

Spencer Ivy

Assistant Teaching Professor
University of Missouri, St. Louis

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Areas of Specialization

Philosophies of Action, Perception, Cognitive Science, Mind

Areas of Competence

Aesthetics, Epistemology, Early Chinese Philosophy, Neuroscience & Ethics

Employment

Assistant Teaching Professor, University of Missouri St. Louis, 2025-Present

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Warsaw: “Perceptual Objects in Unimodal and Multimodal Settings”
with Dr. Aleksandra Mroczko-Wąsowicz, 2023 – 2025

Education

PhD Philosophy, University of Utah, Awarded: April 2023

Thesis Title: “Getting Creative with Style in the Flow of Expert Action”

Committee: Dustin Stokes (chair), Natalia Washington, Carlos Santana, Thi Nguyen,
Carlotta Pavese (external examiner).

BS Philosophy, University of Oklahoma, December 2016

Research

Publications

“Three grades of subject-dependency in object perception.” (2025). **Spencer Ivy** & Aleksandra Mroczko-Wąsowicz. *Synthese*.

“Do perceivers contribute to object perception?” (2025). **Spencer Ivy** & Aleksandra Mroczko-Wąsowicz. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society*.

“Framing effects in object perception.” (2025). **Spencer Ivy** & Aleksandra Mroczko-Wąsowicz. *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* 1-1:28.

“Accounting for action: Challenging the traditional view of multimodal perceptual objects.” (2024). Aleksandra Mroczko-Wąsowicz, **Spencer Ivy**, Michał Bachanek, Aleksandra Cząstkiewicz. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society*., 46.

“Visual expertise is more than meets the eye: An examination of holistic visual processing in radiologists and architects.” (2023). **Spencer Ivy**, Taren Rohovit, Jeanine Stefanucci, Dustin Stokes, Megan Mills, Trafton Drew. *Journal of Medical Imaging*. 10(1), 015501.

“Unconscious intelligence in the skilled control of expert action.” (2023). Spencer Ivy. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*. 30(3): 59-58.

“Getting sophisticated: In favor of hybrid views of skilled action in expertise.” (2023). Spencer Ivy. *Southwest Philosophy Review*. 39(1).

“On the role of creativity in expertise and skilled action.” (2022). Spencer Ivy. *Synthese*. 200, 456.

“Through the eyes of the expert: Evaluating holistic processing in architects using gaze-contingent viewing.” (2021). **Spencer Ivy**, Taren Rohovit, Mark Lavelle, Lace Padilla, Jeanine Stefanucci, Dustin Stokes, Trafton Drew. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. 28, 870-878.

Presentations

“How does the mind shape object perception? A taxonomy of subject-dependency.”

Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco (2025)

5th Annual Conference for the Philosophy of Mind and AI, Porto PT (2025)

“Accounting for action in object perception”

European Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Grenoble FR (2024)

Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam NL (2024)

“Framing effects in object perception”

Symposium: APA Central Division Meeting (2025)

The Epistemic Importance of Perceptual Consciousness, Jagellonian University (2024)

“Expertise isn’t flying! It’s falling with style: The diagnostic function of style for skill”

Rocky Mountain ASA, Santa Fe NM – Winner of Best Essay Prize (2023)

“Approaching the wu-wei paradox through the lens of cognitive science: A possible interpretation of the Daodejing”

APA Central Division Meeting, Denver Colorado- Invited Commentary (2023)

“The role of creativity in expertise and skilled action”

Uehiro Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Hawaii, (2022);

Gateway Graduate Conference, University of Missouri Saint Louis (2022)

“Getting sophisticated: In favor of hybrid views of skilled action in expertise”

Southwest Society of Philosophy Conference, Las Vegas (2022);

Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Mobile Alabama (2022);

Enactivism & Phenomenology: State of the Dialog, Palacky University Olomouc (2021)

“The limits and future of holistic visual processing in visual expertise”

Virtual Vision Futures, VISTA – Center of Vision Research, York University (2021)

“Perceptual expertise & creative diversity in design”

MHTN Architecture attitude|design Lecture Series, Salt Lake City – Keynote Address (2021)

“Responsible automation in the digital age”

The Social Moral & Political Impact of Virtual Technology, University of Chile, Santiago (2021)

“Procedural automaticity & holistic cognition in expert activity”

Intermountain Philosophy Conference, University of Utah (2020)

“Through the eyes of the experts”

Vision Sciences Society, St. Petersburg Florida (2020).

“Nietzsche: Artist, Creator, Educator”

Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy, University of Utah (2019)

“Nature’s way (or the way of the sage): A resolution to the pragmatic contradiction of the Daodejing”

Intermountain Philosophy Conference, Utah Valley University (2019)

“Attentively”

Intermountain Philosophy Conference, University of Utah (2018)

“Leibniz: A compatibilist account of contingency”

University of San Diego (2016)

University of Central Oklahoma (2016)

University of Oklahoma (2016)

Marist College (2015)

University of Southern Illinois, Edwardsville (2015)

Public Philosophy

“The Free Syllabus System: A new course paradigm for theory-based philosophy classes.” (2022).
Spencer Ivy. *The Blog of the APA*. (2022).

