

**Curriculum Vitae**  
Dr. Justin Garson  
Department of Philosophy  
Hunter College of the City University of New York  
695 Park Ave.  
New York, NY 10065  
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May 1, 2018

**Education**

Ph.D., Philosophy and Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Texas at Austin, Spring, 2006.

M.A., Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin, Fall, 2002.

B. A., Liberal Arts, The Evergreen State College, Spring, 1998.

**Areas of Specialization**

History and Philosophy of Science; Philosophy of Biology (with emphasis on neuroscience and mind); Environmental Philosophy

**Areas of Competence**

Bioethics; Critical Reasoning

**Dissertation**

Title: *Psychiatric Disorders and Biological Dysfunctions*

Dr. Sahotra Sarkar, Department of Philosophy and Department of Integrative Biology,  
University of Texas at Austin (Chair)

Dr. Jim Hankinson, Department of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Robert Causey, Department of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Richard Wilcox, Department of Pharmacology and Head of the Neuropharmacology  
Research Program of the Institute for Neuroscience, University of Texas at Austin

Dr. John Sadler, Department of Psychiatry, University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
Center

**Professional Experience**

Fall 2016 – Present: Associate Professor at Hunter College-CUNY (Early  
tenure)

- Fall 2011 – Spring 2016: Assistant Professor at Hunter College-CUNY  
Upper division courses: Philosophy of Biology; Philosophy of Science; Macaulay Honors College: Science and Technology in NYC; Lower division courses: Environmental Philosophy; Science, Philosophy, and Culture; Introduction to Philosophy.
- Fall 2010 – Spring 2011: Instructor at the University of Utah  
Upper division courses: Environmental Philosophy, Bioethics; Lower division courses: Reasoning and Rational Decision Making.
- Spring 2010: Research Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin, and Lecturer at Austin Community College
- Fall 2008 – Fall 2009: My family and I moved to Gulu, Northern Uganda and started a business to support people affected by war.
- Fall 2006 – Spring 2008: Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin
- Fall 2002 – Spring 2006: Assistant Editor for *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia* (Routledge).

## **Publications**

### **Philosophical Publications:**

#### ***Books (Single-Authored):***

Garson, J. (forthcoming) *What Biological Functions are and Why They Matter*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Garson, J. (2016) *A Critical Overview of Biological Functions*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Garson, J. (2015) *The Biological Mind: A Philosophical Introduction*. London: Routledge.

#### ***Books (Edited):***

Garson, J., Plutynski, A., and Sarkar, S. (Eds.) (2016) *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Biodiversity*. London: Routledge.

#### ***Journal Articles:***

- Garson, J. (forthcoming) "How to be a Function Pluralist," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.
- Garson, J. (2017) "Against Organizational Functions," *Philosophy of Science* 84: 1093-1103.
- Garson, J. (2017) "A Generalized Selected Effects Theory of Function," *Philosophy of Science* 84: 523-543.
- Garson, J. (2016) "Two Types of Psychological Hedonism," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 56: 7-14.
- Garson, J., and A. Schulz. (2016) "Introduction to Special Section: The Biology of Psychological Altruism," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 56: 1-2.
- Garson, J. (2015) "The Birth of Information in the Brain: Edgar Adrian and the Vacuum Tube," *Science in Context* 28: 31-52.
- Garson, J., and G. Piccinini. (2014) "Functions Must be Performed at Appropriate Rates in Appropriate Situations," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 65: 1-20.
- Garson, J. (2014) "What is the Value of Historical Fidelity in Restoration?," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 45: 97-100.
- Garson, J. (2014) "Realism, Conventionalism, and Irrealism About Biological Functions: A Reply to Schyfter," *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 3(6): 77-81.
- Garson, J. (2013) "The Functional Sense of Mechanism," *Philosophy of Science* 80: 317-333.
- Garson, J. (2012) "Function, Selection, and Construction in the Brain," *Synthese* 189: 451-481.
- Garson, J. (2011) "Selected Effects and Causal Role Functions in the Brain: The Case for an Etiological Approach to Neuroscience," *Biology and Philosophy* 26: 547-565.
- Garson, J. (2010) "Schizophrenia and the Dysfunctional Brain," *Journal of Cognitive Science* 11: 215-246.
- Garson, J. (2003) "The Introduction of Information into Neurobiology," *Philosophy of Science* 70: 926-936.
- Garson, J., L. Wang, and S. Sarkar (2003) "How Development May Direct Evolution," *Biology and Philosophy* 18: 353-370.

