

Curriculum Vitae – Neil Mehta

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APPOINTMENTS

National University of Singapore (NUS), 1 July 2025-present:

Professor with tenure, 1 July 2025 to present

Yale-NUS College (with joint appointment at the National University of Singapore), 1 September 2012 to 30 June 2025:

Associate professor with tenure, 1 July 2017 to 30 Jun 2025

Assistant professor, tenure-track, 1 September 2012 to 30 June 2017. As a founding faculty member of Yale-NUS College, I helped design large tracts of the curriculum and many administrative policies.

Visiting scholar, research leave, University of Michigan, spring and summer 2017

Visiting scholar, University of Windsor, summer 2016

Visiting scholar, research leave, MIT, spring and summer 2015

Fellow, Yale University, Whitney Humanities Center, fall 2012-spring 2013

Research associate, University of Michigan, Multidisciplinary Consciousness Research Group, summer 2012

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ph.D. in philosophy, 2012

Australian National University, summer 2008, visiting scholar

Swarthmore College, B.A. in philosophy, 2005

AREAS

Areas of specialization: mind, epistemology

Areas of competence: metaphysics; meta-ethics; ancient Greek, Indian, and Chinese philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

In total, 1 book; 18 peer-reviewed articles (including 6 articles in top-5 generalist journals and 2 articles in *Analysis*, the top short-form journal); 1 encyclopedia entry; 1 book review; 1 general work.

Book:

1. *A Pluralist Theory of Perception*, MIT Press, August 2024

Peer-reviewed articles:

18. “A natural argument for contextualism,” *Noûs*, forthcoming

17. “In defense of a loose speech theory of knowledge,” *Philosophical Studies*, 2026

16. “Invariantism, contextualism, and the explanatory power of knowledge,” *Noûs*, 2023/2024 (online/print)
15. “Grounding identity in existence facts: A reply to Wilhelm,” *Analysis*, 2023
14. “The fragmentation of phenomenal character,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 2021/2022 (online/print)
13. “Naïve realism with many fundamental kinds,” *Acta Analytica*, 2021/2022 (online/print)
12. “The common kind theory and the concept of perceptual experience,” *Erkenntnis*, 2021
11. “A new argument for the rationality of perception,” *Acta Analytica*, 2020
10. “Phenomenal, normative, and other explanatory gaps: A general diagnosis,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 2017/2019 (online/print)
9. “Can grounding characterize fundamentality?,” *Analysis*, 2017
8. “On the generality of experience: A reply to French and Gomes,” with co-author Todd Ganson, *Philosophical Studies*, 2016
7. “Knowledge and other norms for assertion, action, and belief,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 2015/2016 (online/print)
6. “The limited role of particulars in phenomenal experience,” *Journal of Philosophy*, 2014
5. “Beyond transparency: the spatial argument for experiential externalism,” *Philosophers’ Imprint*, 2013
4. “Is there a phenomenological argument for higher-order representationalism?,” *Philosophical Studies*, 2013
3. “How to explain the explanatory gap,” *Dialectica*, 2013
2. “General and specific consciousness: a first-order representationalist approach,” with George Mashour (neuroscientist/anesthesiologist) as second author, *Frontiers in Consciousness Research*, 2013
1. “Exploring subjective representationalism,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 2012

Other:

5. “The rationality of perception,” *IAI News*, 2026 (online). This is a news article, published by the Institute of Art and Ideas in London, summarizing an argument from one of my papers for a popular audience.
4. Précis of my book, *A Pluralist Theory of Perception*, and replies to commentators, *Philosophia*, 2026 (online)
3. “A guide to professional philosophy,” self-published, 2025. This is a revised version of my 2016 piece, “A writing guide for professional philosophers.” The original piece has been downloaded more than 5000 times from PhilPapers.org.
2. “Phenomenal character,” encyclopedia entry, Blackwell Companion to Epistemology (3rd edition), 2025
1. Review of Michael Madary’s book *Visual Phenomenology*, *Philosophical Review*, 2019

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

“Can you read with your ears?”

