Dr Luca Barlassina

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Areas of Research

AOS: Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Mind, Cognitive Science

AOC: Philosophy of Language, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Science, History of Analytic Philosophy

Current Positions

University of Sheffield
Department of Philosophy
- Senior Lecturer (roughly equivalent to US Associate Professor)   01/2022–now
- Director, PhD Programme in Philosophy   02/2023–now

Hang Seng Centre for Cognitive Studies
Associate Director   09/2015–now

Previous Positions

University of Sheffield
Department of Philosophy
- Lecturer (roughly equivalent to US Assistant Professor)   09/2014–12/2021
- Director, Cognitive Studies MA   09/2014–08/2021
- Director, Philosophy MA   09/2018–08/2021

Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Institut für Philosophie II & Center for Mind, Brain and Cognitive Evolution
Von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow   10/2012–08/2014

University of Glasgow
Department of Philosophy & Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience
Visiting Research Fellow   04/2014–06/2014

Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Center for Mind, Brain and Cognitive Evolution
Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow   10/2011–03/2012

Education

Università degli Studi di Milano
PhD in Philosophy   11/2007–05/2011

Institut Jean Nicod
Visiting PhD Student   01/2010–07/2010

Rutgers University
Center for Cognitive Science & Department of Philosophy
Visiting PhD Student   07/2008–06/2009

Università degli Studi di Milano
BA in Philosophy (grade: 110/110 *cum laude*)   07/2007

Fellowships and Grants

Academic Host: Shaun Nichols *Leverhulme Visiting Professorship*   2023
Worldwide Universities Network – Research Development Fund   2022
Mind Association Fellowship   2021-2022
Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers   2012-2014
FWO-Pegasus Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (*declined*)   2013
Junior-Fellowship, Ruhr-Universität Bochum   2011-2012
Italian Ministry for Education Doctoral Research Grant   2007-2011

Publications

1. Martínez, M. & **Barlassina, L.** (forthcoming). The informational profile of valence: The metasemantic argument for imperativism. *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science.*
2. Kurthy, M., Del Prete, F., & **Barlassina, L.** (2023). 'Must' implies 'can'. *Mind & Language, 38*(3): 620-643.
3. Reuter, K., Messerli, M., & **Barlassina, L**. (2022). Not more than a feeling: An experimental investigation into the folk concept of happiness. *Thought*, *11*(1): 41-50.
4. **Barlassina, L.** (2021). Valence: A reflection. In C. Todd and E. Wall (Eds.), *Emotion Researcher, ISRE's Sourcebook for Research on Emotion and Affect.*
5. **Barlassina, L.** (2020). Beyond good and bad: Reflexive imperativism, not evaluativism, explains valence. *Thought*, *9*(4): 274-284.
6. **Barlassina, L.** & Hayward, M. K. (2019). Loopy regulations: The motivational profile of affective phenomenology. *Philosophical Topics, 47*(2): 233-261*.*
7. **Barlassina, L.** & Hayward, M. K. (2019). More of me! Less of me! Reflexive imperativism about affective phenomenal character. *Mind, 128*(512): 1013-1044.

8. **Barlassina, L.** & Gordon, R. (2017). Folk psychology as mental simulation. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
9. **Barlassina, L.** & Del Prete, F. (2015). The puzzle of the changing past. *Analysis*, *75*(1): 59-67.
10. Reuter, K., Kirfel, L., Van Riel, R., & **Barlassina, L.** (2014). The good, the bad, and the timely: How temporal order and moral judgment influence causal selection. *Frontiers in Psychology*, *5*: 1-10.
11. **Barlassina, L.** & Newen, A. (2014). The role of bodily perception in emotion: In defense of an impure somatic theory. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *89*(3): 637-678.
12. **Barlassina, L.** (2013). Simulation is not enough: A hybrid model of disgust attribution on the basis of visual stimuli. *Philosophical Psychology*, 26(3): 401-419.
13. Zalla, T., **Barlassina, L.**, Buon, M., & Leboyer, M. (2011). Moral judgment in adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Cognition*, 121(1): 115-126.
14. **Barlassina, L.** (2011). After all, it's still replication: A reply to Jacob on simulation and mirror neurons. *Res Cogitans*, 8(1): 92-111.

In progress

1. **Barlassina, L.** (in preparation). *Hard Feelings: The Cognitive Architecture of Negative Affective*. [Book project].
2. **Barlassina, L.** (in preparation). The threat-detection module: A common mechanism underlying pain, fear, and anxiety.
3. Kurthy, M., Turner, J., ..., and **Barlassina, L.** (under review). In case it happens again: Intended behavioural responses to the prospect of a novel Covid-19 outbreak in the UK population.
4. Nichols, S. & **Barlassina, L.** (under review). Not for me: On the external function of guilt.

