

Joe Cruz

Williams College Department of Philosophy & Program in Cognitive Science
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Employment

Professor of Philosophy, Williams College Department of Philosophy, Williamstown, MA.
From Spring 2013 to the present.
Chair, Department of Philosophy from fall 2022 to the present.
Chair, Program in Cognitive Science 2012-2018, 2024 to the present.
Chair, Program in Science and Technology Studies, 2016-19
Assistant and Associate Professor of Philosophy, Williams College Department of
Philosophy and Program in Cognitive Science, Williamstown, MA. From fall 2000
to spring 2013.
Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Cognitive Science. Hampshire College Cognitive
Science, Amherst, MA. From fall 1997 to spring 2000.

Areas of Specialization Philosophy

Philosophy of Cognitive Science
Philosophy of Mind
Epistemology

Areas of Specialization Cognitive Science

Cognitive Development
Neural Network Modeling
Embodied Cognition
History of Cognitive Science

Areas of Competence

Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
History of Modern Philosophy, esp. British Empiricism

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy and Cognitive Science, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 1999.
Dissertation: *Epistemology in the scientific image*. Committee: Alvin Goldman
(director), John Pollock, Keith Lehrer, Karen Wynn, and Merrill Garrett.
Fellow at NEH Seminar in Theory Theory and Simulation Theory, St. Louis, MO. Seminar
directed by Robert Gordon. Summer, 1999.

Fellow at the First International Summer Institute in Cognitive Science, SUNY Buffalo, NY. Summer, 1994.

B.A. with Honors in Philosophy, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, 1991.

Lab Research Experience

Research Assistant to Karen Wynn. Infant Cognition Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Arizona, Spring 1995 - Spring 1996.

Member of research lab for the OSCAR artificial intelligence project with John Pollock, University of Arizona, Fall 1994 - Spring 1997.

Research Assistant to C. J. Marsolek. Visual Memory Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Arizona, Fall 1994.

Research Assistant to Center for the Study of Rationality for Robert Cummins, Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona, Fall 1993.

Co-Author, NEH Research Proposal ("The Reassessment of Reason: Paradigm Shifts in the Concept of Individual and Social Rationality"), with Robert Cummins as principal investigator, University of Arizona. Grant awarded Spring 1993.

Honors

Teaching Innovation Fellowship, Williams College, 2025

Whiting Foundation Fellow, 2007-2008.

Distinguished Campus Visiting Scholar, Whitman College, November 2004.

Adsit Fellow in residence, Williams College, 2003-2004.

Faculty development grant (NEH funds administered by Hampshire College), Summer 1998 and Summer 1999.

Cognitive science research grant, University of Arizona, 1996-1997.

Emil R. Riesen departmental prize for most outstanding essay by a Philosophy graduate student, University of Arizona, 1995.

Graduate merit fellowship, University of Arizona, 1994-1995.

Graduate minority fellowship, University of Arizona, 1991-1994.

Miller Prize for most outstanding student in Philosophy, Williams College, 1991.

Ford-Mellon Fellow, Williams College, Summer 1990, and 1990-1991 academic year.

Book

Contemporary Theories of Knowledge (with John Pollock), Rowman & Littlefield (1999).

Refereed Articles

"Share Moral Foundations of Embodied Artificial Intelligence," in *Proceedings of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence*, 2019.

"Knowledge and Reasons" in *Philosophy Now*, issue 96, May/June 2013.

"The Triple System Theory of Concepts" (with Safa Zaki) commentary in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 33, pp. 230-231 (2012).

- "Is There Reason for Skepticism?" in *Knowledge and Skepticism*, O'Rourke, M. and Keim-Campbell, J. (eds.). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press (2010).
- "The Chimerical Appeal of Epistemic Externalism" (with John Pollock), in *The Externalist Challenge: Studies on Cognition and Intentionality*, Richard Schantz, (ed.). New York: de Gruyter (2004).
- "Epistemology" and "Simulation Theory" (the latter with Robert Gordon) in *The Nature Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science*. London: Macmillan (2003).
- "Mindreading: Mental state simulation & cognitive architecture." *Mind & Language*, (1998) 13:3, pp. 323-40.
- "Simulation and the psychology of sociopathy." Commentary in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, (1997) 20:3, pp. 525-7.

Invited Talks

- "How Does Having a Body Make a Difference?" University of South Florida Department of Philosophy, Tampa, FL October 17, 2025.
- "Internalism About Me and Externalism About You," Political Epistemology (Bled Philosophical Conferences), Bled, Slovenia, June 6, 2025.
- "Artificial Autonomy," University of Scranton Ethics and AI Across the Curriculum Project, Scranton, PA, April 24, 2025.
- "Generative AI and the Future of the Liberal Arts," Amherst Provost Retreat, Amherst, MA, August 29, 2024.
- "Beliefs That Are Known to Be Defeated," Applied Epistemology: Virtue, Vice, Bias (Bled Philosophical Conferences), Bled, Slovenia, June 7, 2023.
- "Machine Learning as Morally Analogous to Group Belief," Social Epistemology and the Politics of Knowing (Bled Philosophical Conferences), Bled, Slovenia, June 6, 2019.
- "Artificial Intelligence and Ethics," AI: Philosophy, Ethics and Society, Tehran, Iran (virtual participation) February 2019.
- "Shared Moral Foundations of Embodied Artificial Intelligence," AAAI/ACM Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society, Honolulu, Jan., 2019
- "Knowing How to Reason."
SUNY Albany Department of Philosophy
Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills (Bled Philosophical Conferences), Bled, Slovenia, June 3rd, 2017.
- "Attention and Reason." The Intersection of Epistemology and the Philosophy of Mind (Bled Philosophical Conferences), Bled, Slovenia, June 4th, 2015.
- "There Is No Mind/Body Problem." Lenox Library Distinguished Lecturer Series, Lenox, April 28th, 2013.
- "Irrational Thought." First Conference in Honor of John Pollock, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 4th, and Bled, Slovenia, June 5th, 2012.
- "Mind in Community." Williams College, Williamstown, October 30th, 2010.
- "Cycling the Globe." International Studies colloquium, Williams College, Williamstown, September 21st, 2010.
- "Naturalized Epistemic Norms." Keynote address presented at the 2nd Annual Conference on Argumentation as a Cognitive Process, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland, May 15th, 2010.

