivacity’ (2022)

‘Imagination and Hypothesis Generation’ (2020)

‘Learning From Imagination’ A short article for *Imagine Magazine Vol. 2* (2022)

Presentations

Talks: (*=refereed)

The Epistemic Role of Vividness

European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (August 2023)*

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (March 2023)*

- One of three philosophy papers awarded a graduate student travel grant

How Imagination Informs

Washington Square Circle WIP Group (September 2022)

Against Phenomenalism About Imaginative Justification

NYU Summer WIP Group (July 2022)

The Structure of Iconic Representation

CUNY Cognitive Science Speaker Series (February 2022)

The Structure of Analog Representation

NYU Philosophy of Mind Discussion Group (December 2021)

Imagination, Suppositional Reasoning, and Mental Models

Washington Square Circle WIP Group (October 2021)

Imaginative Beliefs

Online Conference for Imagination Domination (May 2020)

Reasoning with Imagination

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (December 2020)*

PoPRocks NYC Philosophy of Psychology Workshop (October 2019)

Object Tracking and the Format of Perception

Poster at Society for Philosophy and Psychology (July 2019)*

The Epistemic Status of the Imagination

Fiction, Imagination, and Epistemology Conference (June 2019)*

Spatiotemporal Representation and the Format of Perception

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (March 2019)*

Plays, Productions, and Performances: An Ontology of Theatre

Canadian Society for Aesthetics (May 2017)*

American Society for Aesthetics Eastern Division (April 2017)*

Southeastern Student Conference in Aesthetics (March 2017)*

Does Phenomenal Consciousness Overflow Attention? An Argument from Feature Integration

Florida Philosophical Association (November 2016)*

Northwest Student Philosophy Conference (May 2016)*

University of Miami Philosophy of Mind Workshop (April 2016)

Comments:

Jill Cumby "Desire as Constraint on Epistemically Useful Imaginings"

Online Conference for Imagination Domination (May 2023)

Neil Van Leeuwen "The Puzzle of Religious Rationality"

Online Conference for Imagination Domination (May 2022)

Shivam Patel "Towards a Conative Account of Mental Imagery"

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (March 2022)

Michael Stuart "Metaepistemology of Imagination"

Online Conference for Imagination Domination (May 2021)

Howard G. Callaway “Functionalism, Consciousness, and Face Recognition”
APA Eastern Division (January 2021)

Teaching

Primary Instructor

Aesthetics (Summer 2021)

Epistemology (2 sections, Summer 2020)

Teaching Assistant

Early Modern European Philosophy (Spring 2021) (with Don Garrett)

Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2020) (with Jessica Moss)

The Nature of Values (Spring 2020) (with Sharon Street)

Minds and Machines (Fall 2019) (with David Chalmers)

Religion, Mind, and Society (Spring 2017) (at University of Miami, with William Scott Green and Michael McCullough)

High School Outreach

NYU/NYIP Big Questions Course (2017-2019)

Fellowships and Awards

Graduate Student Travel Grant Awarded to *The Epistemic Role of Vividness* (Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2023)

Frankel Fellowship Awarded to 4th year philosophy PhD student with most outstanding progress on their dissertation (NYU, 2021)

New York Institute of Philosophy Travel Grant (2019, 2022, 2023)

MacCracken Fellowship (NYU, 2017-2023)

Library Research Scholar (University of Miami, 2016-2017)

Gerrit and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Philosophy Paper at the Florida Philosophical Association: Awarded to *Does Phenomenal Consciousness Overflow Attention? An Argument from Feature-Integration* (2016)

Pembroke-King's Programme (University of Cambridge, 2015)

Stamps Scholarship (University of Miami, 2013-2017)

Service

Referee for Analysis (x2), Australasian Journal of Philosophy, British Journal of Aesthetics, Critica, Dialectica (x2), Erkenntnis, Kriterion Journal of Philosophy, Noûs (x2), Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Studies (x2), Synthese (x2)

PhilPapers Category Editor for Epistemology of Imagination (2023)

Session Chair Perception and Attention session at SSPP (2022)

Organizer NYU Imagination Reading Group (2020-2021)
Colloquium Committee Member, NYU (2018-2019)
Volunteer, Animal Consciousness Conference, NYU (2017)
Organizer and Moderator, Parallels of Practice: A Dialogue of Science and Philosophy, University of Miami (2017)
Volunteer, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division (2017)
Educational Innovation Working Group Member, University of Miami (2016)
Research Assistant Social and Cultural Neuroscience Lab (2016)
Research Assistant Evolution and Human Behavior Lab (2013-2015)

Graduate Coursework

At New York University: (* = audited)

M&L Seminar: Theories of Content (Ned Block + David Chalmers)*
Conceptualizing the World (David Chalmers + Michael Strevens)*
Topics in Philosophy of Science (Brad Weslake)*
Visual Attention (Marisa Carrasco, Psychology Dept.)*
Philosophy of Perception (Ned Block)*
Explanation (Laura Franklin-Hall + Michael Strevens)*
Advanced Introduction to Philosophy of Mind (Ned Block + David Chalmers)*
Associated Writing on the Epistemology of Imagination (Paul Boghossian)
Advanced Introduction to Ethics (Samuel Scheffler)
Advanced Logic (Cian Dorr)
Associated Writing on the Format of Perception (Ned Block)
Iconic Representation (Rob Hopkins + Gabriel Rabin)
Philosophy of Perception (Ned Block + Ian Phillips)
Epistemology of Inference (Paul Boghossian + Crispin Wright)
Proseminar II (Hartry Field + Don Garrett)
Epistemic Normativity (Dick Foley)
Spinoza's Metaphysics (Don Garrett + John Morrison)
Proseminar I (David Chalmers + Jane Friedman)

At University of Miami:

Philosophical Methodology (Magdalena Balcerak Jackson + Harvey Siegel)
Epistemology of Perception (Berit Brogaard + Elijah Chudnoff)
Epistemic Rationality (Harvey Siegel)
Reasoning (Magdalena Balcerak Jackson)
Topics in Ethics (Michael Slote)
Modal Logic (Brendan Balcerak Jackson)
Topics in Philosophy of Language (Simon Evnine)

References

Paul Boghossian

Silver Professor of Philosophy, NYU

PhD Advisor

pb3@nyu.edu

Jane Friedman

Associate Professor of Philosophy, NYU

Dissertation Committee

jane.friedman@nyu.edu

Andrew Lee

Assistant Professor of Philosophy,

University of Toronto

Co-author

andrew.yuan.lee@gmail.com

David Chalmers

Professor of Philosophy, NYU

Dissertation Committee

chalmers@nyu.edu

Jessica Moss

Professor of Philosophy, NYU

Teaching Reference

jm5706@nyu.edu