# JAVIER GOMEZ-LAVIN

Assistant Professor

Department of Philosophy
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN USA

jglavin [at] purdue [dot] edu
https://twitter.com/jgomezlavin
jgomezlavin.com

AOS: Philosophy of Cognitive Science; Philosophy of Mind, Experimental Philosophy

AOC: Moral Psychology, Social Ontology, Aesthetics, & Philosophical Issues of AI

## EDUCATION

PhD, Philosophy, September 2018 — The CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY
MA and MPhil, Philosophy, June 2016 — The CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY
BA and BS, Philosophy and Psychology, June 2012 — The College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

## APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor. Purdue University. 2022-
- Sessional Assistant Professor. York University. 2021-2022
- Provost Postdoctoral Fellow. The University of Pennsylvania. 2018-2021
- Gastwissenschaftler. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin School of Mind and Brain. 2016-2019

## PUBLICATIONS

*Peer Reviewed Work*

- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** & Humphreys, J. (*forthcoming*). Striking at the heart of cognition: Aristotelian *phantasia*, working memory, and psychological explanation. *Journal of the History of Medicine and Medical Humanities*.
- Read, H., **Gomez-Lavin, J.**, Beltrama, A., & Miracchi, L. (*forthcoming*). A plea for integrated empirical and philosophical research on the impact of feminized AI workers. *Analysis.*
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.**, & Rachar, M. (2021). Why we need a new normativism about collective action. *The Philosophical Quarterly.*
- Fingerhut, J., **Gomez-Lavin, J.**, Winklemayer, C., & Prinz, J. (2021). The aesthetic self. The importance of aesthetic taste in music and art for our perceived identity. *Frontiers in Psychology: Cultural Psychology*, 11, 4079.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** (2021). Working memory is not a natural kind and cannot explain central cognition. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 12, 199-225.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** (2019). Why expect causation at all? A pessimistic parallel with neuroscience. *Philosophy and Biology,* 35 (6), 1-6.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** & Rachar, M. (2019). Normativity in joint action. *Mind and Language,* 34 (1), 97-120
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** & Prinz, J. (2019). Parole and the Moral Self: Moral change mitigates responsibility. *Journal of Moral Education*, 48 (1), 65-83
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** Prinz, J., Strohminger, N. & Nichols, S. (2019). Expansive Interdisciplinarity and the moral self. In N. E. Snow & D. Narvaez (Eds.), *Self, Motivation, and Virtue: New Findings from Philosophy and Psychology*. New York: Routledge Press.
- Braunlich, K., **Gomez-Lavin, J.**, & Seger, C. (2015). Frontalparietal networks involved in categorization and item working memory. *NeuroImage*, 107, 146-162.

*Essays, Proceedings and Reviews*
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** (*forthcoming*). What virtuoso gamers show us about the instrumentality of videogames. *Aesthetics for Birds*.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** (2019). Review of the book *Art, Aesthetics, and the Brain,* by Huston et al. *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 77 (2), 219-222.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** (2018). Artworld Roundtable: Can today's artists still sell out? *Aesthetics for Birds*.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.**, Fingerhut, J., & Prinz, J. (2017). The aesthetic self effect. *Art and Perception*, 5.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** (2017). Review of the book *The centered mind: What the science of working memory shows us*, by P. Carruthers. *Philosophical Psychology*, 30 (5), 685-688.

*Papers under Review or in Preparation – available upon request*
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** & Rachar, M. Morality, Friendship and Collective Action.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** & Rachar, M. Why we still need a new normativism about collective action.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** The two faces of working memory
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** Reportability does not entail consciousness.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** The central fallacy of AIR theories of consciousness.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** Videogames and rampant spectation
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.**, Read, H., Beltrama, A., & Miracchi, L. A new framework for interdisciplinary approaches to assess the risks posed by feminized artificial intelligence

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & PRIZES

*Grants*
- Principal Investigator on "Determining Psychological Components Implicit in Acting Together," project, awarded a $5,000 round of pilot funding from York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. April 2022
- Co-Principal Investigator on "Investigating the moral self" project awarded a $190,000 grant from the Self, Virtue, and Motivation project, funded by the Templeton Religion Trust. (www.smvproject.com/grants/prinz). 2015-2017

