

[January 2026—short version]

Steven A. Gross

Academic Positions

Professor of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 2018-
-secondary appointments in Cognitive Science and in Psychological and Brain Sciences;
affiliate faculty: Science of Learning Institute, Data Science and AI Institute, Foundations
of Mind Group
-Chair, 2019-present
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 2006-2018
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2005-6
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, 1999-2005
Lecturer (Permanent Member of the Faculty), University College London, 1998-1999

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. in philosophy, June 1998, A.B. with honors in philosophy, 1987

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Foundations of the Mind-Brain Sciences

Publications

1. “Iconicity, 2nd-Order Isomorphism, and Perceptual Categorization,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 110, 2025, pp. 302-10.
2. “Is There an Empirical Case for Semantic Perception?” *Inquiry*, 67, 2024, pp. 3770-95.
3. “Language and the Border between Perception and Cognition,” *Analysis* 83, 2023, pp. 541-54.
4. “Representation of Pure Magnitudes in ANS” (with W. Kowalsky and T. Burge), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 44, 2021, e189.
5. “‘Impossible’ Somatosensation and the (Ir)rationality of Perception” (with I. Won and C. Firestone), *Open Mind* 5, 2021, pp. 30-41.
6. “Linguistic Judgments as Evidence,” in *Blackwell Companion to Chomsky*, eds. Nicholas Allott, Terje Lohndahl, and Georges Rey (Wiley Blackwell, 2021), pp. 544-56.
7. “Can Resources Save Rationality? ‘Anti-Bayesian’ Updating in Cognition and Perception” (with E. Mandelbaum, I. Won, and C. Firestone), *Behavioral & Brain Sciences* 43, E16, 2020.
8. “Probabilistic Representations in Perception: Are There Any, and What Would They Be?,” *Mind & Language* 35, 2020, pp. 377-89.
9. “Linguistic Intuitions: Error Signals and the Voice of Competence,” in *Linguistic Intuitions, Evidence, and Expertise*, eds. Samuel Schindler, Anna Drozdowicz, and Karen Brøcker (Oxford University Press, 2020), pp. 13-32.
10. “Perceptual Consciousness and Cognitive Access from the Perspective of Capacity-Unlimited Working Memory,” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 373, 2018.
11. “Perception and the Origins of Temporal Representation,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 98, S1, 2017, pp. 275-92.

12. “Perceptual Consciousness, Short-Term Memory, and Overflow: Replies to Beck, Orlandi and Franklin, and Phillips” (with J. Flombaum), *Mind & Language* symposium, *The Brains Blog*, June 2017.
13. “Does Perceptual Consciousness Overflow Cognitive Access? The Challenge from Probabilistic, Hierarchical Processes” (with J. Flombaum), *Mind & Language* 32, 2017, pp. 358-91.
14. “Cognitive Penetrability and Attention,” in *Frontiers in Psychology*, 22 February 2017, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.00221> (Research Topic “Pre-cueing Effects on Perception and Cognitive Penetrability,” eds. Athanassios Raftopoulos and Gary Lupyan)
15. “Does the Expressive Role of ‘True’ Preclude Deflationary Davidsonian Semantics?,” in *Meaning Without Representation: Essays on Truth, Expression, Normativity, and Naturalism*, eds. S. Gross, N. Tebben, and M. Williams (Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 47-63.
16. *Meaning Without Representation: Essays on Truth, Expression, Normativity, and Naturalism*, eds. S. Gross, N. Tebben, and M. Williams (Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. x + 379.
17. “Descriptive Semantic Externalism,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Semantics*, ed. N. Riemer (Routledge, 2015), pp. 13-29.
18. “The Metaphysics of Meaning: Hopkins on Wittgenstein,” *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 23, 2015, pp. 518-38.
19. “Problems for the Purported Cognitive Penetration of Perceptual Color Experience and Macpherson’s Proposed Mechanism” (with T. Chaisilprungraung, E. Kaplan, J. Menendez, and J. Flombaum) in *Thought and Perception*, eds. E. Machery and J. Prinz (New Prairie Press, 2014), pp. 1-30.
20. “Linguistic Intuitions” (with Jeffrey Maynes), *Philosophy Compass* 8, 2013, 714-30.
21. “What is a Context?,” in *Perspectives on Pragmatics and Philosophy*, eds. A. Capone, F. Lo Piparo, and M. Carapezza (Springer, 2013), pp. 113-32.
22. “Davidson, First Person Authority, and the Evidence for Semantics,” in *Donald Davidson on Truth, Meaning, and the Mental*, ed. G. Preyer (Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 228-48.
23. “Innateness” (with Georges Rey), in *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Cognitive Science*, eds. E. Margolis, R. Samuels, and S. Stich (Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 318-60.
24. “Revisited Linguistic Intuitions” (with Jennifer Culbertson), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 62, 2011, pp. 639-656.
25. “Knowledge of Meaning, Conscious and Unconscious,” in *Meaning, Understanding, and Knowledge*, eds. B. Armour-Garb, D. Patterson, and J. Woodbridge (Vol. 5: The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic and Communication), 2009, pp. 1-44.
26. “Are Linguists Better Subjects?” (with Jennifer Culbertson), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 60, 2009, pp. 721-36.
27. “Sincerely Saying What You Don’t Believe Again,” *Dialectica* 62, 2008, pp. 349-54.
28. “Reply to Jackendoff,” *The Linguistic Review* 24, 2007, pp. 423-9.
29. “Relating Conscious and Unconscious Semantic Knowledge,” *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* 7, 2007, pp. 427-45.
30. “Trivalent Semantics and the Vaguely Vague,” *Synthese* 156, 2007, pp. 97-117.