- Nanyang Technological University, Perception, Memory, Imagination Workshop, 10 April 2026

“Absolute knowledge”

- Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, 8 July 2025

“A natural argument for contextualism”

- University of New South Wales, departmental colloquium, 23 July 2024
- University of Sydney, departmental colloquium, 24 July 2024
- Macquarie University, work-in-progress seminar, 30 July 2024

“Invariantism, contextualism, and the explanatory power of knowledge”

- Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, 5 July 2023

The Many Problems of Perception

- Book workshop. Participants: Keith Allen, Brian Cutter, Heather Logue, Boyd Millar, and Umrao Sethi. Divided across 5, 12, and 19 February 2021.

“The pluralist theory of perception”

- University of Sydney, departmental colloquium, 10 March 2021
- Monash University, departmental colloquium, 5 March 2021
- University of Melbourne, departmental colloquium, 4 March 2021
- Institute of Philosophy, London, Logic, Epistemology, and Metaphysics Seminar, 2 March 2021
- Australian National University, ANU Philosophy Society *and* Philosophy of Mind Work-In-Progress Group, 23 February 2021
- University of Cambridge, Mental Sciences Work-In-Progress Group, 28 January 2021
- University of York, departmental colloquium, 27 January 2021
- University of New South Wales, departmental colloquium, 14 July 2020
- Online Symposia in Perception and Consciousness, 8 June 2020

“The conceptual case against phenomenal particularism”

- The University of Sydney, departmental colloquium, 16 May 2019
- Australian National University, departmental colloquium, 19 July 2018

“What is the concept of perceptual experience?”

- Philosophy of Mind Workshop, Nanyang Technological University, 6 September 2018

“The presentational character of perceptual experience”

- World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing, 19 August 2018

“Naïve realism with many fundamental kinds”

- New Waves in Relationalism Conference (online), 22 May 2021
- Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, 11 July 2018

“Explanatory gaps in phenomenal, normative, and other contexts: A general diagnosis”

- Ontology of Compositional Explanation Workshop, Rutgers University, Newark, May 2017
- University of Vermont, departmental colloquium, February 2017
- University of Michigan, departmental colloquium, January 2017
- Lingnan University, departmental colloquium, September 2016
- University of Windsor, departmental colloquium, June 2016
- Columbia/Barnard University, Rutgers-Barnard-Columbia Mind Workshop, August 2015
- University of Geneva, Centre in Metaphysics, Conference on Two-Dimensionalism, July 2012

“Humeanism and the categorical character of epistemic normativity”

- Southampton-Humboldt Normativity Conference, June 2017
- University of Puget Sound, April 2017
- Nanyang Technological University, departmental colloquium, October 2015
- University of Minnesota at Duluth, departmental colloquium, March 2015
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working group presentation, March 2015
- Lingnan University, departmental colloquium, September 2014

“The normative role of perceptual experience”

- Rutgers University, invited seminar presentation, April 2015
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working group presentation, April 2015

“In defense of perceptual atomism”

- American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, January 2016
- University of Hong Kong, departmental colloquium, September 2014
- Australasian Association of Philosophy, July 2014

“The limited role of particulars in phenomenal experience”

- Northern Institute of Philosophy, Early Career Conference, June 2012

“Evidence for false evidence”

- University of Miami, Graduate Epistemology Conference, January 2012

“Is there a phenomenological argument for higher-order representationalism?”

- University of Missouri at St. Louis, 6th Annual Gateway Graduate Conference, April 2011
- Southwest Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, March 2011

“How to build a creature with qualia”

- Australian National University, Philosophy Society, August 2008

“Psychological explanation and the broadness of content”

- City University of New York, Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, March 2008

“The hardest qualia problem”

- University of Iowa, Third Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2007

OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Sole organizer, Online Colloquia in Philosophy of Perception, March-May 2021. Speakers included Alex Byrne, Keith Allen, Heather Logue, Katalin Farkas, Craig French, Lisa Miracchi, Farid Masrour, and Mark Johnston.

