

Mohan Poulse Matthen

Curriculum Vitae

September, 2011

PERSONAL DATA

Current Position:

Professor of Philosophy and senior Canada Research Chair, University of Toronto

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University of Toronto,
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Citizenship Born Bangalore, India on 2nd April, 1948.
Citizen of Canada

EDUCATION

B.Sc. (Hons), Physics Delhi University 1968

M.A., Philosophy Delhi University 1970

Ph.D., Philosophy Stanford University 1976

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Professor of Philosophy, University of British Columbia, January 1999 - June 2006. (Head, Department of Philosophy, 1999-2004.)

University of Alberta: 1983-1999 (Appointed as Assistant Professor in 1983, attained rank of Professor in 1989. Associate Dean of Arts, 1992-97.)

Sessional appointments at: Claremont Graduate School (1975-76), University of Calgary (1976-79), University of British Columbia (1979-82), McGill University (1982-83).

VISITING APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER HONOURS

University of Toronto, Mississauga, Dean's Research Excellence Award, 2010.

Jackman Faculty Fellowship, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto, 2010-2011.

University of Calgary: Distinguished Visitor, February-April 2010.

University of Auckland: Distinguished Visitor, July-August 2009.

Appointed senior Canada Research Chair. (This is a seven year appointment, renewable for seven years: the Government of Canada pays the salaries of chair holders.)

Clare Hall, Cambridge University: Visiting Fellow, January - August, 2005; Elected Life Member, October 2005.

All Souls College, Oxford University: Visiting Fellow, September - December, 2004

Macquarie University, Research Fellow, July - August, 2003

"Disunity of Color" chosen as one of ten best philosophy papers of 1999.

St. Catharine's College, Cambridge University: Visiting Fellow, October - December, 1997.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

1. *Seeing, Doing, and Knowing: A Philosophical Theory of Sense Perception* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2005): xxii + 362 pp. (Available also on Oxford Scholarship Online, www.oxfordscholarship.com). Paperback edition, 2007.

Abstract

Seeing, Doing, and Knowing presents a new theory of sensory perception as awareness of located features, reconstructing this traditional idea in a way that makes it consistent with contemporary psychological theories of visual and other sensory processing.

It works through two central themes in detail. The first is organized around the "Sensory Classification Thesis", which is that sensory systems actively classify and order environmental objects in accordance with the motor and epistemic needs of the particular type of organism

to which they belong. Organisms differ sharply from one another in terms of environment and style of life. This implies that they have differing needs; consequently, sense perception is specialized in ways not much noticed by philosophers (who tend to be interested mostly in human vision). One distinguishing characteristic of how this theme is developed is an emphasis on the *epistemic* (as distinct from motor) employment of conscious sensations.

The second main theme is a treatment of visual *reference*. The claim is that in vision, unconscious motion-guiding capacities lock on to material objects as the subjects of the classificatory activities. The features thrown up by sensory classification are located in these material objects, not in simple spatial locations.

The book consists of five parts: "Classification", "Similarity", "Specialization", "Content", and "Reference".

BOOKS EDITED

1. *Color Science and Color Ontology* (with Jonathan Cohen). With introduction and index. MIT Press, 2010, xxii + 419 pp. A collection of twelve new philosophical and scientific papers on colour perception and the nature of colour.
2. *Handbook of the Philosophy of Biology* (with Christopher Stephens). (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2006. Volume 3 of the *Handbook of the Philosophy of Science*). A collection of 25 original entries, offering a critical overview of current research in philosophy of biology and its historical background. Elsevier, 2006, 640 pp.
3. *Ancient Philosophy and Modern Ideology* (with Charlotte Witt). Special issue of *Apeiron* (XXXIII, 4), December 2000: 125 pp.
4. *Biology and Society: Reflections on Methodology* (with R.X. Ware). With introduction and index (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* supplementary volume 20, 1994): 307pp.
5. *Philosophy and Biology* (with Bernard Linsky). With introduction and index (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* supplementary volume 14, 1988): 270 pp. (A snapshot of philosophy of biology research. This collection was quite influential at the time.)
6. *Aristotle Today: Essays on the Aristotelian Ideal of Science*. With introduction and indices (Edmonton: Academic Printing and Publishing, 1987): 196 pp. (A discussion of some of Aristotle's insights into philosophical problems of contemporary interest.)

