

# Jonathan Birch

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## Academic positions

- 2014-present      Assistant Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science.  
2012-2014      Junior Research Fellow at Christ's College, University of Cambridge.

## Education

- 2009-13      PhD in Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge.  
Dissertation title: *Kin Selection: A Philosophical Analysis*.  
Awarded 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013. No corrections.  
2008-9      MPhil in History & Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge.  
Awarded 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Distinction in all components.  
2005-8      BA (Hons) in Natural Sciences, University of Cambridge.  
Awarded 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008. First class in all tripos parts.

## Research articles (singly authored unless otherwise stated)

- Forthcoming      Hamilton's two conceptions of social fitness. *Philosophy of Science*.  
2016      Natural selection and the maximization of fitness. *Biological Reviews* 91(3):712-727.  
2015      Kin selection and its critics. *BioScience*. 65(1): 22-32 [co-authored with Samir Okasha].  
"Editor's choice", January 2015 (selected for free open access).  
2014      Gene mobility and the concept of relatedness, *Biology and Philosophy* 29(4): 445-476.  
2014      Queller's separation condition explained and defended. *American Naturalist*. 184(4):  
531-540 [co-authored with James A. R. Marshall].  
2014      Propositional content in signalling systems, *Philosophical Studies* 171(3): 493-512.  
2014      Hamilton's rule and its discontents, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 65(2): 381-  
411. "Editor's choice", June 2014 (selected for free open access).  
2013      On the 'simulation argument' and selective scepticism, *Erkenntnis* 78(1): 95-107.  
2012      Collective action in the fraternal transitions, *Biology and Philosophy* 27(3): 363-80.

- 2012 The negative view of natural selection, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 43(2): 569-73.
- 2012 Robust processes and teleological language, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 3(3): 299-312.
- 2009 Irretrievably confused? Innateness in explanatory context, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 40(4): 296-301.

### **Commentaries, book reviews and review essays**

- 2014 How cooperation became the norm (review essay on K. Sterelny, R. Joyce, B. Calcott and B. Fraser (eds): *Cooperation and Its Evolution*), *Biology and Philosophy* 29(3): 433-44.
- 2014 Has Grafen formalized Darwin? (Commentary on A. Grafen, 'The Formal Darwinism project in outline'), *Biology and Philosophy* 29(2): 175-80.
- 2013 Review of Samir Okasha and Ken Binmore (eds): *Evolution and Rationality*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 64(3): 669-673.
- 2013 Explaining the human syndrome (review of Kim Sterelny: *The Evolved Apprentice*), *Metascience* 22(2): 347-350.
- 2012 Social revolution (review essay on Andrew F. G. Bourke: *Principles of Social Evolution*), *Biology and Philosophy* 27(4): 571-81.

### **Research grants and prizes**

- 2015-17 Philip Leverhulme Prize from the Leverhulme Trust (£100,000 funding over two years from 2015-17).

### **Visiting fellowships**

- 2016 Visiting Fellowship at UC Irvine, March-April 2016.
- 2015 Visiting Fellowship at the Australian National University, July-August 2015.

### **Research talks**

- 2016 Cultural relatedness and the evolution of altruism. *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, August 2016.
- 2016 Cultural kin selection and the deep structure of human cooperation.
  - *Human Evolutionary Ecology Group, UCL, July 2016.*
  - *Philosophy of Biology in the UK, June 2016.*
- 2016 Inclusive fitness and its critics: philosophical reflections. *Cooperation from Cells to Humans Workshop, University of Cambridge, May 2016.*
- 2015-16 Kin selection, group selection and cultural change
  - *LPS Colloquium, UC Irvine, April 2016.*
  - *Philosophy Colloquium, University of Utah, March 2016.*

