

# CURRICULUM VITAE

DAN RYDER

## GENERAL INFORMATION

---

### A. Personal Data:

Email: danryder@uconn.edu

Website: <http://www.danryder.com>

Phone: (860) 486-2710 (office); (860) 643-1364 (home)

Address: Department of Philosophy, 101 Manchester Hall, 344 Mansfield Road, University of Connecticut, Storrs CT 06269-2054 USA

Citizenship: Canadian

Languages: English, French

### B. Areas:

**Areas of specialization:** Philosophy of mind (including philosophy of psychology, cognitive science, and neuroscience), Metaphysics

**Areas of competence:** Philosophy of language, Philosophy of science, Philosophy of biology, Epistemology, History of empiricism

### C. Current position:

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut (from Aug. 2004)

### D. Previous position

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Indiana University (Aug. 2002 – July 2004)

### E. Education:

2002 – PhD (Philosophy) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

1998 – MA (Philosophy) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

1996 – MA (Philosophy & Neuroscience) University of Calgary

1994 – BA (Philosophy) University of Calgary

1994 – BSc (Cellular, Molecular, & Microbial Biology) University of Calgary

1992 – ARCT (Piano Performance) Royal Conservatory of Toronto

## F. Theses & Dissertation:

### 1. Doctoral Dissertation: July 2002, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Title: *Neurosemantics: a theory*

Committee: William G. Lycan (chair), Dorit Bar-On, Fred Dretske, Oleg Favorov, Stanley Munsat

### 2. Master's Thesis: August 1998, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Title: *A neurodispositional theory of misrepresentation*

Committee: William G. Lycan (chair), Dorit Bar-On, Oleg Favorov

### 3. Master's Thesis: July 1996, University of Calgary

Title: *Evaluating Theories of Consciousness Using the Autonomic Nervous System for Comparison*

Committee: C. B. Martin (chair), A. G. M. Bulloch (co-chair), Marc Ereshefsky, Keith A. Sharkey, Chris Sears

## G. Grants, honours, & awards:

1. Provost's Office General Education Course Development Grant, joint with Whitney Tabor (Psychology), for COGS 201 (UConn, 2006-08)
2. Four Office of Undergraduate Research Summer Undergraduate Research Funds grants, for undergraduate research assistants – SINBAD-related pilot projects (UConn, 2006)
3. Philosophy & Cognitive Science Postdoctoral Fellowship (Indiana University, 2002-04)
4. Royster Society of Fellows Dissertation Fellowship (The Caroline H. and Thomas S., Jr. Royster Fellowship) (UNC, 2001-02)
5. National Science Foundation travel & expenses fellowship for the Boston International Conference in Cognitive and Neural Systems (2001)
6. UNC Graduate School Travel Award (2001)
7. Graduate student award from Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association (2001)
8. Dissertation fellowship, UNC Philosophy Department (2001)
9. National Science Foundation travel & expenses fellowship for the Boston International Conference in Cognitive and Neural Systems (2000)
10. UNC Cognitive Science Program grant for teaching assistantship (1999)
11. Graduate Travel Grant from Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (1998)
12. Summer research grant (UNC Dept. of Philosophy, 1997)
13. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Doctoral Fellowship (1996-00)
14. Research Assistantship (for Dorit Bar-On, from the UNC Dept. of Philosophy, 1996-97)
15. Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction (Alberta Heritage Fund, 1996-97)
16. Graduate School Tuition and Fee Scholarship (U of C, 1996-97)
17. The Pan-Canadian Graduate Scholarship (1995-96)
18. Ralph Steinhauer Award of Distinction (Alberta Heritage Fund, 1995-96) (Declined in favour of Pan-Canadian Graduate Scholarship)

19. Fees waived for attendance at Cambridge University as a visiting student (Sponsored by Dept. of Philosophy and St. John's College, 1995)
20. Province of Alberta Graduate Scholarship (two units, 1994-95)
21. U of C Graduate Research Scholarship (1995)
22. Fee Scholarship (U of C Philosophy Department, 1994-95)
23. U of C Graduate Research Scholarship (1994)
24. Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research - Summer Studentship (for Alzheimer's research with Dr. A.G.M. Bulloch, 1994)
25. Philosophy Silver Medallion (for best overall graduating student, U of C 1994)
26. U of C Undergraduate Merit award (1993-94)
27. Viscount Bennett Undergraduate Scholarship (1992-93)
28. U of C Undergraduate Merit award (1992-93)
29. U of C Undergraduate Merit award (1991-92)
30. Louise McKinney Scholarship (Alberta Heritage Fund, 1990-91)
31. Canada Scholarship (1989-92; adding philosophy as a second degree necessitated dropping this award)
32. Viscount Bennett Matriculation Scholarship (1989-90)
33. Alexander Rutherford Scholarship (Alberta Heritage Fund, 1989-90)

