

Wouter A. Cohen

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Areas of specialisation: metaphysics, history of analytic philosophy

Areas of competence: logic, philosophy of language, philosophy of music

Employment

2023–2024 Analysis Studentship (postdoctoral researcher)
University of Manchester

Education

2019–2023 PhD Philosophy
Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge

Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein on existence and negative existentials
Supervisors: Alex Oliver, Michael Potter
Examiners: Richard Gaskin, Peter Sullivan

2018–2019 Logic Year
ILLC, University of Amsterdam

2017–2018 MPhil Philosophy (distinction)
Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge

2014–2017 BA Musicology (*cum laude*)
Utrecht University

2013–2017 BA Philosophy (*cum laude*)
Utrecht University

Publications

forthcoming The audibility problem and indirect listening.
Australasian Journal of Philosophy.

forthcoming Frege's many existence concepts.
In *Varieties of Being: Comparative Historical Essays*, ed. D. Rami (Springer).

2023 Would Carnap have tolerated modern metaphysics?
(with Benjamin Marschall)
The Monist 106: 326–41.

2022 Denoting concepts and ontology in Russell's *Principles of Mathematics*.
Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy 10(7): 1–22.

2021 Ways of being have no way of being useful.
Thought 10: 293–301.

2017 Fictional realism and metaphysically indeterminate identity.
Analysis 77: 511–19.

Presentations (* = refereed, † = invited)

- 2023 James Baldwin and the redirection of blame through forgiveness.
Departmental Seminar (University of Manchester)
- 2023† Russell's existential struggles 1903–1919.
Higher-order Theories of Existence: From Kant to Ryle (Workshop, Dortmund)
- 2023* A note on existence and negative existentials in Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*.
44th International Wittgenstein Symposium 2023 (Kirchberg am Wechsel)
- 2023* A Russellian theory of modality.
11th European Congress for Analytic Philosophy (University of Vienna)
- 2023* Russell's existential struggles 1910–1914.
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy Annual Conference (Humboldt University, Berlin)
- 2023* Would Carnap have tolerated modern metaphysics?
10th Annual Dutch Research School of Philosophy (OZSW) Conference (Leiden University)
- 2022† Appreciating music.
Moral Sciences Club (University of Cambridge)
- 2022 Would Carnap have tolerated Sider? (with Benjamin Marschall)
Serious Metaphysics Group (University of Cambridge)
- 2021 Frege on existence.
Serious Metaphysics Group (University of Cambridge)
- 2018 The logic of relative modality.
Cool logic seminar (IILC, University of Amsterdam)

Awards and scholarships

- 2022 Postgraduate fellowship (£4,000)
British Society for the History of Philosophy
- 2022 Student bursary (£3,000)
The Aristotelian Society
- 2022 Student bursary (€14,000)
Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds
- 2019–2022 Bauer PhD scholarship (full tuition & maintenance)
Gonville and Caius College
- 2017 MPhil bursary
Hendrik Mullerfonds
- 2017 MPhil bursary
Fundatie van Renswoude

Teaching

- 2023 **University of Manchester**
Guest lecture:
- *History of Analytic Philosophy (MA)*
- *20th Century Analytical Philosophy (year 2)*
- 2019–2023 **University of Cambridge**
Lecturer:
- *IB Modality (year 2)*
- Supervisor:
- *IA Meaning (year 1)*
- *IB Knowledge, Language and World (year 2)*
- *IB History of Analytic Philosophy (year 2)*
- *II Mathematical Logic (year 3)*
- Class leader:
- *IA Formal Methods (year 1)*
- Discussion group leader:
- *IA Metaphysics (year 1)*
- *IB History of Analytic Philosophy (year 2)*
- 2016–2017 **Utrecht University**
Teaching assistant:
- *Mathematics for A.I. (Wiskunde voor K.I.)*
- *Philosophy of Mind (Filosofie van de Geest)*

Academic Service

Referee

British Journal for the History of Philosophy

University of Manchester

2023–2024 Philosophy of Music Mini-Workshop

University of Cambridge

- 2023 Co-organiser of the Extended Essays and Dissertations Workshop for second- and third-year undergraduates
- 2021 Co-organiser of the 14th Annual Graduate Conference of Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic
- 2020–2021 Co-convenor of the Serious Metaphysics Group
- 2020–2021 Secretary of the Moral Sciences Club
- 2020 Philosophy Tripos admissions interviewer (*Lucy Cavendish; Churchill College*)
- 2020 Chair of the Graduate Seminar (Easter term)
- 2020 Co-organiser of the 13th Annual Graduate Conference of Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic

Summer schools

- 2019 CUSO summer school in recursion theory and philosophy
University of Geneva
- 2016 28th European summer school in logic, language and information
Free University of Bolzano-Bozen
- 2016 The challenges of natural teleology: final causes from Aristotle to Darwin
University of Groningen

Outreach

Columnist for *Bij Nader Inzien*: <https://bijnaderinzien.com/author/wouter-cohen/>

- forthcoming Criminaliteitsstatistieken spreken niet voor zich.
[Criminality statistics do not speak for themselves.]
- 2023 Hoeveel haren heb je nodig om niet meer kaal te zijn?
[How many hairs do you need to not be bald?]
- 2022 Moet je expert zijn om kunst te waarderen?
[Do you have to be an expert to appreciate art?]
- 2022 Moeten we controversiële standbeelden toch maar laten staan?
[Should controversial statues stand?]
- 2022 Bertrand Russell en de dochter van Mark Rutte.
[Bertrand Russell and the daughter of Mark Rutte.]
- 2021 Waarom diversiteit belangrijk is: *stereotype threat*.
[Why diversity is important: stereotype threat.]
- 2021 Problematische grappen doen meer dan kwetsen.
[Problematic jokes do more than hurt.]
- 2021 We moeten af van ‘hij’ en ‘zij’.
[We should get rid of ‘he’ and ‘she’.]

Languages

- Dutch* Native language
- English* Fluent
- German* Strong reading proficiency