

# Alexandre Duval

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**Areas of specialization:** Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

**Areas of competence:** Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Language, Epistemology

## EMPLOYMENT

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**Postdoctoral Research Fellow** 2022 – ...

*School of Philosophy, Australian National University*  
Research topic: Major transitions in the evolution of cognition

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow** 2020 – 2022

*Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia*  
Research topic: Origins of geometric cognition

## EDUCATION

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**PhD in Philosophy** 2014 – 2019

*University of Sheffield*  
Thesis: ‘Where Am I? The Cognitive Architecture of Spatial Reorientation’  
Supervised by Stephen Laurence and Luca Barlassina, passed without corrections  
Examiners: Peter Carruthers (external) and Dominic Gregory (internal)

**MA in Philosophy (with Cognitive Science Concentration)** 2012 – 2014

*Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Canada*

**BA in Philosophy and Mathematics (Double Major)** 2005 – 2009

*McGill University*

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Duval, A.** 2019. “The representation selection problem: Why we should favor the geometric-module framework of spatial reorientation over the view-matching framework”, *Cognition*, vol. 192 (23,664 words).

**Duval, A.** & Côté-Bouchard, C. 2023. “The motivation problem of epistemic expressivists”, *Ergo*, vol. 10 (13,866 words).

**Duval, A.** *Forthcoming*. “Is there only one innate modular system for spatial navigation?”, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* (1996 words, commentary on “Précis of *What Babies Know*” by Elizabeth Spelke).

Klein, C. & Duval, A. *Forthcoming*. “Is pain asymbolia a deficit or a syndrome? Historical reflections on an ongoing debate”, *Belgrade Philosophical Annual* (7361 words, invited contribution to a special issue on the philosophy of pain).

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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“In defense of hardwired flexibility, or: What rodents and humans can do without language” (*revise and resubmit at Mind & Language*)

“What is geometry for navigating mammals?” (*in preparation*)

“A neurobiological argument for the geometric module” (*in preparation*)

## FELLOWSHIPS

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**Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (CAD \$90,000 in total)** 2020-2022  
*Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*

**Doctoral Fellowship (CAD \$80,000 in total)** 2014-2018  
*Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*

**Doctoral Fellowship (CAD \$60,000 in total)** declined in 2014  
*Quebec Research Funds – Society and Culture (FRQSC), Canada*

**Faculty Scholarship (£13,500 for living costs, plus £40,170 for tuition fees)** 2014-2017  
*University of Sheffield*

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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**Early Career Researcher Travel Grant (AUD \$2,745)** 2023  
*Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University*

**Academic Excellence Graduate Award (CAD \$5000)** 2014  
*Université du Québec à Montréal*

## TEACHING

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**Undergraduate Project Supervisor** (Australian National University) 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2023  
*Advanced Readings in Philosophy*  
Supervision of a final-year undergraduate independent study project in the philosophy of evolutionary theory. The project is worth six credits.  
Topic: How to explain Neanderthal extinction

**Instructor** (University of British Columbia) Spring 2022  
*Metaphysics*  
Lecturing and course design for a third-year undergraduate class in metaphysics

<i>Minds and Machines</i>	Summer 2021
Lecturing and course design for a second-year undergraduate class in philosophy of mind, philosophy of cognitive science, and philosophy of artificial intelligence	
<b>Undergraduate Project Supervisor</b> (University of British Columbia)	
<i>Research in Cognitive Systems</i>	Fall 2021
Supervision of the final-year research project of an undergraduate student in the <i>Cognitive Systems</i> program. The project is worth three credits. Topic: How culture shapes perception and cognition	
<b>Guest lecturer</b> (University of Sheffield)	
<i>Cognitive Studies Seminar</i> – MA level	October 2017
Topic: Geometric representations in human and non-human animal minds	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> (University of Sheffield)	
<i>Mind, Brain and Personal Identity</i>	Fall 2015
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> (Université du Québec à Montréal)	
<i>Introduction to Philosophical Methodology</i>	Fall 2013
<i>Introduction to Philosophy of Language</i>	Winter 2013
<i>Introduction to Philosophical Methodology</i>	Fall 2012
<b>REFEREED PRESENTATIONS</b>	
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<i>Searching for modularity in higher cognition</i>	December 2023
Australasian Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, Australian National University	
<i>What rodents and humans can do without language</i>	July 2023
Australasian Association of Philosophy Annual Meeting, Australian Catholic University	
<i>A neurobiological argument for the geometric module</i>	June 2023
Australia/New Zealand Philosophy of Biology Workshop, Australian National University	
<i>Thinking in language? Reassessing the case from spatial cognition</i>	June 2021
Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference (Online)	
<i>A neurobiological argument for the geometric module</i>	July 2020
Cognitive Science Society Annual Meeting (Online)	
<i>The snapshot selection problem</i>	October 2016
Philosophy & Cognitive Science: A Conference in Honour of Stephen Stich, University of Sheffield	
<i>Epistemic expressivism and doxastic involuntarism</i>	April 2013
Université du Québec Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy	

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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*Mammals can represent geometry (to navigate the world)* September 2023  
Space and Number in Animal Minds Workshop, Australian National University

*What is geometry for navigating mammals?* July 2023  
Navigating Spaces Workshop, Bond University

*A neurobiological argument for the geometric module* January 2023  
Philosophy of Animal Minds and Behavior Association — Session at Eastern APA, Montreal

*The neurophysiology of spatial navigation and the structure of the mind* September 2017  
Mind and Society Philosophy Conference, University of Sheffield

*The snapshot selection problem* November 2016  
The Hippocampal Journal Club, Institute of Behavioural Neuroscience, University College London

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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Reviewer for *Synthese*, *Philosophy of Science*, and *Dialogue*

Co-chair for the *Philosophy International Postgraduate Students Society* 2015–2017  
University of Sheffield

### Conference organization:

- 2023 Conference of the *Australasian Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, member of the organizing committee
- Workshop entitled *Space and Number in Animal Minds*, September 2023, co-organizer, Australian National University
- Workshop for graduate students entitled *Mind and Society: Two Philosophy Conferences*, September 2017, lead organizer, University of Sheffield

## LANGUAGES

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French (native speaker), English (native-level proficiency)