

David Colaço

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Curriculum Vitae (Updated March 2024)

Research Areas

Areas of Specialization: History and Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Neuroscience, Philosophy of Memory

Areas of Competence: Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Medicine & Psychiatry, Experimental Philosophy

Academic Appointments

**Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich Center for
Mathematical Philosophy**

DFG Postdoctoral Scholar

2023-Present

Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Scholar

2021-2023

Tulane University, Department of Philosophy

Visiting Assistant Professor

2020-2021

**Mississippi State University, Department of Philosophy and
Religion**

Postdoctoral Fellow in Philosophy and Neuroscience

2019-2020

Education

Ph.D. History and Philosophy of Science

2019

University of Pittsburgh

Graduate Certification

2019

Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition

B.A. (*Summa Cum Laude*) Philosophy & Sociology

2012

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Dissertation

Title: An Investigation of Scientific Phenomena

Committee: Edouard Machery (Advisor, U. of Pitt HPS), Mazviita Chirimutta (U. of Pitt HPS), Kenneth Schaffner (U. of Pitt HPS), James Woodward (U. of Pitt HPS), William Bechtel (External, UCSD)

Successfully defended on June 3rd, 2019

Refereed Articles

- Colaço, D. (2024). When remediating one artifact results in another: Control, confounders, and correction. *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 46(5).
- Colaço, D., & Najenson, J. (Forthcoming). Where memory resides: Is there a rivalry between synaptic and molecular models of memory? To appear in *Philosophy of Science*.
- Colaço, D. (2023). Connecting unconventional cognition to humans: Unification and generativity. *JoLMA* 4(2), 1-16.
- Colaço, D. & Robins, S. (2023). Why have “revolutionary” tools found purchase in memory science? *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*, 4.
- Colaço, D. (2022). Why studying plant cognition is valuable, even if plants aren’t cognitive. *Synthese* 200(453).
- Colaço, D., Bickle, J., & Walters, B. (2022). When should researchers cite study differences in response to a failure to replicate? *Biology and Philosophy* 39(37).
- Colaço, D. (2022). What counts as a memory? Definitions, hypotheses, and “kinding in progress”. *Philosophy of Science* 89(1), 89-106.
- Jarbo, K., Colaço, D., & Verstynen, T. (2020). Contextual framing of loss impacts harm avoidance during risky spatial decisions. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, 33(5), 657-670.
- Colaço, D. (2020). Recharacterizing scientific phenomena. *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 10, 14.
- Stuart, M., Colaço, D., & Machery, E. (2019). P-curving x-phi: Does experimental philosophy have evidential value? *Analysis* 79(4), 669-684.
- Colaço, D. (2018). Rip it up and start again: The rejection of a characterization of a phenomenon. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 72, 32-40.
- Colaço, D. (2018). Rethinking the role of theory in exploratory experimentation. *Biology and Philosophy* 33(5-6), 33-38.
- Colaço, D., & Machery, E. (2016). The intuitive is a red herring. *Inquiry*, 60(4), 403-419.
- Colaço, D., Buckwalter, W., Stich, S., & Machery, E. (2014). Epistemic intuitions in fake-barn thought experiments. *Episteme*, 11(02), 199-212.

Book Chapters

- Kneer, M., Colaço, D., Alexander, J., & Machery, E. (2021). On second thought: Reflections on the reflection defense. *Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy* 4.
- Colaço, D. (2021). How do tools obstruct (and facilitate) integration in neuroscience? In *The Tools of Neuroscience Experiments: Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives*.

Book Reviews

Colaço, D. (2020). Review of *Advancements in Experimental Philosophy of Science*. *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, 33(1), 57-59.

Conference Presentations

2023. Searching for cognitive errors in unconventional systems. *International Society of the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind*.

2023. Searching for memory errors in unconventional systems. *Issues in Philosophy of Memory* 3.5.

2023. The seed of an idea: Organic data memory and the extended mind. *Memory and Technology: Extended Perspectives*

2023. Why have “revolutionary” tools found purchase in memory research? *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*.

2022. Where memory resides: Is there a rivalry between molecular and synaptic models of memory? *Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting*.

2022. Why studying plant cognition is valuable even if plants do not possess cognition: On hypothesizing about cognition. Joint meeting of *Society for Philosophy and Psychology* and *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*.

2022. On a distinction between exploration in experimentation and exploratory experimentation. *British Society for Philosophy of Science*.

2022. Transparency and the remediation of artifacts: Head motion in fMRI. *Society of Philosophy of Science in Practice*.

2022. Believe me, I can explain! Do explanations bias judgments of what is explained? *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*.

2021. Believe me, I can explain! Beware of inferences to the explanandum. *Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting*.

2021. Citing study mismatches upon failures to replicate: Useful exercise or self-defeating? *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*.

2021. A “hypothetico” approach to evaluating memory research. *British Society for Philosophy of Science*.

2020. What counts as a memory? *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*. **Griffith Award Winner**

2020. Believe me, I can Explain! Concerns about inferences to the explanandum. Lightning talk at *Philosophy of Biology at the Mountains (POBAMz)*.

