

Greyson Abid

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Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Race

Areas of Competence

Arabic Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics

Education

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in Philosophy (Committee: John Campbell and Alva Noë)

Berkeley, California

2015-2022 (expected)

Dissertation: *Recognition Is an Interface Between Perception and Cognition*

We are all intimately familiar with recognition. If I recognize a loved one in a crowd, I embrace them. If I recognize a tiger in the bushes, I flee. If I fail to recognize which mug is mine and inadvertently sip from someone else's, I receive a heated email from a disgruntled philosopher. But what exactly *is* recognition? How should we make sense of it in light of our understanding of the rest of the mind? One possibility is that it is a perceptual process, like seeing color, motion, or shape. Another possibility is that it is a cognitive process, akin to reasoning, inference, or decision-making. I reject both proposals. Instead, I argue that recognition is an *interface*, or point of interaction, between perception and cognition. An important component of my view is that recognition is not reducible to more basic mental capacities—it is an *irreducible* interface. One consequence is that certain attempts to explain recognition (e.g., in terms of a process of matching past and present impressions) are misguided. I use my view to elucidate a practically significant phenomenon: the *cross-race effect*, our difficulty in recognizing members of other races.

New York University

Visiting student (Supervisor: Ned Block)

New York, New York

Spring 2019

University of Pennsylvania

B.A. Philosophy & Cognitive Science (both honors), summa cum laude

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2012-2014

University of Miami

English Major

Miami, Florida

2010-2012

Published and Submitted Articles

“The Irreducibility of Recognition” (under review)

“A Puzzle Concerning the Role of Affect in Recognition” (under review)

“Recognition and the Perception-Cognition Divide” *Mind & Language*, 2021
doi: 10.1111/mila.12362

“Deflating Inflation: The Connection (or Lack Thereof) between Decisional and Metacognitive Processes and Visual Phenomenology” *Neuroscience of Consciousness*, 2019 doi: 10.1093/nc/niz015

Awards and Fellowships

Philosophy

Shwayder Prize (Best Graduate Student Essay), UC Berkeley, Spring 2021
Phi Beta Kappa Fellowship (Competitive Dissertation Fellowship), UC Berkeley, Spring 2021
Mabelle McLeod Lewis Fund (Competitive Dissertation Fellowship), UC Berkeley, Spring 2020
Elizabeth F. Flower Prize (Best Undergraduate Student Essay), Penn, Spring 2014
John C. Parker Fellowship for Undergraduate Research, Penn, Fall 2013

Cognitive Science

College Alumni Society Prize (Outstanding Undergraduate Major), Penn, Spring 2014
Pinkel Endowment Undergraduate Research Fund, Penn, Spring 2014

Miscellaneous

Phi Beta Kappa, Penn, Spring 2015
Charles W. Burr Book Prize (Most Intelligently Selected Book Collection), Penn, Spring 2014
Penn Club of Northern California Book Scholarship, Penn, Spring 2013

Presentations (* indicates peer-reviewed)

Towards a Two-Factor Approach to the Cross-Race Effect

Society for Philosophy and Psychology (talk)*, Princeton University, Summer 2021
Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science*, Central European Cog. Sci. Association, Spring 2021
2nd Annual HPSTV Graduate Conference*, University of Notre Dame, Spring 2021
New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society*, Baylor University, Spring 2021
Ethics and Applied Philosophy Graduate Conference*, UNC Charlotte, Spring 2021

Ibn-Sina and the Structure of Self-Consciousness

Cosmopolitan Philosophy, UC Berkeley, Spring 2021

The Evanstein Model of Recognition

Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, Spring 2020

Recognition in Perception

Society for Philosophy and Psychology (poster)*, UC San Diego, Summer 2019

The Puzzle of the Bandwidth of Perceptual Experience

Society for Philosophy and Psychology (poster)*, University of Michigan, Summer 2018
Berkeley-London Graduate Conference*, University of London, Summer 2018
Dennes Lectures on Mind, UC Berkeley, Spring 2018
Cognition Graduate Conference*, The Catholic University of America, Spring 2018
Introduction to Cognitive Science (guest lecture), UC Berkeley, Spring 2018
Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, Spring 2018
Cognitive Science Student Association, UC Berkeley, Fall 2017

Two Varieties of Cognitive Penetration

Minds Online Conference* (commentary by Dimitria Gatzia and Athanasios Raftopoulos), Fall 2017
Society for Philosophy and Psychology (talk)*, Johns Hopkins University, Summer 2017
Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, Spring 2017
Berkeley Review of Cognitive Science Articles, UC Berkeley, Spring 2017

Consciously Attending and Causally Explaining

Richard Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley, Spring 2016

Rigorous Introspection

Berkeley Review of Cognitive Science Articles, UC Berkeley, Fall 2015

Teaching (* indicates upper division undergraduate course)

Primary Instructor

Introduction to Arabic Philosophy, UC Berkeley, Summer 2021
Nature of Mind, UC Berkeley, Summer 2018

