

Ben White

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RESEARCH AREAS

AOS Philosophy of the Cognitive and Neurosciences, Philosophy of Technology & AI, Predictive Processing
AOC AI Ethics, Ethics, Philosophy of Sport

POSITIONS

2025–present AI Fellow, Paris School of AI, Université Paris Dauphine-PSL, Paris, FR.
2025–present Researcher, **Xscape Material Minds** (ERC-funded project), University of Sussex, Brighton, UK.

EDUCATION

2021–2025 PhD, Philosophy, University of Sussex. (no corrections)
Supervisors: Andy Clark, Beatrice Fazi. Examiners: Robyn Repko Waller, Rob Clowes.
Dissertation: “*Technology and Human Wellbeing: An Approach Through 4E Predictive Processing.*”
2018–2019 MSc, Cognitive Science (Distinction), University of Edinburgh.
2016–2018 MA, Applied Ethics (Distinction), Oregon State University.
2011–2016 BA, Double Honours English and Philosophy (First Class), University of Sussex.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2026 Summer Seminars in Philosophy and Neuroscience Fellowship, \$500 honorarium.
2025 Leverhulme Postdoctoral Award (6 months), £38,000 per annum pro rata, University of Sussex.
2021–2025 Leverhulme PhD Scholarship, Sussex be.AI Doctoral Training Programme: full PhD tuition (4 years), stipend, and £7,000 research allowance.
2017 Machette Award for Best Philosophy Dissertation.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Academic

- Orpana, J., Clark, A., **White, B.** & Di Paolo, L. (2026) “XP for the Soul: Video Games, Ethical Learning, and Cognitive Tools.” In *Virtue Theory and Video Games: Level Up Your Character*. Routledge.
- Chinchella, N., & **White, B.** (2025) “Enacting Recovery: Virtual Reality, Active Inference, and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Depression.” *Philosophical Psychology*.
- Di Paolo, L., **White, B.**, Guénin–Carlut, A., Constant, A., & Clark, A. (2025) “Material culture both reflects and causes human cognitive evolution.” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 48:e7.
- White, B.** (2024) “Techno-Wantons: adaptive technology and the will of tomorrow.” *Topoi*.
- White, B.** & Miller, M. (2024) “Ambient Smart Environments: affordances, allostasis, and wellbeing.” *Synthese*.
- White, B.**, Clark, A., Guénin–Carlut, A., Constant, A., & Di Paolo, L. (2024) “Shifting boundaries, extended minds: ambient technology and extended allostatic control.” *Synthese*.

7. **White, B.**, Miller, M. and Clark, A. (2024) “Digital Being: social media and the predictive mind.” *Neuroscience of Consciousness*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nc/niae008>
8. Di Paolo, L., **White, B.**, Guénin-Carlut, A., Constant, A. and Clark, A. (2024) “Active Inference Goes to School: The Importance of Active Learning in the Age of Large Language Models.” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*.
9. Miller, M., **White, B.**, Scrivner, C. (2024) “Surfing Uncertainty with Screams: Predictive Processing, Error Dynamics and Horror Films.” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*. <http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2022.0425>
10. **White, B.**, & Hipólito, I. (2024) “Preventive Mental Health Care: A Complex Systems Framework for Ambient Smart Environments.” *Cognitive Systems Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogsys.2023.101199>
11. Guenin-Carlut, A., **White, B.**, Sganzerla, L. (2023) “The Cognitive Archaeology of Sociocultural Lifeforms.” Proceedings of *ALIFE 2023: Ghost in the Machine*. ASME, pp. 142. https://doi.org/10.1162/isal_a_00670
12. Pho, A. & **White, B.** (2022) “A Critical Note on a Purported Disanalogy Between Cycling and Mixed Martial Arts.” *The Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*. doi.org/10.1080/00948705.2022.2061502

Public Philosophy

1. **White, B.** & Miller, M. (2021) “The Warped Self: social media makes us feel terrible about who we really are. Neuroscience explains why – and empowers us to fight back.” *AEON Magazine*.

TEACHING

2025	Instructor, “ <i>Challenges of the Digital Society</i> ”, Université Paris Dauphine-PSL.
2025	Instructor, “ <i>AI, Culture and Society</i> ”, University of Sussex.
2023	Instructor, “ <i>AI, Culture and Society</i> ” (11 sessions), University of Sussex.
2023	Lecturer, “ <i>Basics of Active Inference: Active Inference for the Social Sciences</i> ” (1 lecture, 1 seminar), Active Inference Institute.
2022–2023	Visiting Lecturer, “ <i>Philosophical Foundations of Cognitive Science</i> ” (8 lectures), Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
2022–2023	Visiting Lecturer, “ <i>Dynamical Systems and E-Cognition</i> ” (8 lectures), Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
2022	Instructor, “ <i>Reason and Argument</i> ” (11 sessions), University of Sussex.
2017–2018	Teaching Assistant, <i>Formal Logic, Epistemology, Biomedical Ethics</i> , Oregon State University.