*Fellowships*
- Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Competition Fellow. 2018-2019. *Declined.*
- Enhanced Chancellors Fellow. 2012-2018
- Mellon Fellow. 2012-2018
- Dean K. Harrsion Fellow. 2012-2017
- McNair Scholar. 2010-2012
- William Bischoff Memorial Scholar. 2011-2012

*Honors and Prizes*
- "Working memory is not a natural kind and cannot explain cognition" selected as a runner-up for the *2020 Philosophy of Memory Essay Prize* organized by the Centre for Philosophy of Memory at the Université Grenoble Alpes.
- "Parole and the moral self," presented at the 2017 SSPP annual meeting. *Graduate Student Travel Prize*
- "Working memory is not a natural kind," poster presented at the 2015 ASSC meeting. *Best philosophy poster prize*
- "Describing a new neuro-ontology for central executive processes," presented at the 2014 SSPP annual meeting. *Graduate Student Travel Prize*

- "Frontal-parietal networks involved in item and category working memory," poster presented at the 2011 NSF-NEU Symposium. *Best poster prize and travel award*

## SELECTED TALKS & COMMENTARIES

What comes after working memory
- The Bochum-Grenoble Memory Colloquium series. To be delivered virtually in January 19, 2023.*

Psychological components of shared agency
- The Ethics Center at Lake Forest College. To be delivered in person in October 2022.*

Rekindling a Pessimism in Philosophy of Psychology
- The University of Cincinnati. To be delivered in person in September 2022.*

*Phantasia*, working memory, and psychological explanation
- The annual meeting of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) in Rome. June 2022. (*delivered virtually)*.

Measured interactions of task and labor allocation to feminized AIs
- The annual meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP) in Mobile, AL. April 2022.

A plea for integrated empirical and philosophical research on the impact of feminized AI workers
- The annual meeting of SSPP in Mobile, AL. April 2022.

Virtuosity without performance in gaming
- The annual meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics (ASA) in Montreal, QC. Delivered in person. November 2021. *Panel Organizer.*

Why we need a new normativism about collective action
- Social Ontology 2021. Hosted by UCSD. August 2021 (*delivered virtually)*.

Psychological implications of gendered AIs and their social impact.
- The first European Experimental Philosophy Conference. Prague, Czechia. June 2021 (*delivered virtually)*.

A mosaic ontology of cognition*
- The Interdisciplinary Symposium on Cognitive Ontology hosted by the Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg. May 26, 2021 (*delivered virtually)*.

Videogames and rampant spectation: A detour through the ontology of musical instruments
- The annual meeting of ASA in Washington, DC. November 2020 (*delivered virtually)*.

Productive pessimism and new ontologies of cognition
- The Problem of Cognitive Ontology Workshop at the Center for Philosophy of Science. Pittsburgh, PA. October 19, 2020. (*delivered virtually)*.

Immigration and the moral self
- The first European Experimental Philosophy Conference (Xphi Europe) in Prague, Czechia. June 2020. (*moved online due to COVID-19)*.

Why we need a new normativism
- The annual meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP) in Athens, Greece. September 2019.

Cognition is not a natural kind
- Workshop on natural kinds and cognitive science hosted by York University in Toronto, Ontario. June 2019

Reportability does not entail consciousness: A study of two cases
- The annual meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (ASSC) in London, Ontario. June 2019.

Things we do together
- The annual meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP) in Cincinnati. March 2019.

What comes after working memory?
- The Cognitive Sciences Speaker Series at the CUNY Graduate Center. March, 2019. *

Working memory is not a natural kind
- Neural Mechanisms Online Webconference. October 2018: https://tinyurl.com/y9hp9pgm
- The annual meeting of the SSPP in San Antonio. March 2018.
- The sixth annual Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Science Workshop at the Universitat de Barcelona. April 2016. *early draft.*
- The ESPP annual meeting in Tartu, Estonia. July 2015. *early draft.*

The aesthetic self
- The annual meeting of the European Society of Aesthetics in Maribor, Solvenia. June 2018.

Pernicious disbelief
- The Digital Humanities & Experimental Philosophy Collaborative workshop in Amsterdam, Netherlands. December 2017.

Music and the aesthetic self
- The annual meeting of the ASA in New Orleans. November 2017.

