

# Daniel Munro

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## RESEARCH AREAS

AOS: Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science  
AOC: Philosophy of Technology, Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysics

## EMPLOYMENT

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy and VISTA (Vision: Science to Applications), York University (2023-present)

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto (2021-2022)

## EDUCATION

University of Toronto, PhD, Philosophy (2021)

Dissertation: *Imagining the Actual*

Committee: Jennifer Nagel (supervisor), David Barnett, Gurpreet Rattan

External Examiner: Kourken Michaelian

University of Sussex, Visiting Doctoral Researcher (Winter 2020)

Supervisor: Andy Clark

University of British Columbia, BA (Hons), Philosophy (2016)

## PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming. "Conspiracy Theories, Epistemic Self-Identity, and Epistemic Territory." *Synthese*.

2024. "Remembering Religious Experience." *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences* 5 (17).

2023. "Capturing the Conspiracist's Imagination." *Philosophical Studies* 180: 3353-3381.

2023. "Cults, Conspiracies, and Fantasies of Knowledge." *Episteme* (online early).

2022. "Mental Imagery and the Epistemology of Testimony." *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 52 (4): 428-449.

2022. "Perceiving as Knowing in the Predictive Mind." *Philosophical Studies* 179: 1177-1203.

2021. "Imagining the Actual." *Philosophers' Imprint* 21 (17): 1-21.

2021. "Remembering the Past and Imagining the Actual." *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* 12: 175-197.

2021. "Are We Free to Imagine What We Choose?" (with Margot Strohminger). *Synthese* 199: 11847-11864.

2021. "Visual and Bodily Sensational Perception: An Epistemic Asymmetry." *Synthese* 198: 3651-3674.

## **PAPERS IN PROGRESS**

- “Internet Trolling as Social Exploration” (under review)
- “What Good are Knowledge Norms?” (with Jared Riggs) (under review)
- “Misinformation, Imagination, Interpersonal Understanding” (under review)
- “Conspiracy Theories and the Epistemic Power of Narratives” (in preparation)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Invited**

- “Conspiracy Theories and the Epistemic Power of Narratives”  
York University Cognitive Science Speaker Series (February 2024)
- “Conspiracy Narratives and Religious Imagination”  
Berkey Lecture, Otterbein University (March 2023)
- “Remembering Religious Experience: Reflection, (Re)construction, and Reliability”  
Successful and Unsuccessful Remembering and Imagining Workshop (November 2022)  
Centre for Philosophy of Memory Public Seminar (July 2022)
- “What Good Are Knowledge Norms?”  
Doxastic Attitudes and Their Reasons Conference (October 2022)
- “Mental Time Travel and Conspiracist Evidence”  
Simulationism 2022 Workshop (July 2022)
- “Memory, Imagination, and the Epistemology of Testimony”  
Bochum-Grenoble Memory Colloquium (May 2022)

### **Refereed**

- “Conspiracy Theories as Emotionally Satisfying Narratives”  
Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2024)  
Western Canadian Philosophical Association (October 2023)
- “Mental Imagery, Gullibility, and Misinformation”  
Social Epistemology Network Event 3 (September 2023)
- “Conspiracism, Self-Identity, and Epistemic Territory”  
Canadian Philosophical Association (May 2023)
- “Internet Trolling as Social Exploration”  
Canadian Philosophical Association (May 2022)
- “Mental Imagery and the Epistemology of Testimony”  
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (January 2022)  
Western Canadian Philosophical Association (November 2021)  
Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2021)  
Waterloo Graduate Philosophy Conference (March 2021)

- “Cults, Conspiracies, and Fantasies of Knowledge”  
Epistemology of the Internet Conference (November 2021)
- “The Epistemology of Constructive Memory”  
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (January 2021)  
Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2020; cancelled due to COVID-19)
- “Simulations and Actuality-Oriented Imaginings”  
Düsseldorf Graduate Workshop for Philosophy (September 2019)
- “Imaginative Representation as Simulation”  
Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2019)
- “Permissivism and Two Conceptions of Rationality”  
Western Canadian Philosophical Association (October 2018)
- “Undercutting Defeaters: A Problem for Mentalism”  
Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2018)
- “Bodily Perceptual Justification”  
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (January 2018)  
Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2017)  
Stockholm Graduate Philosophy Conference (April 2017)
- “Redirecting Constructivism Empiricism: From Belief to Knowledge”  
Western Canadian Philosophical Association (October 2017)

