

James Schofield

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AOS: Phenomenology, Metaphysics of Science, Philosophy of Mind

AOC: Ethics, History of Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

My present research maintains a three-fold agenda: 1) using the tools of metaphysics of science to further examine the theoretical foundation of 4EA cognitive science, 2) using the tools of contemporary phenomenology to enrich the discussions within the metaphysics of science, and 3) articulating how embodied practices and the development of wisdom are interdependent. I am driven by the following questions: what is the nature and potential of human consciousness? In what way can phenomenology inform analytic approaches to metaphysics, ethics, and science? How can phenomenology clarify the intersubjective conditions of philosophical progress?

Current project: I am co-authoring a book with fellow University of Canterbury graduate, Dr. Lance McBride, titled *Process-Phenomenology: Morals, Methods, and Metaphysics*. This book will extend phenomenological theory into metaphysics, meta-philosophy, and ethics.

Education

2017 **Ph.D. Philosophy**

University of Canterbury (Christchurch, New Zealand)

During my PhD, I was trained in analytic *philosophy of science and mind*. This research focused on issues of emergence, laws of nature, theories of evolution, and the metaphysical foundations of contemporary naturalism. My original arguments addressed the scope of *phenomenology and solutions to the hard problem of consciousness*, which involved an elaboration of the 4EA (embodied, embedded, extended, enacted, and affective) theories of cognitive science. Based on the works of E. E. Harris, my dissertation proposed an ontological and cosmological foundation for the 4EA paradigm.

2012 **M.A. Consciousness Studies**

Goddard College (VT, USA)

2009 **B.A. Anthropology/Sociology**

Plymouth State University (NH, USA)

Academic Appointments

Johnson & Wales University Online, Providence, RI USA

2025–Present **Part-time Teaching Lecturer** (online)

PHIL 3240 Ethics: A Global Perspective

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

Dec 2024– **Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy**

Feb 2025 Writing a new book, *Process-Phenomenology: Morals, Methods, and Metaphysics*.

Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH USA

2018–Present **Teaching Lecturer** (in-person and online)

PY 3840	Pragmatism
PY 3820	Existentialism
PY 3310	Environmental Ethics
PY 3112	History of Modern Philosophy
PY 3050	Ethical Theories
PYD 2410	Creative Problem Solving in Ethics
PY 2310	Elements of Logic
PYDI 1300	Perspectives on Religion

PYD 1271	Science or Superstition
PYD 1030	Thinking for Yourself

Bentley University, Waltham, MA USA

2022–2025 **Part-time Teaching Lecturer**

2023–2024 **Full-Time Visiting Lecturer**

PH 253	Theories of Reality
PH 216	Modern Philosophy, Knowledge and Values: Pragmatism
PH 103	Ultimate Questions
PH 102	Practical Ethics
PH 101	Problems of Philosophy

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

2014–2017 **Teaching Assistant**

PHIL 318	Science, Rationality, and the God Hypothesis.
PHIL 132	God, Mind, and Freedom.
PHIL 110	Science, Good, Bad, Bogus.
HSRV 210	Women, Offending and Victimization Perspectives.

Publications

Book

Schofield, J. P. (2021). [*A Phenomenological Revision of E. E. Harris's Dialectical Holism*](#). Springer Nature, Switzerland AG: Palgrave Macmillan.

Peer-reviewed paper

Schofield, J. P. (2022). "[Towards a Phenomenological Ontology: Synthetic a priori reasoning and the cosmological anthropic principle.](#)" *Journal of Mind and Behavior*. 43(1), 1–24.

Other publications

Schofield, J. P. (2024). What AI Can Teach Us about the Conditions of Character Formation. [Catalyzing Character](#). 1(3), 53–60.

Conference Paper Presentations

- 2025 **"Merleau-Ponty's Chiasmatic Logos and the Ends of Humanity"**
Psychology and the Other
 Sep 18–21, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA U.S.A
- 2024 **"Embodied Wisdom in the Age of AI"**
Valente Center for Arts & Sciences 2024-2025 Humanities Research Seminar on Technology & Consciousness
 Nov 6, Bentley University, Waltham, MA U.S.A
- "Character Formation, Embodiment, and AI"**
 Panelist for invited symposium: The Conditions for Virtue Education and Development
North American Association for Philosophy & Education
 Oct 25–27, University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL U.S.A.
- "Towards a Triadic Structure of Character Formation"**
 As part of the "Panel on the Wisdom of Embodied Experience in an Age of AI"
Kern Partners for Character and Educational Leadership 2024 Convening on Artificial Intelligence and Practical Wisdom
 Mar 12–14, Marriott Long Wharf, Boston, MA U.S.A.

- 2023 **"Walking the Fractal's Edge"**
UTOK Consilience Conference 2023: Unifying Knowledge and Orienting Toward a Wisdom Commons
 Mar 17–18, Online
- 2016 **"Explicating an Enactivist Metaphysics"**
New Zealand Association of Philosophers Conference
 Nov 29–Dec 2, Waikato University, Hamilton, New Zealand
- 2015 **"E. E. Harris's Anticipation of an Enactivist Metaphysics"**
Graduate Student Seminar, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

Public Philosophy: Podcasts, Colloquia, and Other Engagements

- Website: <https://dialecticalholism.org/>
- 2025 **"Five Principles for Formative Phenomenology"**
 Presentation for the Department of Formative Education Colloquium
 Lynch School of Education and Human Development,
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
- 2024–2025 **"Technology and Consciousness: On the Wisdom of Embodied Experience in an Age of AI"**
 Presentation for Valente Center for Arts & Sciences 2024-2025 Humanities Research
 Seminar on Technology & Consciousness
Bentley University, Waltham, MA U.S.A
- Between Phenomenology, Science, and Process Ontology (dialogue with James Schofield)**
 [Podcast recording] *Footnotes2Plato*, 12 July
- Participant in interdisciplinary writing retreat: special magazine issue on A.I.
Kern Partners for Character and Educational Leadership magazine *Catalyzing Character*
 July 7–9, Boston College Connors Retreat Center, Dover, MA U.S.A
- 2022 **Participant in Fall Seminar and Colloquium on the *Bildung* Tradition**
 Department of Formative Education, Lynch School of Education and Human Development,
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
- Meaning – Existentialism meets Cognitive Science**
 [Podcast recording] *Voices with Vervaeke*, 28 January

Professional Service

- Pan Am+European Olympiad Ethics Judge since 2025
- Peer reviewer for *Al-Hikmat Journal of Philosophy* since 2024
- Peer reviewer for *Synthesis Philosophica* since 2022
- Peer reviewer for *Journal of Mind and Behavior* since 2021

Certifications & Professional Development

- 2023 **Workshop on Embodied Cognition and Dance:**
 Spatial Dynamics, Aesthetics, and Learning in Dance
Merrimack College, North Andover, MA
- 2020 **Agency Affiliated Counselor**
Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare: Residential Counselor (WA).
- 1998 **Black Belt in Kenpo Jujitsu**
Rising Sun School of Martial Arts (MA)

Referees

Dr. Doug Campbell (Re research)
douglas.campbell@canterbury.ac.nz
Phone: 643-369-5349
University of Canterbury, NZ.

Dr. John Krueckeberg (Re teaching)
jkrueckeberg@plymouth.edu
Phone: 603-535-2332
Plymouth State University, NH

Dr. Jack Copeland (Re research)
jack.copeland@canterbury.ac.nz
Phone: 643-369-5637
University of Canterbury, NZ.

Dr. Axel Seemann (Re teaching)
aseemann@bentley.edu
Phone: 781-891-2241
Bentley University, MA.