

# JAVIER GOMEZ-LAVIN

Provost Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity

Department of Philosophy  
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AOS: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of  
Cognitive Science, & Experimental Philosophy

AOC: Moral Psychology, Social  
Ontology, & Aesthetics

## EDUCATION

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PhD, Philosophy, 2018

The CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY

MA and MPhil, Philosophy, 2016

The CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY

BA and BS, Philosophy and Psychology, 2012

The College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Refereed Articles & Chapters*

- Braunlich, K., **Gomez-Lavin, J.**, & Seger, C. (2015). Frontalparietal networks involved in categorization and item working memory. *NeuroImage*, 107.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.**, Fingerhut, J., & Prinz, J. (2017). The Aesthetic Self Effect, *Art and Perception*, 5.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** & Rachar, M. (*online*). Normativity in joint action. *Mind and Language*.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** & Prinz, J. (*forthcoming*). Parole and the Moral Self: Moral change mitigates responsibility. *Journal of Moral Education*.
- **Gomez-Lavin, J.** & Prinz, J. (*forthcoming*). 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.

### *Essays and Book Reviews*

- Peter Carruthers' "The Centered Mind: What the Science of Working Memory Shows us about the Nature of Human Thought," reviewed for *Philosophical Psychology*, (2017).
- On selling out in pop music, *Aesthetics for Birds*, (2018).
- "Art, Aesthetics, and the Brain," reviewed for *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, (2019).

### *Papers in Preparation – available upon request*

- Working memory is not a natural kind.
- Reportability does not entail consciousness.
- Four challenges to AIR accounts of consciousness.
- A defense of psychological interpretations of the Cartesian circle.
- Disbelief as mere belief.
- Games as social instruments.
- Immigration and the moral self. With J. Fingerhut and J. Prinz.

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & PRIZES

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### *Grants*

- 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](http://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. Harrision Fellow. 2012-2017
- McNair Scholar. 2010-2012
- William Bischoff Memorial Scholar. 2011-2012

#### *Honors and Prizes*

- "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*

## APPOINTMENTS

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- Provost Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity. The University of Pennsylvania. 2018-
- Gastwissenschaftler. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin School of Mind and Brain. 2016-
- Writing Fellow at the CUNY School of Law. 2017-2018

## TALKS & COMMENTARIES

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#### Working memory is not a natural kind

- Neural Mechanisms Online Webconference. October 2018: <https://tinyurl.com/y9hp9pgm>
- The annual meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (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 European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP) annual meeting in Tartu, Estonia. July 2015. *early draft*.

#### The aesthetic self

- The annual meeting of the European Society of Aesthetics (ESA) 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 American Society for Aesthetics (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 Phi Sigma Tau Student Philosophy Symposium at the University of North Texas. November 2010.
- 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 Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, at the University of Memphis. March 2010.

*Non-refereed talks denoted by "\*"*

*Commentaries*

- M. Ravasio's "Tactile values in video games," at the Eastern division of the American Society for Aesthetics (ASA). April 2018.

- E. Guter's "Beyond the museum conception of computer art," at the Eastern 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," at the SSPP April 2015.

## POSTERS

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- "Disbelief as mere belief," at the 2018 Eastern Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, in Savannah, Georgia
- "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

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### *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.

## TEACHING

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- *Philosophy of Mind*, one section—The University of Pennsylvania (2019)
- *Business and Consumer Ethics*, one section—The College of Charleston (2017)
- *Statistical methods and analysis for experimental philosophy*, two sessions—Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin School of Mind and Brain (2017)
- *Introduction to Problems of Philosophy*, five sections—Brooklyn College (2014-2016)

- *Introduction to Moral Issues in Business*, four sections—Brooklyn College (2013-2014)

Instructor of record for all listed courses. Course evaluations available for review in the teaching dossier.

## INSTITUTES & WORKSHOPS

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### *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

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### *Service*

- 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
- Member of the College of Charleston's School of Humanities and Social Sciences' Dean's Advisory Council, 2010-2012

### *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

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### *Philosophy*

Jesse Prinz  
jesse [at] subcortex.com

Shaun Nichols  
shaunnichols [at] gmail.com

Michael Weisberg  
Weisberg [at] phil.upenn.edu

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

John Greenwood  
jgreenwood [at] gc.cuny.edu

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