Borders of the moral self
- The Self, Motivation, and Virtue project's second grant awardee meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. June 2017. * https://tinyurl.com/y9mez5sr

Parole and the moral self
- The annual meeting of the SSPP in Savannah, Georgia. March 2017. *Prize*

Video games as social instruments
- The annual meeting of the ASA in New Orleans. November 2016.

*Phantasia* as working memory
- The Classics and Cognitive theory conference at NYU. October 2016.

Disbelief as mere belief
- The ESPP annual meeting in Saint Andrews, Scotland. August 2016.

Joint action as normatively constituted
- The SSPP annual meeting in Louisville, KY. March 2016.
- Collective Intentionality X Meeting in The Hague, Netherlands. August 2016.

Simulating the margins: Experiential simulation of stigmatization through video games
- The annual meeting of the ASA in New Orleans. November 2015.

Boundaries of the moral self
- The ESSP annual meeting in Tartu, Estonia. July 2015.
- The SSPP annual meeting in New Orleans, LA. April 2015.
- The Interdisciplinary Moral Forum organized and held by Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. March 2015. *

The end of working memory
- The Cognitive Sciences Speaker Series at the CUNY Graduate Center. 2014. *
- ESPP annual meeting in Granada, Spain. July 2013.

A review of objections to standard models of working memory
- The ESPP annual meeting in Noto, Italy. September 2014.

Describing a New Neuro-ontology for Central Executive Processes
- The SSPP annual meeting in Charleston, SC. February 2014. *Prize*

Frontal-parietal network differences for item and category working memory
- The SSPP annual meeting in Savannah, GA. March 2012.

The ontology of mental models
- The UNC - Chapel Hill Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. April 2011.
- The annual North Georgia Student Philosophy Conference at Kennesaw State University. April 2011.

Language, embodiment and structure.
- The SSPP annual meeting in New Orleans, LA. March 2011.
- The Mid-South Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at the University of Memphis. March 2011.

On the fence: The role of language in cognition
- The Northern New England Philosophical Association at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH. October 2010.

Extended too far? A response to Adams and Aizawa's objection to the extended mind hypothesis.
- The Mid-South Philosophy Conference, at the University of Memphis March 2010.

*Commentaries*
- E. Terrone's "The Paradox of Taste to the Experimental Test" at the annual National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics (ASA). November 2022.
- O. Kiianlinna's "Aesthetic Gadgets and Predictive Minds: Universalism in Evolutionary Aesthetics Today" at the Eastern division of the American Society for Aesthetics (e-ASA). April 2022.
- J. Cutmore's "Mere memes and likes" at the e-ASA. April 2019.
- M. Ravasio's "Tactile values in video games," at the e-ASA. April 2018.
- E. Guter's "Beyond the museum conception of computer art," at the e-ASA. April 2017.
- N. Strohminger's, "Personal identity and attribution: A battle to the death," at the Eastern division of the American Philosophical Association. January 2016.
- F. de Brigard's "Vivacity and the distinction between memory and imagination," at the American Association of Mexican Philosophers at Columbia University. April 2015.
- Kostko, & J. Bickle's "Causal explanation in social neuroscience: Two analyses," SSPP 2015.

*Invited talks denoted by "*"*

# POSTERS

- "Psychological implications of gendered AIs and their social impact" with A. Beltrama, H. Read, & L. Miracchi at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP). July 2021 (*delivered virtually*).
- "Why we need a new normativism about collective action" with M. Rachar at Xphi Europe Prague, Czechia. June 2021 (*delivered virtually).*
- "The aesthetic self," with J. Fingerhut and J. Prinz at the 2017 Visual Science of Art Conference meeting in Berlin, Germany
- "Joint action as normatively constituted," with M. Rachar, at the 2016 ESPP annual meeting in Saint Andrews, Scotland
- "Working memory is not a natural kind," at the 2015 ASSC annual meeting in Paris. *Prize*
- "Frontal-parietal networks involved in item and category working memory" presented at:
    - The Cognitive Neuroscience Society's annual conference in Chicago, IL. March 2012.
    - The 2011 NSF-REU Symposium on Mind and Brain at the Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. *Prize*

## DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

*The Fragmented Mind.*

In both philosophy and the sciences of the mind there is a shared commitment to the idea that there is a center— the seat of consciousness, the source of deliberation and reflection, and the core of personal identity —in the mind. My dissertation challenges this deeply entrenched view. I review the empirical literature on working memory, psychology's best candidate for the workspace of the mind, and argue that it is not a natural kind and cannot inform these central cognitive processes. This deflationary view directly imperils many naturalistic theories of consciousness that rely on working memory, which are reviewed in this project. This dissertation thus serves as the necessary first negative step required to begin the process of articulating socially-embedded accounts of many central cognitive processes that dominate the contemporary philosophical literature, including consciousness and reasoning.

