

# Jonathan Birch

Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method,  
London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE, UK.

[j.birch2@lse.ac.uk](mailto:j.birch2@lse.ac.uk)

<http://personal.lse.ac.uk/birchj1/>

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## Academic positions

- 2018-present Associate Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science.  
2014-2018 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 July 2013. No corrections.  
2008-9 MPhil in History & Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge.  
Awarded 18 July 2009. Distinction in all components.  
2005-8 BA (Hons) in Natural Sciences, University of Cambridge.  
Awarded 26 June 2008. First class in all tripos parts.

## Books

- 2017 *The Philosophy of Social Evolution*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## Journal articles (singly authored unless otherwise stated)

- In press Joint know-how. *Philosophical Studies*.  
In press Kin selection, group selection, and the varieties of population structure. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.  
2019 Inclusive fitness as a criterion for improvement. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 76:101186  
2019 Are kin and group selection rivals or friends? *Current Biology* 29(11):R433-R438.  
2019 Altruistic deception. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 74:27-33.  
2018 Animal cognition and human values. *Philosophy of Science* 85:1026-1037.  
2017 Animal sentience and the precautionary principle. *Animal Sentience* 2:16(1). Published as a target article with 20 commentaries and my responses.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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**

- 2018 Fitness maximization. In R. Joyce (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Evolution and Philosophy*. London: Routledge, pp. 49-63.

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

- In press In search of the origins of consciousness (Review essay on Ginsburg and Jablonka: *The Evolution of the Sensitive Soul*). *Acta Biotheoretica*.
- In press Review essay on Okasha: *Agents and Goals in Evolution*. *Mind*.
- In press From the 'coding metaphor' to a theory of representation (Commentary on Brette, 'Is coding a relevant metaphor for the brain?'), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* [co-authored with Julia Smortchkova].
- 2018 Degrees of sentience? (Commentary on Sneddon et al., 'Fish sentience denial: muddying the waters'). *Animal Sentience* 21(11).
- 2018 The difference between the scope of a norm and its apparent source (Commentary on Stanford, 'The difference between ice cream and Nazis: Moral externalization and the evolution of human cooperation'). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 41:E97.

- 2017 Dividing the Pleistocene pie (Review of Baumard: The Origins of Fairness). *BioScience* 67(2): 180-182.
- 2017 Review of Tomasello: A Natural History of Human Morality. *BJPS Review of Books* 2017.
- 2014 How cooperation became the norm (Review essay on Sterelny, Joyce, Calcott and Fraser (eds): Cooperation and Its Evolution). *Biology and Philosophy* 29(3): 433-44.
- 2014 Has Grafen formalized Darwin? (Commentary on Grafen, ‘The Formal Darwinism project in outline’). *Biology and Philosophy* 29(2): 175-80.
- 2013 Review of Okasha and Binmore (eds): Evolution and Rationality. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 64(3): 669-673.
- 2013 Explaining the human syndrome (Review of Sterelny: The Evolved Apprentice). *Metascience* 22(2): 347-350.
- 2012 Social revolution (Review essay on Bourke: Principles of Social Evolution). *Biology and Philosophy* 27(4): 571-81.

### **Research grants and prizes**

- 2020-25 ERC Starting Grant on Foundations of Animal Sentience (ASENT) (€1.5m over five years).
- 2015-18 Philip Leverhulme Prize from the Leverhulme Trust (£100,000 over three years).

### **Visiting fellowships**

- 2018 Visiting Fellowship at the Australian National University, August 2018.
- 2016 Visiting Fellowship at UC Irvine, March-April 2016.
- 2015 Visiting Fellowship at the Australian National University, July-August 2015.

### **Research talks (sorted chronologically, titles standardized)**

Invertebrate consciousness: three approaches. *ISHPSSB 2019, Oslo, July 2019*.

The evolution of subjectivity.

- *Philosophy Colloquium, Leibniz Universität Hannover, May 2019.*
- *L’Animalité Workshop, University of Nantes, October 2018.*
- *ESPP, Rijeka, September 2018.*
- *Evolutionary Transitions in Individuality Workshop, Lund University, September 2018*
- *Animal Sentience Workshop, Australian National University, August 2018.*

Animal sentience and the precautionary principle.

