

Jonathan Cohen

Department of Philosophy  
University of California, San Diego  
9500 Gilman Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0119  
joncohen@aardvark.ucsd.edu

Areas of Specialization: Philosophy of mind, philosophy of perception, cognitive science, philosophy of language, metaphysics.

Areas of Competence: Epistemology, aesthetics, philosophy of science.

- Employment** UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO La Jolla, CA  
2005–present  
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Cognitive Science Program.
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO La Jolla, CA  
2001–2005  
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy.
- UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA Vancouver, BC  
2000-2001  
Killam Post-Doctoral Research Fellow.
- Education** RUTGERS UNIVERSITY New Brunswick, NJ  
1995–2000  
Ph.D. in philosophy. Completed certificate program in cognitive science. Dissertation: *Color Properties and Color Perception: A Functional Account* (B. McLaughlin, advisor).
- UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Chicago, IL  
1994–95  
A.M. in philosophy.
- UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Chicago, IL  
1989–93  
A.B. with honors in philosophy, double concentration in philosophy and mathematics. Bachelor's thesis: *Sliding Down a Slippery Trope: Separating the Metaphorical from the Literal*.
- Awards** UCSD CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES La Jolla, CA  
Winter 2006  
Humanities Faculty Fellowship (one quarter leave).
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO La Jolla, CA  
2005  
Hellman Fellowship.
- UC ACADEMIC SENATE La Jolla, CA  
Summer 2005  
Research Grant.

UC ACADEMIC SENATE Summer 2004 Research Grant.	La Jolla, CA
UC ACADEMIC SENATE Summer 2003 Research Grant.	La Jolla, CA
UCSD CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES 2002 Conference grant for <i>Color Perception: Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives</i> .	La Jolla, CA
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL 1999–2000 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Research (one of seven given annually in university-wide competition).	New Brunswick, NJ
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL 1999–2000 Dissertation Teaching Award (one of four given annually in university-wide competition).	New Brunswick, NJ
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY 1995–1999 Excellence Fellowship.	New Brunswick, NJ
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 1994–1999 Jacob Javits Fellowship.	Washington, DC
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION 1998 Eastern Division graduate student travel stipend.	Newark, DE
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION 1998 Pacific Division graduate student travel stipend.	Newark, DE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO 1994–1995 Century Fellowship.	Chicago, IL

**Authored Book**

*The Red and the Real: An Essay on Color Ontology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

**Edited Books** *Color Ontology and Color Science* (with Mohan Matthen). Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, forthcoming.

*Contemporary Debates in the Philosophy of Mind* (with Brian McLaughlin). New York: Blackwell, 2007.

**Refereed Articles**

“Counterfactuals, Probabilities, and Information: Response to Critics” (with Aaron Me-  
skin; 9 pages), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, in press.