### **Book Chapters:**

Garson, J. (forthcoming) "The Developmental Plasticity Challenge to Wakefield's View," in Faucher, L., and Forest, D. (Eds.), *Defining Mental Disorder: Jerome Wakefield and His Critics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Garson, J. (2018) "Teleology," in Zeigler-Hill, V., and Shackelford, T. K. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences*. Dordrecht: Springer. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8\\_860-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8_860-1)

Garson, J. (2017) "A "Model Schizophrenia": Amphetamine Psychosis and the Transformation of American Psychiatry," in Casper, S., and Gavrus, D. (Eds.), *Technique in the History of the Brain and Mind Sciences*. (Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press), pp. 202-228.

Garson, J. (2017) "Mechanisms, Phenomena, and Functions," in Glennan, S., and Illari, P. (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Mechanisms* (London: Routledge), pp. 104-115.

Garson, J. (2016) "Ecological Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation," in Garson, J., Plutynski, A., and Sarkar, S. (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Biodiversity*. (London: Routledge), pp. 326-337.

Garson, J. (2016) "The Hiddenness of Psychological Symptom Amplification: Some Historical Observations," in Moseley, D. D., and Gala, G. (Eds.), *Philosophy and Psychiatry: Problems, Intersections and New Perspectives* (New York: Routledge), pp. 29-35.

Garson, J. (2013) "Alexander Forbes, Walter Cannon, and Science-Based Literature," in Stiles, A., Finger, S., and Boller, F. (Eds.), *Progress in Brain Research Vol. 205: Literature, Neurology, and Neuroscience: Historical and Literary Connections* (Amsterdam: Elsevier), pp. 241-256.

Garson, J. (2008) "Function and Teleology," in Plutynski, A., and Sarkar, S. (Eds.), *Companion to Philosophy of Biology* (Malden, MA: Blackwell), pp. 525-549.

Garson, J. (2006) "Emergentism," in Sarkar, S., and Pfeifer, J. (Eds.), *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia* (New York: Routledge).

Garson, J., and J. Justus. (2006) "Conservation Biology," in Sarkar, S., and Pfeifer, J. (Eds.), *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia* (New York: Routledge).

### **Book Reviews: (\* signifies articles written with undergraduate students as co-authors)**

Garson, J., "Review of Karen Neander's *A Mark of the Mental: In Defense of Informational Teleosemantics*," *Philosophy of Science*, (forthcoming).

Garson, J., "Review of Mark Okrent's *Nature and Normativity: Biology, Teleology, and Meaning*," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, (April 2018).

Garson, J. (2015) "Review of Carl F. Craver and Lindley Darden's *In Search of Mechanisms: Discoveries Across the Life Sciences*," *History of the Philosophy of Science* 5: 180-183.

Chowdhury, S., and J. Garson. (2012) "Review of Patricia Churchland's *Braintrust: What Neuroscience Tells Us About Morality*," *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 34: 512-514.\*

Garson, J. (2012) "Review of Raymond Tallis' *Aping Mankind: Neuromania, Darwinitis, and the Misrepresentation of Humanity*," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (01.08.2012).