EDITORIAL PROJECTS

7. Contracted to edit the *Oxford Handbook on Philosophy of Perception* for Oxford University Press, submission early 2012. The *Oxford Handbooks* are high profile overviews. This one will include about 45 articles and be about 1000 pages long. This is a significant and potentially very influential project.
8. *Perception and Its Modalities*. Co-edited with Dustin Stokes and Stephen Biggs. A volume of new essays about perceptual modalities. Under contract to Oxford University Press, New York. This volume grew out of a workshop that Dustin, Stephen, and I organized in Paris, with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. We will send this to the Press by the end of 2011.
9. Denis Walsh and I are co-originators of an ontology of natural selection and evolution that has come to be known as the "Statistical Interpretation". (We call it the "Toronto Interpretation.") We are under contract to Oxford University Press, New York to co-edit anthology of articles in support of and against this position.

ARTICLES (including longer reviews)

On the Foundations of Psychology

- 1 "How To Be Sure: Sensory Exploration and Empirical Certainty," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, forthcoming.
- 2 "Visual Demonstratives," in A. Raftopoulos and P. Machamer (eds), *Perception, Realism, and the Problem of Reference* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press): forthcoming.
- 3 "Is Memory Preservation?," *Philosophical Studies* 148 (2010): 3-14.
- 4 "Epistemic Affordances: The Case of Colour," in *University of British Columbia Working Papers in Linguistics* 24 (2009): 18-25. (See <http://www.linguistics.ubc.ca/ubcwpl>)
- 5 "The Feeling of Presence," in N. Gangopadhyay, Michael Madary, and F. Spicer (edd.) *Perception, Action, and Consciousness* (Oxford: Oxford University Press): 107-124.
- 6 "Philosophical Approaches to Perception," in B. Goldstein (ed) *Sage Encyclopedia of Perception* (London: Sage).

- 7 "On the Diversity of Auditory Objects," *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* **1** (2010): 63-89.
- 8 "How Things Look," in B. Nanay (ed) *Perception and the World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010): 226-252.
- 9 "The Sensory Representation of Color," in J. Cohen and M. Matthen (edd) *Color Science and Color Ontology* (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 2010): 67-90.
- 10 "Truly Blue: An Adverbial Aspect of Perceptual Representation", *Analysis* **69** (2009): 48-54.
- 11 "Pictures and the Feeling of Presence", in D. Follesdal and J. Woods (edd.) *Logos and Language: Essays in Honor of Julius Moravcsik* (London: College Publications, 2009): 37-46.
- 12 "Precis of *Seeing, Doing, and Knowing*", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* **76** (2008): 392-397.
- 13 "Reply to Clark and Egan" *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* **76** (2008):415-421.
- 14 Review of Tyler Burge *Foundations of Mind: Philosophical Essays vol 2*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2008.03.02, <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=12485>.
- 15 "Visual Concepts," *Philosophical Topics* **7** (2007): 207-33.
- 16 "Assembling the Emotions," (with Vince Bergeron) in L. Faucher and C. Tappolet (eds) *The Modularity of Emotions, Canadian Journal of Philosophy* supplementary volume **32** (2006): 185-212.
- 17 "Teleosemantics and the Consumer," in David Papineau and Graham Macdonald (eds.) *Teleosemantics* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2006): 146-66.
- 18 Review of Alva Noë, *Action in Perception*, *Mind* **115** (2006): 1160-67.
- 19 "On Visual Experience of Objects: Comments on John Campbell's *Reference and Consciousness*", *Philosophical Studies* **127** (2006): 195-220.
- 20 "Features, Objects, and Places: Reflections on Austen Clark's *Theory of Sentience*", *Philosophical Psychology* **17** (2004): 497-518.

