

# JULIAN LEE-SURSIN

*Curriculum Vitae — January 2026*

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RESEARCH INTERESTS: Explanation, Language, Mind, Fashion

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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Visiting Scholar, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

2025–2026

## EDUCATION

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ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE, MS in Cognitive Science 17/20 GPA (first year) <sup>1</sup>	2024–present
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, Visiting Graduate Student 🌐 compthoughtlit.jhu.edu/directory/julian-lee-sursin	2025–2026
SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ, MPhil Philosophy of Science, Knowledge and Mind, <i>Mention très bien</i> (highest honors)	2023–2025
OBERLIN COLLEGE, BA, Honors in Philosophy	2020–2023

## SELECTED WRITING

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### PAPERS

4. **Subject-Dependence in Science: The Argument from Complementarity**  
Co-authored with HONG JOO RYOO  
Under review
3. **Is Acquaintance a *Sui Generis* Epistemic Relation?**  
Manuscript, Winner of the 2025 Graduate Paper Prize, Indiana Philosophical Association

### THESES

2. **Ontologie et Mereologie: une désambiguisation métalinguistique** (in French)  
Master's Thesis, Sorbonne Université, defended June 18  
Committee: Jean-Baptiste Rauzy (advisor), Pascal Ludwig, Max KISTLER (external)
1. **Modality and Free Will: An Incompatibilist Account of Frankfurt-style Cases**  
Honors Thesis, Oberlin College, defended April 28

## PRESENTATIONS

\* = abstract refereed    \*\* = paper refereed    † = invited

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14. **Curb Your (Brain-Model Alignment) Enthusiasm** (\*)  
Co-authored with ARNOLD FLEISHMAN  
AI and Philosophy, New Orleans, LA
13. **On Fashion's Perceptual Meaning** (\*\*)  
American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA
12. **Why Presentism Precludes Explanation** (\*)  
Central APA, Philosophy of Time Society, Chicago, IL
11. **How Causation Explains: A Semantic Inquiry** (\*)  
Eastern APA, Society for Philosophy of Causation, Baltimore, MD

<sup>1</sup>Grades in France are assigned on a scale from 0–20: 10 is passing, 12 awards honors (*mention assez bien*), 14 awards high honors (*mention bien*), and 16 awards highest honors (*mention très bien*).

10. <b>Fashion and the Jacksonian Mode: Intentionality Beyond Language (**)</b> Symposium, Institut Français de la Mode, Paris, France	Nov 20, 2025
9. <b>Semantics for Explanation (**)</b> Illinois Philosophical Association, Charleston, IL	Nov 8, 2025
8. <b>Composition and Metalinguistic Negotiation (†)</b> Talk for philosophy majors and faculty, Oberlin College	Nov 3, 2025
7. <b>Is Acquaintance a Sui Generis Epistemic Relation? (**)</b> Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington, IN	Nov 1, 2025
6. <b>Semantics for Explanation (**)</b> 24th University of Toronto Grad Conference, Toronto, Canada	Oct 24, 2025
5. <b>Is Acquaintance a Sui Generis Epistemic Relation? (*)</b> CREPH: Mind Conference, Liège, Belgium	Oct 16, 2025
4. <b>Do AI Agents Meet the Epistemic Norms for Explanation? (*)</b> XVI International Ontology Congress, Basque Country	Oct 9, 2025
3. <b>The Special Questions Dispute (**)</b> SOPhiA, Salzburg, Austria	Sep 5, 2025
2. <b>The Special Questions Dispute (**)</b> 99th Joint Session of the Aristotelian and Mind Societies, Glasgow, Scotland	Jul 13, 2025
1. <b>Composition and Metalinguistic Negotiation (†)</b> Salvador Mascarenhas Lab Meeting, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France	May 9, 2025

**COMMENTS**

- Adekunle Taoifeek: “The Individuation Problem for Plant Souls in Panpsychist Ontology”  
87th Meeting of the Southwest Philosophical Society, Savannah, GA Nov 22, 2025
- Patrick Skeels: “There can be no Dispute”  
Illinois Philosophical Association, Charleston, IL Nov 8, 2025

