JOHAN HEEMSKERK

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born in the United Kingdom, 28 November 1991

email	j.heemskerk@warwick.ac.uk
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RESEARCH AREAS

I am currently a research fellow at the University of Warwick working an informational teleosemantic theory of representational content using information theory. I apply this theory to issues in AI, neurodivergence, Aesthetics, and animal communication.

Specialisations — Philosophy of Mind · Philosophy of Science · Philosophy of Neuroscience · Philosophy of AI

Competency — History of Philosophy · Logic · Philosophy of Language · Epistemology · Aesthetics · Philosophy of Biology

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2024-present — **The University of Warwick**

Fellowship — Institute for Advanced Study · One-year funded postdoctoral research fellowship.

EDUCATION

2020-2024 — **The University of Warwick**

PhD — Philosophy · Supervisors: *Primary* Prof. Stephen BUTTERFILL & *Secondary* Prof. Guy LONGWORTH

2016-2018 — **The University of Warwick**

MPhil — Philosophy · Supervisors: Prof. Naomi EILAN & Prof. Johannes ROESSLER & Prof. Stephen BUTTERFILL

2011-2014 — **The University of Warwick**

Bachelor of Arts — *First Class Honours* · Philosophy and Literature

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Warwick

2024	Ethics
2021-24	Logic I
2022-24	Introduction to Philosophy
2022-23	Feminism
2021-22	Mind and Reality
2021-22	Words and Things
2020-24	History of Modern Philosophy

Lecturing

2024 — **Module convenor**, Introduction to Philosophy of Education, *Warwick*

2024 — **Guest Lecturer**, AI Project in Interdisciplinary Approaches to Global Sustainable Development, *Warwick*

2022 — **Guest Lecturer**, Philosophical Issues in Behavioural Science, *Warwick*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

2021 — "Aesthetic Alchemy: Feature Construction and Conceptual Enrichment through Literature" *Pli: The Warwick Journal of Philosophy*

In Preparation

2024 "Decoding Cognitive Science: Can We Extract a Theory of Content from Cognitive Science?"

2024 "Functions for Proximate Explanations"

2024 "Structural Representation, Teleosemantics and the Proximate/Ultimate Distinction" *with Ross Pain*

Reviews

2019 "Metapsychology of the Creative Process by Jason Brown" *Philosophical Psychology*

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Sholarships 2016 · Warwick MPhil Scholarship (50% of fees covered)

Awards 2021 · Giving to Warwick Award for Teaching Excellence (£300)

2012 · Warwick Award for Best Exam Results in Philosophy

GRANTS AND FUNDING

2023 Expenses paid by University of Warwick for speaking at the ESPP in Prague and ECAP in Vienna, 2023 (£550)

2022 Conference funding for MindGrad 2022: Royal Institute of Philosophy (£1000); Analysis Trust (£500); British Society for the History of Philosophy (£1000)

2022 Expenses paid by University of Warwick for speaking at the Aesthetic Perception & Cognition conference in Uppsala, 2022 (£650)

2017 Conference funding for MindGrad 2017: Analysis Trust (£450); HRC Visiting Speakers' Fund (£500); Mind Association (£1000)

RECENT CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Sept 2024 Varieties of Representation · Sofia
Title: *Towards a Realist Theory of Representational Content*
Invited

Speaker

Aug 2024 XXV World Congress of Philosophy · Rome
Title: *How to Make a Cognitive System: Brains, Minds, Drives and Information Theory*
Peer-reviewed

Aug 2023 European Society of Philosophy of Psychology · Prague
Title: *Can We Extract a Theory of Content from Cognitive Science?*
Peer-reviewed

Aug 2023 European Congress of Analytic Philosophy · Vienna
Title: *Theory or Gloss: Can We Extract a Theory of Content from Cognitive Science?*
Peer-reviewed

July 2023 British Society of the Philosophy of Science · Bristol
Title: *Can We Extract a Theory of Content from Cognitive Science?*
Peer-reviewed

May 2023 Naturalism in Philosophy · Sofia
Title: *Naturalistic Theory or Gloss? On the viability of psychosemantic methodology*
Peer-reviewed

Oct 2022 Aesthetic Perception & Cognition · Uppsala
Title: *Aesthetic Alchemy: Feature Construction and Conceptual Enrichment through Literature*
Peer-reviewed

Organiser

2025 Representation and Neurodivergence · Warwick

2025	AI, Animals and Us: Ways of Representing · Warwick
2022	MindGrad 2022 · Warwick
2022	MindGrad 2022 · Warwick
2017	MindGrad 2017 · Warwick

SERVICES TO PROFESSION

Peer reviewer

Mind & Language · Pli: The Warwick Journal of Philosophy

Research assistant

Apr-Oct 2024	Assistant on AI experiment conducted by the Department of Economics **Project Lead**: Isleide Zissimos

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2024	Research Assistant, Economics
2023-24	Philosophy Writing Tutor
2020-23	Secretary of the Student Staff Liaison Committee
2021-23	Teaching Assistant departmental representative
2020-22	Organiser of departmental Work in Progress seminar series

September 28, 2024