

# Cassandra Williams

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**AOS** | Philosophy of Mind, Cognitive Science  
**AOC** | Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

## EDUCATION

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### **Ph.D., Philosophy (in progress)**

University of Toronto

2023 - Present

Committee: Denis Walsh (Chair), Andrew Lee, Bill Seager, Evan Thompson

### **Ph.D. student in Philosophy**

York University

2022 - 2023

(Transferred to University of Toronto September 2023)

### **M.A., History and Philosophy of Science and Technology**

University of Toronto

2021

### **B.A., Philosophy and Cognitive Science**

University of Toronto

2019

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### **Refereed**

1. "Would I Still Have Attention if I Was a Worm?" *Upcoming:  
June 2026*  
*Canadian Philosophical Association, Dalhousie University*
2. "Would I Still Have Attention if I Was a Worm?" *Upcoming:  
June 2026*  
*Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, Dalhousie University*
3. "How Speculative is Biopsychism Really?" *June 20, 2025*  
*Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cornell University*
4. "How Speculative is Biopsychism Really?" *June 12, 2025*  
*The Edge of Sentience Workshop, Ruhr University Bochum*
5. "Making Sense of Agency" *July 24, 2024*  
*International Conference for Artificial Life, IT University of Copenhagen*
6. "Making Sense of Agency" *June 21, 2024*  
*Dimensions of Radical Embodiment, University of Murcia*

7. "Making Sense of Agency" May 6, 2024  
*On Purpose*, Duke University
8. "Making Sense of Agency" Mar 23, 2024  
*Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Cincinnati, USA
9. "Radicalism Twice Over: Radical Structuralism, Radical Embodiment, and Subjectivity" June 9, 2023  
*Berlin Workshop on Ecological Psychology*, Technical University of Berlin
10. "Feeling It Out: Affectivity as Minimal Rationality" Mar 18, 2023  
*Emotions, Reasons, and Rational Agency*, University of Tennessee

## Non-Refereed

11. "Would I still be sentient if I was a worm???" Oct 20, 2025  
*Ontario Mind Group*, Toronto, Canada

## Invited Commentaries

12. Comments on Fermin Fulda, "Life and the Dialectics of Matter and Form: Organicism between Dialectical Materialism and Hylomorphism" Oct 12, 2025  
*Dialectical Biology Today: Legacies of Richard Lewontin*, University of Toronto
13. Comments on Tanya Dushatska, "Artificial Intelligence, Phenomenal Consciousness, and Creative Agency" June 20, 2025  
*Canadian Philosophical Association*, George Brown College

## TEACHING

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### Tutorial Leader

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|---|------------------|
| Persons, Minds and Bodies<br>University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy  | 2025             |
| Minds and Machines<br>University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy   | 2020, 2024, 2025 |
| Philosophy of Science<br>University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy  | 2024             |
| Introduction to Logic<br>York University, Department of Philosophy  | 2022             |
| The Limits of Machine Intelligence<br>University of Toronto, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology | 2021             |
| Introduction to Philosophical Problems<br>University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy                                       | 2018-9           |

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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|--|-------------|
| <b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship</b> | 2024 – 2028 |
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**Faculty of Arts & Science Top (FAST) Doctoral Fellowship**

2023 – 2027

**Vision: Science to Applications (VISTA) Doctoral Scholarship**

2022 – 2023

## RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

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### **Philosophy of Visual Perception**

2022 – 2023

Research Assistant to Jake Beck, York University

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

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(\* = audited, † = in progress)

### **University of Toronto**

Philosophy of Medicine (*Brian Baigrie*) \*† Winter 2026

Biological and Artificial Intelligence (*Jennifer Nagel*) \* Fall 2025

Representational Content (*Imogen Dickie*) \* Fall 2025

William James's Radical Empiricism (*Bill Seager*) Winter 2024

Aristotle's *De Anima* (*Jessica Gelber*) Winter 2024

Moral Obligations under Conditions of Injustice (*Sophia Moreau*) Winter 2024

The Structure of Consciousness (*Andrew Lee*) Fall 2023

Spinoza and Hume's Naturalisms (*Donald Ainslie, Michael Rosenthal*) Fall 2023

Philosophy of Clinical Epidemiology (*Brian Feldman, Brian Baigrie*) Fall 2023

Advanced Intro to Philosophy of Science (*Mike Miller*) Fall 2023

Consciousness, Qualia and Qualities (*Bill Seager*) Winter 2023

Intro to the History and Philosophy of Science (*Brian Baigrie*) Fall 2021

Metaphysics of Quantum Mechanics (*Mike Miller, Trevor Teitel*) Fall 2021

Theories of Consciousness (*Bill Seager*) Fall 2021

Teleology (*Denis Walsh, Marleen Rosemond*) Fall 2021

History and Philosophy of the Social Sciences (*Mark Solovey*) Winter 2020

Technology, Environment, and History (*Rebecca Woods*) Winter 2020

### **York University**

Stimulus, Context, and Control in Perception (*Kevin Lande*) \* Winter 2023

Perceptual Justification (*Jake Beck, Kevin Lande*) Fall 2022

Rationality (*Kristin Andrews*) Fall 2022

### **CUNY Graduate Center**

Animal Consciousness and Society (*Kristin Andrews*) \* Fall 2025

## SERVICE

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### Refereeing

**Journals:** *Philosophical Explorations*

### Other Service

**Climate Committee Member**

2025 – 2026

Graduate Philosophy Students' Union  
University of Toronto

**Volunteer**

2025

Dialectical Biology Today: Legacies of Richard Lewontin conference  
University of Toronto

**Graduate Student Peer Mentor**

2024 – 2025

Department of Philosophy  
University of Toronto

**Volunteer**

2024

Philosophy Graduate Student Conference  
York University

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Research Engagement Coordinator**

Jan – May 2026

Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society  
University of Toronto