- "Two Worlds." Part of Models of Mind Gallery Talks, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, March 2nd, 2010.
- "Objects of Mind." Texas A&M, College Station, Texas, February 26th, 2009.
- "Mind through body in the recent Cartesian history of Western philosophy," Fulbright Alumni Lahore Chapter, Lahore University, Lahore, Pakistan, September 23, 2007.
- "Against Certainty." Alumni Reunion Invited Lecture, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, June 8th, 2006.
- "Is There Reason for Skepticism?" Invited presentation at the 7th Annual Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Moscow, Idaho, May 1st, 2004. Also presented at SUNY Albany, Albany, New York, November 14th, 2003, Williams College, Williamstown, December 2nd, 2003, and Whitman College, Walla Walla, November 12th, 2004.
- "Skepticism and Resilient Epistemic Principles." Presented at a symposium on skepticism at the University of Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Quebec, October 4, 2003.
- "Epistemic Norms and Externalism in Epistemology." University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, February 8th, 2003.
- "How Connectionism Constrains (Some) Psychological Explanations." Presented at a conference on cognitive science in the new millennium, Long Beach, California, 2002.
- "Why Cognitive Psychology Needs Philosophy." Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams, Massachusetts, November 18, 2001.
- "Coherentism and the Role of Epistemic Norms." Presented at a symposium on coherentism at the Dominican College, Ottawa, Ontario, September 28, 2001.
- "In Defense of Cognitive Psychology (The Mind Does So Work That Way)" University of Hertfordshire, Watford, Hertfordshire, England, November 23, 2000.
- "The Failure of Naturalised Epistemology." University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England, November 20, 2000. Also presented at the University of Hertfordshire, Watford, Hertfordshire, England, November 23, 2000.
- "Epistemology's Ill-Advised Turn to Psychology." Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, October 14, 1999.
- "Normative Reason in Psychological Explanation." University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, February 26, 1999. Also presented at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, January 27, 1999.
- "A Connectionist Argument for the Simulation Account of Mental State Attribution." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy & Psychology, San Francisco, California, May 29-June 2, 1996. Also presented at the Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Seattle, Washington, April 3-6, 1996.
- "Connectionists don't have to pretend that they can't." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Stony Brook, New York, June 7-11, 1995.
- "Computational incompatibility in neural network models of vision may not rely on spatial relations." Presented at the McDonnell-Pew Neuroscience Conference, University of Arizona, November 19, 1994.

Invited Conference Discussions

- "On Teleosemantics and Natural Maps" (Comments on work by Rob Cummins et al.). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Winston-Salem, June 11, 2005.
- "Skepticism and Epistemic Principles" (Comments on work by Jonathan Vogel, Catherine Elgin, and Michael Bergman). Presented at the Rutgers Epistemology Conference, New Brunswick, May 2, 2003.
- "Noise, Dynamic Systems Theory, and Cognitive Modeling" (Comments on work by Whit Schonbein). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, June 14, 2001.
- "A Humean Psychological Alternative to Kant and Wittgenstein" (Comments on work by Karsten Stueber). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 4, 2001.
- "Knowledge and Neuroscience" (Comments on work by Paul Churchland). Presented at a Conference in Honor of Alvin Goldman, Tucson, Arizona, January 26, 2001.
- "Does Connectionism Impose Methodological Constraints on Psychology?" (Comments on work by Jim Garson). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New York, June 18, 2000.
- "Cognition Over Systematic Domains" (Comments on work by Rob Cummins et al.). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Division of American Philosophical Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 30, 1999.
- "Dual-Aspect Theories of the Causal Power of Consciousness" (Comments on work by Max Velmans). Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Stanford University, California, June 20-24, 1999.
- "The Persistence of Reliabilism" (Comments on work by Casey Swank). Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Philosophical Association, Kansas City, Missouri, October 11-12, 1996.

Referee

Nous, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Synthese*, *Brain and Mind*, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Science*, and *Law*, MIT Press, Oxford University Press, Wadsworth Philosophy & Wadsworth Psychology, Routledge Philosophy, Society for Philosophy & Psychology Annual Conference

Extramural Service

Board Member, Philosophy in an Inclusive Key, MIT.
External Review Committees: Departments of Philosophy at MCLA, Colorado College, Gustavus College, Simpson College, Wellesley College
Past Board member of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities (a program of the NEH).
Past Secretary/Treasurer and ex-officio board member of The Society for Philosophy and Psychology.