

## Carolyn Dicey Jennings

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### AOS/AOC

Philosophy of Mind & Cognitive Science; Philosophy of Action; Philosophy Profession

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor and Chair. Philosophy, University of California, Merced	2023–present
Associate Professor. Cognitive & Information Sciences, University of California, Merced	2019–2023
Assistant Professor. Cognitive & Information Sciences, University of California, Merced	2013–2019
Postdoctoral Researcher. <i>Between Perception and Action</i> , University of Antwerp	2012–2013
Research Assistant. <i>Vision Lab</i> , Boston University	2011–2012

### EDUCATION

PhD Philosophy, Boston University	2006–2012
MA Psychology, Boston University	2011–2012
MA Philosophy, University of St Andrews (undergraduate degree)	2000–2004

### MANUSCRIPTS

*Attention and Mental Control*; Cambridge University Press 2022

Abstract: Mental control refers to the ability to control our own minds. Its primary expression, attention has become a popular topic for philosophers in the past few decades, generating the need for a primer on the concept. It is related to self-control, which typically refers to the maintenance of preferred behavior in the face of temptation. While a distinct concept, criticisms of self-control can also be applied to mental control, such as that it implies the existence of an unscientific homunculus-like agent or is not a natural kind. Yet, as this Element suggests, a scientifically-grounded account of mental control remains possible. The Element is organized into five main sections, which cover the concept of mental control, the relationship between mental control and attention, the phenomena of meditation and mind-wandering, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and emergence-based accounts of mental control, including an original account by the author.

*The Attending Mind*; Cambridge University Press 2020

Abstract: An ancient metaphor likens attention to an archer pulling her bow - the self directing her mind through attention. Yet both the existence of such a self, and the impact of attention on the mind, have been debated for millennia. Advancements in science mean that we now have a better understanding of what attention is and how it works, but philosophers and scientists remain divided as to its impact on the mind. This book takes a strong stance: attention is the key to the self, consciousness, perception, action, and knowledge. While it claims that we cannot perceive novel stimuli without attention, it argues that we can act on and experience the world without attention. It thus provides a new way of thinking about the mind - as something that can either shape itself through attention or engage with the world as it is given, relying on its habits and skills.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS (\*PEER-REVIEWED)

Human and Machine: Analyzing Language Trends... (invited chapter with A. Dayer, ...)	<i>forthcoming</i>
Consciousness and Mind. <i>Cambridge Handbook of Analytic Philosophy</i> (CUP)	<i>forthcoming</i>
Attention, Technology, & Creativity. <i>Scenes of Attention</i> (Columbia UP; with S. Tabatabaeian)*	2023
Dynamic Attentional Mechanisms... <i>Philosophy and the Mind Sciences</i> (with S. Tabatabaeian)*	2023
Networks in Philosophy:... <i>Metaphilosophy</i> (with D. Hicks & P. Contreras Kallens)*	2022
Attention. <i>Mind, Cognition, and Neuroscience: A Philosophical Introduction</i> (Routledge)	2022