Selected talks

- *Value of Experience Workshop*, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, November 2023
- *Departmental Seminar,* University of York, UK, October 2023
- *Departmental Seminar,* University of Glasgow, UK, September 2023
- *Happiness: Emotion, Mood, or Character Trait?*, Birkbeck University, UK, January 2023
- *Monthly UK X-Phi Workshop*, University of East Anglia, January 2022
- *Digital Minds Research Group*—Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford, UK, September 2021
- *Pain, Pleasure, and the Method of Cases*. (Keynote). University of Bern, Switzerland, January 2020

- *ERSS Seminar*, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, University of Toulouse, France, November 2019
- *Dimensions of Wellbeing,* University of Glasgow, Scotland, April 2019
- *Departmental seminar,* Department of Philosophy, University of Glasgow, Scotland, February 2019
- *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, University of Rijeka, Croatia, September 2018
- *Alvin Goldman's retirement conference*, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University, USA, February 2018
- *Departmental seminar,* Department of Philosophy, University of Stirling, Scotland, November 2017
- *Philosophy of mind seminar*, School of Philosophy, Psychology, & Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, October 2017
- *Departmental seminar,* Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield, England, May 2017
- *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, August 2016
- *Suffering and Phenomenal Consciousness*, Department of Philosophy, University of Glasgow, Scotland, May 2016
- *Mind and Language Seminar*, Department of Philosophy, Universitá degli Studi di Milano, Italy, June 2015
- *ECAP 8: Eighth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy*, Bucharest, Romania, August/September 2014
- *National Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy*, L'Aquila, Italy, September 2014
- *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Noto, Italy, September 2014
- *Philosophy & Neuroscience Colloquium*, University of Tübingen, Germany, February 2014
- *Cognitive Science Colloquium*, University Osnabrück, Germany, December 2013
- *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Granada, Spain, July 2013
- *Departmental Seminar*, Department of Philosophy, University of Turku, Finland, December 2012
- *Doc in Nicod*, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France, November 2012
- *Milan-York-Nottingham Workshop on Perception, Memory and Imagination*, Gargnano sul Garda, Italy, September 2012
- *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, London, UK, August 2012
- *Perceiving Objects and Persons*, Center for Mind, Brain, and Cognitive Evolution, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, February 2012
- *ECAP 7: Seventh European Congress of Analytic Philosophy*, Milan, Italy, September 2011
- *National Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy*, Padua, Italy, September 2010

- *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Bochum, Germany, August 2010

Teaching

University of Sheffield
- *Cognitive Studies Research Seminar* (postgraduate), Autumn 2014, Autumn 2015, Autumn 2016, Autumn 2017, Autumn 2018, Autumn 2019, Autumn 2020 (with J. Viera), Spring 2023 (with S. Nichols and J. Viera)
- *Pleasure, Pain, and Emotions* (3rd year undergraduate/postgraduate), Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Autumn 2017, Autumn 2018, Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024
- *Philosophy of Science* (2nd year undergraduate), Spring 2015, Autumn 2015, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Autumn 2020
- *Philosophy of Mind* (2nd year undergraduate), Autumn 2014, Spring 2017, Autumn 2019, Autumn 2023 (with S. Laurence)
- *Philosophical Project* (upper-level undergraduate): Experimental Philosophy (Spring 2015); Self-Knowledge (Spring 2016); Special Sciences, Reduction, and Mechanisms (Autumn 2017); Delusions (Spring 2019); Moral psychology (with S. Nichols, Spring 2023)

Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- *Advanced Topics in the Philosophy of Mind: Pleasure and Pain*, (upper-level undergraduate/postgraduate), Autumn 2013
- *Advanced Topics in the Philosophy of Science: Explanation in Cognitive Science*, (upper-level undergraduate/postgraduate), Spring 2013

Università degli Studi di Milano
- *Philosophy of Mind* (Teaching Assistant), Autumn 2011
- *Philosophy of Language* (Teaching Assistant), Spring 2008

Postgraduate supervision

Completed PhD Students
- Andrea Blomkvist (first supervisor). Thesis topic: *The cognitive architecture of memory and imagination* (2021)
- Richard Hassall (first supervisor). Thesis topic: *Psychiatric diagnosis and epistemic injustice* (2022)
- Miklos Kurthy (first supervisor). Thesis topic: *"Ought implies can" as a principle of the Moral Faculty* (2019)
- James Turner (first supervisor). Thesis topic: *Low mood: Evolution, content, and disorders* (2023)
- Andreas Bunge (second supervisor). Thesis topic: *The nature of attitudes* (2018)
- Alex Duval (second supervisor). Thesis topic: *The cognitive mechanisms underlying spatial navigation* (2019)

