

# Curriculum Vitae

**Name:** Dr. Michael (Mike) James Stuart Beaton

**Date of birth:** 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1967

**Nationality:** British

**Philosophical areas of specialisation (AOS):** Philosophy of Mind, Phenomenal Consciousness, Philosophy of Perception, Direct Realism, Conceptualism.

**Philosophical areas of competence (AOC):** Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Psychology.

## Education

**October 2002 - December 2009:** D.Phil. (Ph.D.) in Philosophy of Cognitive Science, University of Sussex. External examiner: Professor Alva Noë. Internal examiner: Professor Zoltan Dienes. Supervisors: Dr. Ron Chrisley, Prof. Steve Torrance. Thesis title: *An Analysis of Qualitative Feel as the Introspectible Subjective Aspect of a Space of Reasons*.

During this period, I also undertook work in experimental psychophysics informally supervised by Dr. Romi Nijhawan and Dr. Beena Khurana, resulting in conference paper output.

**1988-1989:** M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence, University of Edinburgh.

**1985-1988:** B.A. (Hons, 2:1) in Physics, Magdalen College, University of Oxford.

## Postdoctoral Academic Posts

**2010 – Present:** Visiting Research Fellow, University of Sussex.

**January 2013 – December 2014:** Postdoctoral Researcher, IAS Research Group, University of the Basque Country, San Sebastián, Spain. Supervisor, Professor Ezequiel Di Paolo. In this post, I was a researcher in the European FP7 eSMCs project (which comprised six labs in Germany, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland). The aim of this project was to extend Noë and O'Regan's sensorimotor contingency theory, both philosophically (in terms of conceptual foundations, and applications to issues such as the nature of perception) and pragmatically (in terms of robot architecture and therapeutic applications). The project was very well reviewed at all stages, with particular praise for the collaboration between philosophical and experimental teams.

**July 2010 – April 2011:** Postdoctoral Researcher, Imperial College London. Supervisor, Professor Igor Aleksander. Funded by the Association for Information Technology Trust. Research topic, *Information Integration Theories of Consciousness*. My own research within this remit offered an externalist and embodied response to the currently popular claim, originally due to Tononi, that consciousness can be conceptually analysed in terms of integrated self-information within a subject's brain.

## Journal Papers and Book Chapters

Beaton, M. (2016) *Sensorimotor Direct Realism: How We Enact Our World*. *Constructivist Foundations* 11(2): 265-276

Beaton, M. (2016) *The Personal level in Sensorimotor Theory (Author's response to commentaries)*. *Constructivist Foundations* 11(2): 289-294

Beaton, M. (2016) *Crossing the Explanatory Gap by Legwork, not by Fiat (Commentary on Kirchoff and Hutto)*. *Constructivist Foundations* 11(2): 364-366

Beaton, M. (2014). *Learning to Perceive What we do not yet Understand: Letting the World Guide Us*. In 'Enactive Cognition at the Edge of Sense-Making', Cappuccio, M. and Froese, T. (eds.), Palgrave Macmillan (in press).

Di Paolo, E., X. Barandiaran, M. Beaton and T. Buhrmann (2014) *Learning to perceive in the sensorimotor approach: Piaget's theory of equilibration interpreted dynamically*. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 8.

Beaton, M. (2013) *Phenomenology and Embodied Action*. *Constructivist Foundations* 8(3): 298-313

Beaton, M., Pierce, B. and Stuart, S. (2013) *Neurophenomenology – A Special Issue*. *Constructivist Foundations* 8(3): 265-268

Beaton, M. and Aleksander, I. (2012). *World-Related Integrated Information: Enactivist and Phenomenal Perspectives*. *International Journal of Machine Consciousness*, 4(2): 439-455.

Beaton, M. (2009). *Qualia and Introspection*. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 16(5): 88-110.

Beaton, M. (2006). *A Recipe for Success? – Response to de Quincey*. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 13(4): 13-15.

Beaton, M. (2006). *Review of Tamar Szabó Gendler and John Hawthorne (eds.), 'Perceptual Experience'*. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 13(4): 120-124.