Sole organizer, Online Colloquia in Perception and Consciousness, June-July 2020. Speakers included Susanna Schellenberg, Brian Cutter, Umrao Sethi, Ori Beck, Maarten Steenhagen, and Adam Pautz.

Sole organizer, Philosophy Work-In-Progress Group, May-June 2020, Yale-NUS College and the National University of Singapore.

Sessions chaired

- Book symposium on Susanna Schellenberg’s *The Unity of Perception*, World Congress of Philosophy, 17 August 2018
- Epistemology and Psychology, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, January 2017
- Foundations of Normativity Workshop, University of Edinburgh, March 2015
- K. C. Bhattacharya and Nishitani Keiji Workshop, Yale-NUS College, NUS, and Kyoto University, February 2014

Comments presented

- Derek Allen, “Ethical argumentation, objectivity, and bias,” Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation Conference, May 2015
- Susan Blake, “Perceptual content and epistemic foundations,” Eastern Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association, December 2013
- Anthony Peressini, “Against the reduction of phenomenological consciousness to qualia,” Eastern Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association, December 2012
- Gordon Knight, “Phenomenology, embodiment, and the mind,” Central States Philosophical Association Meeting, September 2010
- David Papineau, “What exactly is the explanatory gap?” University of Michigan Spring Colloquium, March 2009
- John Doris, “On reflection ... more or less,” University of Michigan Spring Colloquium, March 2008

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Nominee, Yale-NUS College Distinguished Teaching Award, 2023. *Awarded to exemplars of excellent and innovative undergraduate education at Yale-NUS College (one junior awardee and one senior awardee per year).*

Winner, Yale-NUS College Kingfisher Award for Advisor of the Year (Yale-NUS Ballroom Society), 2019. *Awarded to the student organization advisor who has excelled and exemplified outstanding service, dedication, and leadership to the organization s/he advises.*

Nominee, Yale-NUS College Distinguished Teaching Award, 2018. *Awarded to exemplars of excellent and innovative undergraduate education at Yale-NUS College (one junior awardee and one senior awardee per year).*

Yale-NUS College Internal Grant, SGD \$10,000, "Consciousness and perception: Untangling the knot," 2018-2021. *Successfully completed two years early.*

Nominee, NUS Young Researcher Award, 2016. *Awarded to NUS or Yale-NUS researchers below 40 years of age based on their impact and promise in research.*

Yale-NUS College Internal Grant, SGD \$20,000, "Reductivism," 2016-2019.

Yale-NUS College Internal Grant, SGD \$20,000, "The mind as a biological organ," 2015-2018. *Successfully completed one year early.*

Yale-NUS College Internal Grant, SGD \$20,000, "Consciousness and knowledge," 2012-2016. *Successfully completed one year early.*

Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 2010-2011.

Patricia Susan Feldman Award for Excellence in Philosophy, 2009. *An award of USD \$3500 to provide a summer fellowship to a fourth-, fifth- or sixth-year graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding intellectual curiosity and exceptional promise of original study in philosophy.*

University of Michigan Marshall Weinberg Dissertation Fellowship, 2007. *An award of USD \$8400 to support the writing of a dissertation.*

University of Michigan Six-Term Rackham Merit Fellowship, 2005. *Awarded to graduate students who have a record of superior academic achievement and who come from an educational, cultural or geographic background that is underrepresented in graduate study in their discipline.*

TEACHING

Courses taught:

- Perception, an advanced (4K) seminar
- Knowledge, an intermediate (3K) seminar
- Reality, an intermediate (3K) seminar
- Consciousness, an introductory (2K) seminar
- Why Be Moral?, an introductory (2K) seminar
- Philosophy and Political Thought 1, a common curriculum course that was required for all Yale-NUS College students
- Philosophy and Political Thought 2, a common curriculum course that was required for all Yale-NUS College students

Capstone projects supervised: 13.