- 21 "Human Rationality and the Unique Origin Constraint," in R. Cummins, A. Ariew, M. Perlman (eds.), *Functions: New Readings in the Philosophy of Psychology and Biology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002): 341-72.
- 22 "Our Knowledge of Colour," in J. Macintosh (ed) *Naturalism, Evolution, and Intentionality, Canadian Journal of Philosophy* supplementary volume **27** (2001): 215-46.
- 23 "Intentionality and the Linguistic Analogy," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* **31** (2000): 77-94.
- 24 "The Disunity of Color," *The Philosophical Review* **108** 1 (January 1999): 47-84, reprinted with small additions in P. Grim, K. Baynes, G. Mar (edd.) *Philosopher's Annual XXII* (Stanford: CSLI Publications, 2001): 165-97. (The *Philosopher's Annual* is a collection of the ten articles adjudged as the best to appear in print in 1999.)
- 25 "Biological Realism," *Philosophica* (Louvain) **47** (1991): 19-31.
- 26 "Sociobiology and Philosophical Ethics: Narrowing the Gap," *Human Evolution* **V** 2 (1990): 167-76.
- 27 "Intentional Parallelism and the Two-Level Structure of Evolutionary Theory," in *Issues in Evolutionary Epistemology*, ed C. Hooker and K Hahlweg (Albany: SUNY Press, 1989): 559-69.
- 28 "Biological Functions and Perceptual Content," *Journal of Philosophy* **LXXXV** 1 (1988): 5-27.

On Philosophy of Science

- 29 Review of D. McShea and R. Brandon, [*Biological's First Law: The Tendency for Diversity and Complexity to Increase in Evolutionary Systems*](#) *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2011.23.01: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=22309>.
- 30 Critical notice of Denis Dutton *The Art Instinct*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* **41** (2011).
- 31 "Millikan's Historical Kinds," in a *festschrift* for Ruth Millikan edited by D. Ryder, J. Kingsbury, and K. Williford: forthcoming.
- 32 "Drift and 'Statistically Abstractive Explanation'," *Philosophy of Science* **76** (2009): 464-487.

- 33 "Selection and Causation," (with André Ariew), *Philosophy of Science* **76** (2009): 201-224.
- 34 "Chickens, Eggs, and Speciation," *Noûs* **43** (2009): 94-115.
- 35 "Laws and Causation in Biology," *Routledge Encyclopedia Online*.
- 36 "Defining Vision: What Homology Thinking Contributes," *Biology and Philosophy* **22** (2007): 675-89.
- 37 Review of Philip Kitcher *In Mendel's Mirror: Philosophical Reflections on Biology*, *Journal of Philosophy* **102** (2005): 206-216.
- 38 "Taxonomy, Polymorphism, and History: An Introduction to Population Structure Theory," (with Marc Ereshefsky) *Philosophy of Science* **72** (2005): 1-21.
- 39 "Is Sex Really Necessary? And Other Questions for Lewens," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* **54** (2003): 297-308.
- 40 "Origins are not Essences in Evolutionary Systematics," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* **32** (2002): 167-81.
- 41 "Two Ways of Thinking About Fitness and Natural Selection," (with André Ariew) *Journal of Philosophy* **99** (2002): 55-83.
- 42 "What is a Hand? What is a Mind?" *Revue Internationale de Philosophie* **214** (2000): 123-42.
- 43 "Evolution, Wisconsin Style: Selection and the Explanation of Individual Traits," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* **50** (1999): 143-50.
- 44 "Biological Universals and the Nature of Fear," *Journal of Philosophy*, **95** (1998): 105-132.
- 45 "Teleology and the Product Analogy," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* **75** (1997): 21-37.
- 46 "What Sort of Science is Evolutionary Biology?" (Critical Notice of Paul Thompson, *The Structure of Biological Theories*), *Dialogue* **30** (1991): 129-41.
- 47 "Organic Teleology" (with E. Levy), in *Current Issues in Teleology*, ed N. Rescher (Lanham Md.: University Press of America, 1986): 93-101.

48 "Teleology, Error, and the Human Immune System" (with E. Levy), *Journal of Philosophy* **81** 7 (July 1984): 351-72.

