

Mark Thomson

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Department of Philosophy
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EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Philosophy	Northwestern University	2012-2020 (expected)
M.A. Philosophy	University of Toronto (left for Ph.D.)	2011-2012
B.A. (Honours)	University of Toronto	2007-2011
Philosophy & Psychology		

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Philosophy of Mind
Philosophy Language (Metaphor, Singular Thought)
Epistemology (Self-Knowledge, Moral Epistemology)

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

Applied Ethics (Bioethics, Environmental Ethics)
Ethics

DISSERTATION: *Emotional Perspectives: How Emotional Experience Structures Cognition*

COMMITTEE: Michael Glanzberg (co-chair), Sanford Goldberg (co-chair),
Kyla Ebels-Duggan, Stephen White

DISSERTATION SUMMARY: Most philosophical accounts of emotion characterize emotional experiences as analogous to occurrent attitudes, such as desires, or to perceptual experiences insofar as they are thought to have both qualitative character and representational content. My dissertation argues that emotional experiences are nonrepresentational. Instead, I develop the view that having an emotion is like taking up a perspective on a situation. On the account I offer, the qualitative features of emotional experiences are relations among our non-emotional conscious experiences. More specifically, emotional experiences are mental modifications that structure our perceptual, imaginative, cognitive, and conative representational experiences along lines of practical salience and significance. I argue that this account elucidates important claims in psychology about the relation between emotional phenomenology and appraisal mechanisms. Finally, I give a detailed characterization of the import this view has for debates about the representational nature of consciousness, and about self-knowledge of our own emotions.

PRESENTATIONS (Refereed):

‘Emotional Opacity’ <i>Emotions and Perception in Moral Epistemology Summer Workshop</i> Center for Moral and Political Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem	2019
‘The Content of Emotions’ <i>International Society for Research on Emotion</i> Kyoto, Japan	2011
‘Emotional Rationality’ <i>International Summer School in Affective Sciences</i> Geneva, Switzerland	2010
‘Defining Quasijudgments’ <i>Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind</i> University of Toronto	2010

FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS:

PhD Summer Workshop Fellow Centre for Moral and Political Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem Theme: ‘Emotions and Perception in Moral Epistemology’ Award: \$5000	2019
Thomas A. McCarthy Award for Teaching Excellence Northwestern University Award: \$250	2018 2016
Undergraduate Research Fellow Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto Theme: ‘Image and Spectacle’ (Supervisor: Mohan Matthen) Award: \$2000 CAD	2011
Sumer Fellow International Summer School in Affective Sciences (ISSAS), University of Geneva Award: \$3000 CAD ISSAS Award for Best Interdisciplinary Project	2010

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE:

Research Assistant to Ronald de Sousa University of Toronto	2011
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TEACHING:**COURSE INSTRUCTOR (Northwestern University, Full Responsibility):**

Introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Value (~15 students) (Part of the Northwestern Prison Education Program)	2020
Minds & Machines: Philosophy of Emotion and Artificial Intelligence (~10 students)	2019 2018 2017
Climate Change and Sustainability: Ethical Dimensions (~120 students)	2020 2018
Climate Change and Sustainability: Economic and Ethical Dimensions (~120 students) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Co-taught with Brad Sageman & Jeffrey Strauss)• (Co-taught with Brad Sageman & Lynne Kiesling)	2017 2016

TEACHING ASSISTANT (Northwestern University):

Bioethics (for Mark Sheldon)	(x2) 2017 (x2) 2016 2014
Climate Change and Sustainability: Economic and Ethical Dimensions (for Matthew Kopec)	2016
Introduction to Moral Philosophy (for Stephen White)	(x2) 2015 (x2) 2014
Introduction to the Philosophy of Art (for Rachel Zuckert)	2013

TEACHING ASSISTANT (University of Toronto):

Philosophy of Human Sexuality (for Ronald de Sousa)	2011
Introduction to Philosophy (for Peter King)	2011 2010

GRADER (Northwestern University):

Climate Change and Sustainability: Economic and Ethical Dimensions (for Matthew Kopec)	2016
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SERVICE:

Philosophy Graduate Student Faculty Liaison Northwestern University	2015-2016
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Editor – <i>Noēsis</i> University of Toronto Undergraduate Philosophy Journal	2009-2011
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RELATED PROFESSIONAL WORK AND OUTREACH:

Coordinator – Youth LGBTQIA+ Drop In Second City Training Center	2019-2020
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Instructor – Humor Doesn't Retire Second City Training Center	2018-2019
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Teacher and Mentor – English and History Fusion Academy	2018
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OTHER PROFESSIONAL WORK:

Expedition Guide – Yukon and Northwest Territories, Canada Canadian River Expeditions	2012-2019
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SUMMER SCHOOLS:

Summer University Central European University Course Topic: 'Cognitive Phenomenology'	2019
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Summer Latin Program Center for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto	2011
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GRADUATE COURSEWORK:

Ethical Theory: Desires	Kyla Ebels-Duggan
Philosophy of Art	Rachel Zuckert
Epistemic Normativity	Baron Reed
Metaphysics and Epistemology of Groups	Jennifer Lackey
Contents of Thought	Sanford Goldberg
Spinoza's Ethics	Kenneth Seeskin
Motivated Thinking	Daniel C. Molden (<i>Psychology dept.</i>)
Explaining Human Action	Stephen White
Epistemic Agency	Baron Reed
Kantian Ethics	Kyla Ebels-Duggan
Perception and Intentionality	Sanford Goldberg
A-Lief	Peter Ludlow
The Stoics and the Emotions	John Wynne
Wittgenstein's <i>Investigations</i>	David Finkelstein (at <i>U Chicago</i>)
Reference in Language & Thought	Michael Glanzberg
Kripke	Peter Ludlow

Lexical Semantics
Group Epistemology
European Social Thought
Life & Mind
Reference & Communication
Advanced Logic & Decision Theory
Psychoanalysis

Michael Glanzberg
Jennifer Lackey
Mark Alznauer
Evan Thompson (*at Toronto*)
Imogen Dickie (*at Toronto*)
Jonathan Weisberg (*at Toronto*)
Ronald de Sousa (*at Toronto*)

REFERENCES:

Research References:

Michael Glanzberg, Northwestern University, Professor of Philosophy
m-glanzberg@northwestern.edu

Sanford Goldberg, Northwestern University, Professor of Philosophy
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Kyla Ebels-Duggan, Northwestern University, Associate Professor of Philosophy
kebelsduggan@northwestern.edu

Stephen White, Northwestern University, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
stephen.white@northwestern.edu

David Pitt, California State University, Los Angeles, Professor of Philosophy
dpitt@calstatela.edu

Teaching References:

Mark Sheldon, Northwestern University, Distinguished Senior Lecturer in Philosophy and in the Medical Ethics and Humanities Program, Assistant Dean at the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences.
sheldon@northwestern.edu

Bradley Sageman, Northwestern University, Professor and Department Chair of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
b-sageman@northwestern.edu