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
School of History, Philosophy, and Digital Humanities
- Senior Lecturer in Philosophy of Psychology 01/2022–now

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

Previous Positions

University of Sheffield
Department of Philosophy
- Director, PhD Programme in Philosophy 02/2023–08/2025
- Director, Philosophy MA 09/2018–08/2021
- Director, Cognitive Studies MA 09/2014–08/2021
- Lecturer 09/2014–12/2021

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. **Barlassina, L.** (2026). Looking for trouble: A common threat-detection mechanism underlying pain, fear, and anxiety. *Mind & Language*.
2. Martínez, M. & **Barlassina, L.** (2026). The informational profile of valence: The metasemantic argument for imperativism. *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. *77*(3): 847–865.
3. Kurthy, M., Del Prete, F., & **Barlassina, L.** (2023). 'Must' implies 'can'. *Mind & Language, 38*(3): 620-643.
4. 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.
5. **Barlassina, L.** (2021). Valence: A reflection. In C. Todd and E. Wall (Eds.), *Emotion Researcher, ISRE's Sourcebook for Research on Emotion and Affect.*
6. **Barlassina, L.** (2020). Beyond good and bad: Reflexive imperativism, not evaluativism, explains valence. *Thought*, *9*(4): 274-284.
7. **Barlassina, L.** & Hayward, M. K. (2019). Loopy regulations: The motivational profile of affective phenomenology. *Philosophical Topics, 47*(2): 233-261.

8. **Barlassina, L.** & Hayward, M. K. (2019). More of me! Less of me! Reflexive imperativism about affective phenomenal character. *Mind, 128*(512): 1013-1044.
9. **Barlassina, L.** & Gordon, R. (2017). Folk psychology as mental simulation. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
10. **Barlassina, L.** & Del Prete, F. (2015). The puzzle of the changing past. *Analysis*, *75*(1): 59-67.
11. 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.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. Zalla, T., **Barlassina, L.**, Buon, M., & Leboyer, M. (2011). Moral judgment in adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Cognition*, 121(1): 115-126.
15. **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). *Bad Feelings: The Cognitive Architecture of Negative Affect* [Book project].
2. **Barlassina, L**. & Martínez, M. (under review). Artificial valence: An informational proposal.
3. Nichols, S. & **Barlassina, L.** (under review). Not for me: On the external function of guilt.
4. **L. Barlassina**, S. Spaulding, and R. Gordon (under review). Folk psychology as mental simulation. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
5. Shotri, S., Partington, S., **Barlassina, L**., & Nichols, S. (in preparation). Sentimental education: What emotional pedagogy reveals about the function of guilt.

Selected talks

- *Logos* colloquium, University of Barcelona, Spain, May 2026
- *Perception and Affect*, Institut Jean Nicod, France, February 2026
- Departmental colloquium, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany, November 2025
- *Artificial Consciousness*, LSE, UK, June 2025
- *Pain and Perception*, University of Sheffield, UK, May 2025
- *Rethinking Language, Mind, and Science*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, October 2024

- *Philosophers and (Non-Human) Animals*, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy, June 2024
- *The Philosophy of Emotion*, University of Sheffield, UK, June 2024
- *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, UK, 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, UK, April 2019
- *Departmental seminar,* Department of Philosophy, University of Glasgow, UK, 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, UK, November 2017
- *Philosophy of mind seminar*, School of Philosophy, Psychology, & Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh, UK, October 2017
- *Departmental seminar,* Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield, UK, May 2017
- *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, University of St. Andrews, UK, August 2016
- *Suffering and Phenomenal Consciousness*, Department of Philosophy, University of Glasgow, UK, 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

- *Consciousness, Cognition, and AI* (postgraduate), Spring 2027 (with J. Viera)
- *Foundations of Mind: Cognitive Science, Philosophy, and AI* (postgraduate), Autumn 2026 (with J. Viera)
- *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, Spring 2025, Autumn 2026
- *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/Dissertations* (upper-level undergraduate. Individual study): 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); Cultural Evolution (Spring 2025)

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)
- Viktoriia Kononova (first supervisor). Thesis topic: *The intentional content of homeostatic drives* (2025)
- 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

- Ben Jenkins (second supervisor). Thesis topic: *The heterogeneity of implicit bias*
- Toshiaki Ito (second supervisor). Thesis topic: *Empathy and moral motivation*

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

Organizer: *Mind the Time. Puzzles of Temporal Cognition*, University of Sheffield, April 2026

Organizer (with L. Casser): *Pain and Perception*, University of Sheffield, May 2025

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

Organizer: Spring School in Philosophical Methods, *Experimental Philosophy and Statistical Learning*, Instructor: Shaun Nichols, University of Sheffield, 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*, University of Sheffield, 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*, University of Sheffield, 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, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Frontiers in Psychology, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Mind*, *Mind & Language, MIT Press*, *National Science Foundation (NSF), Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, 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-June 2024

External examiner for the BAs in *Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Linguistics*, and *Philosophy and Sociology*, University of York, October 2022-September 2026

PG Examiner:

- Ed Armitage (PhD), University of Sheffield, 7/2024
- 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