## RESEARCH

---

### A. Publications:

1. "The many problems of representation." (forthcoming 2008) In Francisco Garzon and John Symons (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Psychology*, London: Routledge.
2. "Naturalizing Content." (forthcoming 2008) In Francisco Garzon and John Symons (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Psychology*, London: Routledge.
3. "On thinking of kinds: a neuroscientific perspective." (2006) In Graham Macdonald and David Papineau (eds.) *Teleosemantics*, Oxford University Press.
4. "Neurophilosophy comes of age? Critical notice of Patricia Churchland's *Brain-Wise: Studies in Neurophilosophy*." (2004) *PsycCRITIQUES* 49 (Suppl. 14).
5. "Meditations on First Neuroscience: Critical notice of Mark A. Changizi's *The Brain from 25,000 Feet*." (2004) *Synthese* 141(2), pp. 277-285.
6. "SINBAD Neurosemantics: a theory of mental representation." (2004) *Mind & Language* 19(2), pp. 211-240.
7. Oleg V. Favorov and Dan Ryder (2004) "SINBAD: A neocortical mechanism for discovering environmental variables and regularities hidden in sensory input." *Biological Cybernetics* 90, pp. 191-202.
8. "Making sense of empiricism?" (2003), with reply by Jesse Prinz, *Metascience* 12, pp. 291-297.
9. Oleg V. Favorov, Dan Ryder, Joseph T. Hester, Douglas G. Kelly, and Mark Tommerdahl (2003) "The cortical pyramidal cell as a set of interacting error backpropagating

dendrites: A mechanism for discovering nature's order." In Robert Hecht-Nielsen and Thomas McKenna (eds.) *Computational Models for Neuroscience: Human Cortical Information Processing*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, pp. 25-64.

10. Dan Ryder and Oleg V. Favorov (2001) "Empiricist word learning." (commentary on Paul Bloom's How Children Learn the Meaning of Words) *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 24(6), p. 1117.
11. Dan Ryder and Oleg V. Favorov (2001) "The new associationism: a neural explanation for the predictive powers of cerebral cortex." *Brain and Mind* 2(2), pp. 161-194.

## B. Work in progress

### Books

Authored:

1. *Neurosemantics: A theory* (in preparation).

Edited:

2. *Ruth Millikan and Her Critics* (with Ken Williford and Justine Kingsbury) (under contract with Blackwell).
3. *The Nature of Intentionality* (with Jesse Prinz) – comprehensive collection on intentionality, with emphasis on contemporary work (in preparation for MIT Press, not yet under contract).

### Papers

Invited:

1. "Reply to Usher." (for *Mind & Language* – see "SINBAD Neurosemantics" above).

Under review:

2. "The dispositional/categorical distinction revisited."
3. (with Zena Ryder) "Reportability and the single index challenge."

In preparation:

4. "Consumer semantics, distality, snorfs, and SINBAD"
5. "How to make teleosemantics swampman-friendly."
6. "Concept acquisition: How to get something from nothing."
7. "Therapy for qualophilia: explaining 'inhereness.'"
8. "Objective thoughts from subjective senses."
9. "The problem of geometrical causation."
10. "Historical kinds as fundamental."
11. "The problem of empty concepts."
12. "A psychofunctionalist theory of judgement and occurrent desire."
13. (with C. B. Martin) "The philosophical significance of the autonomic nervous system."