**CHAIR**

- Matthew Jackson: “Why AI Representation is Incompatible with Democratic Values”  
Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington, IN Nov 1, 2025
- Mack Sullivan: “Mountains out of Myhills”  
Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington, IN Nov 1, 2025

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

9. <b>Research Fellowship</b> , Johns Hopkins University (\$12,000) Fellowship stipend to conduct independent research	2025–2026
8. <b>Tuition Subsidy</b> , Johns Hopkins University (\$66,670) Full subsidy to take any course(s) at JHU	2025–2026
7. <b>Honorarium</b> , Institut Français de la Mode (€1,600) Award for presentation at the Fashion and Language Symposium	Nov 2025
6. <b>Graduate Paper Prize</b> (\$100) Best paper by graduate student, Indiana Philosophical Association	Oct 2025
5. <b>Bursary</b> , CREPH ARC research project: MIND (€500) Funding for presentation at the University of Liège	Aug 2025
4. <b>Travel Grant</b> , Sorbonne Philosophy Department (€500) Funding for AS/Mind Joint Session presentation	May 2025
3. <b>Paul W. Wurzburger Prize in French</b> (\$1,000) Concours de la Maison Française de Cleveland	May 2023
2. <b>Prix Lahaurine-Johnston</b> (\$1,000) Annual prize for investment in Oberlin’s Maison Française	May 2022

1. <b>John F. Oberlin Merit Scholarship</b> (\$30,000 total)	2020–2023
Academic merit scholarship, renewed annually	

## TEACHING

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OBERLIN COLLEGE	2021–2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole Grader and Tutor, Deductive Logic</li> <li>• Tutor: Philosophy, French, Math, CS, Latin, Econ</li> <li>• Sole Resident Assistant, Maison Française (2022–2023)</li> <li>• TA (weekly session as sole instructor), Intermediate French (Spring 2021)</li> </ul>	
US MILITARY / ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	Summer 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole instructor: Robotics, CS, and Biochem courses for the AEOP</li> </ul>	

## EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, Arnosti Lab	Summer 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigated modified retinoblastoma (Rbf) gene in Drosophila using dCas9 chimeras</li> </ul>	
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, Arbeitman Lab	Summer 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRISPR &amp; U6-gRNA cloning, Drosophila cortex dissection, gel electrophoresis</li> </ul>	
NATIONAL HIGH MAGNETIC FIELD LABORATORY, Condensed Matter Lab	2015–2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed a millimeter wave resonator. When measuring polymers (e.g., polystyrene), intensity increased by a factor of 8, pulselengths decreased by a factor of 3-4 (compared to measurements without the resonator).</li> <li>• Built miniature solar-powered vehicle using CAD and soldering</li> </ul>	

## SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

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<b>Member:</b> American Philosophical Association, American Society for Aesthetics, Aristotelian Society, Philosophy of Time Society, Society for Philosophy of Causation, Southwestern Philosophical Society	
<b>Board Member:</b> National High Magnetic Field Laboratory	
Founding member, Youth Advisory Board (2021–2023)	

**Editor:** *The Synapse: Intercollegiate science magazine* (2021–2022)

## VARIA

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<b>Fashion:</b> Performed in Paris Fashion Week ( <i>Duranimal</i> ) and the Saut Hermès Dinner	Mar 2025
<b>Music:</b> I sing bass, currently studying at Peabody Preparatory. Notable concerts below:	
• Verdi's <i>Macbeth</i> with Plácido Domingo (Salle Gaveau)	Apr 2025
• Rossini's <i>Le Comte Ory</i> (Théâtre des Champs-Elysées)	Nov 2024
• Bastille Day Parade (ft. Macron and the Olympic torch)	Jul 2024
• Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, dir. Joe Hisaishi (La Défense Arena)	Apr 2024
• Mozart's Mass in C minor at Les Invalides	Dec 2023
• Regular concerts at the Philharmonie de Paris	
<b>Sports:</b> Chess (1742 FIDE) · American Football (NCAA D3, Oberlin, DE) · Tennis (HS Varsity)	

## REFERENCES

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*Available upon request*