

EDVARD AVILÉS-MEZA

Philosophy | Psychology | Neuroscience



PERSONAL PROFILE

I am a philosopher and a psychologist interested in various aspects of the mind and cognition. My work has been focused on the nature of distraction and what it can teach us about consciousness, introspection, and imagination. My current interest is on the nature of intelligence and its relevance for the philosophy of mind & epistemology.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science & AI
- Epistemology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

- Philosophy of Psychiatry & Disability
- Aesthetics
- Early Modern Philosophy
- South Asian Philosophy

CONTACT ME AT:

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN — MADISON

[Assistant Professor of Philosophy](#) (tenure-track) | Starting Fall 2026

EDUCATION

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. in Philosophy (with **Cognitive Science** Minor) | 2020 – 2026

Dissertation Title: *Junk Consciousness: Philosophical Essays on Distraction*

Committee: Nicholas Silins (Chair), Shaun Nichols, Carlotta Pavese.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY (CEU)

M.A in Philosophy | 2019

First in Class with Distinction (Outstanding Academic Achievement Award)

Thesis: *Between Perception and Imagination: Philosophical and Cognitive Dilemmas*

Supervisor: Tim Crane

UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL MAYOR DE SAN MARCOS (UNMSM)

MSc. Neuroscience (coursework completed) | 2015

UNIVERSIDAD RICARDO PALMA (URP)

Professional Degree in Psychology (License) | 2016

B.A. in Psychology | 2014

First Class honors

PUBLICATIONS

- [The Problem of Introspective Blink \(2026\).|Erkenntnis](#)
- [The Neurotic & The Dogmatist \(2024\).|Synthese](#)

Under Review

- A paper on imagery without attention
- A paper on disorders of consciousness

Selected Work in Progress (drafts available upon request)

- Perceptual Fragmentation
- The Other Game in Town: The Cognitive Map Alternative
- Dreaming as Machine Learning
- A Third Sense for 'Consciousness'

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

SOCIETY FOR PHILOSOPHY & PSYCHOLOGY (SPP)

William James Prize | 2023

BERGGRUEN ESSAY PRIZE SHORTLIST

Essay shortlisted (out of ~3000 submissions) | 2026

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Sadov Fellowship | 2024

President's Travel Fund for the Humanities | 2022

Conference Travel Grant | 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2025

Sage Fellowship | 2020-2026

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY (CEU)

CEU Summer School Grant - New Perspectives in Philosophy of Mind | 2025

CEU Summer School Grant - The Ethics of Attention | 2024

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award | 2019

Master's Excellence Scholarship | 2017

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION (APA)

Student Travel Award | 2023

CONFERENCES & TALKS (SELECTED)

- (* = Competitive Peer-Reviewed Participation)
- **Perceptual Fragmentation**
Summer Mind Workshop - Columbia Mind, Brain & Behavior Institute (2026)
Job Talk - UW-Madison (2026)
- **The Other Game in Town: The Cognitive Map Alternative**
APA (Pacific Division) - Philosophy and Neuroscience Workgroup (2026)
Understanding Neural Representations - Rutgers University* (2025)
- **A Puzzle about Mind-Wandering**
Arché Graduate Conference* (2025)
Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference* (2024)
- **Imagination without Awareness**
Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP)* - William James Prize (2023)
Annual Toronto Graduate Philosophy Conference* (2023)
- **The Evil Demon meets the Invisible Gorilla**
Notre Dame-Northwestern Graduate Epistemology Conference* (2023)
Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference* (2022)
- **The Neurotic & The Dogmatist**
APA (Eastern Division)* - Symposium (2023)
Syracuse Graduate Conference* (2022)

TEACHING

Cornell University (Primary Instructor)

- Madness: From Psychiatry to Neurodiversity - Fall 2025
- Algorithms, Buddhas, & Brains - Spring 2026

Cornell University (Teaching Assistant)

