Greyson Abid

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Department of Philosophy

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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 — Berkeley, California

Ph.D. in Philosophy (Committee: John Campbell and Alva Noë) — *Spring 2024 (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 — New York, New York

Visiting student (Supervisor: Ned Block) — *Spring 2019*

University of Pennsylvania — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

B.A. Philosophy & Cognitive Science (both honors), summa cum laude — *2014*

Published and Submitted Articles

"The Irreducibility of Recognition" (*Under Review*)

"Towards a Two-Factor Approach to the Cross-Race Effect" (*Under Review*)

"A Puzzle Concerning the Role of Affect in Recognition" (*Under Review*)

"Recognition and the Perception-Cognition Divide" *Mind & Language,* 2021

"Deflating Inflation: The Connection (or Lack Thereof) between Decisional and Metacognitive Processes and Visual Phenomenology" *Neuroscience of Consciousness*, 2019

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
Invited Colloquium Talk, UC Santa Cruz, Spring 2022
Invited Colloquium Talk, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2022
Invited Colloquium Talk, Colby College, Spring 2023

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
Philosophical Methods*, Geoffrey Lee, UC Berkeley, Fall 2023
Nature of Mind, John Campbell, UC Berkeley, Spring 2023
Philosophy of Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship*, Tim Crockett, UC Berkeley, Fall 2022 (Interrupted by University-Wide Strike)
Philosophy of Mind*, Geoffrey Lee, UC Berkeley, Spring 2022
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, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences,* 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 *Metaphysics* 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