2020. Believe me, I can Explain! Concerns about inferences to the explanandum. Mid-South Philosophy of Science. *Cancelled Event*

2020. Memory transfer: The rise, fall, and revival of a target of neuroscience research? *Mississippi Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting*.
2019. Can tool development solve the data integration problem in neuroscience? *Deep South Workshop on Tool Development in Neuroscience*.
2019. What counts as a memory? *Issues in Philosophy of Memory 2*, Université Grenoble Alpes.
2019. What counts as a memory? *Natural Kinds in Cognitive Science Workshop*, York University.
2019. Ethical exploratory experimentation: Informed consent in exploratory brain stimulation. *Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology Conference*.
2019. What do representations of scientific phenomena represent? *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*.
2018. Technological development, data integration, and “unification”: Is theory the cause of scientific progress, or the effect? *Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting*.
2018. Recharacterizing scientific phenomena. *Neural Mechanisms Workshop*.
2018. When should we accept that a phenomenon doesn’t exist? Memory transfer, conflicting evidence, and defeasibility. *The Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice*.
2017. The interaction of technique and data: Insights from neural microscopy. *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*.
2017. Technique-driven research: Clarifying the nature of exploratory experimentation. *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*.
2016. The identification of scientific phenomena: Lessons from the life sciences. *The Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice*.
2015. Mechanist and non-mechanist modes of discovery: A case for phenomenal intervention in neuroscience. *The Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice*.

Invited Presentations

2023. The problem of explaining shifting targets. *Cambridge-MCMP Joint Workshop on Philosophy of Science*.
2023. Learning from the history of memory transfer. *Pushing the Boundaries: Neuroscience, Cognition, and Life*, UCLA Luskin Symposium.
2022. Optogenetics’ journey to memory science. *Optogenetics and Philosophy: Mutual Alignment?* IHSPT Workshop.
2022. Memory transfer: The history of a sensational (alleged) phenomenon. *Centre for Philosophy of Memory Public Lecture*.

2022. Inferences to the explanandum. *Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy Colloquium*.

2022. What counts as a memory? *Bochum-Grenoble Memory Colloquium*.

Conference Posters

2021. Predicting moral behavior from moral dispositions: Lessons from decision-making. With Kevin Jarbo. *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*.

2020. Can tool development solve the data integration problem in neuroscience? *Neurotech Workshop*.
Poster Prize Winner

2016. Technique-driven research: Clarifying the nature of exploratory experimentation. *Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting*.

2016. The identification of scientific phenomena. Rotman 2016 Annual Conference: Rethinking the Taxonomy of Psychology.

Fellowships and Awards

Individual Research Grant, Eigene Stelle For “Three methodological problems in memory science”	24-Month Fellowship from Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	2023
Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers For “A diagnosis of failures of scientific reasoning”	24-Month Fellowship awarded 64 080 EUR from Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung/Foundation	2021
Richard M. Griffith Award in Philosophy For “What counts as a memory?”	Award from the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology	2020
“Best of 2019” For “P-curving x-phi: Does experimental philosophy have evidential value?” in <i>Analysis</i>	Oxford University Press	2019
Demographic Representation in Philosophy: A comparative study <i>With Morgan Thompson (University of Pittsburgh, HPS)</i>	Project awarded 2600.00 USD by University of Pittsburgh Research Council	2017
Morality Under Uncertainty: The impact of moral framing on spatial decision making Project award and summer fellowship <i>With Kevin Jarbo (Carnegie Mellon University, Psychology, CNBC)</i>	Project awarded 17314.50 USD by Duke Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy (SSNAP)	2016
Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy (SSNAP)	Fellowship award by Duke University	2019

Teaching

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

Topics in Philosophy of Memory (10116)

Summer 2023

Tulane University

Consciousness (PHIL 3740)

Spring 2021

Language and Thought (PHIL 3800)

Spring 2021

Philosophy of Cognitive Science (PHIL 3750)

Fall 2020

Expository Writing for the Sciences (ENLS 3630)

Spring 2021/Fall 2020

Mississippi State University

Medical Ethics (PHI 3323)

Spring 2020/Fall 2019

University of Pittsburgh

Morality and Medicine (HPS 0613)

Spring 2019/Fall 2018/

Spring 2016

Mind and Medicine (HPS 0612)

Fall 2015/Spring 2014 (TA)

The Nature of Emotions (HPS 0605)

Fall 2013 (TA)

Achievement in Pedagogy Badge (*Received*)

2019

Event Organization and Professional Experience

LMU Ethics Committee

2023

Member

The Unconventional Memory Workshop

2023

Organizer

The International Memory Reading Group

2022-Present

Co-founder and Co-organizer

Philosophy of Science Biennial Meeting

2022

Poster Committee Member

Epistemology of Science Workshop

2019

Program Committee Member

Learning from Empirical Approaches to History and Philosophy of Science

2017-2018

Program Committee Member

Philosophy Summer Program in Philosophy of Science for Underrepresented Groups

2017-2018

Organizational Committee Member