“Chile’s new constitution offers unique opportunity to rethink worker’s rights in the digital age.”
Spencer Ivy, Claudio Gutierrez. *Global Voices*. (2021).

“Trabajo digital justo y digno en la nueva Constitucion (Just and dignified digital work in the new constitution).” (2021). **Spencer Ivy**, Claudio Gutierrez. *CIPER Academico. Rpt. In AAU Universidad de Chile*.

Comment on “Kandinsky & Loss.” (2017). S.Y. Her & **Spencer Ivy**. *The Philosopher’s Meme*.

Teaching

P = In-person O = Online H = Hybrid || F = Fall S = Spring R = Summer

Course Instructor

At University of Missouri St. Louis

Knowledge and Reality	(P)	PHIL3340	S ‘26
Existentialism (Honors)	(P)	HON1150	S ‘26
Minds Brains & Machines	(P, O)	PHIL2280	F ‘25, S ‘26
Critical Thinking	(P)	PHIL1160	F ‘25, S ‘26, R ‘26
Metaphysics (of Expertise)	(P)	PHIL5545	F ‘25

At the University of Utah

Existentialism	(H)	PHIL3810	R ‘21, ‘22
Theories of Knowledge	(P)	PHIL 3300	S ‘20
Reason & Rat’l Decision Making	(O)	PHIL 1250	R ‘19, ‘20
Cognitive Science	(P)	PHIL 3440	S ‘21
Introduction to Philosophy	(P, O, H)	PHIL 1000	F ‘18, ‘20, ‘21; S ‘22

Teaching Assistantship

At the University of Utah

World Religions	(O)	PHIL 3640	R, ‘23
Mind, Language, & Reality	(P)	PHIL 3400	S ‘19
Reason & Rat’l Decision-Making	(P)	PHIL 1250	S ‘18

At the University of Oklahoma

Introduction to Logic	(P)	PHIL1100	F ‘14, ‘16; S ‘15
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Awards and Grants

Best Graduate Essay Prize: “Expertise Isn’t Flying, It’s Falling with Style,” 2023

Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Division of the American Society for Aesthetics Center for Philosophical Studies

Tanner Humanities Research Fellowship Grant (\$25,000), 2022 – 2023

Provides tuition, fees, & a monthly stipend for research and participation in the Tanner Center’s community of scholars from across the humanities & around Utah.

Grant: Dee Foundation (\$3,000), 2022 – 2023

“Mind the Body: Creativity, Improvisation, and Play in Philosophy & Dance”

Competitive Grant awarded with support from Eric Handman & Thi Nguyen

Grant: Tanner Faculty Research Supplemental Support (\$500), 2023

Campus-wide grant awarded to faculty to advance humanities research, and collaboration.

Grant: Tanner Excellence Fund for Events & Service (\$800), 2021; 2022; 2023

Departmental micro-grant to host & run Graduate Student led events.

Graduate Term Afield Research Fellowship, 2019 – 2020

Provides tuition, fees, & a monthly stipend for research and participation as an embedded philosophy within a lab on campus. Lab: Applied Visual Attention Lab, Trafton Drew.

Doctoral Research Fellowship, University of Utah, 2017 – 2023

Provides tuition, fees, & a monthly stipend for doctoral research & teaching.

Professional Service

Conference Organizer

Mind the Body: Creativity, Improvisation, and Play in Philosophy & Dance. 2023.

Dissertation Writing Workshop with Michigan State University. 2021.

Action & Ethics: How, Why, Ought, 2019.

Community Development

Founder, President: Utah Philosophy Graduate Student Government. 2022 – 2023

Utah MAP Chapter Officer. 2021 – 2023

Applying to Graduate School in Philosophy Workshop for Undergrads. 2021, 2022

Graduate Student Works in Progress Talks Host. 2017 – 2023

Graduate Student Committee for Tenure Review. 2017 – 2023

Reading Group Organizer (2019-2023)

Simone Weil's Gravity & Grace | Kant's Critique of Practical Judgement | McDowell's Mind & World | Heidegger's Being & Time Div. I. Summer | Thompson's Life and Action | Invited Speaker Seminar: Sarah Buss | Sellar's Empiricism & the Philosophy of Mind | Kant's Critique of Pure Reason

Referee & Peer Review

Philosophical Psychology | Philosophical Explorations | Synthese | Philosopher's Imprint | Psychonomic Bulletin & Review | Journal of Consciousness Studies | Phenomenology & the Cognitive Sciences

Professional Affiliations

Cognitive Science Society, 2024 – Present

American Society of Aesthetics, 2023 – Present

American Philosophical Association, 2020 – Present

Southwestern Philosophical Society, 2022 – Present

Global Voices Author & Community Contributor, 2021 – Present

Society for Philosophy & Psychology, 2021 – Present

Vision Science Society, 2020 – 2021

Nonacademic Employment

McAllister & Quinn, *Grant Consulting, Editing, Reviewing* 2022 – 2023

Liberty Mountain Sports, *Network & Systems Administrator*, 2017 – 2021

University of Oklahoma IT, *Service Delivery Specialist*, 2013-2017