- *RSPCA Workshop on Animal Sentience, May 2019.*
- *The Other Minds Problem, UQAM, Montreal, June 2018.*
- *Oriel College Philosophy Society, May 2018.*
- *LSE Cumberland Lodge Retreat, November 2017.*

Dimensions of animal sentience: grain, valence, unity and flow.

- *PSA 2018, Seattle, November 2018.*
- *Varieties of Mind, Cambridge, June 2018.*

Toolmaking and the origin of normative cognition.

- *BioAnth Seminar, Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies, October 2018.*
- *Celebration of Kim Sterelny's Laureate Project, Australian National University, August 2018.*
- *Descent of Moral Sentiment, University of Utrecht, February 2017.*

Animal sentience: confused, unknowable, redundant? *British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Oxford, July 2018.*

The inclusive fitness controversy: finding a way forward [work from *The Philosophy of Social Evolution*].

- *HPS Seminar, University of Pittsburgh, April 2018.*
- *Workshop on The Philosophy of Social Evolution, LSE, February 2018.*
- *Workshop on the evolution of social behaviour, University of Gröningen, January 2018.*
- *Cooperation from Cells to Humans, University of Cambridge, May 2016.*

Time and relatedness in microbes and humans [work from *The Philosophy of Social Evolution*].

- *HPSM Seminar, Washington University in St Louis, May 2018.*
- *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.*

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.*

Cultural relatedness and the evolution of altruism [work from *The Philosophy of Social Evolution*].

- *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, St Andrews, August 2016.*
- *Human Evolutionary Ecology Group, UCL, July 2016.*
- *Philosophy of Biology in the UK, Bristol, June 2016.*

Joint 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.*

Kin selection, group selection and cultural change [work from *The Philosophy of Social Evolution*].

- *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.*
- *CamPoS Seminar, University of Cambridge, May 2014.*

On the evolution of normative cognition [precursor to “Toolmaking and the origin of normative cognition”]

- *Thursday Seminar, Australian National University, July 2015.*
- *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.*

Tribes and tribal instincts: a critique. *Theoretical Archaeology Group, Manchester, December 2014.*

The trait-relativity of inclusive fitness. *Philosophy of Science Association, Chicago, November 2014.*

On the ‘simulation argument’ and selective scepticism. *Philosophy and Politics of AI Workshop, London School of Economics and Political Science, June 2014.*

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.*

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.*

Two ways of mathematizing evolution. *Mathematizing the Sciences, University of East Anglia, May 2013.*

Hamilton’s rule, payoff additivity and the phenotypic gambit. *Workshop on Foundations of Social Evolution, University of Bristol, April 2013.*

Natural selection and the maximization of fitness. *HPS Departmental Seminar, University of Cambridge, February 2013.*

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.*

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.*

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.*

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**

*At the LSE*

First year undergraduate course:

- PH103: *The Big Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy* (2017-18, 2018-19).

Masters (and also upper undergraduate) courses:

- PH227/PH427: *Genes, Brains and Society* (2014-15, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19)
- PH228/PH428: *Emotion, Cognition and Behaviour: Science and Policy* (2014-15)
- PH213/PH404: *Scientific Revolutions: Philosophical and Historical Issues* (2014-15)

*At the University of Cambridge*

- Second-year undergraduate course on *Philosophy of Biology* (2013-14).
- Third-year undergraduate course on *Metaphysics of Science* (2012-13 and 2013-14).

### **Administration**

2018-present            Doctoral Programme Director, LSE Philosophy.

### **Professional service**

2017-present            Trustee (Committee Member) 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).

2015-2017              Treasurer of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science.

Referee for *Mind*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Analysis*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *Mind and Language*, *Utilitas*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Theoria*, *Topoi*, *Biological Reviews*, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, *Evolution*, *BMC Biology*, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, *Current Opinion in Insect Science*, *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, *Journal of Bioeconomics*, *Evolution Letters*, *Disputatio*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, *Topoi*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Social Epistemology*.