Zhu, B., and J. Garson. (2008) "Review of R. Grant Steen's *The Evolving Brain: The Known and the Unknown*," *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 30: 111-112.\*

Garson, J. (2006) "Review of Derek Bolton and Jonathan Hill's *Mind, Meaning, and Mental Disorder*," *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 28: 115-116.

Garson, J. (2005) "Review of *Nature and Nurture: An Introduction to the New Philosophy of Psychiatry*," *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 27: 145-146.

## **Scientific Publications:**

### ***Journal Articles:***

Sarkar, S., Mayfield, M., Cameron, S., Fuller, T., and J. Garson. (2007) "Conservation Area Networks for the Indian Ecoregion: Systematic Methods and Future Prospects," *Himalayan Journal of Sciences* 4: 27-40.

Moffett, A., Garson, J., and S. Sarkar. (2005) "MultCSync: A Software Package for Incorporating Multiple Criteria in Conservation Planning," *Environmental Modelling and Software* 20: 1315-1322.

Sarkar, S., Justus, J., Fuller, T., Kelley, C., Garson, J., and M. Mayfield. (2005) "Effectiveness of Environmental Surrogates for the Selection of Conservation Area Networks," *Conservation Biology* 19: 815-825.

Sarkar, S., and J. Garson. (2004) "Multiple Criterion Synchronization (MCS) for Conservation Area Network Design: The Use of Non-Dominated Alternative Sets," *Conservation and Society* 2: 433-448.

Sarkar, S., Moffett, A., Sierra, R., Fuller, T., Cameron, S., and J. Garson. (2004) "Incorporating Multiple Criteria into the Design of Conservation Area Networks," *Endangered Species Update* 21: 100-107.

Sarkar, S., Pappas, C., Garson, J., Aggarwal, A., and S. Cameron. (2004) "Place Prioritization for Biodiversity Conservation Using Probabilistic Surrogate Distribution Data," *Diversity and Distributions* 10: 125-133.

Kelley, C., Garson, J., Aggarwal, A., and S. Sarkar. (2002) "Place Prioritization for Biodiversity Reserve Network Design: A Comparison of the SITES and ResNet Software Packages for Coverage and Efficiency," *Diversity and Distributions* 8: 297-306.

Sarkar, S., Aggarwal, A., Garson, J., Margules, C., and J. Zeidler. (2002) "Place Prioritization for Biodiversity Content," *Journal of BioSciences* 27: 339-346.

Garson, J., Aggarwal, A., and S. Sarkar. (2002) "Birds as Surrogates for Biodiversity: An Analysis of a Data Set from Southern Québec," *Journal of BioSciences* 27: 347-360.

Sarkar, S., Parker, N., Garson, J., Aggarwal, A., and S. Haskell. (2000) "Place Prioritization for Texas Using GAP Data: The Use of Biodiversity and Environmental Surrogates Within Socioeconomic Constraints," *Gap Analysis Program Bulletin* 9: 48-51.

### **Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures**

"Teleosemantics, Selection, and Learning," Invited presentation, Workshop for Teleosemantics and the Nature of Functions, Bielefeld, Germany, Sept 7-8, 2017.

"Madness as Dysfunction and as Strategy," Association for the Advancement of Psychiatry and Philosophy, San Diego, CA, May 20-21, 2017.

"What Functions Are and Why They Matter," Invited presentation, CUNY Graduate Center Philosophy Department, New York, NY, February 23, 2017.

"Against Organizational Functions," Philosophy of Science Association, Atlanta, GA, Nov 2-4, 2016.

"Making Teleosemantics Work: Function, Synapse Selection, and Representation in the Brain," Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Austin, TX June 2-4, 2016.

"A Better Way to Be a Function Pluralist," International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Montreal, QC, July 5-10, 2015.

"Developmental Mismatches and Dysfunctional Mechanisms: A Novel Critique of the Harmful Dysfunction Analysis of Mental Disorder," Association for the Advancement of Psychiatry and Philosophy, Toronto, ON, May 16-17, 2015.