- *BSPS Ordinary Meeting, October 2015.*
  - *Philosophy of Biology at Dolphin Beach, August 2015.*
- 2015-16 Shared know-how
- *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, July 2016.*
  - *Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Science, University of Edinburgh, February 2016.*
  - *Leeds HPS Seminar, January 2016.*
  - *LSE Popper Seminar, November 2015.*
- 2015-16 Time and relatedness in microbes and humans
- *Lunchtime Seminar, Institute for Soft-Matter Physics and Complex Systems, University of Edinburgh, February 2016.*
  - *Inheritance and Cooperation Workshop, University of Oxford, June 2015.*
  - *Invited talk, University of Bristol, June 2015.*
- 2015 Normative guidance and its evolution. *Thursday Seminar, Australian National University, July 2015.*
- 2014 Tribes and tribal instincts: a critique. *Theoretical Archaeology Group, Manchester, December 2014.*
- 2014 The trait-relativity of inclusive fitness. *Philosophy of Science Association, Chicago, November 2014.*
- 2014 The ‘simulation argument’ revisited. *Philosophy and Politics of AI Workshop, London School of Economics and Political Science, June 2014.*
- 2014 On the evolution of normative cognition
- *Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge, May 2014.*
  - *Invited talk, London School of Economics and Political Science, January 2014.*
  - *Invited talk, University of Notre Dame, January 2014.*
- 2014 Kin selection, group selection and human sociality. *CamPoS Seminar, University of Cambridge, May 2014.*
- 2012-14 Gene mobility and the concept of relatedness
- *Invited talk, Carnegie Mellon University, January 2014.*
  - *International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, University of Montpellier, July 2013.*
  - *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Exeter, July 2013.*
  - *Invited talk, London School of Economics and Political Science, February 2013.*
  - *CamPoS Seminar, University of Cambridge, November 2012.*
- 2013 Propositional content in signalling systems
- *Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology, Duke University, June 2013.*
  - *Evolution, Intentionality and Information, University of Bristol, May 2013.*
  - *Invited talk, University of Cambridge, March 2013.*
- 2013 Two ways of mathematizing evolution. *Mathematizing the Sciences, University of East Anglia, May 2013.*
- 2013 Hamilton’s rule, payoff additivity and the phenotypic gambit. *Workshop on Foundations of Social Evolution, University of Bristol, April 2013.*
- 2013 Selection and maximization. *HPS Departmental Seminar, University of Cambridge, February 2013.*

- 2012                      Between groups and individuals: life-history theory and the evolution of specialization
- *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Stirling, July 2012.*
  - *Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology, University of Toronto, May 2012.*
- 2011-12                  Hamilton's rule and its discontents
- *Philosophy of Biology in the UK, All Souls College, Oxford, April 2012.*
  - *Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge, November 2011.*
- 2011                        Collective action in the fraternal transitions
- *International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, University of Utah, July 2011.*
  - *Evolution, Cooperation and Rationality II, University of Bristol, June 2011.*
  - *Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology, University of Paris 1: Panthéon-Sorbonne, June 2011.*
- 2011                        Is the concept of life response-dependent?
- *14<sup>th</sup> Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, University of Nancy, July 2011.*
  - *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Sussex, July 2011.*

### **Courses taught**

- 2014-15                  Masters-level (and also upper undergraduate-level) courses on:
- *Genes, Brains and Society*
  - *Emotion, Cognition and Behaviour: Science and Policy*
  - *Scientific Revolutions: Philosophical and Historical Issues*
- 2013-14                  Second-year undergraduate course on *Philosophy of Biology*.
- 2012-14                  Third-year undergraduate course on *Metaphysics of Science: The Challenge from Biology*.

### **Professional service**

- 2015-present            Treasurer of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science.
- 2014-present            Fellow of the Forum for European Philosophy (in this capacity, organizer of five public events per year at the LSE).

Referee for *Mind*, *Analysis*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *Mind and Language*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Theoria*, *Biological Reviews*, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, *Journal of Bioeconomics*, *Disputatio*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, and *Social Theory and Practice*.