- Minds & Machines - Spring 2023
- Puzzles & Paradoxes - Fall 2022
- Modern Philosophy - Spring 2022
- Introduction to Philosophy - Fall 2021

National University of San Marcos - Peru (Primary Instructor)

- Philosophy of Cognitive Science - Fall 2024
- Epistemology - Spring 2024
- Philosophy of Mind - Spring 2024

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Refereeing

- Philosophical Studies - 2024

Public Philosophy Writing

- [The Bat & the Ghost](#) - [Closer to Truth \(The Landscape of Consciousness\)](#)
- [Imaginative Jailbreak and Phenomenal Overflow](#) - [The Junkyard](#)
- [The Neurotic Dogma of Reality](#) - [APA Blogs](#)
- [Mixed Martial Thoughts: On Philosophy and MMA](#) - [APA Blogs](#)

Undergraduate Mentoring & Advising:

- Julio Silva - Self-Knowledge - Accepted at Oklahoma State M.A (2024)
- Erik Alvarado - Representationalism - Accepted at U. Cincinnati (2024)
- Rodrigo Garro - Color Physicalism - Accepted at USC PhD (2023)

Academic Affiliations

Founder Member: [Theorema](#)

Theorema is a philosophy group formed by Peruvian graduate students working in the US & UK. The group's core purpose is to promote analytic philosophy through free workshops, conferences, and individual mentoring for Peruvian undergraduate students.

NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Filmmaking:

The Canvas of Truth (Documentary Screened at APA Pacific 2024):

- Watch a teaser [here](#)

Soliloquium (Short film Corner 2017, Festival de Cannes)

- Watch a teaser [here](#)

Music (Scoring): www.soundcloud.com/eda39

APPENDIX: COMPLETED GRADUATE COURSES

PhD. in Philosophy (Cornell University)

1. Philosophy Proseminar
2. Cognitive Science Proseminar
3. Epistemology
4. Philosophy of Language (audit)
5. Formal Semantics
6. Deductive Logic
7. Topics in Metaphysics (Metametaphysics & Grounding)
8. Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Perception)
9. Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Emotion)
10. Topics in Epistemology (Self-Knowledge)
11. Topics in Ethics & Value Theory (Moral Objectivity, Mind, & Value)
12. Topics in Aesthetics* (Art & Mind)
13. Topics in Ancient Philosophy (Plato)
14. Topics in Medieval Philosophy (Augustine's Philosophy of Mind)
15. Topics in Modern Philosophy (Modern Philosophy of Mind & Action)
16. Topics in Modern Philosophy (Kant's Metaphysics & Epistemology) (audit)
17. Computational Cognitive Science (audit)
18. The Psychology of Attention (audit)
19. Introduction to Indian Philosophy (audit)
20. South Asian Philosophy of Mind (audit)
21. The Hippocampus: Navigation, Memory, and Context
22. Bayesian Theories of Cognition (independent study with Shaun Nichols)
23. Consciousness & Attention (independent study with Nico Silins)

MSc. in Neuroscience (National University of San Marcos)

1. History of Neuroscience
2. General Neurobiology
3. Neurochemistry
4. Biostatistics
5. Research Seminar I
6. Neuroanatomy
7. Neurophysiology
8. Neuropsychology
9. Research Seminar II
10. Neuroscience of Language
11. Cognitive Neuroscience
12. Research Seminar III
13. Neuropathology
14. Psychopathology
15. Neuropharmacology
16. Research Seminar IV
17. Ethics for Neuroscientific Research

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Nicholas Silins (Cornell University): nico.silins@cornell.edu

Shaun Nichols (Cornell University): sbn44@cornell.edu

Carlotta Pavese (University of Oxford): carlotta.pavese@philosophy.ox.ac.uk

Tim Crane (Central European University): timcrane@ceu.edu

Alexander Kocurek (UCSD): akocurek@ucsd.edu (teaching Reference)