### **Commentaries**

- Book Symposium on Neil Van Leeuwen’s *Religion as Make-Believe*  
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (March 2024)
- On Seth Goldwasser’s “An Anscombean Account of Active Imagining”  
C.O.V.I.D. Imagination Conference (May 2023)
- Book Symposium on Peter Langland-Hassan’s *Explaining Imagination*  
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (April 2023)
- On Luke Roelofs’ “Imagination, Simulation, and Recruitment”  
C.O.V.I.D. Imagination Conference (May 2022)
- On Dominic Alford-Duguid’s “Learning from Presupposition”  
Western Canadian Philosophical Association (November 2021)
- On Zachary Reimer’s “Virtue Skepticism and Moral Motivations”  
Western Canadian Philosophical Association (October 2018)
- On Manish Oza’s “Illogical Thought and the External Conception”  
Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2018)
- On Connor Mayo-Wilson’s “Bayesianism is Inconsistent with Reliabilism”  
Western Canadian Philosophical Association (October 2017)
- On Wes Siscoe’s “Dispositional Justification”  
Canadian Philosophical Association (June 2017)

## TEACHING

### Course Instructor (Seneca Polytechnic)

The Digital World: Issues and Trends (Fall 2023; Summer 2023)

The Tangled Web: Enabling Connections and Facilitating Discord (Summer 2023)

### Course Instructor (University of Toronto)

Issues in Philosophy of Mind: Technology and the Mind (Fall 2022)

Minds and Machines (Fall 2021)

Issues in Philosophy of Mind: The Imagination (Summer 2021)

Science Fiction and Philosophy (Summer 2020)

### Lead Writing Teaching Assistant (2021-22)

Worked with course instructors to design writing-intensive courses; provided training to TAs about teaching and giving feedback on writing.

### Teaching Assistant

Persons, Minds, and Bodies (Winter 2021; Fall 2019; Summer 2019)

Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality (Fall 2020; Winter 2019)

Probability and Inductive Logic (Fall 2018)

Critical Reasoning (Spring 2018)

Belief, Knowledge, and Truth (Fall 2017)

## AWARDS AND FUNDING

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$100,000; 2023-24)

Vision: Science to Applications Postdoctoral Fellowship, York University (\$40,000; 2023-24)

PCH-SSHRC Initiative for Digital Citizen Research Supplement (\$10,000; 2023)

David Savan Dissertation Prize, University of Toronto (\$1,000; 2022)

Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (\$105,000; 2017-20)

Centre for Philosophy of Memory Essay Prize (2020)

## OUTREACH & SERVICE

### Volunteer Instructor, University in the Community (Summer 2023; Summer 2022; Summer 2021)

Non-profit organization offering humanities classes for learners facing barriers to higher education.

Co-taught four-week long summer courses.

### Public Writing

“Manipulating Imaginations to Spread Misinformation: A How-To Guide” (2023). *The Junkyard*.

“Are Conspiracy Theorists True Believers, or Are They Just Acting out Fantasies?” (2022). *The Conversation*.

“Assigning Public Philosophy Projects to Undergraduates” (2022). *Daily Nous*.

### Interviews

630 CHED Mornings show (radio interview on conspiracy theories)

Bill Kelly Show, 900 CHML (radio interview on conspiracy theories)

## **Judge**

Ontario High School Ethics Bowl (2024; 2023; 2022; 2021)

Canadian Junior Ethics Bowl (2023; 2021)

Canadian High School Ethics Bowl (2021)

## **Reviewer**

*Analysis*

*Canadian Journal of Philosophy*

*Ergo*

*Inquiry*

*Mind & Language*

*Noûs*

*Philosophical Psychology*

*Philosophical Quarterly*

*Philosophical Studies*

*Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*

*Philosophy of Science*

*Review of Philosophy and Psychology*

*Synthese*

## **REFERENCES**

Regina Rini

Associate Professor of Philosophy, York University

[rarini@yorku.ca](mailto:rarini@yorku.ca)

Jennifer Nagel

Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto

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Kourken Michaelian

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Phil Clark

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**DISSERTATION ABSTRACT**

Suppose I ask you how many windows are on the outside of your house. A natural way to answer my question is to *imagine* the outside of your house from various angles, counting the number of windows in your mental image. Suppose now that I describe to you a car accident I witnessed on my way to work this morning. As I do so, it would be natural for you to imagine this event as I describe the various details. In cases like these, we exercise our ability to imagine the actual world, using mental imagery to put us in touch with the way things are in reality. Prior to reflecting on such examples, it's intuitive to associate the imagination with our ability to mentally transcend reality: to daydream, fantasize, and conjure up fictional worlds. But this obscures the fact that uses of imagination to cognize actuality are a common, core part of everyday mental life. My dissertation investigates the nature and epistemic significance of such uses of the imagination, both in our individual explorations of the world and in how we learn from other people.