Beaton, M. (2005). *What RoboDennett Still Doesn't Know*. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 12(12): 3-25.

### **Invited Talks**

Allergic Talk, 19 October 2016, University of Sussex, *Sensorimotor Direct Realism: How We Enact Our World*

FEEL Workshop, 31 May 2016, Université Paris Descartes, *Sensorimotor Direct Realism: How We Enact Our World*

John Searle Lectures, 17-19 May 2016, University of Bochum, *Sensorimotor Direct Realism: How We Enact Our World*

COGS Seminar, 18 February 2014, University of Sussex, *Linking Perception and Understanding*

5th Meeting of Prof. Thomas Metzinger's Mainzer Nachwuchsgruppe "Philosophie Des Geistes", on Metacognition, 20-22 October 2005, *Conscious Experience as the Exercise of Grounded Concepts*

### **Peer Reviewed Conference Presentations**

ASSC 17, 12-15 July 2013, San Diego, California, *Towards a Scientifically Tractable, Direct Realist, Sensorimotor Account of Experience* (Talk)

ReteCog II Workshop, 17-18 January 2013, University of Zaragoza, Spain, *Embodied Action and Neurophenomenology* (Talk)

CEP 2012 Conference on Neurophenomenology, 15-16 September 2012, University of Bristol, UK, *Embodied Action and Neurophenomenology* (Talk)

Froese, T., Ikegami, T. & Beaton, M. (2012). *Non-Human Primates Cannot Decontextualize and Objectify the Actions of their Specifics*. The Ninth International Conference on the Evolution of Language (EvoLang IX), 13-16 March 2012, Kyoto, Japan (Talk)

Aleksander, I., and Beaton M. (2011). *World-Related Integrated Information: Enactivist and Phenomenal Perspectives*, AISB 2011, 4-7 April 2011, University of York, UK (Talk)

ASSC 13, 5-8 June 2009, Berlin, Germany, *Qualia and Introspection* (Talk)

Second European Summer School on Consciousness: Consciousness and Action, 4-6 June 2007, Cargèse, Corsica, France, *Functional-Homuncular Explanation* (Poster)

CEP 10, 15-17 September 2006, St. Anne's College, University of Oxford, *The Boundaries of the Conceptual* (Talk)

ASSC 10, 23-26 June 2006, St. Anne's College, University of Oxford, *Animal Consciousness* (Talk)

ASSC 9 Satellite Meeting: Problems of Space and Time in Perception and Action, 28 June 2005, Caltech, Pasadena, CA, *Filling-in the Perceived Void in the Flash-Lag Effect*, Beaton, M., Watanabe, K. and Nijhawan, R. (Poster)

ASSC 9, 24-27 June 2005, Caltech, Pasadena, CA, *Conscious Experience as Sensorimotor Conceptual Grounding* (Poster)

CEP 8, 17-19 September 2004, St. Anne's College, University of Oxford, *The Self as Thinly Veiled Confabulation* (Talk)

European Conference on Visual Perception (ECVP), 22-26 August 2004, Budapest, Hungary, *Grayer than Gray: Achromatic Contrast of Perceptually Lagging Flashed Object is Preserved*, Beaton, M., Nijhawan, R. and Khurana, B. (Poster)

SPP/ESPP, 3-6 July 2004, Barcelona, Spain, *A New Psychophysical Model of the Flash-Lag Effect*, Michael Beaton and Romi Nijhawan (Talk)

ASSC 8, 26-28 June 2004, Antwerp, Belgium, *A Proposal for a Modification to the Higher Order Thought Theory of Consciousness* (Poster)

Toward a Science of Consciousness, 7-11 April 2004, Tucson, AZ, *What RoboDennett Still Doesn't Know* (Poster/Talk, awarded **Best Student Paper**)

### **Teaching at University of Sussex**

2007-2010: selected seminars for Dr. Ron Chrisley's *Concepts and Cognitive Science* course for the *Philosophy of Cognitive Science* M.A..

2003-2004: lectures and seminars for the third year undergraduate *Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science* COGS course.