APDA 2021 Survey of Philosophy PhD Students & Recent ... <i>Metaphilosophy</i> (with A. Dayer)	2022
The Diversity of Philosophy Students & Faculty. <i>Philosophical Topics</i> (with E. Schwitzgebel,...)	2021
Attention in Skilled Behavior:... <i>Review of Philosophy and Psychology</i> (with A. Dayer)*	2021
Practical Realism about the Self. <i>Commonsense Metaphysics</i> ... (Routledge)	2020
Women in Philosophy:... <i>Public Affairs Quarterly</i> (with E. Schwitzgebel)*	2017
Action without Attention. <i>Analysis</i> (with B. Nanay)*	2016
Attention and Perceptual Organization. <i>Philosophical Studies</i> *	2015
Consciousness without Attention. <i>Journal of the American Philosophical Association</i> *	2015
The Subject of Attention. <i>Synthese</i> *	2012
Inductive Parsimony and the Methodological Argument. <i>Consciousness &amp; Cognition</i> *	2012
It Takes Two: Ethical Dualism and the Vegetative State. <i>Neuroethics</i> *	2009
SHORTER PUBLICATIONS (*PEER-REVIEWED)	
Book Review of <i>Emergence in Context. Mind and Matter</i> *	2023
Attention and the Mind. <i>Bobcat Comics</i> (with Pino Cao)	2022
Distinctly Entangled:... <i>Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience</i> *	2022
Introduction. <i>Mind, Cognition, and Neuroscience: A Philosophical Introduction</i> (Routledge)	2022
Too much attention, too little self? <i>Philosophy &amp; Phenomenological Research</i>	2020
Toward a Neurophysiological Foundation for Altered States... <i>BBS</i> (with S. Tabatabaieian)*	2018
I Attend, Therefore I Am:... <i>Aeon</i>	2017
The Standard Theory of Conscious Perception. <i>Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society</i> *	2015
Review of <i>Hidden in Plain Sight</i> by Eviatar Zerubavel. <i>Choice Reviews</i>	2015
Implicit Association in Mathematics & Science. <i>Proceedings of CSS</i> (with Y. Chernykhovskaya,...)*	2015
Review of <i>Attention</i> by Wayne Wu. <i>Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews</i> *	2014
Properly Pragmatic: A Response to Corns and Campbell. <i>Consciousness &amp; Cognition</i>	2012
Review of <i>The Ego Tunnel</i> by Thomas Metzinger. <i>Journal of Consciousness Studies</i>	2010
Re-thinking the active-passive distinction in attention. <i>Journal of Vision</i> (with T. Watanabe)*	2010
Playing Nice and Teaching Good. <i>Philosophy Now</i>	2007
EDITED VOLUMES	
<i>Mind, Cognition, and Neuroscience: A Philosophical Introduction</i> (with Ben Young; Routledge)	2022
<i>Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society</i> (with D. Noelle,...)	2015
RESEARCH REPORTS	
The Diversity and Inclusivity Survey: Final Report. <i>APA Funded Projects</i>	2019
The Diversity and Inclusivity Survey...: Preliminary Report. <i>APA Funded Projects</i>	2018
Academic Placement Data and Analysis: 2017 Final Report. <i>APA Funded Projects</i>	2017
Academic Placement Data and Analysis: 2016 Final Report. <i>APA Funded Projects</i>	2016
Academic Placement Data and Analysis: 2015 Report Update. <i>APA Funded Projects</i>	2016
Academic Placement Data and Analysis: 2015 Final Report. <i>APA Funded Projects</i>	2015
RECENT PRESENTATIONS (*INVITED)	
TBD, AI, Consciousness, and Culture Workshop at Calvin University*	2025
Attention, Technology, and Social Unity, Eastern APA*	2024
Panelist for The State of Philosophy, Pacific APA*	
Commentator for Perception Matters (Noë, O'Callaghan, and Arango), Pacific APA*	
The Power of Attention, Neural Mechanisms Online*	
The Power of Attention, UC Santa Barbara Colloquium*	
Consciousness as Relation, Co-Embodied Self Lab (Lisbon)*	2023

Consciousness as Relation, ASSC  
 Attention, Memory, and Altered States, Memory and Attention Workshop\*  
 Consciousness as Relation, Sussex Workshop on Emergence\*  
 What is social attention? Good Attention Project\*  
 What is social attention? Cardiff Philosophy Visiting Speaker Series\*  
 Commentary on "The Dissociative Model of Habit" for Pacific APA\*  
 Strategic automaticity and its implications for a theory of agency, Dynamics of Agency Workshop\*  
 Does Consciousness Emerge? University of Helsinki Colloquium\*

Measuring diversity and inclusivity in academic philosophy. ExPhi Workshop at UC Davis\* 2022  
 Employment Trajectories and Graduate Experience... UC Merced Center for the Humanities\*  
 Does Consciousness Emerge? Models of Consciousness Conference at Stanford  
 The Attending Mind, *Reason Through* podcast with Jacob Garcia\*  
 Attention and Emergence. Workshop on Emergence, University of Sussex\*  
 Does Consciousness Emerge? Philosophy Day Keynote, California State University Long Beach\*  
 The Attending Mind. Faculty Author Series, UC Merced Library\*

Attention, Technology, and Creativity. Graduate Center at CUNY\* 2021  
 Diversity and Inclusion in Philosophy. London School of Economics Conference Keynote\*  
 Strategic Automaticity and Attention-Based Control. Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
 Panel on Women in Philosophy with Heather Demarest. Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy\*  
 Attention and Epistemic Injustice. Pacific APA, San Francisco (online)\*  
 Attention, Technology, and Creativity. Princeton University Workshop on Attention (online)\*  
 Practical Realism About The Self. Eastern APA (online)

The Attending Mind. MTS Series, UC Merced\* 2020  
 The Attending Mind. University of Paris (online)\*  
 Attention and Mind-Wandering in Skilled Behavior: An Argument for Pluralism. SSPP (online)

Attention and Mind-Wandering in Skilled Behavior. Central Valley Philosophical Association 2019  
 From Attention to Self. University of Sydney\*  
 Attention and Skilled Behavior. Australian National University\*  
 From Attention to Self. Australian National University\*  
 From Attention to Self. New York University\*  
 How to Increase Diversity in Philosophy Programs. Southern Connecticut State University\*  
 From Attention to Self. San Francisco State University\*

The Metaphysics of Attention. University of California, Davis\* 2018  
 Merleau-Ponty on Attention and Space. Horizons of Phenomenology Conference, UC Merced\*

Attention, Responsibility, and Control. University of Nevada, Reno\* 2017  
 Attention, Responsibility, and Control. Victoria University of Wellington\*  
 Agency in the Absence of Attention. European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Munich  
 Hierarchical Control: Beyond Dual-Process Theory. Monash University\*  
 Hierarchical Control: Beyond Dual-Process Theory. LPS, UC Irvine\*  
 Issues of Inclusion and Diversity in Hiring Practices. Pacific APA, Seattle\*  
 The Puzzle of Skilled Behavior. Eastern APA, Baltimore

