

**JOSH WEISBERG**  
*Curriculum Vitae*  
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Houston TX 77204  
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**Employment:**

University of Houston  
Professor of Philosophy, 2024-present  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, 2013-2024  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2007-2013  
Hunter College, CUNY  
Adjunct Lecturer, Graduate “A” Teaching Fellow, 1999-2007  
Brooklyn College, CUNY  
Adjunct Lecturer, 2007  
Nassau Community College  
Adjunct Lecturer, 2006-2007.

**Education:**

Ph.D., CUNY Graduate Center, 2007.  
Dissertation: “The Problem of Consciousness: Mental Appearance and Mental Reality,”  
David M. Rosenthal, advisor.  
M.A., CUNY Graduate Center, October 1998.  
B.A., New York University, June 1991, major in philosophy.

**AOS:** Philosophy of Mind, Cognitive Science

**AOC:** Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology

**Books:**

1. *Explanatory Optimism about the Hard Problem of Consciousness*, Routledge, 2023.
2. Editor, *Qualitative Consciousness: Themes from the Philosophy of David Rosenthal*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.
3. Co-editor (with David Rosenthal), *Consciousness: Blackwell Readings in Philosophy*, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2022.
4. *Consciousness*, London: Polity Press, 2014.

**Peer Reviewed Publications:**

1. “Higher-Order Theories of Consciousness,” In *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Consciousness*, U. Kriegel, (ed.), Oxford University Press, (2020), pp. 438-457.
2. “Higher-Order Theories of Consciousness and the Heidelberg Problem,” *ProtoSociology: An International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research* special edition Senses of Self: Approaches to Pre-Reflective Self-Awareness, Edited by Marc Borner, Manfred Frank, and Kenneth Williford, Vol 36, 340-357 (2019).
3. “Sweet Dreams are Made of This? A HOT Response to Sebastián,” *Phenomenology and the Neurophilosophy of Consciousness*, R. Brown (ed.), *Studies in Brain and Mind*, Vol. 6, Springer, 2014, 433-443.

4. "A Problem of Intimacy: Commentary on Rocco Gennaro's *The Consciousness Paradox*," *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, Volume 20, Numbers 11-12, 2013, pp. 69-81, (2013).
5. "Comments on David Miguel Gray's "HOT: Keeping up Appearances," *Southwest Philosophy Review*, 28 (2), July 2012.
6. "The Hard Problem of Consciousness," *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ISSN 2161-0002, <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
7. "The Zombie's Cogito: Meditations on Type-Q Materialism," *Philosophical Psychology*, Vol. 24, No. 5, October 2011, 585–605.
8. "Abusing the notion of 'what-it's-like-ness': A reply to Block," *Analysis*, Vol. 71, Number 3, July 2011, pp. 438–443.
9. "Misrepresenting Consciousness," *Philosophical Studies*, 154, July 2011, pp. 409–433.
10. "It Stands to Reason: Skynet and Self-Preservation," in *Terminator and Philosophy: I'll be Back, Therefore I am*, Richard Brown and Kevin S. Decker, editors, Blackwell, 2009.
11. "Higher-Order Theories of Consciousness" (with David M. Rosenthal), *Scholarpedia*, [http://www.scholarpedia.org/article/Higher-order\\_theories\\_of\\_consciousness](http://www.scholarpedia.org/article/Higher-order_theories_of_consciousness), 2008.
12. "What's It Like to be My Cat?" in *What Philosophy can Tell You About Your Cat*, Steven D. Hales, editor, Open Court, 2008.
13. "Type-Q Materialism" (with Pete Mandik), in *Naturalism, Reference, and Ontology: Essays in Honor of Roger F. Gibson*, Chase B. Wren, editor, Peter Lang Publishers, 2008.
14. "Same Old, Same Old: The Same-Order Representation Theory of Consciousness and the Division of Phenomenal Labor," *Synthese*, Vol. 160, #2, January 2008.
15. "Conscious Constrained: A Commentary on Thomas Metzinger's *Being No One*," *PSYCHE*, 11, 5, a symposium on Thomas Metzinger's *Being No One*, ed. Dorothee Legrand (June 2005).
16. "The Appearance of Unity: A Higher-Order Interpretation of the Unity of Consciousness," *Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, ed. Johanna D. Moore and Keith Stenning, Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers, pp. 1117-1121, 2001.
17. "Active, Thin, and HOT! An Actualist Response to Carruthers' Dispositionalist HOT View," *PSYCHE*, 5, 6, a symposium on Peter Carruthers's *Animal Subjectivity*, ed. Colin Allen and Ann Wolfe (April 1999).

