Colin Chamberlain

University College London

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Areas of research: early modern philosophy, philosophy of mind

**Employment**

2023- Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University College London

2021-2023 Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Temple University

2014-2021 Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Temple University

**Education**

2006-2014 Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, Harvard University

Thesis Title: *The Self-Body Problem in Descartes and Malebranche*

Whiting Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2013-14

École Normale Supérieure Exchange Fellowship, 2012-13

Templeton Graduate Fellow at University of Notre Dame, 2011-12

2002-2006 B.A. in Philosophy, University of Toronto

**Academics Prizes, Fellowships, and Grants**

2024 Human Abilities Fellowship, Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Berlin

2023 History of Philosophy Forum Grant, University of Notre Dame

2019 NEH Fellowship for $35,000; Project Title: “Our Bodies, Our Selves: Problems of Embodiment in Margaret Cavendish, Anne Conway, and Mary Astell”

2018 SSHRC Summer Institute, “Intensive Seminar in Teaching New Narratives in the History of Philosophy”

2016-2017 Temple Digital Scholarship Faculty Fellowship

2015-2016 Center for the Humanities at Temple Faculty Fellowship

2015 NEH Summer Institute, “Between Medieval and Modern: Philosophy from 1300 to 1700

**Publications**

*Journal Articles*

2025 How to Eat a Peach: Malebranche on the Function of the Passions. *Mind.*

2024 The Great Guide to the Preservation of Life: Malebranche on the Imagination. *British Journal of the History of Philosophy*.

2024 The Duchess of Disunity: Margaret Cavendish on the Materiality of the Mind. *Philosophers’ Imprint*.

2022 What Is It Like to Be a Material Thing? Henry More and Margaret Cavendish on the Unity of the Mind. *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* XI: 97-136.

2021 The Most Dangerous Error: Malebranche on the Experience of Causation. *Philosophers’ Imprint*, 21(10): 1-23.

2020 “Let us imagine that God has made a miniature earth and sky”: Malebranche on the Body-Relativity of Visual Size. *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 6(2): 206-224.

2020 What Am I? Descartes’s Various Ways of Considering the Self. *Journal of Modern Philosophy* 2(1): 1-30.

2020 Our Body Is the Measure: Malebranche and the Body-Relativity of Sensory Perception. *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* IX: 37-73.

2019 Color in a Material World: Margaret Cavendish Against the Early Modern Mechanists. *Philosophical Review* 128(3): 293-336.

2019 The Body I Call “Mine”: A Sense of Bodily Ownership in Descartes. *European Journal of Philosophy* 27(1), 2019: 3-24.

2018 Our Bodies, Our Selves: Malebranche on the Feelings of Embodiment. *Ergo* 5(1): 508-539.

*Book Chapters*

*Forthcoming* A Decaying Carcass: Mary Astell on the Body. In J.L. Bermúdez and C. Conybeare (eds.), *Reconsidering the Sources of the Self*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Forthcoming* The Senses and Sensation in Malebranche. In C. Chamberlain, E. Stencil, and J. Walsh (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Malebranche.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2025 Malebranche: A Materialist Malgré Lui? In J. Symons and C. Wolfe (eds), *Philosophy and History of Materialism*. London: Routledge.

2024 Move Your Body! Margaret Cavendish on Self-Motion. In S. Bender and D. Perler (eds.), *Powers and Abilities in Early Modern Philosophy*. London: Routledge.

2022 Not a Sailor in His Ship: Descartes on Bodily Awareness. In A. Alsmith and M. Longo (eds.), *Routledge Handbook on Bodily Awareness*. London: Routledge.

2016 A Bodily Sense of Self in Descartes and Malebranche. In J. Kaukua and T. Ekenberg (eds.), *Subjectivity and Selfhood in Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy*: 219-234.

*Edited Volumes*

*Forthcoming* *The Oxford Handbook to Malebranche*. (with Eric Stencil and Julie Walsh)

*Research In Progress*

*Malebranche’s Embodied Mind: Senses, Imagination, and Passions* (book project)

A Different Shade of Realism: Margaret Cavendish’s Materialism about Colour

After the Fall: Malebranche on the Law of the Body (to appear in the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*)

*Popular Philosophy*

2020 Honey, I Shrunk the Philosophers. *Cambridge Core Blog*. https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2020/09/08/honey-i-shrunk-the-philosophers/

*Book Reviews*

2019 *The Well-Ordered Universe: The Philosophy of Margaret Cavendish*, by. D. Boyle. *Hypatia Online Reviews*.

2013 *Occasionalism: Causation Among the Cartesians*, by. S. Nadler. *Philosophical Review* 122(1): 125-128. (with Jeff McDonough)

2007 *Arts and Minds*, by G. Currie. *Review of Metaphysics* 60(4): 860-861. (with Ronnie de Sousa)

**Talks and Presentations**

Asterisks indicate that the talk has yet to take place.

