
Kathryn (Kate) Nave

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Profile

I am an Analysis Trust postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Edinburgh. My research focuses on developing a realist account of agency, grounded in the uniquely metabolic existence of living systems, and upon critiquing the machine concept of the organism in light of this distinctive material instability.

Education

University of Edinburgh: PhD in Philosophy, 2022. (no corrections)

Thesis title: Every body's gotta eat: why living systems can't survive on prediction error minimization alone

University of Edinburgh: MSc Mind, Language, and Embodied Cognition, 2016.
Overall Grade: Distinction

- Dissertation: Seeing the Horizon: Blurring the Boundaries Between Perception and Cognition (*departmental commendation*)

King's College London - BA Philosophy, 2010-13: First Class honours

Professional Experience

Contributing Editor, WIRED Magazine — 2014 - 2021

Wrote 4,000+ word features on topics ranging from genomic medicine, asteroid mining, and livestreaming, to how the neuroscience of multisensory integration can inform the creation of richer virtual realities. Edited various sections of the magazine.

As a freelance journalist, I have also written for the Guardian, the Times, the New Statesman, Aeon, the Economist's 1843 Magazine, GQ, and The Institute for Public Policy Research's journal, Juncture.

Philosophy Tutor: 2017-2019:

Tutored two groups in Mind, Matter and Language, and two in Philosophy of Science, each of around 12-15 students.

Philosopher-in-Residence, Abbeyhill Primary School: 02/2019 – 11/2019

Ran a weekly philosophy for children sessions at Abbeyhill primary school in Edinburgh. I am accredited as a Specialist Teacher with the Philosophy Foundation.

OPEN Scotland – Project Assistance: 04/2018 – 01/2019

Helped establish a new network for philosophy and education in Scotland. This involved producing content for the website, organising events, and helping set the direction for the

future of the network.

Grant writing and editing — 2016 - 2018

Assisted a senior lecturer at Imperial College London with grant applications for the development of a non-invasive ultrasound surgery system to deliver drugs across the blood brain barrier. I have worked on applications to Alzheimer's Research UK, the European Research Council, and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The first was awarded a grant of up to £250,000 after having been rejected at triage in its previous form, with my work being described as as, "critical in making the application successful."

Awards

- Royal Institute of Philosophy Jacobsen Studentship £9,500 (2021-2022)
- Aristotelian Society studentship: £3,000 (2021-2022)
- European Research Council PhD studentship in Philosophy of Cognitive Science: 3 years tuition and maintenance (2017-2020)
- University of Edinburgh, Highly Commended Dissertation Award (2017)
- University of Edinburgh UK/EU Masters Scholarship: £4,500 tuition fees (2016)
- Sheffield Philosophy Department Bursary: £3,000 (2016, declined)
- London Library Student's Prize: £5,000 (2013)

Publications

Nave, K. (2022) Boundaries and Borders gone! But life goes on. Commentary on Bruineberg et al. The Emperor's New Markov Blanket in *Behavioural and Brain Sciences*

Nave, K., Deane, G., Miller, M. & Clark, A. (2022) Expecting Some Action: Predictive Processing and the Construction of Conscious Experience. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*

Nave, K. (2021) Visual experience in the predictive brain is univocal, but indeterminate. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*.

Nave, K., Deane, G., Miller, M., & Clark, A. (2020). Wilding the predictive brain. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, 11(6)

Clark, A., Wilkinson, S., **Nave, K.** and Deane, G. (2019) "Getting Warmer: Interoception, Inference and Feeling" in *Emotions and Reasons* (Candiotta ed.) Palgrave Macmillan.

Miller, M., & **Nave, K.** (2019). Slimes and cyborgs: stretching the boundaries of life. *Adaptive Behaviour*, 1059712319843267. *Authorship alphabetical

Invited Talks

2022, 18 August: *Biological Autonomy: How the Thermodynamics of Life offers a path between non-naturalism and eliminativism about Normativity*, Normativity Workshop at the University of Edinburgh

2021, 15th -17th October: *One weird trick to stay alive: what makes the free energy principle an ideal theory of living systems*, COGNITO 2021: Active Inference and Collective Intelligence - Online

2019, June 3, *Predictive Processing: Helmholtzian or Enactivist?* at iMinds Predictive Processing Summer School - Online

2018, October 10, "Visual Experience in the Predictive Brain", at Glasgow University Philosophy Society - UK.

Conference Presentations

2019

Sep 25th, "Enactivist Predictive Processing and the Continuity of Life and Mind" at **Recent Developments in Situated Cognition**, held at Ruhr-Universität Bochum.

May 31, "Visual Phenomenology and Predictive Processing: Disambiguating two notions of Determinacy" at **Clark and His Critics**. The University of Edinburgh, UK

March 25, "Enactivist Approaches to the Problem of Consciousness" at **Modelling Consciousness**. Dorfgastein, Austria

2018

December 2, "Visual Experience in the Predictive Brain: Indeterminate, but not Probabilistic", at **MindGrad**, The University of Warwick, UK.

November 10, "We are Living in a Predictable World and I am a Predictable Girl: Voluntary Servitude Social Construction and Predictive Processing" (with Wilson Lee), at **The 22nd Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference**. Oxford, UK.

July 15, "Predicament and Predictability: Voluntary Servitude, Social Construction and Predictive Processing" (with Wilson Lee), at the **4E Cognition and Marxism Conference**, The University of Edinburgh, UK.

July 4, "A Predictable Predicament: Voluntary Servitude, Looping and Predictive Processing" (with Wilson Lee), for the **British Postgraduate Philosophy Conference**.

June 26-29, "Perceptual determinacy in the Probabilistic Brain" at the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness 22, Krakow (poster).

March 30, Presented "Perceptual determinacy in the Probabilistic Brain" for the University of Edinburgh Work in Progress (WIP) group, UK.

Event organization

- Organisation team for the X-SPECT conferences on predictive processing and consciousness (2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020)
- Conference co-organizer: *Timescales of Life and Mind* at Edinburgh University. Helped in developing the theme for the conference; inviting ten leading researchers from across biology, neuroscience and philosophy; and securing grants from The Aristotelean Society, Analysis & The Scots Philosophical Society. (11/2019)
- Organiser: Edinburgh Mind & Cognition presentation group (2018-2019)
- Referee and commentator, Models of the Mind postgraduate conference (04/2018)

Other

- Member of the Association for Mathematical Consciousness Science
- Reviewer for *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*; *Review of Psychiatry and Philosophy*; and *Minds and Machines*