#### **In Preparation:**

1. Precis of *Explanatory Optimism about the Hard Problem of Consciousness*, for a book symposium to be published in the *Journal of Consciousness Studies*.
2. "'What it's Like' is Theory-Laden. Is What it's Like Theory Laden?" in preparation.
3. "What is it Like to be a Political Animal?" in preparation.

#### **Reviews:**

1. Review of *The Varieties of Consciousness*, by Uriah Kriegel, *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Vol. 71, 109-110, (September 2015).
2. Review of *The Consciousness Paradox: Consciousness Concepts, and Higher-Order Thoughts*, by Rocco J. Gennaro, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 92, Issue 2, 401-404, (April 2014).
3. Review of *Subjective Consciousness: A Self-Representational Theory*, by Uriah Kriegel, *Mind*, (April 2011), 120 (478): 538-542.

4. "She Said, They Said: A Review of Hurlburt and Schwitzgebel's *Describing Inner Experience? Proponent Meets Skeptic*," *PSYCHE*, Vol. 15, No 2 (2009).
5. "Red in the Head: A Review of Nicholas Humphrey's *Seeing Red: A Study in Consciousness*," *Nature*, 441, 7093, (June 2006).
6. "Being All That We Can Be: A Critical Review of Thomas Metzinger's *Being No One: The Self-Model Theory of Subjectivity*," *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 10, 11, pp. 89-96 (November 2003).
7. "Everything You Wanted to Know About Consciousness but Were Afraid to Ask: A Review of *The Nature of Consciousness: Philosophical Debates*, Edited by Ned Block, Owen Flanagan, & Güven Güzeldere," *PSYCHE*, 8, 17, (October 2002).
8. Review of *The Significance of Consciousness* by Charles Siewert, *Metapsychology Online Book Reviews* (October 2001), Vol. 5, Issue 43.
9. Review of *The Mind Doesn't Work That Way: The Scope and Limits of Computational Psychology* by Jerry Fodor, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 8, 8, pp. 75-76 (August 2001).
10. Review of *Explaining Consciousness: The Hard Problem*, edited by Jonathan Shear, *Metapsychology Online Book Reviews* (May 2001), Vol. 5, Issue 21.
11. Review of *Consciousness in Action* by Susan Hurley, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 7, 5, pp. 83-84 (May 2000).
12. Review of *Consciousness and Qualia* by Leopold Stubenberg, *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 6, 4, pp. 154-155 (April 1999).

#### **Editorial Work:**

1. Symposium on Russell Hurlburt and Eric Schwitzgebel's *Describing Inner Experience: Proponent Meets Skeptic*, in *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, December 2010/January 2011. I served as guest editor for the edition, and I wrote a comprehensive introduction.
2. Section editor, with Emily Esch, on consciousness, for *Philosophy: Traditional and Experimental Readings*, Nichols, Mallon, and Allhoff, eds., Oxford University Press, 2012. Emily and I wrote the section introduction, including a background primer, summaries of the readings, and study questions.

