

Michael W. Pelczar

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Personal details

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Languages: English (native), French (reading only)

Employment history

- 2009- Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, NUS
- 2023-24 Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, UNC–Chapel Hill
- 2016-17 Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Princeton University
- 2009-10 Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics & Philosophy, MIT
- 2001-08 Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, NUS
- 2000-01 Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona

Areas of specialization

philosophy of mind, metaphysics, philosophy of language

Areas of competence

philosophy of science, modern philosophy, early analytic philosophy

Education

- 2000 Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- 1993 A.B. Hons. in Philosophy, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts

Publications

BOOKS

- 2023 *Phenomenalism: A Metaphysics of Chance and Experience* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
- 2015a *Sensorama: A Phenomenalist Analysis of Spacetime and Its Contents* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

ARTICLES

- 2026 “A liberal view of consciousness and cognition,” *Synthese* 207(259), [10.1007/s11229-026-05638-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-026-05638-2).
- 2025a “Summary of *Phenomenalism: A Metaphysics of Chance and Experience*” and “Replies to Critics,” *Asian Journal of Philosophy* 4(2) (for a book symposium with commentary from Brian Cutter, Thomas Hofweber, Frank Jackson, and Howard Robinson).
- 2025b “Philosophy in Singapore until 1980,” *Asian Journal of Philosophy* 4(2) (co-authored with Ben Blumson and Hui Chieh Loy).
- 2025 “Précis of *Phenomenalism: A Metaphysics of Chance and Experience*,” and “Replies to Commentators,” *Philosophia* 53(2) (for a book symposium with commentary from Louis deRosset, Richard Fumerton, Hedda Hassel Mørch, and Robert Smithson).
- 2022 “The case for panpsychism: a critical assessment,” *Synthese* 200(312), [10.1007/s11229-022-03775-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-022-03775-y).
- 2021 “Modal arguments against materialism,” *Noûs* 55(2), 426-444.
- 2020 “Idealism: putting qualia to work” in *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Consciousness*, U. Kriegel, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 328-347.
- 2018 “Defending phenomenalism,” *The Philosophical Quarterly* 69(276), 574-597.
- 2017 “What is time?” in *Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Temporal Experience*, I. Phillips, ed. (Abingdon & New York: Routledge), 227-238.
- 2016 “Summary” and “Replies,” *Analysis* 76(4), 449-453, 479-501 (contributions to a book symposium on *Sensorama: A Phenomenalist Analysis of Spacetime and Its Contents*, with commentary from Geoffrey Lee, Eugene Mills, and Kevin Morris).
- 2014 “Physical time, phenomenal time, and the symmetry of Nature,” in *Debates in the Metaphysics of Time and Related Topics*, N. Oaklander, ed. (London: Bloomsbury), 131-148.
- 2010 “Must an appearance of succession involve a succession of appearances?” *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research* 81(1), 49-63.

- 2010 “Presentism, eternalism, and phenomenal change,” *Synthese* 176(2), 275-290.
- 2009a “Content internalism about indexical thought,” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 46(2), 95-104.
- 2009b “The knowledge argument, the open question argument, and the moral problem,” *Synthese* 171(1), 25-45.
- 2008a “On an argument for functional invariance,” *Minds & Machines* 18(3), 373-377.
- 2008b “Descartes’ dualism and contemporary dualism,” *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 46(1), 145-160 (with Cecilia Wee).
- 2007 “Forms and objects of thought,” *Linguistics & Philosophy* 30(1), 97-122.
- 2005 “Enlightening the fully informed,” *Philosophical Studies* 126(1), 29-56.
- 2004a “Focal complexity in Aristotle and Wittgenstein,” *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 21(2), 131-150.
- 2004b “The indispensability of *Farbung*,” *Synthese* 138(1), 49-77.
- 2001 “Names as tokens and names as tools,” *Synthese* 128(1-2), 133-155.
- 2000 “Wittgensteinian semantics,” *Noûs* 34(4), 483-516.
- 1998 “The indexical character of names,” *Synthese* 114(2), 293-317 (with Joe Rainsbury).

NOTES AND REVIEWS

- 2015b Review of *Subjective Time: The Philosophy, Psychology, and Neuroscience of Temporality*, Valitteri Arstila and Dan Lloyd, eds. (MIT: 2014), *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- 2006 Critical notice of *Words Without Meaning*, Christopher Gauker (MIT: 2003), *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research* 72(2), 480-483.
- 1996 Kripke’s treatment of *Philosophical Investigations* §50, *Philosophical Investigations* 19(2), 159-163.

Recent Invited Talks

- 2024 “Three roads to idealism” (keynote): Idealism Summit, UNC–Chapel Hill, April 2024.
- 2023-24 “Requiem for Hal”:
 VPI Philosophy Colloquium, Blacksburg, VA, March 2024.
 VCU Speaker Series, Richmond, VA, February 2024.
18th Annual Fall Ethics Symposium: Ethics and Artificial Intelligence, Center for Practical and Professional Ethics, Sacramento State University, Sacramento, CA, October 2023.

Teaching

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (2001-)

Introduction to Philosophy (undergraduate)
Metaphysics (undergraduate & graduate)
Appearance and Reality (undergraduate)
Philosophy of Mind (undergraduate & graduate)
Political Philosophy (undergraduate & graduate)
Consciousness (undergraduate)
Philosophy of Language (undergraduate & graduate)
Theory of Knowledge (undergraduate)
Quine (undergraduate)
Topics in Analytic Philosophy (graduate)

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA (2000-2001)

Mind, Matter, and God (undergraduate)
Existential Problems (undergraduate)
Analytic Philosophy (undergraduate)
Philosophy of Religion (undergraduate)

Service

2024-25 Deputy Head, NUS Department of Philosophy
2017-21 Executive Director (Singapore), Australasian Association of Philosophy
2015- Member, Editorial Board of *Australasian Philosophical Review*
2013-20 Head, NUS Department of Philosophy
2013-15 Chair, NUS Philosophy Department Research Benchmarking Committee
2010-14 Member, NUS Graduate Student Conference Committee
2012 Chair, Curriculum Review Committee (Analytic Philosophy), NUS Department of Philosophy
2002-08 Honors Coordinator, NUS Department of Philosophy
1999- Referee for various journals and academic presses, including *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Ergo*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*, *Synthese*, Oxford University Press, and Routledge.