2026 Aristotelian Society,\* University of Notre Dame\*, Yale\*

2025 Scottish Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Harvard University\*

2024 UCL Graduate Conference, King’s History of Philosophy Seminar, University of Texas: Austin, Virginia Tech, Online Cavendish Workshop (Paderborn), University of Southampton, International Cavendish Society Conference (Seville)

2023 Birkbeck, UCL, Humboldt University, London Mind Group, British and Irish Postgraduate Philosophy Association, Harvard University, University of Notre Dame

2022 University of Florida, Kansas University, Harvard University

2021 Queens University, Temple University

2020 Texas A&M, New York City Early Modern Workshop, Eastern APA

2019 Tokyo Society for Analytic Philosophy,Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting

2018 Tahoe Early Modern Workshop, Temple University Japan

2017 UC Irvine, Pacific APA, Lehigh University

2016 University of Rochester, Temple University

**Teaching**

*Undergraduate Teaching*

I have taught the following undergraduate courses at University College London.

1st year *Early Modern Philosophy*: 3 times

2nd year *Problems in 17th and 18th Century Philosophy*: 3 times

I have taught the following semester-long undergraduate courses at Temple University.

2nd year *History of Philosophy: Modern*: 5 times

3rd year *Color and Morality/Color, Space, and Morality:* 3 times

3rd year *Saints, Sinners, and Heretics*: 1 time

3rd year *Philosophy of the Body*: 2 times

4th year *Continental Rationalism*: 2 times

4th year *British Empiricism:* 2 times

Across all these courses, my overall student evaluation is 4.75 out of 5.

*Graduate Teaching*

I have taught two graduate seminars at UCL.

2025 Malebranche’s Embodied Mind

2025 The Mind: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (w Rory Madden)

I have taught three graduate seminars at Temple University.

2021 Malebranche

2018 Our Bodies, Our Selves: Descartes, Malebranche, and Astell

2015 A Philosophical History of Perception

*Ph.D. supervision: main supervisor*

2024- D. Ngan, *Buddhist Freedom*

2024- D. So, *Spinoza’s Conatus Argument*

2021-2025 Y. Wu, *What Matter Matters: Body, Spirit, and Vital Motion in Anne Conway’s Metaphysics*

2018-2024 B. Sharp, *Margaret Cavendish: Figure, Motion, and Self-Knowledge*

2019-2021 Z. Zhang, *Malebranche on the Problem of Evil*

*Ph.D. supervision: committee member*

2018- J. Taplin, *Nietzsche on Education and Culture*

2017- S. Poust, *Hegel, ‘Negative’ Theories of Freedom, and the Institutions of Modern Society*

2017-2021 J. Martin, *Darwinism, Cognition, and Metaphysics* (left program)

2016-2019 B. Land, *Function and Goodness in the Work of Philippa Foot*

2014-2015 O. Barragan, *Why Worry About Co-Location?*

*MA supervision: committee member*

2023-2024 A. O’Leary (Virginia Tech),

*Ph.D. examining*

2023 Internal examiner for Gabrielle Wyer (Birkbeck), *A Malebranchean Theory of Recognition?*

2020 External examiner for M. Tiller (University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill), *Locke’s Ideas of Power*

*MPhil Stud examining*

2024 Internal examiner for Dylan Ngan (UCL), *Buddhist Moral Responsibility*

2023 Internal examiner for Vivian Yang (UCL), *Schelling’s Transition to Identity-Philosophy*

**Selected Administrative Roles at UCL**

*Philosophy Department*

2023- Inclusion Lead

2023- MPhil Stud/PhD Admissions

2023-24 Open Job Search Panel

**Selected Administrative Roles at Temple University**

*Philosophy Department*

2020- Director of Graduate Studies

2014- Graduate Studies Committee (except when on research leave)

2014- Graduate Admissions Committee (except when on research leave)

2016-2017 Co-Director of Graduate Studies

2019-2020 Search Committee: Philosophy of Race ACLS Post-Doc

2018-2019 Search Committee: LEMM

2017-2018 Search Committee: Social and Political

2016-2017 Search Committee: Ethics

2015-2016 Search Committee: Post-Doc

*Other Administrative Roles*

2019- Faculty Senate

2021- College of Liberal Arts Graduate Committee

2021-2022 Chair of College of Liberal Arts Humanities Taskforce

Spring 2021 College of Liberal Arts Strategic Planning: Community Development

**Service to the Profession**

2025- Associate Editor at *Mind*

2020-2021 Co-Facilitator (with Karen Detlefsen), *Extending New Narratives: Monthly Work-in-Progress Seminar for Early Career Researchers: Group D*.

2019- Participant, *NEH Project on Reconsidering the Sources of the Self* (Directors: Catherine Conybeare and José Luis Bermúdez)

2019- Co-collaborator, *Extending New Narratives in the History of Philosophy* (Director: Lisa Shapiro), SSHRC Partnership Grant

2017 Co-Organized Workshop, “Malebranche: Creation, Perception, Knowledge.” Hosted by Wellesley College and Harvard University

2015 Organized Workshop, “Early Modern Philosophy.” Hosted by Temple University.

**Refereeing**

*Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Philosophers’ Imprint, Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Ergo*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Res Philosophica*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Hypatia*, *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* and *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*