### C. Presentations:

1. The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (San Francisco, Apr. 3-8<sup>th</sup>, 2007) – “Too close for comfort? Psychosemantics and the distal.”
2. University of British Columbia – Okanagan, (Kelowna, BC, Jan. 15, 2007) – “Mental representation and the wax of the mind.”
3. The Western Canadian Philosophical Association, (Vancouver, BC, Oct. 13-15, 2006) – “Too close for comfort? Psychosemantics and the distal.”
4. The Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, (Charleston, SC, Apr. 13-15 2006) – Commentator on Robert Schroer, “Recognizing the connection between the explanatory gap, transparency, and the ‘recognitional concept strategy’.”
5. University of Connecticut, (Mar. 22, 2006) – “Testing SINBAD Neurosemantics: empty concepts.”
6. University of Waterloo, (Jan. 20, 2006) – “From Nowhere to Somewhere: Accommodating the empty and the distal in psychosemantics”
7. Connecticut College, (Nov. 3, 2005) – “SINBAD and the problem of empty concepts.”
8. The Society for Philosophy and Psychology, (Wake Forest, Jun. 9-12, 2005) – Commentator on Gualtiero Piccinini and Sam Scott, “Splitting Concepts.”
9. Conference in Philosophy of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Biology (Oxford, Apr. 30, 2005) – “A neuroscience-based solution to the distality problem for naturalistic theories of intentionality.”
10. University of Connecticut, (Mar. 16, 2005) – “The dispositional/categorical distinction revisited.”
11. Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association (Pasadena, Mar. 24-29, 2004) – Commentator on Brad Rives, “Why dispositions are (still) distinct from their bases and causally impotent.”
12. Indiana University (Mar. 19, 2004) – “How to make teleosemantics swampman-friendly.”
13. University of Pittsburgh (Jan. 12, 2004), Dalhousie University (Nov. 27, 2003), University of North Carolina (Nov. 14, 2003) – “Intentionality and the brain: Aristotle’s missing mechanism.”
14. (with Zena Ryder) Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (University of Memphis, May 30 – June 2, 2003) – “Reportability and the single index challenge.”
15. University of Cincinnati (Apr. 4, 2003) – “Teleosemantics and the brain.”
16. Intentionality: Past and Future (Miskolc, Hungary, June 21-23, 2002) – “Models in the Brain.”
17. University of Western Ontario (Mar. 18, 2002) – “Intentionality, models, and the brain.”
18. University of British Columbia (Jan. 28, 2002), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Jan. 18, 2002), University of North Carolina (Jan. 16, 2002) – “Concept acquisition: How to get something from nothing.”
19. (with Oleg Favorov and Sameer Joshi) Society for Neuroscience (San Diego, Nov. 10-15, 2001) – “Education, representation, and use of causal factors in neocortex.”
20. (with Oleg Favorov) International Conference for Cognitive and Neural Systems (Boston University, May 30 – June 2, 2001) – “SINBAD in action: Learning and making use of nature’s order.”

21. (with Oleg Favorov) ASSC conference: The Contents of Consciousness (Duke University, May 27-30, 2001) – “The SINBAD theory of cortical representation.”
22. Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy of Mind (University of Western Ontario, Apr. 20-22, 2001) – “Explaining the ‘inhereness’ of qualia representationally: Why we seem to have a visual field.”
23. Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association (San Francisco, Mar. 28-Apr. 1, 2001) – “Explaining the ‘inhereness’ of qualia representationally: Why we seem to have a visual field.” (Winner of Graduate Student Travel Award)
24. (with Oleg Favorov) International Conference for Cognitive and Neural Systems (Boston University, May 24-27, 2000) – “The cortical pyramidal cell as a mechanism for discovering nature’s order.”
25. (with C. B. Martin) Central Division Conference of the American Philosophical Association (Chicago, Apr. 21-23, 2000) – “The Autonomic Nervous System and Dretske on Phenomenal Consciousness.”
26. (with Tracy Hester, Oleg Favorov, and Douglas Kelly) Society for Neuroscience (Miami, Oct. 23-28, 1999) – “The cortical pyramidal cell as a set of interacting error backpropagating dendrites: a mechanism for discovering nature’s order.” Soc. Neurosci. Abstr. 25:898.10.
27. (with C. B. Martin) Neural Correlates of Consciousness: Empirical and Conceptual Questions (Bremen, Germany, June 19-22 1998) – “The autonomic nervous system and representational theories of phenomenal consciousness.”
28. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (New Orleans, Apr. 9-11, 1998) – “A Neurodispositional Theory of Misrepresentation.” (Winner of Graduate Student Travel Award)
29. North Carolina Philosophical Society Conference (Elon College, Mar. 1997) – Symposium on Neurophilosophy: “Neural Dispositions and Misrepresentation.”
30. Pacific Division Conference of the American Philosophical Association (Seattle, April 3-6, 1996) – “The Ontology of Functionalism.”
31. Cambridge University MPhil Seminar Series (Mar. 7, 1995) – “Dispositions and Functionalism.”

