

ELENA HOLMGREN

Curriculum Vitae

University of British Columbia,
Department of Philosophy, 1866
Main Mall, Buchanan E370,
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z1

Email: elena.holmgren@gmail.com
Website: elena.holmgren.ca
philpeople.org/profiles/elena-holmgren
ubc.academia.edu/ElenaHolmgren

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind, Phenomenology,
Philosophy of Cognitive Science.

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Ethics
(including AI and information ethics), Early
Modern Philosophy (including Kant),
Continental philosophy.

EDUCATION

- 2020- **PhD in Philosophy** - University of British Columbia
Expected Sept. 2026. Cumulative Average: 90.6%
Committee: Evan Thompson (supervisor), Christopher Mole, Kimberley Brownlee
Dissertation: "Experience For Its Own Sake: A Phenomenological Account of Self-Constitution and Well-Being in Flow States"
Comprehensive Examination Paper: "The Flaw in the Diamond': Transcendental First Principles of Explanation and the Incompleteness of Naturalism"
- 2019-2020 **PhD in Philosophy** - University of Victoria (transfer after first year)
- 2019 **MA in Philosophy** - University of Victoria
Committee: Eric Hochstein (supervisor), David Scott
Thesis: "Conceptualizing the Explanandum for a Theory of Consciousness"
- 2018 **BA Honours in Philosophy** (with distinction) - University of Victoria
Supervisor: David Scott
Honours Thesis: "Being as Value: The Phenomenology of Value and the Ontology of Self-Realization in Charles Taylor's *Sources of the Self*"
-

AWARDS

- 2024 UBC Faculty of Arts Graduate Award
2024 Don Brown Graduate Teaching Excellence Award, UBC

2022-2024	UBC Doctoral Fellowship (\$18200/year)
2020-2025	President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award (\$4490)
2022-2023	UBC Tuition Award (\$5300)
2019-2022	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral Award (\$35000/year)
2020-2021	UBC Faculty of Arts Graduate Award
2019	Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference Prize for Best Student Essay
2018-2019	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's (\$17500)
2017	University of Victoria - President's Scholarship (\$4000/year)
2017	University of Victoria - Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award
2017	Roger Beehler Best Undergraduate Philosophy Essay Award

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles:

Holmgren, E. (forthcoming) "Action in Unison: A Phenomenological Account of Collective Agency in Group Flow States." *European Journal of Philosophy*, accepted for publication June 2026.

Invited Chapters:

In preparation "Flow and the Experiential Structure of Well-being: An Enactive Account." With Evan Thompson. In: *Flow States and Human Wellbeing: Science and Practice Across Domains*, Emerald, *Advances in Subjectivity and Development* series, ed. Marianne Cotin.

2026 "Circling Around the Transcendental: The Conscious Subject as the Limit of Nature in Raymond Tallis' Philosophy and Phenomenology." In: *Palgrave's Companion to the Philosophy of Raymond Tallis*, Palgrave Macmillan, ed. Robert Doede: 121-144

Works in Progress:

Paper providing a phenomenological account of altered self-consciousness in flow states

Paper on flow and well-being

Refereed Undergraduate Journal Articles:

2018 "Being as Value: The Phenomenology of Value and the Ontology of Self-Realization in Charles Taylor's Sources of the Self." *The Arbutus Review*. Vol. 9 No. 1. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18357/tar91201818381>

- 2017 “The Realization of Life in the Act of Knowing: A Phenomenological Re-Interpretation of Plato's Theory of Forms in the Phaedo.” *Sophia* undergraduate philosophy journal, University of Victoria, Vol. XIII, p. 59-70.
-

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Eternity in an Hour’: The Incomplete Completeness of Well-Being as Autotelic Experience”

- 2027 American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, Boston, MA
2026 Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC) meeting, Victoria, BC. Respondent: Griffin Klemick.

“Group Flow as Spontaneous Collective Agency: A Phenomenological Account”

- 2025 International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (ISPSM), Virtual Conference
2025 The Spontaneity of Freedom Summer Workshop, University College London, London, United Kingdom. Personal participation funded by the workshop. Respondent: Ethan Nowak.

“Self-Shaping Actions: A Phenomenological Account of Flow States”

- 2025 American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, New York. Respondent: Antonio Calcagno.
2024 Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC) meeting, Annual Congress, Montreal, QC. Respondent: Emmanuel Cuisinier.

“Experience For Its Own Sake: Towards a Phenomenology of Autotelic Experience and Well-being”

- 2025 Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), Virtual Conference
2024 International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (ISPSM), Virtual Conference.
2024 The Center for Subjectivity Research, Copenhagen, Denmark. Respondent: Michela Summa.

“Is Consciousness Fundamental or Fictive? Why Realists and Illusionists About Consciousness Are Both Wrong”

- 2021 Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Victoria, BC.

Respondent: Kevin Falvey.

“Representation as Sensorimotor Orientation - The Role of Non-Propositional, Spatial Simulation in Scientific Representation”

2019 Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Lethbridge, AB
Winner of the WCPA Best Graduate Student Essay Prize. Respondent: Kent Peacock.