31. “Can Empirical Theories of Semantic Competence Really Help Limn the Structure of Reality?”, *Nous* 40, 2006, pp. 43-81.
32. “Can One Sincerely Say What One Doesn’t Believe?”, *Mind & Language* 21, 2006, pp. 11-20.
33. “The Nature of Semantics: On Jackendoff’s Arguments,” *The Linguistic Review* 22, 2005, pp. 249-270.
34. “The Biconditional Doctrine: *Contra* Kölbel on a ‘Dogma’ of Davidsonian Semantics,” *Erkenntnis* 62, 2005, pp. 189-210.
35. “Context-Sensitive Truth-Theoretic Accounts of Semantic Competence,” *Mind & Language* 20, 2005, pp. 68-102.
36. “Linguistic Understanding and Belief,” *Mind* 114, 2005, pp. 61-6.
37. “Putnam, Context, and Ontology,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 34, 2004, pp. 507-54.
38. “Vagueness, Indirect Speech Reports, and the World,” *Protosociology* (Special Issue on Semantic Theory and Reported Speech) 17, 2002, pp. 153-68.
39. “Is Context-Sensitivity Eliminable? Some Remarks,” *The Dialogue* (Yearbook of Philosophical Hermeneutics: The Legitimacy of Truth, Proceedings of the Third Meeting, Italian-American Philosophy) 2, 2002, pp. 21-38.
40. “Putnam, Kontext und Ontologie,” in *Hilary Putnam und die Tradition des Pragmatismus*, eds. Marie-Luise Raters and Marcus Willaschek (Suhrkamp, 2002), pp. 404-36.
41. “Vagueness, Indeterminacy, and Uncertainty,” in *Indeterminacy*, ed. Jose Cipurut (MIT Press, 2008), pp. 129-49. [written and submitted 1999-2000]
42. “Vagueness in Context,” in *Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, eds. L. Gleitman and A. Joshi (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2000), pp. 208-13.
43. *Essays on Linguistic Context-Sensitivity and its Philosophical Significance*, Studies in Philosophy: Outstanding Dissertations (Routledge, 2001), pp. xvi + 148.

Reviews, Encyclopedia Entries, Abstracts, Etc.

1. Review of Tyler Burge, *Perception: First Form of Mind*, in *Mind* (forthcoming).
2. “Impossible Integration of Size and Weight” (with Isabel Won and Chaz Firestone), *Journal of Vision*, September 2019, Vol. 19, 301a. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1167/19.10.301a> [abstract]
3. “Prior Repulsion: ‘Anti-Bayesian’ Updating in Visual Cognition” (with Chaz Firestone), *Journal of Vision*, September 2018, Vol. 18, 12. doi:10.1167/18.10.12 [abstract]
4. Review of John Zeimbekis and Athanassios Raftopoulos (eds.), *The Cognitive Penetrability of Perception: New Philosophical Perspectives*, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (April 2016).
5. Review of E. J. Lowe, *Forms of Thought*, in *Analysis* 75, 2015, pp. 165-7.
6. Review of Michael Tomasello, *Origins of Human Communication*, in *Mind & Language* 25 (April 2010), pp. 237-46.
7. Review of Ray Jackendoff, *Language, Consciousness, Culture: Essays on Mental Structure*, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (May 2009).
8. Review of Stewart Shapiro, *Vagueness in Context*, in *The Philosophical Review* 118 (April, 2009), pp. 261-6.

