

JULIAN LEE-SURSIN

Curriculum Vitae — January 2026

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RESEARCH INTERESTS: Explanation, Language, Mind, Fashion

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Visiting Scholar, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY 2025–2026

EDUCATION

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

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, Visiting Graduate Student 2025–2026
🌐 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

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
11. **How Causation Explains: A Semantic Inquiry (*)** Jan 7, 2026
Eastern APA, Society for Philosophy of Causation, Baltimore, MD

¹Grades 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*).

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

COMMENTS

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| • Adekunle Taofeek: “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

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| • 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

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

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

TEACHING

- OBERLIN COLLEGE 2021–2023
- Sole Grader and Tutor, Deductive Logic
 - Tutor: Philosophy, French, Math, CS, Latin, Econ
 - Sole Resident Assistant, Maison Française (2022–2023)
 - TA (weekly session as sole instructor), Intermediate French (Spring 2021)
- US MILITARY / ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Summer 2021
- Sole instructor: Robotics, CS, and Biochem courses for the AEOP

EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

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

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, Youth Advisory Board (2021–2023)

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

VARIA

Fashion: Performed in Paris Fashion Week (*Duranimal*) and the Saut Hermès Dinner Mar 2025

Music: I sing bass, currently studying at Peabody Preparatory. Notable concerts below:

- Verdi's *Macbeth* with Plácido Domingo (Salle Gaveau) Apr 2025
- Rossini's *Le Comte Ory* (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

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

REFERENCES

Available upon request