

# JULIAN LEE-SURSIN

Curriculum Vitae — February 2026

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## 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 Méréologie: 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

16. **Towards an Explanatory Cognitive Model for Blackwell Informativeness** (\*)  
10th International Conference on Model-Based Reasoning, Rome, Italy
15. **Do AI Agents Meet the Epistemic Norms for Explanation?** (\*)  
Inaugural Humanities of AI Workshop, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
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

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

**COMMENTS**

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

**CHAIR**

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

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

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

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| 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

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| <b>OBERLIN COLLEGE</b><br>• Sole Grader and Tutor, Deductive Logic<br>• Tutor: Philosophy, French, Math, CS, Latin, Econ<br>• Sole Resident Assistant, Maison Française (2022–2023)<br>• TA (weekly session as sole instructor), Intermediate French (Spring 2021) | 2021–2023   |
| <b>US MILITARY / ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY</b><br>• Sole instructor: Robotics, CS, and Biochem courses for the Army Educational Outreach Program   | Summer 2021 |

## EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

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| <b>MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY</b> , Arnosti Lab<br>• Investigated modified retinoblastoma (Rbf) gene in Drosophila using dCas9 chimeras   | Summer 2019 |
| <b>FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY</b> , Arbeitman Lab<br>• CRISPR & U6-gRNA cloning, Drosophila cortex dissection, gel electrophoresis   | Summer 2018 |
| <b>NATIONAL HIGH MAGNETIC FIELD LABORATORY</b> , Condensed Matter Lab<br>• 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).<br>• Built miniature solar-powered vehicle using CAD and soldering | 2015–2017   |

## SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

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- 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

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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   |          |
- Sports:** Chess (1742 FIDE) · American Football (NCAA D3, Oberlin, DE) · Tennis (HS Varsity)

## REFERENCES

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*Available upon request*