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

2025	Social Science Panel, 6th International Workshop on Active Inference.
2025	Panel Respondent, 3rd Annual Emergence Workshop, University of Sussex.
2025	“Techno-Wantons,” International Working Group on Hostile Scaffolding.
2024	“Adaptive Technology and Agency,” All Consuming AI – Societal and Cultural Impacts, University of Sussex.
2024	“Meta-affordances,” CWSL Lab, University of Toronto.
2023	“Preventive Mental Health Care: A Complex Systems Framework for Ambient Smart Environments,” Chapter Chats, University of Sussex.
2023	“Ambient Smart Environments as Meta-Affordance,” Conference on Well-being and Technology, University of Toronto.

- 2023 “Ambient Smart Environments: What are they and what can they do?” Workshop on Human Agency and Self within 21st Century Cognitive Ecology, Lisbon Mind & Reasoning Group, New University of Lisbon.
- 2023 “Preventive Mental Health Care: A Complex Systems Framework for Ambient Smart Environments,” The Computational Approach to Neuro-Phenomenology, Lorentz Center, University of Leiden.
- 2022 “Ambient Smart Environments: What are they and what can they do?” Materiality and Mind Workshop, University of Sussex.
- 2022 “The Value of Dangerous Sport,” Philosophy Society, University of Sussex.
- 2022 “Third Wave Artificial Empathy: An Active Inference Approach to Affective Computing,” Applied Active Inference Symposium: Spotlight on Robotics, Active Inference Institute.
- 2021 “The Warped Self: Active Inference, Social Media and Mental Health,” Centre for Human Nature, Artificial Intelligence and Neuroscience Seminar Series, Hokkaido University, Japan.

REFEREED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- 2026 Emotions and Materiality, Symposium for the International Society for the Philosophy and Sciences of the Mind.
- 2026 “Existential Atrophy,” ESPP Conference 2026, European Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
- 2026 “Existential Atrophy,” Social AI workshop, University of Exeter
- 2025 “Techno-Wantons: Adaptive Technology and the Will of Tomorrow,” Technologically Mediated: Rethinking Human/Technology Relations, University of Malta.
- 2025 “Techno-Wantons: Adaptive Technology and the Will of Tomorrow,” ISPSM, Annual Web Conference.
- 2024 “Ambient Technology and the Extended Predictive Mind,” Digital Technologies and Identity: 4th TSHD Digital Humanities Symposium.
- 2023 “Preventive Mental Health Care: A Complex Systems Framework for Ambient Smart Environments,” 1st Annual Web Conference of the International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind.
- 2023 “Distributed Metacognitive Control: Ambient Smart Environments and the Case for Disruption,” Mathematics and Philosophy of Situated Agency, University of Oulu, Finland.
- 2021 “Artificial Empathy: Active Inference and a New Collective Intelligence,” Cognitio, Online Workshop.
- 2021 “Filtered Lives: Active Inference, Social Media and Mental Health,” Second International Workshop on Active Inference.
- 2021 “Filtered States: Active Inference, Social Media and Mental Health,” Cognitalks Summer Edition, University of Amsterdam.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- 2026 Thrive Hive, Spotify Podcast.
- 2024 The Purple Way, YouTube Podcast.
- 2024 Mahon McCann, YouTube Podcast (September).
- 2024 Mahon McCann, YouTube Podcast (July).
- 2024 The Jack Roycroft-Sherry Podcast.
- 2023 “Tech’s New Frontier: Your Space Transformed,” Hamilton Nerd Night, Hamilton, Ontario.

- 2022 'How Predictive Processing can Help us Understand Technology and Mental Health,' The Emergence Salon, Brighton.
- 2021 'The Warping Effects of Social Media,' The Academic Minute, WAMC Northeast Public Radio.

ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

- 2026 Co-organizer, 'X-scape Material Minds Workshop': one-day workshop with international speakers, University of Sussex.
- 2025 Co-organizer, 'Emergence and Materiality': large hybrid workshop at Sussex on emergent properties of conscious agents.
- 2025 Co-organizer, 'X-scape Material Minds International Summit': two-day summit bringing together European research groups at Sussex.
- 2024 Co-organizer, 'X-scape Material Minds Workshop': one-day workshop with international speakers, University of Sussex.
- 2023 Co-organizer, 'Leverhulme be.AI Annual Conference': one-day conference with twelve speakers and a poster session, University of Sussex.
- 2022 Sole Organizer, 'Materiality and Mind': one-day workshop for UK-wide ECRs on 4E cognition and technology; managed a £3,000 budget covering catering, accommodation, travel, and advertising.
- 2021 - 2022 Co-organizer, 'Coffee, Tea and Computational Wellbeing': monthly online seminar series on computational neuroscience and wellbeing.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- 2026 Volunteer guest lectures, Kennedy Center recovery hub, Brighton — informal lectures for people in addiction recovery on the philosophy and neuroscience of addiction and wellbeing.
- 2025 Judge, Royal Institute of Philosophy Annual Essay Prize.
- Trainee instructor, Philosophy in Prison (charity bringing philosophy to UK prison inmates).
- Reviewer: Philosophy of AI (2025), Philosophical Psychology (2023), Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences (2024), Synthese (2024, 2025).

REFEREES

- Prof. Andy Clark — Andy.clark@sussex.ac.uk
- Dr. Beatrice Fazi — B.fazi@sussex.ac.uk
- Dr. Mark Miller — Markmillerresearch@gmail.com
- Prof. Inês Hipólito — ines.hipolito@mq.edu.au