Committee Members: Jesse Prinz (chair), Shaun Nichols, Eric Mandelbaum, John Greenwood, Felipe De Brigard. Defense passed with honors, May 16, 2018, degree conferred September 30, 2018.

## TEACHING

- *Introduction to Philosophy through Videogames,* two sections, Purdue University (F 2022)
- *Senior Seminar in Philosophy of Cognitive Science,* one section, York University (S 2022)
- *Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence,* one section—York University (S 2022)
- *Philosophy of Neuroscience,* one section—York University (F 2021)
- *Philosophy of Psychology*, two sections—York University (F 2021 & S 2022)
- *Philosophy of Mind*, one section—The University of Pennsylvania (F 2019)
- *Business and Consumer Ethics*, one section—The College of Charleston (W 2017)
- *Statistical methods and analysis for experimental philosophy*, two sessions—Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin School of Mind and Brain (S 2017)
- *Introduction to Problems of Philosophy*, five sections—Brooklyn College (2014-2016, F&S)
- *Introduction to Moral Issues in Business,* four sections—Brooklyn College (2013-2014, F&S)

Instructor of record for all listed courses. Course evaluations available for review on website.

## INSTITUTES & WORKSHOPS

*Institutes*
- 2017 Masterclass on digital humanities, social epistemology, & virtue theory in a post- truth society, DHEPCAT – Delft University of Technology. *Participant*
- 2011 Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Colorado State University on 'Mind and Brain' funded by the NSF. *Awardee*
- 2010 Rutgers University Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy. *Participant*

*Workshops*
- Organized "Morality and Identity," workshop at the CUNY Graduate Center, funded by the Self, Motivation, and Virtue Project – October 13, 2017.
- Co-organized, with M. Rachar, "Subjectivity, commitment and acting together" workshop at the Berlin School of Mind and Brain, funded by the Einstein Foundation – June 17, 2017.

## SERVICE & OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

*Service*
- Program Committee member, the Eastern division of the American Society for Aesthetics (e-ASA) for 2022 & 2023.
- Conference co-organizer for the e-ASA for 2020-2021.
- Elected Philosophy Program Representative to the Doctoral Student's Council for 2016-2017
- Member of the Colloquium Committee, and Committee on Representation. CUNY Graduate Center Philosophy Program 2014-2015
- Member of the Committee on Representation. CUNY Graduate Center Philosophy Program, 2013-2014
- President of the College of Charleston Philosophical Society, 2009-2012

*Referee Work*

- *Synthese* (2022)
- *Theory and Psychology* (2021)
- *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* (2021)
- *Reviewer for the Society for Philosophy and Psychology* (2021, 2022)
- *Consciousness and Cognition* (2020)
- *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (2020)
- *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2020)
- *Philosophical Psychology* (2019, 2020, 2022)
- *Biology and Philosophy* (2019)

*YouTube Appearances*
- Guest on Richard Brown's "Consciousness Live" Video-podcast: https://tinyurl.com/y8mckps8
- "Borders of the moral self" talk streamed: https://tinyurl.com/y9mez5sr
- "Working memory is not a natural kind" Neural Mechanisms online Webconference: https://tinyurl.com/y9hp9pgm

*Data Analysis*
- I am proficient in SPSS, AMOS, MATLAB and Psychtool box.

## REFERENCES

Jesse Prinz
jesse [at] subcortex.com

Lisa Miracchi Titus
miracchi [at] gmail.com

Shaun Nichols
shaunbnichols [at] gmail.com

John Greenwood
jgreenwood [at] gc.cuny.edu

Eric Mandelbaum
eric.mandelbaum [at] baruch.cuny.edu

Felipe de Brigard
felipe.debrigard [at] duke.edu

Michael Weisberg
weisberg [at] phil.upenn.edu

Muhammad Ali Khalidi
makhalidi [at] gc.cuny.edu