Graduate Student Teaching Instructor

Introduction to Logic, Paolo Mancosu, UC Berkeley, Fall 2019
Theory of Meaning*, John Campbell, UC Berkeley, Fall 2018
Introduction to Cognitive Science, Paul Li, UC Berkeley, Spring 2018
Philosophy of Mind*, Arpy Khatchirian, UC Berkeley, Fall 2017
Metaphysics*, Seth Yalcin, UC Berkeley, Summer 2017
Philosophy of Mind*, Arpy Khatchirian, UC Berkeley, Spring 2017
Nature of Mind, Alva Noë, UC Berkeley, Fall 2016

Service

Head Graduate Student Instructor, UC Berkeley, Fall 2021-Spring 2022
Colloquia Organizer, UC Berkeley, Fall 2020-Spring 2021
Organizer, First Year PhD Mentorship Program, UC Berkeley, Fall 2020-Spring 2021
Organizer, Philosophy of Race Reading Group, UC Berkeley, Spring 2021
Organizer and Researcher, Syllabus Diversification Project, UC Berkeley, Fall 2020-Summer 2021
Organizer, Working Group in Philosophy of Mind, UC Berkeley, Summer 2016-Spring 2018
Colloquia Organizer, UC Berkeley, Fall 2016-Spring 2017
Prospective Graduate Student Liaison, UC Berkeley, Spring 2016
Organizer, Philosophy Undergraduate Advisory Board, Penn, Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Referee for: *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Lato Sensu*, *Mind & Language*, *Philosophical Psychology*, The Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference in Philosophy, The Society for Philosophy and Psychology, and The Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Coursework (* indicates audited course)

Graduate Coursework in Philosophy

Mental Representation, Function and Perception*	Geoffrey Lee, UC Berkeley	Fall 2020
Explanation*	Laura Franklin-Hall and Michael Strevens, NYU	Spring 2019
Topics in Philosophy of Perception*	Geoffrey Lee, UC Berkeley	Spring 2017
Aesthetics	Alva Noë, UC Berkeley	Spring 2017
Aristotle's <i>Metaphysics</i> Gamma	Timothy Clarke, UC Berkeley	Fall 2016
Kant	Daniel Warren, UC Berkeley	Fall 2016
Some Varieties of Mental Causation	John Campbell, UC Berkeley	Spring 2016
Philosophical Logic	John MacFarlane, UC Berkeley	Spring 2016
Philosophy of Language	John Perry, UC Berkeley	Spring 2016
Rule-Following and the Normativity of Meaning*	Hannah Ginsborg, UC Berkeley	Spring 2016
Proof Theory	Paolo Mancosu, UC Berkeley	Fall 2015
Experience Needed: Applying the Metaphysics of Mind	Michael Martin, UC Berkeley	Fall 2015
First Year Seminar	Seth Yalcin and Niko Kolodny, UC Berkeley	Fall 2015
Mind in Life: Evolution and Perception	Gary Hatfield, Penn	Fall 2013

Graduate Coursework in Psychology

Learning by Thinking*	Tania Lombrozo, UC Berkeley	Fall 2016
Foundations of Cognition	Tania Lombrozo and Tom Griffiths, UC Berkeley	Fall 2015
Developmental Psychology*	Alison Gopnik, UC Berkeley	Spring 2018

Additional Coursework in Psychology and Neuroscience

Visual Neuroscience	Nicole Rust, Penn	Spring 2014
Human Chronobiology and Sleep	David Dinges, Penn	Spring 2014
Consciousness	Russell Epstein, Penn	Fall 2013
Perception	Alan Stocker, Penn	Fall 2013
Cognitive Neuroscience	Russell Epstein, Penn	Spring 2013

Additional Coursework in Mathematics

Partial Differential Equations*	Elaine So, Penn	Summer 2015
Linear Algebra and Ordinary Differential Equations*	Dennis DeTurck, Penn	Spring 2015
Real Analysis II*	Camelia Pop, Penn	Spring 2015
Abstract Algebra II*	Zachary Scherr, Penn	Spring 2015
Real Analysis I*	Camelia Pop, Penn	Fall 2014
Abstract Algebra I*	Zachary Scherr, Penn	Fall 2014
Multivariable Calculus*	Jim Haglund, Penn	Fall 2014
Single Variable Calculus	Robert Ghrist, Coursera	Summer 2014
Introductory Statistics	Warren Ewens, Penn	Fall 2012

Languages

French (basic reading proficiency)
Spanish (basic reading & conversation proficiency)
Arabic (basic conversation proficiency)

References

John Campbell
Willis S. and Marion Slusser Professor of Philosophy
UC Berkeley
jjcampbell@berkeley.edu

Alva Noë
Professor of Philosophy
UC Berkeley
noe@berkeley.edu

Ned Block
Silver Professor of Philosophy, Psychology and Neural Science
New York University
ned.block@nyu.edu

Seth Yalcin (teaching reference)
Professor of Philosophy
UC Berkeley
yalcin@berkeley.edu