9. “Natural Kind Terms,” *The Concise Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Language and Linguistics*, eds. A. Barber and R. Stainton (Elsevier, 2009), pp. 501-5. Reprint of 10 below.
10. “Normativity,” *The Concise Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Language and Linguistics*, eds. A. Barber and R. Stainton (Elsevier, 2009), pp. 530-3. Reprint of 11 below.
11. “Natural Kind Terms,” *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd ed., ed. Keith Brown (Elsevier, 2006), vol. 8, pp. 492-6.
12. “Normativity,” *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd ed., ed. Keith Brown (Elsevier, 2006), vol. 8, pp. 698-701.
13. Review of Robert Brandom, *Articulating Reasons*, in *The Philosophical Review* 111 (April 2002), pp. 284-7.
14. Review of Jerry Fodor, *Concepts*, in *Mind* 110 (April 2001), pp. 469-75.
15. Review of Fiona Cowie, *What’s Within? Nativism Reconsidered*, in *The Philosophical Review* 110 (January 2001), pp. 94-7.
16. “What is a Hole?” (review of Roberto Casati and Achille Varzi, *Holes and Other Superficialities*), *The Harvard Review of Philosophy* IV (Spring 1994), pp. 76-80.
17. “An Interview with Henry Allison,” *The Harvard Review of Philosophy* VI (Spring 1996), pp. 31-45. Reprinted in *Philosophers in Conversation* (Routledge, 2002), pp. 81-97.

Honors and Awards (since coming to Johns Hopkins only)

- Johns Hopkins Discovery Award, “Cosmic Visions” (2022)
- President, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2020-2022)
- President-Elect, Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2019-2020)
- Dean’s Award for Excellence of Service (2019)
- Nominated for *Philosopher’s Annual* 2017 (10 best philosophical papers of the year)
- Major grant, “‘Deep irrationality’ in perception and cognition: Anti-Bayesian updating when expectations are defied,” with Chaz Firestone, awarded by the Johns Hopkins Science of Learning Institute, \$150,000 (2017-19)
- Selected for Provost’s Project on Innovation (2012)
- Excellence in Teaching Award Finalist (2009)
- “Philosophy of Religion” selected as a Gilman Lecture Course in the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University (Fall 2008)
- Major grant, “Evolution, Cognition, and Culture,” awarded by Metanexus, with matching funds from the John Tempelton Foundation and the Johns Hopkins Kreiger School of Arts and Sciences, \$390,000 (2007-2011)

Advising (since coming to Johns Hopkins only)

Primary Dissertation Advisor

- Maegan Kaczmarek (in progress, *Evaluating the Direct Perception View Through the Perception of Intentions*)
- Kathryn Brophy (PhD 2021, *Indeterminacy in Personal Identity: A Descriptive and Normative Evaluation of a Notoriously Slippery Concept*)
- Nikola Andonovski (PhD 2020, *On Episodic Memory: Preservation, Reconstruction and Modeling*)
- David Lindeman (PhD 2019, *Representations of Mind*)
- Patrick O’Donnell (PhD 2019, *Racial Ontology and Racialized Language*)

Marianna Bergamaschi Ganapini (PhD 2017, *Reasoning, Belief, and the Quest for Truth*)
Nicholas Goldberg (PhD 2017, *Acts of Reference: An Essay on the Rational Powers of Proper Names*)
John Waterman (PhD 2015, *Shadows of Doubt: On the Psychological Foundations of the Skeptical Problem*)
Bryan Miller (PhD 2014, *Scientific Psychiatry: A Novel Framework for Psychiatry Understood as a Branch of Medicine*)
Karen Yan (PhD 2013, *Consciousness, Self, and Self-Consciousness*)
Derek Leben (PhD 2012, *Lexical Semantics and its Philosophical Applications*)
Jeffrey Maynes (PhD 2012, *Meaningful Intuitions: The evidential role of intuitions in the study of language*)

Teaching (Johns Hopkins only)

undergraduate

Philosophy and Cognitive Science
Philosophy of Religion
Philosophy of Language
Philosophical Problems
Color and Color Perception
Philosophy and AI

graduate

Topics in the Philosophy of Language
Philosophy of Psychology
Research Seminar in Language and Mind
Research Seminar