#### **Conference Presentations, Invited Talks, and Commentaries:**

1. "Disillusioned Mary," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, OH, March 2024.
2. "Unpacking the Russian Doll: Commentary on Jonathan Lang's 'Functional Equivalence and Functional Redundancy,'" American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 2024.
3. "A Defense of Weak Illusionism: Finding the Conceptual Sweet Spot between Anti-Reductionism and Eliminativism," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville, KY, March 2023.
4. "Commentary on Samuel Bennett's 'Do All Conscious Mental States Include Reflexive Awareness? Problems with One Neo-Brentanian Account,'" American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, BC, April 2022.
5. "Qualitative Inaccuracy and the Concept of Consciousness," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile, AL, March 2022.
6. "Regressive HOTIEs: Higher-Order Thoughts, Indexed Essentially, Pre-Reflective Self-Consciousness, and the Vicious Sebastián Regress," at Workshop: The Subjectivity of Experience, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas", UNAM, Mexico City, Mexico, October 17-18, 2019.

7. Lose Yourself: panel discussion with Tamler Sommers and Greg Dunn on self and self-dissolution, RATIO Popular Science Forum, Sofia, Bulgaria, June 2019.
8. Commentary on Benjamin Kozuch's "Now You('ll) know the rest of the story: More neuroscientific evidence against the higher-order thought theory of consciousness," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, OH, March 2019
9. "Seeing Letters without Seeing Any Letters: Generic Content and Phenomenal Overflow," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 2018.
10. "Finnelli's Cosmoscope Repair Co.: On the Meaning of Mental State Terms," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, San Antonio, TX, March 2018.
11. Commentary on Dylan Black's "The Concept of Consciousness and the Bogeyman of Conflation," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Savannah, GA, March 2017.
12. "Cognitive Shaping of What It's Like: Implications for the Hard Problem of Consciousness," Rice Summer Workshop on the Interface Between Perception and Thought, Rice University, Houston, TX, May 2016.
13. "Fat Affect: A Reflexive Reply to Stoljar," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville, KY, March 2016.
14. "Schmonsciousness Explained: On the Proper Subject of a Theory of Consciousness," The Jerrold J. Katz Memorial Lecture, CUNY Graduate Center, February 2016.
15. "Higher-Order Thought and the Hard Problem of Consciousness," Conference in Honor of David Rosenthal, Taipei Medical University, Taipei, Taiwan, August 2015.
16. "Illusion and Phenomenal Overflow," Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Duke University, Durham, NC, June 2015.
17. Comments on Kenneth Williford's "Phenomenological Undecidability," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, LA, April 2015.
18. "3 Grades of Internal World Skepticism," Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, AZ, April 2014.
19. Workshop on Philosophical Theories of Consciousness (with Rocco Gennaro), Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, AZ, April 2014.
20. "Can We Empirically Refute the Zombie Argument?" Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Austin, TX, February 2013.
21. "Commentary on Rocco Gennaro's *The Consciousness Paradox*, Author Meets Critics, Central Division APA, New Orleans, LA, February 2013.
22. "On HOTs and HOTIEs: Higher-Order Thoughts, Indexed Essentially," Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, AZ, April, 2012.
23. Workshop on Philosophical Theories of Consciousness (with Uriah Kriegel), Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, AZ, April 2012.
24. Comments on David Miguel Gray's "HOT: Keeping up Appearances," Pacific APA, Seattle, WA, April 2012.
25. "Debunking Mary: Dual-Process Approaches to Intuitions About Consciousness," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Savannah, GA, March 2012.
26. Comments on David Miguel Gray's "HOT: Keeping up Appearances," Southwest Philosophy Society, Austin, TX, November 19, 2011.
27. "Sweet Dreams are Made of This? Comment on Miguel Sebastian's 'Not a HOT Dream,'" Consciousness Online 3, February 18-March 4, 2011.
28. Comments on Vincent Picciuto's "Phenomenal Concepts and the Nature of Phenomenal Consciousness," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Atlanta, GA, April 2010.
29. "The Zombie's Cogito: Meditations on Type-Q Materialism," Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, AZ, April 2010.