The Puzzle of Skilled Behavior. Philosophy of Science Association Meeting, Atlanta 2016  
 The Puzzle of Skilled Behavior. Agency and Causation Workshop, Ghent University

The Puzzle of Skilled Behavior. ASSC, Buenos Aires

The Standard Theory of Conscious Perception. Cognitive Science Society Meeting, Pasadena 2015

An Empirical Look at Gender and Research Specialization. Hypatia Conference, Philadelphia

An Empirical Look at Gender and Research Specialization. MAP, Boston University\*

Conscious Entrainment. Pacific APA, Vancouver

Conscious Entrainment. Northern California Consciousness Meeting, UC Davis\* 2014

Attention and Perceptual Organization. PhiloSTEM-6, IPFW

Attention and Perceptual Organization. Philosophy of Psychology Workshop, UC Riverside\* 2013

Attention and the Problem of Unity. ASSC, San Diego

Attention, Action, and Responsibility. Boston University\*

Attention, Action, and Responsibility. Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford University\*

#### TEACHING AT UC MERCED (\*MULTIPLE TIMES)

##### *Undergraduate*

Attention\*

Consciousness (Philosophy & Cog. Science)\*

Critical Reasoning\*

Experimental Philosophy\*

Free Will (Philosophy & Cog. Science)\*

Philosophy of Mind\*

##### *Graduate*

Attention

Consciousness

Foundations of Cognitive Science\*

Mental Causation

Mind, Technology, and Society\*

#### ADVISING (COGNITIVE AND INFORMATION SCIENCES)

Sergio Ponce de Leon (committee member, PhD program) 2021–present

Alex Dayer (advisor, PhD program) 2018–present

Shadab Tabatabaeian (advisor, PhD program; previously advisor, IH master's program) 2016–2023

Adam Holm (advisor, master's program) 2021–2022

Aramis Munoz-Valverde (advisor, master's program) 2020–2022

Ayonna Jones (advisor, master's program) 2021–2022

Morgan Fleming (committee member, PhD program) 2014–2020

Sam Spevack (committee member, PhD program) 2014–2019

#### SERVICE

##### *Profession*

Scientific Committee, Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness 2023–present

Associate Editor, *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences* 2022–present

Member at Large, Executive Committee of Pacific APA 2022–present

Member of the APA Data Task Force 2016–present

Academic Placement Data and Analysis (APDA; [philosophydata.org](http://philosophydata.org)) 2011–present

Ad Hoc Reviewer for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Blackwell*, *Cognitive* 2010–present

*Science*, *Ergo*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosophical Psychology*,  
*Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, *Philosophy of*  
*Science*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Routledge*, *Society for Philosophy*

*and Psychology, Synthese, Teaching Philosophy, and Thought*

Review Panelist for the National Endowment of the Humanities	2017
Member of the APA Committee on Academic Career Opportunities and Placement	2016–2017
Member of the APA Committee on Non-Academic Placement	2015–2016

*University*

Chair, Philosophy Department	2023–present
Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation	2022–present
Philosophy Website and Events Coordinator	2013–present
Philosophy Program Lead	2021–2023
Undergraduate Council of UC Merced Senate	2022
Cognitive and Information Sciences Search Committee (cluster hire, 4 lines)	2018–2019
Inequality, Power, and Social Justice Search Committee (cluster hire, 5 lines)	2016–2017
Inequality, Power, and Social Justice Steering Committee	2015–2017
Philosophy Curriculum and Meeting Coordinator	2013–2016
Inequality, Power, and Social Justice Research Initiative	2014–2015
Faculty Accreditation Organizer, Philosophy Minor	2013–2015

*Other*

Emory Tibet Science Initiative; Faculty Mentor (Neuroscience)	2023–present
AAUW Dinner with a Scientist; Main Speaker	2019
Cognitive Science Society Conference; Organizing Committee	2014–2015
Emory-Tibet Science Initiative: Ganden Shartse College; Teacher (Neuroscience)	2014–2015
<i>Neuphi</i> (monthly workshop with invited speakers); Founder and Organizer	2007–2013
<i>Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on Consciousness</i> ; Founder and Organizer	2008–2011

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

UCHRI Grant (Philosophy Works: a workshop on nonacademic careers for philosophers)	2023
UC Merced Senate Grant (APDA)	2023–2024
UC Merced Center for the Humanities Grants (APDA, Bobcat Comics, book subvention)	2016–2023
Australian National University Visiting Fellowship	2019
American Philosophical Association Grants (APDA)	2015–2019
UC Merced Senate Grant (APDA)	2016–2017
Mind Science Foundation Grants (CSS, IGCC, Neuphi)	2009–2015
Boston University Dissertation Fellowship	2009–2011
Shimony Prize	2010