- “Photographs as Evidence” (with Aaron Meskin), in *Photography and Philosophy: Essays on the Pencil of Nature*, edited by Scott Walden, 70–90. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.
- “Color Constancy as Counterfactual” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 86(1): 61–92, 2008.
- “A Relationalist’s Guide to Error About Color Perception” *Nous* 41(2): 335–353, 2007.
- “The Truth about ‘The Truth about True Blue’ ” (with C. L. Hardin and Brian McLaughlin), *Analysis*, 67(294): 162–166, 2007.
- “Binding Arguments and Hidden Variables,” (with Samuel C. Rickless), *Analysis*, 67(293): 65–71, 2007.
- “Color, Variation, and the Appeal to Essences: Impasse and Resolution” *Philosophical Studies*, 133(3): 425–438, 2007.
- “An Objective Counterfactual Theory of Information” (with Aaron Meskin), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 84(3):333–352, 2006.
- “True Colors” (with C. L. Hardin and Brian McLaughlin), *Analysis*, 66(292): 335–340, 2006.
- “There is No Special Problem About Scientific Representation” (with Craig Callender), *Theoria* 55: 67–85, 2006.
- “Color Properties and Color Ascriptions: A Relationalist Manifesto” *The Philosophical Review*, 113(4): 451–506, 2004.
- “Objects, Places, and Perception” *Philosophical Psychology* 17(4): 471–495, 2004.
- “On The Epistemic Value of Photographs” (with Aaron Meskin), *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 62(2): 197–210, 2004.
- “Color: A Functionalist Proposal” *Philosophical Studies* 113(1): 1–42, 2003.
- “Williamson on Knowledge and Psychological Explanation” (with P. D. Magnus) *Philosophical Studies* 116(1): 37–52, 2003.
- “On the Structural Properties of the Colors” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 81(1): 78–95, 2003.
- “The Grand Grand Illusion Illusion” *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 9(5–6): 141–157, 2002 (reprinted in *Is the Visual World a Grand Illusion?*, edited by Alva Nöe. Thorverton: Imprint Academic, 2002).
- “On An Alleged Non-Equivalence Between Dispositions and Disjunctive Properties” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 53(1): 77–81, 2002.
- “Color, Content, and Fred: On a Proposed Reductio of the Inverted Spectrum Hypothesis” *Philosophical Studies*, 103(2): 121–144, 2001.
- “Analyticity and Katz’s New Intensionalism: or, If You Sever Sense from Reference, Analyticity Is Cheap but Useless” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 61(1): 115–135, 2000.
- “Holism: Some Reasons for Buyer’s Remorse” *Analysis*, 59(2): 63–71, 1999.

“Holism, Thought, and the Fate of Metaphysics: Counter-Reply to Heal” *Analysis*, 59(2): 79–85, 1999.

“Frege and Psychologism” *Philosophical Papers*, 27(1): 45–67, 1998.

“The Imagery Debate: A Critical Assessment” *The Journal of Philosophical Research*, 21: 149–182, 1996.

### Invited Articles

“Do Colors Look Relational?” (20 pages) in Bence Nanay (ed.), *Perceiving the World*. New York: Oxford University Press, in press.

“Sounds and Temporality” (14 pages), *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, in press.

“Color and Perceptual Variation Revisited: Unknown Facts, Alien Modalities, and Perfect Psychosemantics” *Dialectica*, 60(3): 307–319, 2006.

“Colors, Functions, Realizers, and Roles” *Philosophical Topics*, 33(1):117–140, 2005.

“Information and Content” in *Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Information and Computing*, edited by Luciano Floridi, 215–227. New York: Blackwell, 2004.

“Perceptual Variation, Realism, and Relativization, Or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love Variations In Color Vision” (invited commentary on Byrne and Hilbert, ‘Color Realism and Color Science’), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 26(1): 25–26, 2003.

“Whither Visual Representations? Whither Qualia?” (invited commentary on O’Regan and Noë, ‘A Sensorimotor Account of Vision and Visual Consciousness’), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 24(5): 980–981, 2001.

“A Guided Tour of Color” in *A Field Guide to the Philosophy of Mind*, edited by M. Nani and M. Marraffa. 2001. (<http://host.uniroma3.it/progetti/kant/field/>)

“Subjectivism, Physicalism, or None of the Above?” (invited commentary on Ross’s ‘The Location Problem for Color Subjectivism’), *Consciousness and Cognition* 10(1): 94–104, 2001.

“Why Asymmetries in Color Space Can’t Save Functionalism” (invited commentary on Palmer’s ‘Color, Consciousness, and The Isomorphism Constraint’), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 22(6): 950, 1999.

“Philosophy” in *The Real Guide to Grad School: What You Better Know Before You Choose*, edited by R. Clark and J. Palattella, 263–285. New York: Lingua Franca Books, 1997.

### Unrefereed Article

“The Reality of Psychological Reality: Chomsky and Matthews’s Chomsky”, Celebration Project in celebration of Noam Chomsky’s 70th birthday, November 1998. (<http://addendum.mit.edu/chomskydisc/Cohen/>)

**Book Reviews** “Critical Study of Stroud’s *The Quest for Reality*” *Noûs* 37(3): 537–554, 2003.

“Two Recent Anthologies on Color” *Philosophical Psychology*, 14(1): 118–122, 2001.

