

Scott Partington

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Education

University of Cambridge, Queens' College <i>PhD in Philosophy of Science</i> Supervisor: Dr. Marta Halina	2022-present
University of Cambridge, Fitzwilliam College <i>MPhil in Philosophy of Science</i>	2021-2022
Cornell University <i>B.A. in Psychology and College Scholar</i>	2016-2020
University of Cambridge, Fitzwilliam College <i>Visiting student in Psychological & Behavioural Sciences</i>	2018-2019

Awards

Doctoral Scholarship, British Society for Philosophy of Science	2022-2025
Arnold Gerstenberg Studentship, University of Cambridge	2022-2025
HPS Department Maintenance Award, University of Cambridge	2022-2025
Stamps Scholarship, Queens' College, University of Cambridge <i>Awarded full funding for PhD fees and maintenance</i>	2022-2025
Jennifer Redhead Prize, HPS Department, University of Cambridge <i>Best overall performance on MPhil essays (Distinction, 79%)</i>	2022
Arnold Gerstenberg Studentship, University of Cambridge	2021-2022
Charlton Scholarship, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge	2021-2022
HPS Department Maintenance Award, University of Cambridge <i>Awarded full funding for MPhil fees and maintenance</i>	2021-2022
T.A. Ryan award, Department of Psychology, Cornell University <i>Best undergraduate thesis in Psychology</i>	2020

Publications

- Partington, S., Kamtekar, R., Nichols, S. (2025). Norms emerge through iterated learning.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.
- Partington, S., Vesga, A., Nichols, S. (2023). No brute facts: The Principle of Sufficient Reason in ordinary thought. *Cognition.*

Partington, S., Nichols, S., Kushnir, T. (2023). Rational learners and parochial norms. *Cognition*.

Peer-reviewed conference proceedings

Partington, S., Vesga, A., Nichols, S. (2022). The Principle of Sufficient Reason in ordinary cognition. *Proceedings of the 44th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Partington, S., Nichols, S., Kushnir, T. (2021). Is children's norm learning rational? A meta-analysis. *Proceedings of the 43rd annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Partington, S., Nichols, S., Kushnir, T. (2020). When in Rome, do as Bayesian do: Statistical learning and parochial norms. *Proceedings of the 42nd annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Selected presentations

Selected conference talks

“From Bad to Wrong”

Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Ithaca (2025).

“Norm Emergence from Cognitive Biases and Cultural Transmission”

Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Pittsburgh (2023).
3rd European Experimental Philosophy Conference, Zurich (2023).

“From Territoriality to Ownership”

Biennial Meeting of ISHPSSB, Toronto (2023).

“The Principle of Sufficient Reason in ordinary thought”

3rd Joint Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology and the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Milan (2022).

Selected conference posters

“Norm Emergence from Cognitive Biases and Cultural Transmission”

Presented by Shivani Shrotri at the Cornell Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference (2024). *Awarded the conference prize for best poster*.

“The Principle of Sufficient Reason in ordinary thought”

44th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto (2022).

“Is children's norm learning rational? A meta-analysis”

43rd annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Vienna (2021).

“Statistical learning and parochial norms”

Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (2021).

42nd annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto (2020).

Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Princeton (2020).

Invited talks

“Folk theories of amusement and other emotions”

Jokes in Sciences, University of Cambridge (May 2025)

“The Principle of Sufficient Reason and Delusional Thought”

The Mental Sciences Club, University of Cambridge (May 2024)

“Rational Learners and Parochial Norms”

The Sciences of Ethics and Political Philosophy Group, University of Bristol (Sept. 2023)

“Norm Emergence from Cognitive Biases and Cultural Transmission”

The Mental Sciences Club, University of Cambridge (May 2023)

“The Principle of Sufficient Reason in Ordinary Thought”

Concepts and Cognition Lab, Princeton University (November 2021)

Teaching

Undergraduate supervisions (University of Cambridge)

Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Lent term 2023, 2024, 2025)

- Consciousness, The Self, Folk Psychology, Mental Representation

Metaphysics (Lent term 2024)

- The Mind-Body Problem, Free Will, Causation, Personal Identity

Independent Study in Philosophy (Cornell University)

Co-advised undergraduate research projects on:

- Philosophy and cognitive science of emotions (Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
- Cultural evolution of norms (Spring 2025)

Academic service

Led a session on “How to survive the HPS MPhil” for incoming students (2022, 2023, 2024)

References

Marta Halina

University Associate Professor, HPS, University of Cambridge, mh801@cam.ac.uk

Shaun Nichols

Professor, Philosophy, Cornell University, sbn44@cornell.edu

Tamar Kushnir

Professor, Psychology, Duke University, tamar.kushnir@duke.edu