“Response,” Invited presentation for the Symposium *Justin Garson: The Biological Mind: A Philosophical Introduction*, APA Pacific Division, Vancouver, BC, Apr 1-5, 2015 (commentaries by Carl Craver, Gualtiero Piccinini, and Sahotra Sarkar; chaired by Helen Longino).

“Does Evolution Belong in Psychiatric Classification? Some Cautionary Remarks,” Invited presentation for the Evolutionary Studies Seminar Series, Binghamton, NY, February 23, 2015 (invited by David Sloan Wilson).

“Why (a Form of) Function Indeterminacy is Still a Problem for Biomedicine, and How Seeing Functional Items as Components of Mechanisms Can Solve It,” Philosophy of Science Association, Chicago, IL, Nov 6-9, 2014.

“A ‘Model Schizophrenia’: Amphetamine Psychosis and the Transformation of American Psychiatry,” History of Science Society, Chicago IL, Nov 6-9, 2014.

“Philosophy of Biology, Meet Phenomenal Consciousness,” Invited presentation, Workshop for New Directions in Empirically Informed Philosophy of Mind, New York, NY, May 1-2, 2014.

“Two Types of Psychological Hedonism,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies in Biology, Montpellier, France, July 7-13, 2013.

Invited presentation for the Symposium *Author Meets Critics: Sahotra Sarkar’s Environmental Philosophy: From Theory to Practice*, APA Pacific Division, San Francisco, CA, Mar 27-31, 2013.

“Broken Mechanisms: Function, Pathology, and Natural Selection,” Philosophy of Science Association, San Diego, CA, Nov 15-17, 2012.

“A ‘Model Schizophrenia’: Amphetamine Psychosis and the Transformation of American Psychiatry,” Invited Presentation, Technique, Technology and Therapy in the Brain and Mind Sciences, 1850-2011, Clarkson University, May 4-5, 2012.

“Function and Bionormalcy: Breaking the Link,” APA Pacific Division, Seattle, WA, April 4-7, 2012.

“Functions Must Be Performed at Appropriate Rates in Appropriate Situations,” APA Central Division, Chicago, IL, February 15-18, 2012 (with Gualtiero Piccinini).

“Broken Mechanisms: Function, Mechanism, and Pathology,” Invited presentation, University of Missouri-St. Louis, November 18, 2011.

“The Birth of Information in the Brain: Single-Neuron Electrophysiology and the Vacuum Tube,” Invited presentation, Washington University in St. Louis, November 16, 2011 (invited by Carl Craver).

“Functions Must Be Performed at Appropriate Rates in Appropriate Situations,” Central States Philosophical Association, St. Louis, MO, September 15, 2011 (with Gualtiero Piccinini).

“The Limits of the ‘New Mechanism’: Purpose, Mechanism, and History in Biological Explanation,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies in Biology, Salt Lake City, UT, July 14, 2011.

“Selected Effects and Causal Role Functions in Neuroscience,” Invited presentation, Duke University, March 18, 2011 (invited by Karen Neander).

“The Birth of Information in the Brain: Edgar Adrian and the Vacuum Tube,” History of Science Society, Montreal, QC, November 4-6, 2010.

“Nature, Artifact, and Function in Ecological Restoration,” Invited presentation, University of Utah, October 22, 2010.

“Functions and Goal-Directedness in the Philosophy of Medicine,” Southwest Colloquium for the Life Sciences, Austin, TX, February 6, 2004.

“Naturalistic Models of Functional Explanation in Psychiatry,” Central Texas Philosophy of Science Meeting, Austin, TX, February 14, 2003.

“The Revival of Emergentism in Philosophy of Science in the Late 1960s,” History of Philosophy of Science Working Group, Concordia University, Montreal, June 21-23, 2002.

“The Introduction of Information in Neurobiology,” Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, November 7-10, 2002.