Independent studies supervised:

- The Rationality of Perception (fall 2018)
- The Nature of Consciousness (spring 2014)

Other:

- Featured faculty member, Yale-NUS College Teaching and Tonic series, September 2019. *In this series, excellent teachers are asked to share and discuss their pedagogical practices with faculty members.*
- Faculty speaker, Yale-NUS College First-Year Assembly, August 2019. *Each year, the seniors select one Yale-NUS faculty speaker.*
- Opening address, Singapore Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (theme: Mind), spring 2018
- Guest instructor, undergraduate seminar on writing in philosophy, University of Puget Sound, April 2017
- Guest instructor, undergraduate seminar on Peter Singer's "Famine, affluence, and morality," Oberlin College, October 2011

SERVICE

Refereed articles/book chapters (81 in total):

Philosophical Review (1)
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research (5)
Journal of Philosophy (3)
Noûs (3)
Mind (2)
Philosophers' Imprint (7)
Philosophical Studies (7)
Philosophical Quarterly (5)
Synthese (11)
Analysis (2)
Thought (2)
Dialectica (5)
Erkenntnis (7)
Theoria (1)
Philosophy and the Mind Sciences (1)
Journal of Philosophical Research (1)
Philosophical Psychology (2)
Philosophical Papers (1)
Canadian Journal of Philosophy (3)
Inquiry (1)
Australasian Journal of Philosophy (7)
Asian Journal of Philosophy (1)
Oxford University Press (7)

Capstone Coordinator, Philosophy Major, Jan-May 2025

Head of Studies (analogous to departmental chair), Philosophy Major (2019-20, Aug-Dec 2020, Aug 2021-Jul 2024)

Chair, Search Committee for a lecturer in philosophy (2022)

Coordinator, Yale-NUS and NUS Work-In-Progress Group, (May-June 2020)

Deputy Chair, Search Committee for the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Chair (2019-20). *The chair for this committee had many other service obligations. Thus I was appointed deputy chair and authorized to take many actions that would ordinarily be taken by the chair.*

Member, Appointments Committee (2018-19, 2019-20, Aug-Dec 2020). *This committee reviews nearly all appointments (e.g., for assistant, associate, and full professors, and for academic visitors) at Yale-NUS College.*

Member, Humanities Divisional Faculty Review Committee (2019-20)

Course facilitator, Philosophy and Political Thought 1 (fall 2017, fall 2018)

Faculty mentor to Assistant Prof. Robin Zheng (2018-19)

Member, Philosophy and Political Thought Teaching Group (2013-14, fall 2014, 2015-16, fall 2017, fall 2018, fall 2019)

Faculty advisor, Yale-NUS Ballroom Society (spring 2018, 2018-2019). *For my work in this capacity, I received the Yale-NUS College Kingfisher Award for Advisor of the Year.*

Member, Third Year Review Committee for the Humanities: Malcolm Keating, Taran Kang (2017-18)

Humanities representative, Undergraduate Research Ethics Committee (2017-18)

Academic advisor to 17 undergraduates in total (2013-14, fall 2014, 2015-16, 2017-18)

Member, Philosophy Major Group (2013-14, fall 2014, 2015-16, fall 2016, 2017-present)

Organizer, Yale-NUS Philosophy Seminar Series (spring 2016, fall 2016)

Member, Advisory Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (2015-16)

Member, Academic Policy Committee, Yale-NUS College (2012-13, 2013-14)

Member, Family Leave Working Group, Yale-NUS College (2013)

Member, Philosophy Curriculum Committee, Yale-NUS College (2012-13)

Co-organizer, University of Michigan Colloquium: Explaining Phenomenal Consciousness (April 2009)