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
  – Kording lab, Departments of Bioengineering and Neuroscience

EDUCATION

- **University of Pennsylvania, PhD Philosophy**   *2020*
  Philadelphia, PA
  – Dissertation: "Cognition in Nature: Information, Explanation, Embodiment"
  – Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Graduate Certificate
  – Dean's award for distinguished teaching by a graduate student

- **Yale Law School, JD**   *2014*
  New Haven, CT
  – Substantial Analytic Writing on Mens Rea and Manslaughter
  – 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, Minds and Machines (forthcoming)

- **Use and Usability: Concepts of Representation***   2025
  with R.D. Lange, A. Richmond, et al., Neurons, Behavior, Data analysis and Theory (forthcoming)

- **Six Forms of Dance Cognition***   2025
  Under Review at Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences

- **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

- **The Time is Ripe to Reverse Engineer an Entire Nervous System** [link]   2023
  Position Paper, Alliance for C. elegans Neural Dynamics (ACeND)

- **Commentary on Favela and Machery** [link]   2023
  Symposium contribution for The Brains Blog

- **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

- **What makes representations "useful"?*** [link]   2021
  with B Baker, R Lange, A Achille, R Cao, N Kriegeskorte, O Schwartz, X Pitkow, CCN Generative Adversarial Collaboration

- **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
  with 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
  with A Elbogen, S Keene, Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic

SELECTED TALKS

- **Rethinking Artificial General Intelligence**   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**   2025
  Invited contributor for Slippage: 3D Humanities Series, Northwestern University

- **Dance Machines!**   2024
  James Madison University, 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

In-person, instructor of record for 16 semester-courses total, as of Fall 2025

- **Colby College, Department of Philosophy**   *2023–present*
  Waterville, ME

  – AI and Human Values

  – Central Philosophical Issues: Mind, Body & Machine

  – Philosophy of Emotion

  – Philosophy of Dance

  – Philosophy of Cognitive Science

  – Philosophy of Science

  – Bodies and Power

- **University of Pennsylvania, Department of Philosophy**   *2018–2020*
  Philadelphia, PA

  – Philosophy and Visual Perception

  – Introduction to Philosophy

  – Ethics

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIONS

- **Alliance for *C. elegans* Neural Dynamics (ACeND)** *2025–present*
  Project Member, Colby College
  – Contributing theoretical insights for an interdisciplinary, nationwide consortium working towards simulating C. elegans from molecules to behavior

- **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*
  Motion capture lab at Colby College, ongoing collaboration with outside institutions
  – Extending work on computational approaches to analyzing movement using a custom model of human motion, and building a markerless motion-capture lab at Colby College

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

  – **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** (2024–2025): 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** (2024–2025): Communications, documentation and publicity for Colby's 27-years running faculty-student reading group in philosophy

- **Conference/Event Organization,** *2018–present*

  – **Philosophy Symposium** (Spring 2025, *Colby*): Organized annual public lecture on Ethics of Social AI, with student participation, sponsored by the Philosophy department and the Davis AI institute.

  – **The Flavor Continues Residency Organizer** (2024, *Colby*): Coordinated residency for a Boston-based Hip Hop non-profit, offering community workshops, guest teaching in Colby dance classes, and a performance

  – **Birge Lecture Co-organizer** (Fall 2023, *Colby*): Helped select speaker and support publicity for Colby's annual Kingsley Birge Memorial Lecture in Sociology

  – **Philosophy and Engagement Conference Co-organizer** (2019, *UPenn*): Collaborated on planning and executing an interdisciplinary conference exploring the intersection of philosophy and community engagement

  – **Indian Philosophy Reading Group** (2019, *UPenn*): Managed communications around logistics and selecting readings for graduate student discussion group

  – **Admitted Student Weekend Coordinator** (2018, *UPenn*): Organized accommodations, planned activities, and facilitated interactions between faculty and prospective graduate students during recruitment weekend