**Under Review** “A Better Best System Account of Lawhood” (with Craig Callender; 33 pages), under review.

“Special Sciences, Conspiracy and the Better Best System Account of Lawhood” (with Craig Callender; 21 pages), under review.

**Presentations** “Do Colors Look Relational?” (University of Kentucky, 7 March 2008; Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop & Network, 16 August 2008).

“A Better Best System Account of Lawhood” (Kyoto University, 6 November 2007; Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, 4 August 2008).

“The Red and The Real, I–IV” (University of Tokyo, 30 October 2007 – 2 November 2007).

“It’s Not Easy Being Green: Hardin and Color Relationalism” (Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 15 June 2007).

“Wine, Categories, and Wine Categories” (APA Mini-Conference on Philosophy and Wine, 4 April 2007).

“Color and Perceptual Variation Revisited: Unknown Facts, Alien Modalities, and Perfect Psychosemantics” (Third Biennial Margaret Dauler Wilson Conference, 23 June 2006).

“Colors, Functions, Realizers, and Roles” (University of California, San Diego, 26 May 2006; Florida State University Conference on Color, 14 April 2007).

“Color Properties and Color Ascriptions: A Relationalist Manifesto” (University of Texas, Austin, 9 September 2005; Southern California Philosophy Conference, 27 October 2001).

“Objects, Places, and Perception” (University of Texas, Austin, 7 September 2005; Auburn University, 5 December 2003; University of British Columbia, 2 October 2003).

“Averill’s Colors: Objectivism, Relationalism, Projectivism” (Texas Tech University, 8 April 2005).

“Color Constancy as Counterfactual” (University of California, Berkeley, 23 February 2005; University of Toronto, 8 February 2005; King’s College London, 12 May 2004; Eastern Division, American Philosophical Association, 30 December 2003; University of California, Santa Barbara, 6 December 2002).

“There is No Special Problem About Scientific Representation” (London School of Economics, 11 May 2004).

“Spatially Agnostic Informants and the Epistemic Status of Photography” (Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association, with Aaron Meskin, 26 March 2004).

“Error, Variation, and Color Vision” (Workshop on Colour Ontology and Colour Science, University of British Columbia, 4 October 2003).

“Williamson on Knowledge and Psychological Explanation” (Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference on Explanation and Causation, with P. D. Magnus, 2 May 2003).

“Photographs Are Not Transparent” (Pacific Division, American Society for Aesthetics, with Aaron Meskin, 3 April 2003).

“Color and Color Space: Structural and Metrical Properties of the Colors” (Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association, 29 March 2001; Department of Psychology,

University of British Columbia, 29 September 2000; CUNY Graduate Center Cognitive Science Symposium, 3 March 2000; Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science, 18 November 1999).

“Color Properties and Color Experience: When and When Not To Be A Functionalist” (University of British Columbia, 1 March 2001; Simon Fraser University, 27 October 2000).

“Analyticity and Katz’s New Intensionalism: or, If You Sever Sense from Reference, Analyticity Is Cheap but Useless” (Western Canadian Philosophical Association, 6 October 2000).

“Inverted Spectra and Fred” (Central Division, American Philosophical Association, 21 April 2000; Northeast Cognitive Science Society, 2 May 1999).

“Primary Qualities and The Structure of Color Space” (Rutgers Undergraduate Cognitive Science Club, 5 October 1999).

“Imagined Extrapolation of Uniform Motion is Not Continuous” (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, poster session, with Zenon Pylyshyn, 13 May 1999).

“Comments on Wright’s ‘A Dilemma for Jackson’s and Pargetter’s Account of Color’ ” (Rutgers University Graduate Philosophy Conference, 10 April 1999).

“Being Red and Seeing Red: Color Properties and Color Perception” (Rutgers Undergraduate Cognitive Science Club, 24 February 1999).

“Perceptual Availability and Primary Quality Theories of Color” (Eastern Division, American Philosophical Association, 29 December 1998; Brown University Graduate Student Conference, 22 February 1998).

“Comments on Hernando’s ‘Belief Attribution, Assertion, and the New Theory of Reference’ ” (Rutgers University Graduate Philosophy Conference, 19 April 1998).

