Alexandre Duval

Université de Moncton
Department of Philosophy
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Areas of specialization: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Areas of competence: Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor 2026 – …
Department of Philosophy, Université de Moncton

Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2025 – 2026
Department of Philosophy, McMaster University

Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2022 – 2025
School of Philosophy, Australian National University

Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2020 – 2022
Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia

EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy 2014 – 2019
University of Sheffield
Thesis: 'Where Am I? The Cognitive Architecture of Spatial Reorientation'
Supervised by Stephen Laurence and Luca Barlassina, passed without corrections

MA in Philosophy (with Cognitive Science Concentration) 2012 – 2014
Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

BA in Philosophy and Mathematics (Double Major) 2005 – 2009
McGill University

PUBLICATIONS

Duval, A. & Klein, C. 2026. "Pain asymbolia is probably still pain", ***Philosophy of Science***, vol. 93, issue 1. doi.org/10.1017/psa.2025.10098

Duval, A. 2025. "In defense of language-independent flexibility, or: What rodents and humans can do without language", ***Mind & Language***, vol. 40, issue 1. doi.org/10.1111/mila.12522

Duval, A. 2024. "Is there only one innate modular system for spatial navigation?", ***Behavioral and Brain Sciences****,* vol. 47. doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X23003114

Duval, A. & Côté-Bouchard, C. 2023. "The motivation problem of epistemic expressivists", ***Ergo****,* vol. 10. doi.org/10.3998/ergo.4656

Klein, C. & **Duval, A.** 2023 "Is pain asymbolia a deficit or a syndrome? Historical reflections on an ongoing debate", ***Belgrade Philosophical Annual***, vol. 36, issue 2. doi.org/10.5937%2FBPA2302041D

Duval, A. 2019. "The representation selection problem: Why we should favor the geometric-module framework of spatial reorientation over the view-matching framework", ***Cognition***, vol. 192. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2019.05.022

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (CAD $90,000 in total) 2020 – 2022
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Doctoral Fellowship (CAD $80,000 in total) 2014 – 2018
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Doctoral Fellowship (CAD $60,000 in total) declined in 2014
Québec Research Funds – Society and Culture (FRQSC)

Faculty Scholarship (£13,500 for living costs, plus £40,170 for tuition fees) 2014 – 2017
University of Sheffield

Academic Excellence Graduate Award (CAD $5000) 2014
Université du Québec à Montréal

TEACHING

Member of a PhD Supervisory Panel 2024 – …
School of Philosophy, Australian National University
Student: Robert Farquharson; Topic: Analog computation and ant navigation

Instructor
Foundations Seminar for Philosophy PhD Students — ANU 1st semester 2024
Lecturing and choice of readings for a six-week seminar without formal evaluation
Topic: Do we think in images, maps or language?

Metaphysics — UBC Spring 2022
Lecturing and course design for a third-year undergraduate class in metaphysics

Minds and Machines — UBC Summer 2021
Lecturing and course design for a second-year undergraduate class
in philosophy of mind and philosophy of artificial intelligence

Undergraduate Project Supervisor

Advanced Readings in Philosophy — ANU — 1st semester 2023
Final-year undergraduate independent project in the philosophy of evolution
Topic: How to explain Neanderthal extinction

Research in Cognitive Systems — UBC — Fall 2021
Final-year project for the *Cognitive Systems* undergraduate program
Topic: How culture shapes perception and cognition

Teaching Assistant

Mind, Brain and Personal Identity — University of Sheffield — Fall 2015
Introduction to Philosophical Methodology — UQAM — Fall 2013
Introduction to Philosophy of Language — UQAM — Winter 2013
Introduction to Philosophical Methodology — UQAM — Fall 2012

PRESENTATIONS

Mental maps are sentences in a language of thought

* *Departmental Seminar,* Department of Philosophy, McMaster University — March 2026
Australia/New Zealand Philosophy of Biology Workshop, Mittagong — June 2025
* *Departmental Seminar,* School of Philosophy, ANU — November 2024

Why there still have to be cognitive maps

* *Ontario Mind Group*, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto — January 2026
* *Departmental Seminar*, Eccles Institute of Neuroscience, ANU — September 2024
Australia/New Zealand Philosophy of Biology Workshop, Bundanoon — June 2024

What is geometry for navigating mammals?

* *Space and Number in Animal Minds Workshop*, ANU — September 2023
* *Navigating Spaces Workshop*, Bond University, Australia — July 2023

In defense of language-independent cognitive flexibility

Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Australian Catholic University — July 2023
Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference (Online) — June 2021

A neurobiological argument for the geometric module

Australasian Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, ANU — December 2023
Australia/New Zealand Philosophy of Biology Workshop, ANU — June 2023
* *Eastern APA* (invited as part of a session organized by the Philosophy of Animal Minds and Behavior Association), Montréal — January 2023
Cognitive Science Society Annual Meeting (Online) — July 2020
* *Mind and Society Philosophy Conference*, University of Sheffield — September 2017

Spatial reorientation and the representation selection problem

* *Hippocampus Journal Club*, Institute of Behavioural Neuroscience, UCL — November 2016
Philosophy & Cognitive Science: A Conference in Honour of Stephen Stich, University of Sheffield — October 2016

(marks invited presentations)*

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer for ***Noûs, Philosophy of Science*** **(2x)**, ***Synthèse***, and ***Dialogue***

Convenor for the School of Philosophy's main departmental seminar 2024 – 2025
Australian National University

Co-chair for the *Philosophy International Postgraduate Students Society* 2015 – 2017
University of Sheffield

Conference organization:

- Annual workshop of the project *Major Transitions in the Evolution of Cognition*, April 2024 & 2025, main organizer, Australian National University
- Annual conference of the *Australasian Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, December 2023, member of the organizing committee, Australian National University
- Workshop entitled *Space and Number in Animal Minds*, September 2023, co-organizer, Australian National University

LANGUAGES

French (native speaker), English (native-level proficiency)