30. Workshop on Philosophical Theories of Consciousness (with Uriah Kriegel), Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, AZ, April 2010.
31. "Introspective Ascent and the Thinness of First-Person Authority," Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, AZ, April 2008.
32. "Describing the Unimaginable," Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Las Vegas, NV, June 2007.
33. "Self-Representational Theory and the Misrepresentation of Consciousness," Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, April 2006.
34. "A Limited Defense of the Ability Hypothesis," Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Pasadena, June 2005.
35. "Is There a Difference Between 'Higher-order-' and 'Same-order-' Monitoring Theories of Consciousness?" Conference on Self-Representational Approaches to Consciousness, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 2005.
36. "Cognitive Systems: A Philosophical Perspective," Information Science and Technology Workshop, IBM, Yorktown Heights, NY, May 2004.
37. "Reduction, Entailment, and Analysis: Some Worries for the Chalmers/Jackson Model of Reductive Explanation," Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, April 2004.
38. "Ships in the Night: Comments on Mascarenhas's 'Physicalism and Phenomenalism: Ever the Twain Shall Meet,'" New Jersey Regional Philosophy Association Conference, Lodi, NJ, November 2003.
39. "Wine, Words, and What it's Like," Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Barcelona, June 2002.
40. "Dispositions and the Occurrence of Conscious Mental States," Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, April 2002.
41. "Neo-Brentanian Loops: A Commentary on Kriegel's 'Three Concepts of Consciousness,'" CUNY Graduate Center Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, November 2001.
42. "The Appearance of Unity: A Higher-Order Interpretation of the Unity of Consciousness," Cognitive Science Society, Edinburgh, July 2001.
43. "The Appearance of Unity: A Higher-Order Interpretation of the Unity of Consciousness," Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, June 2001.
44. "Expectation, Error, and Consciousness," Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Duke University, June 2001.
45. "HOT Enough: Commentary on Caruso and Vlahos," New Jersey Regional Philosophy Association Conference, Lodi, NJ, November 2000.
46. "The Appearance of Unity: A Higher-Order Interpretation of the Unity of Consciousness," Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Brussels, June 2000.
47. "A HOT Day on Inverted Earth," Towards a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, April 2000.
48. "If You Can't Stand the Heat, Get Out of the Kitchen: A HOT Response to Byrne," Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Stanford, June 1999.
49. "Representation and Misrepresentation: Comments on Kriegel's 'Supervenience and Mental Representation,'" Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, April 1999.
50. "An Expert in Mind: Sellars' Jones and Gopnik's Child Scientists," Washington University at St. Louis Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, September 1998.
51. "Projecting Kim: Anti-Anti-Reductionism in Biology and Psychology," CUNY Graduate Center Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 1998.

52. “Reducing the Jerrymander: Anti-Anti-Reductionism in Biology and Psychology,”  
Naturalism, Evolution and Intentionality: An Interdisciplinary Conference in the  
Philosophy of Mind, University of Western Ontario, April 1998.
53. CUNY Cognitive Science Symposium  
“Explaining the Problematic Appearances of Consciousness:  
Getting our Conscious ACT Together,” March 2023  
“Debunking Zombies,” July 2012  
“How Well do We Know Our Own Minds?,” August 2006;  
“A Limited Defense of the Ability Hypothesis,” June 2005;  
“Is this Trip Really Necessary?,” March 2004;  
“Wine, Words, and What it’s Like,” July 2002;  
“Dispositions and Consciousness,” March 2002.

### **Honors and Fellowships:**

- CLASS Publication Completion Grant, for the indexing on *Explanatory Optimism about the Hard Problem of Consciousness*, Routledge, 2023.
- CLASS Publication Completion Grant, for the indexing on *Consciousness*, Polity Press, 2014.
- Provost’s Travel Award, University of Houston, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023
- Early Career Participant, workshop and conference, “More or Less: Varieties of Cortical Colour Vision,” Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada, August 2011.
- NEH Summer Institute on Experimental Philosophy, University of Utah, June-July 2009.
- New Faculty Research Grant, University of Houston, May 2008.
- CUNY Graduate Center, Program in Philosophy, Ph.D., Honors, February 2007.
- Cognitive Science Society Travel Grant, July 2001.
- CUNY Graduate Center University Fellowship, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002.
- PSC/CUNY Tuition Award, 1999-2000, 2002-2003.
- CUNY Graduate Center Student Travel and Research Grant, 2001-2002.
- CUNY Graduate Center, Program in Philosophy Oral Exam, Honors, September 1999.