2002-2003: seminars for the COGS *Philosophy of Cognitive Science* M.A., organised by Prof. Steve Torrance; seminars for the second year undergraduate *Thinking Skills* (theory and practice) COGS course.

### **Professional Service**

Member of Editorial Board: *International Journal of Machine Consciousness*.

Journal Referee: *Adaptive Behavior*; *Erkenntnis*; *Journal of Consciousness Studies*; *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*; *Philosophical Papers*; *Philosophical Psychology*; *Philosophia*.

Co-editor, with Susan A. J. Stuart and Bryony Pierce, of special issue of *Constructivist Foundations* (2013, 8(3)) on Neurophenomenology; with contributions from leading authors in the field, including Michael Bitbol, Claire Petitmengin and Natalie Depraz.

Co-chair, CEP 2012 Annual Conference, *Neurophenomenology*, University of Bristol, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.

Programme Committee member, *Machine Consciousness 2011: Self, Integration and Explanation*, a symposium to be held in conjunction with AISB 2011, University of York, UK, 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

Organising Committee member, CEP Annual Conference, *Nature and Human Nature*, St. Anne's College, Oxford, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

Joint organiser, Workshop on *Unconscious Processes*, University of Sussex, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Submissions Chair, CEP 10 Conference, *Exploring the Boundaries of Experience and Self*, St. Anne's College, Oxford, 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

Co-organiser with Prof. Les Lancaster of the Transpersonal Section of the BPS, Joint CEP-Transpersonal Symposium, *Theory of Mind: Cross-Cultural and Transpersonal Perspectives*, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2005, University of Manchester (as part of BPS Quinquennial Conference).

Organising Committee member, Workshop on *Active Perception*, University of Sussex, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March, 2004.

Assistant to Conference Organiser (Prof. Steve Torrance), CEP 7 Conference, *Enactive Consciousness: Perception, Intersubjectivity and Empathy*, St. Anne's College, Oxford, 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

### **Competitive Funding Awards**

Full funding from ESF/COST to attend the Second European Summer School on Consciousness ('Consciousness and Action'), 4-6 June 2007, Cargèse, Corsica, France.

Full funding from the James S. McDonnell Foundation funding to attend the McDonnell Foundation Neurophilosophy ('The State of the Art') Workshop, 17-20 June 2005, Caltech, Pasadena, US.

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (full funding) from the University of Sussex (awarded for the remaining full-time years of my D.Phil., based on successful progress and teaching during my first, self-funded, year).

### **Professional Memberships**

*British Psychological Society, Consciousness and Experiential Psychology Section* – (2004-present) Member; (2009-2011) Honorary Secretary; (2004-2007) Graduate Student Representative.

*Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (ASSC)* – (2007-present) Member; (2013-present) serving on membership committee; (2007-2010) ePrints sub-committee member; (2008-2010) ePrints sub-committee Chair.

*The Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour (AISB)* – Member.

**Additional Information - Career in IT**

**1989-1997:** Programmer, lead programmer on multiple successful, internationally published computer games (for IBM PC, Sega Saturn, Atari Jaguar, etc.). Areas of specialization: 3D graphics rendering engines, physics simulations.

**1997-2002:** Web developer, IT consultant, lead developer on many successfully deployed sites, including first intranet site for large city law firm (Nabarro Nathanson), and online content delivery site for international publisher (Macmillan).

**2007-2012 (part-time) and 2015-Present (full-time):** Senior developer and solutions architect for Brighton-based recruitment company.

**Languages other than English**

French (conversational), Spanish (conversational)

**Academic Referees**

Professor Alva Noë  
Department of Philosophy  
University of California  
Berkeley

Professor Ezequiel Di Paolo  
Ikerbasque Research Professor  
University of the Basque Country  
Donostia-San Sebastián

Dr. Ron Chrisley  
Director  
Centre for Research in Cognitive Science  
University of Sussex

Professor Steve Torrance  
Senior Visiting Research Fellow  
Centre for Research in Cognitive Science  
University of Sussex

Emeritus Professor Igor Aleksander  
Department of Electrical and Electronic  
Engineering  
Imperial College London