- Marcantonio Gagliardi (second supervisor). Thesis topic: *Attachment and the self: A computational model* (2022)
- Damiano La Manna (second supervisor). Thesis topic: *The function of phenomenal consciousness* (2017)

Current PhD Students
- Viktoriia Kononova (first supervisor). Thesis topic: *The cognitive mechanisms underlying hedonic bodily feelings (and their disorders)*
- Ben Jenkins (second supervisor). Thesis topic: *The heterogeneity of implicit bias*

Postdocs
- Laurenz Casser. Project: *Rethinking the function of pain*. (2024-2027). Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship.
- Michael Messerli. Project: *Decision-making—Normative and Descriptive* (2017-19). Swiss National Science Foundation Postdoc.

Other Activities

Associate Editor of *Analysis Reviews*, August 2020-now

Member of the Steering Committee of the *HumLab* of the University of Sheffield

Organizer: Shaun Nichols's Leverhulme Lectures (*The Concept of Self: From Birds to Buddhists*), May 2023

Organizer: Spring School in Philosophical Methods, *Experimental Philosophy and Statistical Learning*, Instructor: Shaun Nichols, May 2023

Organizer (with G. Viera): *Beyond Nature and Nurture* Lecture Series, University of Sheffield, Spring 2023

Associate Editor of *Frontiers in Psychology—Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology,* September 2015-December 2021.

Member of the Steering Committee of the *Humanities Research Institute* (HRI) of the University of Sheffield, May 2018-June 2020

Organizer (with A. Blomkvist) of *Emotional Bonds: Recent Advances in Affective and Social Cognitive Science*, University of Sheffield, Spring-Summer 2019

Organizer (with M. Kurthy) of *Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics: Experimental Methods for Philosophers*, Spring 2019

Organizer of *Philosophy Café*, Millennium Gallery, Sheffield, Autumn 2018

Organizer of *Natural Mechanisms: Consciousness, Cognition, and Evolution*, University of Sheffield, September 2018

Organizer (with A. Duval, I. González Vázquez, and S. Laurence) of *Mind and Society: Two Philosophical Conferences*, University of Sheffield, September 2017

Organizer of *Philosophy and Cognitive Science: A Conference in Honour of Steve Stich*, University of Sheffield, October 2016

Organizer of the *Mind Network Meeting*, University of Sheffield, September 2016

Organizer of the *Cognitive Science Bi-Weekly Meetings*, University of Sheffield, 2015-16

Organizer (with T. Stafford) of the *Cognitive Science in Sheffield Workshop*, November 2015

Organizer of the workshop *Affect: Pain, Pleasures, and Emotions*, University of Sheffield, June 2015

Organizer (with A. Newen, K. Reuter, & M. Werning) of the conference *Phenomenal Mindreading*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, November 2013

Organizer (with S. Gallagher, N. Gangopadhyay, & A. Newen) of the conference *Emotions: Nature, Recognition, and Culture*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, October 2013

Organizer (with F. Del Prete & I. Stojanovic) of the *1st Milan-Paris Workshop on Mind & Language*, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy, June 2011

Referee for: *American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, dialectica, Erkenntnis, Frontiers in Psychology, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Mind, Mind & Language, MIT Press, National Science Foundation (NSF), Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophical Explorations, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Studies, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Routledge, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Synthese, The Monist*, and *Topoi*

External examiner for the MSc in *Mind, Language, and Embodied Cognition* and the MSc in *Philosophy*, University of Edinburgh, March 2019-now

External examiner for the BAs in *Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Linguistics*, and *Philosophy and Sociology*, University of York, October 2022-now

PG Examiner:

- Lucy Prior (PhD), University of Birmingham, 11/2023
- Yuhan Fu (PhD), University of Sheffield, 10/2023
- Yifan Mei (PhD), University of Sheffield, 2/2023
- James Headlong (PhD), University of Sheffield, 1/2023
- Benedetta Magro (PhD), University of Manchester, 03/2022
- Isela González Vázquez (PhD), University of Sheffield, 01/2020
- Francesco Antilici (PhD), University of Sheffield, 06/2018
- Daniel Harris (MPhil), King's College London, 11/2015

Languages

Italian: Native speaker

English: Fluent/Full proficiency