

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 Postdoctoral Researcher (Analysis Studentship)
University of Manchester

Education

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

Thesis *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)

- 2024 How Carnapians show bad (and good) company the door.
Departmental Work-in-Progress Seminar (University of Manchester)
- 2023 James Baldwin and the redirection of blame through forgiveness.
Departmental Work-in-Progress 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

- 2024–2026 Humboldt Research Fellowship
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 2023–2024 Analysis studentship
Analysis Trust
- 2023 Travel bursary
Women in London Philosophy Conference, Institute of Philosophy (London)
- 2022 Postgraduate fellowship
British Society for the History of Philosophy
- 2022 Student bursary
The Aristotelian Society

2022	Student bursary <i>Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds</i>
2019–2022	Bauer PhD scholarship <i>Gonville and Caius College</i>
2019	Travel bursary <i>CUSO Summer School in Recursion Theory and Philosophy (Geneva)</i>
2017	MPhil bursary <i>Hendrik Mullerfonds</i>
2017	MPhil bursary <i>Fundatie van Renswoude</i>

Teaching

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

Academic service

Referee

British Journal for the History of Philosophy

University of Manchester

2024 Organiser of the Internal Philosophy of Music Mini-Workshop

University of Cambridge

2024 Co-organiser of the Cambridge Workshop on the History of Analytic Philosophy

- 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 (in Dutch) for *Bij Nader Inzien*: <https://bijnaderinzien.com/author/wouter-cohen/>

- forthcoming De schijnobjectiviteit van publicaties.
[The false objectivity of publications.]
- 2024 Toen filosofen nog gemeen waren.
[When philosophers were still mean.]
- 2023 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

<i>Dutch</i>	Native language
<i>English</i>	Fluent
<i>German</i>	Strong reading proficiency