

T. Ben Baker, JD PhD

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Colby College, Assistant Professor** 2023–present
Waterville, ME
– Department of Philosophy, Davis AI Institute
- **University of Pennsylvania, Provost Postdoctoral Fellow** 2020–2023
Philadelphia, PA
– Department of Neuroscience, Kordinglab

EDUCATION

- **University of Pennsylvania, PhD Philosophy** 2020
Philadelphia, PA
– Dissertation: "Cognition in Nature: Information, Explanation, Embodiment"
– Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Graduate Certificate
– Center for Teaching and Learning, Teaching Certificate
- **Yale Law School, JD (Substantial Analytic Writing: "Less Than Murder")** 2014
New Haven, CT
– Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic
- **Brown University, BA (Concentrations in Philosophy (honors) and Economics)** 2010
Providence, RI

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

* = peer reviewed publication

- **Rethinking Artificial General Intelligence: Beyond Anthropomorphism*** 2025
Invited chapter: Introducing Philosophy of Mind, Today
– Routledge (eds. D Curry, L Daoust) (forthcoming)
- **Understanding Complexity Through Affordances** 2025
with Sonia Roberts
– Under review at *Minds and Machines*
- **Six Forms of Dance-Cognition** 2025
Manuscript in Preparation
– Targeted for *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*
- **Computational Kinematics of Dance: Distinguishing Hip Hop Genres* [\[link\]](#)** 2024
with T Liu, J Matelsky, F Parodi, J Krakauer, K Kording
– *Frontiers in Human Robotics and AI*
- **Commentary on Favela and Machery [\[link\]](#)** 2023
Symposium contribution for The Brains Blog
– Investigating the concept of representation in the neural and psychological sciences
- **Three Aspects of Representation in Neuroscience* [\[link\]](#)** 2022
with B Lansdell and K Körding
– *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*
- **Creativity in AI-Dance Art* [\[link\]](#)** 2022
Proceedings of International Conference on Computational Creativity
- **Prospective Learning: Back To The Future [\[link\]](#)** 2022
Position Paper, J Vogelstein et al. working group

- **Natural Information, Factivity, and Nomicity*** [\[link\]](#) 2021
Biology & Philosophy
- **Referee Report of (hypothetical) Philosophy101 Textbook*** [\[link\]](#) 2021
Teaching Philosophy
– Spanish Translation by Fredy H.P. Galindo, 2023, *Cuestiones Filosofía**
- **What Does Engaged Philosophy Look Like?** [\[link\]](#) 2016
B Baker, L Daoust and R Willison
– Guest Post on DailyNous.com
- **Before Their Time: Challenges to the Prohibition Against Child Marriage in Sierra Leone** [\[link\]](#) 2013
B Baker, A Elbogen, S Keene
– Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic

SELECTED TALKS

- **Rethinking Artificial General Intelligence** [\[link\]](#) 2025
Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy, Oberlin College
- **Invited Symposium: Technology and Cognition** 2025
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, annual meeting
- **Moving Between Genres: A Computational and Embodied Exploration of Dance** [\[link\]](#) 2025
Invited contributor for Slippage: 3D Humanities Series, Northwestern University
- **Dance Machines!** 2024
James Madison University invited talk
– Sponsored by Philosophy & Religion department, JMU Dance program
- **Six Forms of Dance Cognition** 2023
Mind the Body, University of Utah
- **So You Think AI Can Dance?** 2022
Eye, Mind, and Image; Themes from Visual Studies, UPenn
- **Symposium: Affirming Black Excellence in Neuroscience** 2021
Cognitive Neuroscience Society (virtual)
- **Representation in Neuroscience** 2020
Neuromatch Conference 3.0 (virtual)
- **The Factivity and Nomicity of Information** 2019
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati OH
- **Learning to Dance with Dynamic Systems** 2017
Graduate BEN Talks, UPenn
- **Neural Dynamics and Inner Representations** 2017
Conference on Representing Reality, SUNY Potsdam
- **Weakness of Will in Desire-First Accounts of Rational Action** 2015
Philosophers' Cocoon Conference, Tampa FL

TEACHING

All in-person and instructor of record

- **Colby College, Department of Philosophy** 2023–present
Waterville, ME
– AI and Human Values (Spring 2025)
– Central Philosophical Issues: Mind & Machine (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024)
– Philosophy of Emotion (Fall 2024)
– Philosophy of Dance (Spring 2024)
– Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Fall 2023)
- **University of Pennsylvania, Department of Philosophy** 2018–2020
Philadelphia, PA
– Philosophy and Visual Perception (Spring 2020)
– Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2019, Summer 2018)
– Ethics (Spring 2019)

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIONS

- **Alliance for *C. elegans* Neural Dynamics (ACeND)**

2025–present

Project Member, Colby College

- Contributing theoretical insights for an interdisciplinary, nationwide consortium
- Invited to proposal stage for an NSF STC grant to create the first biologically meaningful computer simulation of a complete nervous system

- **Use and Usability: Concepts of Representation**

2025

CCN Generative Adversarial Collaboration

- Collaborative project examining representation across Philosophy, Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, and Computer Science
- With Richard D. Lange, Andrew Richmond, Odelia Schwartz, Alessandro Achille, Xaq Pitkow, Rosa Cao, Nikolaus Kriegeskorte

- **Computational Kinematics of Human Movement**

2024–present

Building motion capture lab at Colby College

- Extending work on computational approaches to analyzing movement
- Building on custom featurization and machine-learning pipeline developed for 2024 publication

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- **Departmental/College Service, Colby College**

2023–present

- Davis Institute for Artificial Intelligence (2023–present): Discussing and sharing AI-related research with colleagues across departments, planning around Colby's AI policies and tools, event organization and participation
- Search Committees (2023–2025): Two hires in Philosophy (one TT, one VAP); two hires in 2024/5 (one for Psychology and one for the Director of the Davis AI Institute)
- Lunder Institute for American Art, Faculty Advisory Group (2024–present): Planning and participating in initiatives around integrating museum resources and visiting fellows into the work and teaching of Colby faculty, handling internal grant funding
- Science Technology and Society Faculty Advisory Board (2023–present): Contributing to initiatives for the STS department around student participation, course options, and internal funding
- Reuman Reading Group Organizer (2024–2026): Communications, documentation and publicity for Colby's 27-years running faculty-student reading group in philosophy

- **Conference/Event Organization, Colby College**

2023–present

- Birge Lecture Co-organizer (Fall 2023): Helped select speaker and support publicity for Colby's annual Kingsley Birge Memorial Lecture in Sociology
- The Flavor Continues Residency Organizer (2024): Coordinated residency for a Boston-based Hip Hop non-profit, offering community workshops, guest teaching in Colby dance classes, and a performance
- Philosophy Symposium Organizer (2025): Ethics of Social AI - Recruited speaker and arranged logistics for Colby Philosophy's annual philosophy symposium

- **Conference/Event Organization, University of Pennsylvania**

2018–2019

- Philosophy and Engagement Conference Co-organizer (2019): Collaborated on planning and executing an interdisciplinary conference exploring the intersection of philosophy and community engagement
- Indian Philosophy Reading Group (2019): Managed communications around logistics and selecting readings for graduate student discussion group
- Admitted Student Weekend Coordinator (2018): Organized accommodations, planned activities, and facilitated interactions between faculty and prospective graduate students during recruitment weekend