

# Michael Barkasi

Philosopher and Cognitive Scientist

Curriculum Vitae

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Toronto | Canada

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## About

I currently work as an apprentice mechanic at a local bike shop. Previously I founded Performance Sonification Corp., a company that built, tested, and developed motion sonification units for use in high-performance athletics. We built ultra fast, ultra low-latency embedded sensor systems (wearables) that track body position and convert it into sound. This deeply integrative work combined neuroscience, phenomenology, and sport engineering. After a series of proof-of-concept experiments in partnership with [Harris Lab at York University](#) showed the tech wasn't yet viable as a commercial product, I ended the venture. I am currently an associate member of the [Centre for Philosophy of Memory](#) and was previously a university instructor and postdoctoral researcher.

## Past Academic Appointments

- 2022. [University of British Columbia](#) (BC, Canada): Philosophy Lecturer.
- 2020–21. [York University](#) (ON, Canada): Philosophy and Cognitive Science Instructor.
- 2018–20. [University of Toronto](#) (ON, Canada): Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Network for Sensory Research.
- 2018. [Lebanon Valley College](#) (PA, United States): Philosophy Instructor.
- 2016–17. [Kutztown University of Pennsylvania](#) (PA, United States): Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy.
- 11–12, 16. [Lone Star College](#) (TX, United States): Philosophy Instructor.
- 2012–13. [Rice University](#) (TX, United States): Research Assistant for The Senses Project at Rice.
- 2011. [Houston Community College](#) (TX, United States): Philosophy Instructor.

## Education

- 2015. Ph.D. Philosophy. Rice University.
- 2011. M.A. Philosophy. Rice University.
- 2009. B.A. Philosophy, minors in Maths and Physics. Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.

## Academic Publications

- 2022. Barkasi, Michael and Sant'Anna, André, "[Reviving the naïve realist approach to memory](#)", *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*, 3(14): 1–30. [10.33735/phimisci.2022.9192](https://doi.org/10.33735/phimisci.2022.9192)
- ‡2021. Barkasi, Michael, "[Memory as sensory modality, perception as experience of the past](#)", *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. [10.1007/s13164-021-00598-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13164-021-00598-7)
- 2021. Barkasi, Michael, "[What blindsight means for the neural correlates of consciousness](#)", *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 28(11–12): 7–30. [10.53765/20512201.28.11.007](https://doi.org/10.53765/20512201.28.11.007)
- 2021. Rosen, Melanie G. and Barkasi, Michael, "[What makes a mental state feel like a memory: Feelings of pastness and presence](#)", *Estudios de Filosofía*, 64: 95–122. [10.17533/udea.ef.n64a05](https://doi.org/10.17533/udea.ef.n64a05)
- 2021. Barkasi, Michael, "[Are there epistemic conditions necessary for demonstrative thought?](#)", *Synthese*, 198(7): 6111–6138. [10.1007/s11229-019-02453-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-019-02453-w)
- 2021. Barkasi, Michael, "[What should the sensorimotor enactivist say about dreams?](#)", *Philosophical Explorations*, 24(2): 243–261. [10.1080/13869795.2021.1908575](https://doi.org/10.1080/13869795.2021.1908575)

2021. Barkasi, Michael, “Does what we dream feel present? Two varieties of presence and implications for measuring presence in VR”, *Synthese*, 199: 2525–2551. [10.1007/s11229-020-02898-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-020-02898-4)
2020. Barkasi, Michael, “Some hallucinations are experiences of the past”, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 101(3): 454–488. [10.1111/papq.12320](https://doi.org/10.1111/papq.12320)
2020. Barkasi, Michael and Rosen, Melanie G., “Is mental time travel *real* time travel?”, *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*, 1(1): 1–27. [10.33735/phimisci.2020.1.28](https://doi.org/10.33735/phimisci.2020.1.28)
2019. Barkasi, Michael, “The role of experience in demonstrative thought”, *Mind & Language*, 34(5): 648–666. [10.1111/mila.12228](https://doi.org/10.1111/mila.12228)
- †2008. Holowchak, M. Andrew with Barkasi, Michael, “An impromptu visit to Rien-à-Faire: A tribute to Bernard Suits”, *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, 35(2): 111–119. [10.1080/00948705.2008.9714733](https://doi.org/10.1080/00948705.2008.9714733)

† Special issue introduction

‡ Runner up, *Philosophy of Memory Essay Prize* (2021), Centre de Philosophie de la Mémoire (Centre for Philosophy of Memory), Université Grenoble Alpes

## Academic Papers in Progress

- \*202x. Barkasi, Michael, “Remembering what your brain doesn’t”, in *Reference in Remembering*, edited by James Openshaw, Kourken Michaelian, and Denis Perrin. (Book proposal under review)
- \*202x. Barkasi, Michael, “When is now? How temporally shifting dreams illuminate the feeling of pastness”, in *Dreaming and Memory: Philosophical Issues*, edited by Daniel Gregory and Kourken Michaelian. Springer. (Under Contract)

\* Invited

## Popular Publications

- \*2022. Barkasi, Michael, “Perceiving is imagining the past”, *The Junkyard: A Scholarly Blog Devoted to the Study of Imagination*, January 12.
2021. Barkasi, Michael, “What dreams and smartphones can teach VR developers about presence”, *LinkedIn*, August 12.
2021. Barkasi, Michael, “How digital fluency isolates us”, *Medium*, March 16.