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

2025 **“Collective Agency in Group Flow States: A Phenomenological Account”**

The Vancouver Neurophenomenology Group, Meeting on Agency in the Environment, University of British Columbia*

2024 **“Can AI Be Transcendental Subjects? A Husserlian Perspective”**

Invited speaker at the “AI and Consciousness” workshop, James M. Houston Centre for Humanity & the Common Good, Vancouver, BC. Personal participation funded by the workshop.*

2024 Invited Tallis Scholars Workshop roundtable participant and respondent to Raymond Tallis’ “Rescuing the Self” lecture, James M. Houston Centre for Humanity & the Common Good, Vancouver, BC. Personal participation funded by the workshop.*

COMMENTARIES

2026 Commentary on Emmanuel Cuisinier’s “Merleau-Ponty’s Critique of Moral Values”

Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC) meeting, Victoria BC

2024 Commentary on Emmanuel Cuisinier’s “Perception, Heroism and the Problem of Expression”

Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC) meeting, Annual Congress, Montreal QC

2023 “Phenomenological Philosophy of Science and the Inextricability of the

- Methodological and Ontological Projects of Naturalism About Representation:
Commentary on Hochstein”
Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Vancouver BC
- 2019 “Manifesting Morality: Affective Experience and Character Cultivation in Kant’s
Moral Philosophy: Commentary on Hamm”
Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Lethbridge AB
- 2019 “Temporality and the Sense of the Background in Paintings: Commentary On
Gatten”
Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Vancouver BC
-

TEACHING

Appointments:

Continuing Philosophy Instructor, Part Time

Humanities Department, Camosun College, Victoria, Canada (2024-Present)

Courses Taught As Instructor of Record:

In teaching the following courses, I was responsible for all aspects of course design and delivery. For detailed course descriptions and syllabi, please visit:

<https://elena.holmgren.ca/>

University of British Columbia:

- 2025 *PHIL 337: Ethics for the Sciences* (Winter Term 1, Online-Synchronous, Undergraduate Lecture, ~55 students).
- 2024 *PHIL 240: Introduction to Epistemology* (Winter Term 1, Online-Synchronous, Undergraduate Lecture, ~50 students)
- 2023 *PHIL 250: Minds and Machines* (Summer Term 1, In Person, Undergraduate Lecture, ~30 students).

Camosun College, Victoria: ~35 students/section.

- 2025 *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Classics* (Fall, In Person, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2025 *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Classics* (Fall, Online-Asynchronous, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2024 *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Classics* (Fall, In Person, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2024 *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Classics* (Fall, Online-Asynchronous, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2022 (x3) *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Classics* (Fall x2 & Winter, In

- Person, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2022 *PHIL 207: Philosophy of Mind* (Winter, In Person, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2021 (x2) *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Classics* (Fall, In Person, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2021 *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Classics* (Summer, Online-Asynchronous, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2021 (x2) *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Classics* (Winter, Online-Asynchronous, Undergraduate Lecture).
- 2020 *PHIL 207: Philosophy of Mind* (Fall, Online-Asynchronous, Undergraduate Lecture).

Professional Development in Teaching:

- 2026 Completed “GenAI in Teaching and Learning”: a two week course exploring the fundamentals of AI, connecting emerging AI developments with learning theory and evidence-based classroom strategies, and examining AI’s impact on assessment and academic integrity. Offered at CTLT UBC.
- 2023 Completed “Foundations of Pedagogy”: an eight week course on evidence-based effective pedagogical practices offered by CIRTL (Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning) at the University of British Columbia. Obtained CIRTL Associate certificate.

Teaching Assistant:

University of British Columbia:

Responsibilities included: leading tutorials, essay and exam grading, student consultations and office hours.

- 2024 *PHIL 250: Minds and Machines* (Winter)
- 2023 *PHIL 441: Philosophy of Perception* (Fall)

University of Victoria:

Responsibilities included: designing and leading workshops on essay-writing skills and spotting logical fallacies, essay and exam grading, student consultations and office hours.

- 2020 *PHIL 260: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind* (Spring)
- 2020 *PHIL 239: Philosophy and Feminism* (Spring)
- 2019 *PHIL 260: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind* (Fall)
- Guest lecture on JJC Smart’s Brain Identity Theory

2018-2019 *PHIL 260: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind* (Fall and Spring Terms)
2019 *HUMA 295: Dean's Seminar: Being Human* (Fall)
2019 *PHIL 201: Critical Thinking* (Summer)
2018-2019 *PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy* (Fall and Spring Terms)

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

2019-2020 Assisted Dr. Patrick Rysiew's research on Thomas Reid's epistemology by identifying and summarizing current debates in philosophy of mind that relate to key issues in Reid scholarship.
Department of Philosophy, University of Victoria

REFEREEING

Canadian Philosophical Association (x4), *The Arbutus Review* journal.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2024 Completed the *PhD Summer School in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind* at the Center For Subjectivity Research, Copenhagen (In Person)
2024 Completed the "Phenomenological Interview: A Scientific Methodology for the Study of Consciousness" 5 week course led by David Martinez Pernia and Mayte Vergara Manriquez of Empirical 5E Lab, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez. (Virtual)
2021 Completed the *PhD Summer School in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind* at the Center For Subjectivity Research, Copenhagen (Virtual)

TEACHING REFERENCES

Frank Jankunis

Chair
Humanities Department
Camosun College
jankunisf@camosun.ca

Janice Shewey

Chair 2020-2023
Humanities Department
Camosun College
SheweyJ@camosun.ca

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Evan Thompson

Professor, Distinguished University
Scholar
Philosophy Department
University of British Columbia
evan.thompson@ubc.ca

Kimberley Brownlee

Professor, Canada Research Chair
Philosophy Department
University of British Columbia
kimberley.brownlee@ubc.ca

David Scott

Professor
Philosophy Department
University of Victoria
djfsconfig@uvic.ca

Christopher Mole

Professor, Chair of Cognitive Systems
Programme
Philosophy Department
University of British Columbia
chris.mole@ubc.ca

Eric Hochstein

Associate Professor
Philosophy Department
University of Victoria
ehochstein@uvic.ca

Patrick Rysiew

Professor
Philosophy Department
University of Victoria
rysiew@uvic.ca