### **Courses Taught:**

- Pragmatism (graduate seminar)  
The Meta-Problem of Consciousness (graduate seminar)  
Consciousness Debunked (graduate seminar)  
Perception (graduate seminar)  
Consciousness (graduate seminar)  
History of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy  
Philosophy of Mind  
Philosophy of Science  
Philosophy of Biology  
Philosophy of Social Science  
Philosophical Psychology  
Knowledge and Reality—An Introduction to Epistemology and Metaphysics  
Minds and Machines  
Business Ethics  
Introduction to the Mind  
Introduction to Ethics  
Introduction to Logic  
Introduction to Philosophy

**Thesis Supervision:**

1. Victoria Fedulova, "G. Lakoff and M. Johnson's Theory of the Embodied Mind and its Philosophical Consequences," MA, University of Houston, Philosophy.
2. Shaun Miller, "Relating Science and Culture: Solidarity or Objectivity," MA, University of Houston, Philosophy.
3. Jordan DeLange, "Bayesianism and the Epistemology of Science," MA, University of Houston, Philosophy.
4. Andrew Chau, "Does Contrastivism Solve the Skeptical Problem?" MA, University of Houston, Philosophy.
5. Oscar Salinas, "Biopsychosocial Determinants of Moral Equivocation and the Distinction between a Free and a Moral Will," MA, University of Houston, Philosophy.
6. Brian Nicolet, "Houndstooth" MFA, University of Houston, English.
7. Jordan Johnson, "They're Dead, They're All Messed Up: An Exploration into the Rise of the Zombie Narrative During the 2000s through 2010s," MA, University of Houston, Communications.
8. Ahmet Uslu, "A Study of Jackson's Knowledge Argument" (chair), MA, University of Houston, Philosophy.

**Service:**

Director of Graduate Admissions, Department of Philosophy, University of Houston, 2018-present

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Philosophy, University of Houston, 2017-2018

Committee Member, Faculty Governance and Advisory Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of Houston, February 2011-2015.

Committee Member, CLASS Undergraduate Strategic Planning Committee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Committee Member, Grievance Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, 2017-2019

Search committee chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Houston, fall 2016

Search committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Houston, fall 2008, fall 2013, fall 2018, fall 2022

Speaker Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, University of Houston, fall 2013-fall 2015

Interim Graduate Advisor, Department of Philosophy, University of Houston, fall 2016

Program Chair, Philosophy, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Annual meeting, San Antonio TX, 2018

External examiner, Philosophy PhD Thesis, Vincent Picciuto, University of Maryland, spring 2013

External tenure reviewer, Idaho State University (2018), University of Alabama (2019), Lycoming College (2021)

External examiner for joint appointment, Academia Sinica (Taiwan's national academy of sciences), August, 2012

External evaluator of a research proposal, Israel Science Foundation, June, 2008

Referee for *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Erkenntnis*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Frontiers in Consciousness Research*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Synthese*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *Dialogue*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Mind and Language*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*

Reviewer of book manuscript, Hackett Press, June 2023

Reviewer of book manuscript, Routledge, November, 2022

Reviewer of book manuscript, Elsevier, December, 2020

Reviewer of book manuscript, MIT Press, April, 2008

Reviewer of book proposal, Bloomsbury, September, 2015  
Reviewer of book proposal, Continuum Press, May, 2012  
Reviewer of book proposal, Wiley-Blackwell, December, 2010  
Referee for the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology annual meeting, 2012, 2016,  
2017, 2019, 2020  
Referee for the New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Association annual meeting, 2011  
Referee for the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2009, 2010, 2012 meetings.  
Referee for the APA Pacific Meeting, April, 2012