“The Introduction of Information into Neurobiology,” Invited Presentation, Altenberg-Austin Workshop on Theoretical Biology, Konrad Lorenz Institute, Altenberg, Austria, July 11-14, 2002.

“The Introduction of Information into Neurobiology,” Philosophy of Biology Graduate Student Conference, Austin, TX, April 6, 2002.

“The Multiple Constraint Synchronization Problem in Conservation Biology,” Graduate Fellows Symposium for the Environmental Sciences Institute, Austin, TX, October 4, 2001.



“The Consensus View of Conservation Biology and the Surrogacy Problem: Assessing the Influence of Spatial Scale on the Evaluation of Potential Biodiversity Surrogates,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies in Biology, Quinnipiac, CT, July 20, 2001.

“The Surrogacy Problem: Assessing the Influence of Spatial Scale on the Evaluation of Biodiversity Surrogates,” Lunch-Time Seminar Series, Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, Austin, TX, March 8, 2001.

### **Awards**

Feliks Gross Endowment Award, Spring, 2015. This is a CUNY-wide award given to a small number of pre-tenure faculty, “in recognition of outstanding research, or potential for such, in the humanities or sciences.”

### **Grants and Fellowships**

Hunter College-CUNY Presidential Travel Award, Spring, 2017 (\$2300.00).

CUNY Academy Travel Award, Spring, 2017 (\$200).

Hunter College-CUNY Presidential Travel Award, Spring, 2016 (\$1348.80).

Hunter College-CUNY Presidential Travel Award, Spring, 2015 (\$3500).

William Stewart Travel Award Program, Spring, 2015 (\$500).

Hunter College-CUNY Presidential Travel Award, Spring, 2014 (\$700).

Hunter College-CUNY Presidential Travel Award, Spring, 2013 (\$2000).

PSC-CUNY Research Award Program, Fall 2012-Spring 2013 (\$3,341.82).

William Stewart Travel Award Program, Spring, 2012 (\$500).

Hunter College-CUNY Presidential Travel Award, Spring, 2012 (\$1700).

### **Service**

#### ***To the Profession:***

Refereeing: *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Minds and Machines*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*,

*Endeavour, Social Epistemology, Science and Education, Interface Focus, Journal of Cognitive Science, Foundations of Science.*

Professional Societies: American Philosophical Association; Philosophy of Science Association; History of Science Association; International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology.

Guest Editor (with Armin Schulz): Special section in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*: “Biological Aspects of Psychological Altruism,” 2016. (Contributors include Justin Garson, Elliott Sober, Stephen Stich, Christine Clavien, Michel Chapuisat, Armin Schulz, and Grant Ramsey.)

Guest Editor: Special section in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*: “Natural Values and Cultural Decisions: A Symposium on Sahotra Sarkar’s *Environmental Philosophy: From Theory to Practice*, 2014. (Contributors include Justin Garson, Sahotra Sarkar, David Frank, and Jay Odenbaugh.)

Organizer (with Armin Schulz): Double session on *The Evolution of Psychological Altruism*, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Montpellier, France, July 2013. (Participants included Justin Garson, Elliott Sober, Stephen Stich, Armin Schulz, Christine Clavien, and Chandra Sripada.)

Organizer (with Carl Craver): Session on *Is Mechanistic Explanation Enough? The Scope and Limits of the ‘New Mechanism’*, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, July 2011. (Participants included Justin Garson, Carl Craver, Lenny Moss, and Stuart Newman.)

### ***To the Community:***

Gave two presentations for the Empiricist League ([www.empiricistleague.com](http://www.empiricistleague.com)), a local community of science enthusiasts. The Empiricist League arranges presentations bimonthly on popular science topics and has an average audience of about 80-100 people.

“The Automaton Within: Determinism and the Philosophy of Free Will,” Brooklyn, NY, February 4, 2015.

“Nice Guys Finish Last? The Evolutionary Basis of Morality and Altruism,” Brooklyn, NY, January 14, 2014.