

# JULIAN LEE-SURSIN

Curriculum Vitae — February 2026

✉ jleesur1@jh.edu    🌐 julianleesursin.com

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

---

Visiting Scholar, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY 2025–2026

## EDUCATION

---

ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE, MS in Cognitive Science 2024–present  
17/20 GPA (first year)<sup>1</sup>

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, Visiting Graduate Student 2025–2026  
🌐 [compthoughtlit.jhu.edu/directory/julian-lee-sursin](https://compthoughtlit.jhu.edu/directory/julian-lee-sursin)

SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ, MPhil 2023–2025  
Philosophy of Science, Knowledge and Mind, *Mention très bien* (highest honors)

OBERLIN COLLEGE, BA, Honors in Philosophy 2020–2023

## SELECTED WRITING

---

### 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 désambiguïsation 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

16. **Towards an Explanatory Cognitive Model for Blackwell Informativeness** (\*) June 15–17, 2026  
10th International Conference on Model-Based Reasoning, Rome, Italy
15. **Do AI Agents Meet the Epistemic Norms for Explanation?** (\*) Apr 24–26, 2026  
Inaugural Humanities of AI Workshop, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
14. **Curb Your (Brain-Model Alignment) Enthusiasm** (\*) Apr 16, 2026  
Co-authored with ARNOLD FLEISHMAN  
AI and Philosophy, New Orleans, LA
13. **On Fashion's Perceptual Meaning** (\*\*) Apr 10–11, 2026  
American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA
12. **Why Presentism Precludes Explanation** (\*) Feb 18, 2026  
Central APA, Philosophy of Time Society, Chicago, IL

---

<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*).

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 11. <b>How Causation Explains: A Semantic Inquiry</b> (*)<br>Eastern APA, Society for Philosophy of Causation, Baltimore, MD              | Jan 7, 2026  |
| 10. <b>Fashion and the Jacksonian Mode: Intentionality Beyond Language</b> (**)<br>Symposium, Institut Français de la Mode, Paris, France | Nov 20, 2025 |
| 9. <b>Semantics for Explanation</b> (**)<br>Illinois Philosophical Association, Charleston, IL  | Nov 8, 2025  |
| 8. <b>Composition and Metalinguistic Negotiation</b> (†)<br>Talk for philosophy majors and faculty, Oberlin College                       | Nov 3, 2025  |
| 7. <b>Is Acquaintance a Sui Generis Epistemic Relation?</b> (**)<br>Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington, IN                    | Nov 1, 2025  |
| 6. <b>Semantics for Explanation</b> (**)<br>24th University of Toronto Grad Conference, Toronto, Canada                                   | Oct 24, 2025 |
| 5. <b>Is Acquaintance a Sui Generis Epistemic Relation?</b> (*)<br>CREPH: Mind Conference, Liège, Belgium                                 | Oct 16, 2025 |
| 4. <b>Do AI Agents Meet the Epistemic Norms for Explanation?</b> (*)<br>XVI International Ontology Congress, Basque Country               | Oct 9, 2025  |
| 3. <b>The Special Questions Dispute</b> (**)<br>SOPhA, Salzburg, Austria  | Sep 5, 2025  |
| 2. <b>The Special Questions Dispute</b> (**)<br>99th Joint Session of the Aristotelian and Mind Societies, Glasgow, Scotland              | Jul 13, 2025 |
| 1. <b>Composition and Metalinguistic Negotiation</b> (†)<br>Salvador Mascarenhas Lab Meeting, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France          | May 9, 2025  |

#### COMMENTS

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

#### CHAIR

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

#### FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 2. <b>Prix Lahaurine-Johnston</b> (\$1,000)<br>Annual prize for investment in Oberlin's Maison Française                        | May 2022  |
| 1. <b>John F. Oberlin Merit Scholarship</b> (\$30,000 total)<br>Merit scholarship, renewed for all three years I was at Oberlin | 2020–2023 |

## TEACHING

---

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 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 Army Educational Outreach Program</li> </ul>   |             |

## EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

---

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, Arnosti Lab  | Summer 2019 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigated modified retinoblastoma (Rbf) gene in <i>Drosophila</i> using dCas9 chimeras</li> </ul>   |             |
| FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, Arbeitman Lab   | Summer 2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRISPR &amp; U6-gRNA cloning, <i>Drosophila</i> 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

---

**Member:** American Philosophical Association, American Society for Aesthetics, Aristotelian Society, Philosophy of Time Society, Society for Philosophy of Causation, Southwestern Philosophical Society

**Board Member:** National High Magnetic Field Laboratory  
Founding member of the Youth Advisory Board (2021–2023)

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

## VARIA

---

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <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-Élysées)                                      | 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

---

*Available upon request*