49 "Ostension, Names, and Natural Kind Terms," *Dialogue* **23** 1 (March 1984): 43-58.

On Ancient Philosophy and Science

50 "Teleology in the Living World," in G. Anagnostopoulos (ed.) *A Companion to Aristotle* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009): 335-47.

51 "Why Earth Moves to the Centre of Aristotle's Universe: An Examination of Some Explanatory Strategies in the *De Caelo*", in A. Bowen and C. Wildberg (eds) *New Perspectives on Aristotle's De Caelo, Studia Antiqua* 117 (Leiden: Brill, 2009): 119-138.

52 "Holistic Presuppositions of Aristotle's Cosmology," *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* **XX** (2001): 171-199.

53 "The Organic Unity of Aristotle's World," in *The Greeks and the Environment*, ed Thomas Robinson and Laura Westra (Totowa N.J.: Rowman and Littlefield, 1997): 333-47.

54 "Aristotle's Universe: Its Form and Matter," *Synthese* **96** (1993): 417-35.

55 "The Four Causes in Aristotle's Embryology," in *Nature, Knowledge, and Virtue*, ed T. Penner and R. Kraut (= *Apeiron* **XXII** 4, [1989]) : 159-79, reprinted in L. Gerson (ed) *Aristotle: Critical Assessments* (London: Routledge)

56 "Empiricism and Ontology in Ancient Medicine," in *Method, Medicine and Metaphysics*, ed R.J. Hankinson (= *Apeiron* **XXI** 2 [1988]): 99-121.

57 "Individual Substances as Hylomorphic Complexes," in *Aristotle Today*, ed M. Matthen (Edmonton: Academic Printing and Publishing, 1987): 151-76.

58 "Perception, Relativism, and Truth: Reflections on Plato's *Theaetetus* 152-60," *Dialogue* **XXIV** 1 (Spring 1985): 33-58.

59 "Aristotle's Semantics and a Puzzle Concerning Change," in *New Essays on Aristotle*, ed F.J. Pelletier and J. King-Farlow, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* supp. vol. **10**, 1984: 21-40.

60 "Forms and Participants in Plato's *Phaedo*," *Nous* **XVIII** 2 (May 1984): 181-97.

- 61 "Greek Ontology and the 'Is' of Truth," *Phronesis* **XXVIII** 2 (1983): 113-35.
- 62 "Plato's Treatment of Relational Statements in the *Phaedo*," *Phronesis* **XXVII** 1 (1982): 90-100.
- 63 "The *Categories* and Aristotle's Ontology," *Dialogue* **XVII** 2 (June 1978): 228-43.

SHORT RESPONSES

- 64 "What is Drift? A Response to Millstein, Skipper, and Dietrich," *Philosophy and Theory in Biology* 2: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ptb;idno=6959004.0002.002;cc=ptb;rgn=main;view=text>.
- 65 "Is Colour Perception Really Categorical?" (Invited Peer Commentary on Luc Steels and Tony Belpaeme, "Coordinating Perceptually Grounded Categories through Language."): *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* **28** (2005): 504-505.
- 66 "How to Understand Causal Relations in Natural Selection: Reply to Rosenberg and Bouchard," (with André Ariew) *Biology and Philosophy* **20** (2005): 355-62.
- 67 "Color Nominalism, Pluralistic Realism, and Color Science," (Invited Peer Commentary on Alex Byrne and David Hilbert, "Colour Science and Colour Realism") *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* **26** (2003): 39-40.
- 68 "How (and Why) Darwinian Selection Restricts Environmental Feedback" (Invited Peer Commentary on David Hull et. al. "A General Account of Selection: Biology, Immunology and Behavior") *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* **24** (2001): 545.
- 69 "What Colors? Whose Colors?" (Invited Commentary on P. W. Ross, "The Location Problem for Color Subjectivism") *Consciousness and Cognition* **10** (2001): 42-58.
- 70 "Color Vision: Content vs. Experience" (Invited Peer Commentary on Evan Thompson et. al. "Ways of Coloring"): *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* **15** (1992): 46-47.
- 71 "Naturalism and Teleology" (Abstract of invited paper at American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division symposium): *Journal of Philosophy* **LXXXVIII** 11 (November 1991): 656-57.
- 72 "Intensionality and Perception: A Reply to Rosenberg," *Journal of Philosophy* **LXXXVI** (1989): 727-33.

