

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 26th July 2013. No corrections.

2008-9 MPhil in History & Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge.
Awarded 18th July 2009. Distinction in all components.

2005-8 BA (Hons) in Natural Sciences, University of Cambridge.
Awarded 26th June 2008. First class in all tripos parts.

Books

In press *The Philosophy of Social Evolution*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Scheduled publication date: October 2017.

Journal articles (singly authored unless otherwise stated)

In press Kin selection, group selection, and the varieties of population structure. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.

2017 Animal sentience and the precautionary principle. *Animal Sentience* 2:16(1).

2017 The inclusive fitness controversy: finding a way forward. *Royal Society Open Science* 4:170355.

2016 Hamilton's two conceptions of social fitness. *Philosophy of Science* 83:848-860.

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.

Book chapters

In press Fitness maximization. In R. Joyce (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Evolution and Philosophy*. London: Routledge.

Commentaries, book reviews and review essays

2017 Dividing the Pleistocene pie (review of N. Baumard: The Origins of Fairness), *BioScience* 67(2): 180-182.

2017 Review of M. Tomasello: A Natural History of Human Morality, *BJPS Review of Books* 2017.

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 S. Okasha and K. Binmore (eds): Evolution and Rationality, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 64(3): 669-673.

2013 Explaining the human syndrome (review of K. Sterelny: The Evolved Apprentice), *Metascience* 22(2): 347-350.

2012 Social revolution (review essay on A. F. G. Bourke: Principles of Social Evolution), *Biology and Philosophy* 27(4): 571-81.

Research grants and prizes

2015-18 Philip Leverhulme Prize from the Leverhulme Trust (£100,000 over three years from 2015-18).

Visiting fellowships

2016 Visiting Fellowship at UC Irvine, March-April 2016.

2015 Visiting Fellowship at the Australian National University, July-August 2015.

Research talks

2016-17 Animal cognition and human values.

- *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Edinburgh, July 2017.*
- *HPS Departmental Seminar, University of Cambridge, February 2017.*
- *Philosophy of Science Association, Atlanta, November 2016.*

2017 In the grip of a norm: normative guidance and skilled agency. *Descent of Moral Sentiment, University of Utrecht, February 2017.*

2016 Cultural relatedness and the evolution of altruism. *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, St Andrews, 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, Bristol, June 2016.*

2016 Inclusive fitness and its critics: philosophical reflections. *Cooperation from Cells to Humans Workshop, University of Cambridge, May 2016.*

2015-16 Shared know-how

- *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Cardiff, 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 Kin selection, group selection and cultural change

- *LPS Colloquium, UC Irvine, April 2016.*
- *Philosophy Colloquium, University of Utah, March 2016.*
- *BSPS Ordinary Meeting, London, October 2015.*
- *Philosophy of Biology at Dolphin Beach, August 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge, May 2014.</i> • <i>Invited talk, London School of Economics and Political Science, January 2014.</i> • <i>Invited talk, University of Notre Dame, January 2014.</i>
2014	Kin selection, group selection and human sociality. <i>CamPoS Seminar, University of Cambridge, May 2014.</i>
2012-14	Gene mobility and the concept of relatedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Invited talk, Carnegie Mellon University, January 2014.</i> • <i>International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, University of Montpellier, July 2013.</i> • <i>British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Exeter, July 2013.</i> • <i>Invited talk, London School of Economics and Political Science, February 2013.</i> • <i>CamPoS Seminar, University of Cambridge, November 2012.</i>
2013	Propositional content in signalling systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology, Duke University, June 2013.</i> • <i>Evolution, Intentionality and Information, University of Bristol, May 2013.</i> • <i>Invited talk, University of Cambridge, March 2013.</i>
2013	Two ways of mathematizing evolution. <i>Mathematizing the Sciences, University of East Anglia, May 2013.</i>
2013	Hamilton's rule, payoff additivity and the phenotypic gambit. <i>Workshop on Foundations of Social Evolution, University of Bristol, April 2013.</i>
2013	Selection and maximization. <i>HPS Departmental Seminar, University of Cambridge, February 2013.</i>
2012	Between groups and individuals: life-history theory and the evolution of specialization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Stirling, July 2012.</i> • <i>Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology, University of Toronto, May 2012.</i>
2011-12	Hamilton's rule and its discontents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Philosophy of Biology in the UK, All Souls College, Oxford, April 2012.</i> • <i>Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge, November 2011.</i>
2011	Collective action in the fraternal transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, University of Utah, July 2011.</i> • <i>Evolution, Cooperation and Rationality II, University of Bristol, June 2011.</i> • <i>Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology, University of Paris 1: Panthéon-Sorbonne, June 2011.</i>
2011	Is the concept of life response-dependent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>14th Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, University of Nancy, July 2011.</i> • <i>British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Sussex, July 2011.</i>

Courses taught

2014-17	Masters-level (and also upper undergraduate-level) courses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Genes, Brains and Society (14-15 and 16-17)</i>
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- *Emotion, Cognition and Behaviour: Science and Policy (14-15)*
- *Scientific Revolutions: Philosophical and Historical Issues (14-15)*

2013-14	Second-year undergraduate course on <i>Philosophy of Biology</i> .
2012-14	Third-year undergraduate course on <i>Metaphysics of Science: The Challenge from Biology</i> .

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*, *Utilitas*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Theoria*, *Biological Reviews*, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, *BMC Biology*, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, *Journal of Bioeconomics*, *Disputatio*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, and *Social Theory and Practice*.