\* Invited

## Academic Presentations

- \*2022. “Remembering what your brain doesn’t”, Bochum-Grenoble Memory Colloquium, Ruhr Universität Bochum and Université Grenoble Alpes. Virtual Talk. April 12.
- \*2022. “Audiotactile sensory substitution: A test case for acquaintance”, Mind and Perception Group Speaker Series, Washington University in St. Louis. Virtual Talk. January 28.
- \*2021. “Sonifying explosive sport movements: How, why, and what it shows about bodily awareness”, Cognition, Action, & Perception Speaker Series, University of Cincinnati. Virtual Colloquium Talk. October 29.
2021. “Perception as experience of the past”, The 95th Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association. Open Session. Virtual Conference. July 16–18.
2021. “Some hallucination is experience of the past”, American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division Meeting. Colloquium paper. Virtual Conference. April 5–10.
- \*2021. “The nonimmersive feeling of pastness as the phenomenal manifestation of remembering”, *Dreaming and Memory*, a conference hosted jointly by the Philosophy of Neuroscience Group (Tübingen) and the Centre for Philosophy of Memory (Université Grenoble Alpes). Virtual Conference. February 22–23.

2021. “Does what we dream feel present? Two varieties of presence”, American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division Meeting. Colloquium paper. Virtual Conference. January 15.
2020. “Is mental time travel *real* time travel?”, w/ Melanie G. Rosen, 112th Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP). Contributed Session: Memory. Virtual Conference. December 3–5.
2019. “Conscious blindsight—but still unconscious sight”, 45th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP). Contributed Session: Consciousness and Cognition. San Diego, California. July 10–13.
2019. “What should the externalist say is missing from dream experience?”, *Dreams, Hallucinations and Imagination*, a workshop by the Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience. University of Glasgow. Glasgow, Scotland. February 23–24.
2019. “The role of visual representations in seeing”, American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division Meeting. Colloquium paper. Denver, Colorado. February 20–23.
2016. “Distinguishing perception and cognition via the perceptual landscape”, *Rice Summer Workshop on the Interface Between Perception and Thought*. Rice University. Houston, Texas. May 5–6.
2014. “An argument for naïve realism from demonstrative thought”, American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division Meeting. Colloquium paper. San Diego, California. April 16–20.
2014. “A user’s guide to epistemic modals”, American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division Meeting. Colloquium paper. Chicago, Illinois. February 26–March 1.
2013. “Introducing objects for thought: or, why we need to revisit an old argument for naïve realism”, *Perception and Concepts*, the 9th International Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Communication. University of Latvia. Riga, Latvia. May 16–18.
2011. “Getting straight on epistemic modals”, The Arché/CSMN Graduate Conference. University of St Andrews. St Andrews, Scotland. October 8–9.
2008. “Plato’s generation of number in the *Parmenides*”, The 26th annual joint meeting of Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (SAGP) with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy (SSIPS). New York, New York. October 24–26.

\* Invited

## Workshop Organizing

2019. Co-organized *Experiencing What’s Not There: A Workshop on Hallucinations, Dreams, Imagination, and Virtual Reality*, w/ Mohan Matthen, as part of the Network for Sensory Research. Hosted at the University of Toronto (St. George campus). June 7–8.
2013. Co-organized *How Perception Makes Things Available for Thought*, w/ Casey O’Callaghan, as part of the Senses Project at Rice. Hosted at Rice University. November 8–9.

## Journal Refereeing

I have served as an *ad hoc* peer-reviewer for the following academic journals and conferences.

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| – <i>Journal of Philosophy</i>  | – <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i>                              |
| – <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i>                                   | – <i>Dialectica</i>   |
| – <i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences</i> | – <i>Philosophical Psychology</i>                             |
| – <i>Mind and Language</i>  | – <i>Journal of the American Philosophical Association</i>    |
| – <i>Thought</i>  | – <i>Grazer Philosophische Studien</i>                        |
| – <i>Synthese</i>   | – <i>Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Meeting</i> |

## University Teaching

Courses listed by the last term taught, not all sections at all schools listed. All courses taught at the undergraduate level.

- 2022s. Phil 446: [Philosophy of Psychology](#) (University of British Columbia).\*
- 2021s. Cogs/Phil 3750: [Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence](#) (York University).\*
- 2020f. Cogs/Phil 2160: [Minds, Brains, and Machines](#) (York University).\*
- 2018s. Phil 110: [The Examined Life](#) (Lebanon Valley College).
- 2017s. Phi 280: [American Philosophy: Pragmatism](#) (Kutztown University).
- 2017s. Phi 030: [Introduction to Philosophy](#) (Kutztown University).
- 2016f. Phi 235: [Topics in Moral Theory: Virtue Ethics](#) (Kutztown University).
- 2015s. Fwis 129: [Objectivity in Perception](#) (Rice University).
- 2014r. Phil 106: [Logic](#) (Rice University).
- 2011f. Phil 2306: [Introduction to Ethics](#) (Lone Star College).

\* online course, s = spring/winter term, f = fall term, r = summer term

## Awards

- 2021. Runner up, [Philosophy of Memory Essay Prize](#), Centre de Philosophie de la Mémoire (Centre for Philosophy of Memory), Université Grenoble Alpes. “Memory as sensory modality, perception as experience of the past”
- 2015. [Robert Alan and Kathryn Dunlevie Hayes Dissertation Completion Fellowship](#). Department of philosophy, Rice University.
- 2009. [Dr. Carlson R. Chambliss Academic Achievement Award](#) (Silver). Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.