## TEACHING

---

### A. Courses taught:

TERM	COURSE	LEVEL	ROLE
Spring 2007	Philosophy of neuroscience (Phil 249W)	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> year	Instructor
Spring 2007	Foundations of cognitive science (Cogs 201)	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> year	Co-instructor
Fall 2006	Experimental Philosophy (independent study)	4 <sup>th</sup> year	Instructor
Fall 2006	Health Care Ethics (Phil 175)	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Instructor
Fall 2006	Philosophy and Social Ethics (Phil 104)	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Instructor

Spring 2006	Foundations of cognitive science (Cogs 201)	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> year	Co-instructor
Spring 2006	Philosophy and Social Ethics (Phil 104) (325 students)	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Instructor
Fall 2005	Health Care Ethics (Phil 175)	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Instructor
Fall 2005	Philosophy and Social Ethics (Phil 104)	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Instructor
Spring 2005	Philosophy of Mind (Phil 250)	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> year	Instructor
Spring 2005	Philosophy and Social Ethics (Phil 104) (325 students)	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Instructor
Spring 2005	Theory-theory and simulation (directed readings)	Graduate	Instructor
Fall 2004	Intentionality (Phil 397)	Graduate	Instructor
Fall 2004	Health Care Ethics (Phil 175)	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Instructor
Spring 2004	Foundations of cognitive science	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> year	Instructor
Fall 2003	Philosophy of mind, directed readings (topic: intentionality)	Graduate	Instructor
Spring 2003	Philosophy of mind (topic: mental representation)	Graduate	Instructor
Summer 2001	Biomedical Ethics	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Full class responsibility
Fall 2000	Introduction to Philosophy	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Full class responsibility
Fall 1999	Biomedical Ethics	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Full class responsibility
Summer 1999	Biomedical Ethics	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Full class responsibility
Spring 1999	Philosophy of Cognitive Science	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> year	Teaching assistant
Fall 1998	Introduction to Philosophy	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Teaching assistant
Spring 1998	Introduction to Philosophy	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Teaching assistant
Fall 1997	Biomedical Ethics	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Teaching assistant
Fall 1995	Neuroscience for philosophers (non-credit course)	Graduate	Full class responsibility

Teaching portfolio provided on request.

## SERVICE

---

### A. Professional Activities:

1. *Minds and Machines*: Referee (2006 - )
2. University of Connecticut Cognitive Science focus: Steering committee (2006- )
3. University of Connecticut Philosophy Department: Ad-hoc Research Committee (2006)
4. University of Connecticut Philosophy Department: Co-editor of department newsletter (*Cogitamus*) (2005 - )
5. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*: Referee (2005 - )
6. Oxford University Press: Referee (2005 - )
7. University of Connecticut Cognitive Science focus: Core course development committee, Cognitive Science major (2005 - )
8. University of Connecticut Philosophy Department: Placement committee (2004- )
9. *The Philosophical Quarterly*: Referee (2004 - )
10. *Mind and Language*: Referee (2004 - )

11. *Synthese*: Referee (2004 - )
12. Indiana University, Cognitive Science program: Coordinator, COG-X (Reading group in cognitive science – 80 members) (2002-04)
13. *Brain and Mind*: Editorial board member and referee (1999-2004)
14. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*: Associate (2001- )
15. Society for Philosophy and Psychology: Referee (1998- )
16. Longman Publishers: Referee (2003- )
17. *Noûs*: Referee (1998-99)
18. North Carolina Philosophical Society: Chair and organizer of several conference sessions (1997-01)
19. UNC Philosophy Department: Chapel Hill Colloquium Organizing Committee (1999-00)
20. UNC Philosophy Department: Coordinator, UNC Reading Group on Mind (1998-00)
21. UNC Philosophy Department: Research assistant to Dorit Bar-On (1996-98)
22. University of Calgary Philosophy Department: Research Assistant to C. B. Martin (1995-96)

## REFERENCES

---

William G. Lycan, Department of Philosophy, UNC – Chapel Hill (Dissertation advisor)  
Dorit Bar-On, Department of Philosophy, UNC – Chapel Hill  
Simon Blackburn, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge  
Fred Dretske, Department of Philosophy, Duke University  
Oleg Favorov, Department of Biomedical Engineering, UNC – Chapel Hill  
Ruth Millikan, Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut  
Jesse Prinz, Department of Philosophy, UNC – Chapel Hill