- 73 "A Note on Parmenides' Denial of Past and Future," *Dialogue* **XXV** 3 (Autumn 1986): 553-57.
- 74 "On the Difference Between Non-Connoting Terms and Rigid Designators: Reply to Bradley," *Dialogue* **XXIII** 2 (March 1984): 79-83.
- 75 "Relationality in Plato's Metaphysics: Reply to McPherran," *Phronesis* **XXIX** 3 (1984): 304-12.

SHORT REVIEWS

1. Of Hans Radder *The World Observed/The World Conceived* University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006, *Isis* 98 (2007): 885-88.
2. Of Benjamin Morison *On Location: Aristotle's Concept of Space* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2003.02.06,
<http://ndpr.icaap.org/content/archives/2003/2/matthen-morison.html>
3. Of Myles Burnyeat *A Map of Metaphysics Z* in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2002.03.44,
<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2002/2002-03-44.html>.
4. Of Tad Brennan *Ethics and Epistemology in Sextus Empiricus* in *Philosophy in Review* **XXI** (2002): 237-39.
5. Of Kim Sterelny and Paul E. Griffiths *Sex and Death: An Introduction to Philosophy of Biology* in *Philosophical Books* **43** (2002): 78-80.
6. Of John P. Wright and Paul Potter (eds.) *Psyche and Soma: Physicians and Metaphysicians on the Mind-Body Problem from Antiquity to Enlightenment* in *The Lancet* **356**, no. 9238 (14 October, 2000): 1363.
7. Of A.H. Coxon *The Fragments of Parmenides*; in *The Philosophical Review* **C** 1 (January 1991): 153-57.
8. Of Kenneth M. Sayre *Plato's Late Ontology: A Riddle Resolved*; in *The Philosophical Review* **XCIV** 3 (July 1985): 395-9.
9. Of David Gallop *Parmenides of Elea*; in *Canadian Philosophical Reviews* **V** 3 (March 1985): 113-16.

10. Of J.L. Ackrill *Aristotle the Philosopher*; in *Canadian Philosophical Reviews* **IV** 2 (April 1984): 47-9.

11. Of Russell Dancy *Sense and Contradiction*; in *The Journal of the History of Philosophy* **XVI** 2 (July 1978): 345-7.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Work has begun on a book on sensory exploration. The thesis is that sensory exploration can lead to empirical certainty. The task is to define the latter and show how sensory exploration leads to it. I hope that this book will be complete by the middle of 2011.

EDITORIAL DUTIES

Philosophy of Science Association, Member of the Program Committee, 2001-02.

Biology and Philosophy, Member of the Editorial Board, 2001-present.

Apeiron: Member of the Editorial Board, 1987-present.

Canadian Journal of Philosophy: Executive Editor and Board Coordinator, 1985-94.

TEACHING

Graduate level courses in ancient philosophy, philosophy of science, philosophy of logic, philosophy of mind, and metaphysics.

Senior courses in ancient philosophy, history of modern philosophy, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, logic, and philosophy of science.

Introductory courses in logic, ethics, and history of philosophy.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Head, Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia, 1999-2004.

Associate Dean (Humanities and Fine Arts), Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta, 1992-97.

Research Coordinator, SSHRC area disciplines, Office of the Vice-President (Research), University of Alberta, 1989-92.

Graduate Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta, 1986-1990.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, Philosophy Research Grants Adjudication Committee, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2005.

Chair, Committee to Select an Anglophone Editor of *Dialogue*, Canadian Philosophical Association, 1999-2000.

Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Federation for the Humanities, 1992-95.

Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Philosophical Association, 1989-91.

Program Chair, Canadian Philosophical Association Congresses, 1987 and 1988.