“Holism: Some Reasons for Buyer’s Remorse” (Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association, 27 March 1998; Mid-South Philosophy Conference, 28 February 1998).

“Comments on Hardcastle’s ‘But Is It Going to Hurt?’ ” (Mid-South Philosophy Conference, 28 February 1998).

“Comments on Armour-Garb’s ‘Contextualism and Attitudinal Beliefs’ ” (New Jersey Regional Philosophy Conference, 22 November 1997).

“The Case Against Holism Reconsidered” (Society for Philosophy and Psychology, poster session, 5 June 1997; Eastern Pennsylvania Philosophy Association, 9 November 1996).

“Modal Realism and Intentional Content” (CUNY Graduate Center Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 12 April 1997).

“Mental Content: About Aboutness” (Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Club, 4 March 1997).

“Why Content Should Not Be Diagonalized” (New Jersey Regional Philosophy Conference, 4 May 1996).

“Comments on Seltzer’s ‘Psychologism and Logic’ ” (Rutgers University Graduate Philosophy Conference, 21 April 1996).

“Pretend, Metarepresentation, and Mixed Inference” (Syracuse University Graduate Philosophy Conference, 23 March 1996; New Jersey Regional Philosophy Conference, 18 November 1995).

“Comments on Robert Rupert’s ‘The Disjunction Problem: Testing Out’ ” (Mid-South Philosophy Conference 24 February 1996).

“Psychological Explanation, Twins, and Narrow Content” (Mid-South Philosophy Conference, 23 February 1996).

“The Imagery Debate: A Critical Assessment” (Workshop for Contemporary Philosophy, University of Chicago, 9 January 1995).

“The Distinction of Metaphysics from Epistemology: Kripke’s Contingent A Priori and Descartes’s Cogito” (Illinois Philosophical Association, 6 November 1993).

### **Courses Taught**

Graduate Seminars: Philosophy of Mind, History of Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Perception, Metaphysics.

Undergraduate Courses: Logic and Decision Making, Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Seminar on Philosophical Methods, Contemporary Work in Metaphysics and Epistemology, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Language, Color Properties and Color Perception, Introduction to Philosophy, Aesthetics of Film, Informal Logic.

### **Service to the Department**

Director of graduate studies, 2007–present.

Graduate placement director, 2002–2005, 2006–2007.

Department colloquium committee, 2002–2004.

Department graduate essay award committee, 2002–2003.

Department graduate admissions committee, 2001–2002, 2006–2007.

### **Service to the University**

Academic Dishonesty Hearing Board (alternate member), 2006–2009.

Marshall College Provost Search Committee member, 2005–2006.

Career Services panel on academic job search, 2004, 2006.

### **Service to the Profession**

Co-organizer (with Craig Callender) 2006 meeting of Society for Exact Philosophy.

Executive Committee, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2004–2007.

Program Committee, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, 2004–2007.

Guest editor for special issue of *Philosophical Psychology* 16(3), 2004, dedicated to the work of Austen Clark.

Convened session on Objects in Perception and Cognition, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Barcelona, 2004.

Convened session on Color Vision, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Pasadena, 2003.

Co-organizer (with Mohan Matthen) of Color Perception: Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives, held at University of California, San Diego in October 2002 and University of British Columbia in October 2003.

Co-organizer (with Richard Arneson) of 2003 UCSD Graduate Student Philosophy Conference.

Ad hoc referee for: Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Blackwell Press, Blackwell Philosophy Compass (Editorial board: Naturalized Philosophy, 2005-present), Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Cognitive Science Society, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Israel Science Foundation, Journal of Consciousness Studies, Noûs, Oxford University Press, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Studies, Prentice Hall, Rowman and Littlefield, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Synthese.

**Affiliations** Behavioral and Brain Sciences associate. Member: American Philosophical Association, Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

**References** Brian McLaughlin, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ).

Mohan Matthen, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Philosophy, Perception, and Communication, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON, Canada).

Zenon Pylyshyn, Board of Governors Professor of Cognitive Science, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science, Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ).

Ernest Sosa, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ).

Colin McGinn, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Miami (Coral Gables, FL).

C. L. Hardin, Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY).