**Dr. AXEL SEEMANN**

Curriculum Vitae

Bentley University

Department of Philosophy

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**CURRENT POSITION**

Professor of Philosophy, **Bentley University**, since 2020

Chair, Philosophy Department, since 2020

**PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

Associate Professor of Philosophy (tenured), **Bentley University**, 2010 - 2020

Interim Head of Department, Fall 2016

Assistant Professor of Philosophy (tenure-track), **Bentley University**, 2004 - 2010

Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar, Philosophy Department, **UC Berkeley**, 2001 – 2004

Adjunct Instructor, **Santa Rosa Junior College**, 2002 - 2003

Management Consultant, **The Boston Consulting Group**, 2000 – 2001

Television Journalist (freelance), **Sender Freies Berlin** and **Arte**, 1994 – 1998

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. **The London School of Economics and Political Science**

2000

M.Sc. **The London School of Economics and Political Science**

1996

M.A. **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München**

1993

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Philosophy of Mind, Social Philosophy

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Ethics, History of Philosophy

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

* Axel Seemann (ed., with Emily Hughes, Joel Krueger, and Tom Roberts), *An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Loneliness*, under contract with Bloomsbury Press
* *The Shared World: Perceptual Common Knowledge, Demonstrative Communication, and Social Space*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 2019
* Axel Seemann (ed.), *Joint Attention: New Developments in Psychology, Philosophy of Mind, and Social Neuroscience*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 2012

**Edited Journals and Book Series**

* Editor (with Emily Hughes, Joel Krueger, and Tom Roberts) of a special issue on loneliness for *Topoi*, 2023
* Editor for philosophy and psychology for *Solitude Studies*, a series of monographs for Bloomsbury Press, ongoing

**Journal Articles**

* “Joint Perception, Joint Attention, and Joint Know-How”, under review
* “Joint Attention as the Base of Common Knowledge and Collective Intentionality”, *Topoi*, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11245-024-10011-4>
* “Loneliness: Introduction”, with E. Hughes, T. Roberts & J. Krueger, *Topoi*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11245-023-09971-w>
* “Loneliness, Psychological Models, and Self-Estrangement”, *Topoi*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11245-023-09946-x>
* “The Public Character of Visual Objects: Shape Perception, Joint Attention, and Standpoint Transcendence”, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11097-022-09842-6>
* “The Psychological Structure of Loneliness”, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 19, 2022, 106, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph1903106>
* “An Externalist Theory of Social Understanding: Interaction, Psychological Models, and the Frame Problem”, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*,2021, https://doi.org/10.1007/s13164-021-00584-z
* “Reminiscing Together”, *Synthese* 196 (12), 2019, 4813-4828
* “Joint Motor Action and Cross-Creature Embodiment”, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* 2 (2), 2011, 297 - 311
* “The Role of Joint Experience in Historical Narratives”, *Journal of the Philosophy of History* 5, 2011, 201 – 229
* “The Other Person in Joint Attention: A Relational Approach”, *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 17 (5-6), 2010, 161 – 182
* “Why We Did It: An Anscombian Approach to Collective Action Explanation”, *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 17 (5), 2009, 637 – 655
* “Joint Agency: Intersubjectivity, Sense of Control, and the Feeling of Trust”, *Inquiry*, 52 (5), 2009, 500 – 515
* “Person Perception”, *Philosophical Explorations*, 11 (3), 2008, 245 – 262
* “Joint Attention, Collective Knowledge, and the ‘We’-Perspective”, *Social Epistemology* 21 (3), 2007, 217 – 230
* “Lifeworld, Discourse, and Realism: On Jürgen Habermas’ Theory of Truth”, *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 30 (4), 2004, 503 – 514

**Book Chapters**

* “Eine Modelltheoretische Erklärung der Einsamkeit” [“A Model-Theoretic Account of Loneliness”], in: L. Arlt, N. Becker, S. Mann & T. Wirtz (eds.), *Einsamkeit in Gesellschaft: Zwischen Tabu und Sozialer Herausforderung*, Bielefeld: Transcript 2022
* “Rationality” (with R. Frederick), in: *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society*, Second Edition: Thousand Oaks, 2016
* “Joint Attention and Social Cognition”, in: B. Kaldis et al. (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences*, London: Sage 2013, 509 - 512
* “Joint Attention: A Relational Approach”, in: A. Seemann (ed.), *Joint Attention: New Developments*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press 2012, 183-202
* “Interpretation, Cause, and Avowal: On the Evaluative Dimension of Selfhood”, in: K. Lehrer, A. Konzelmann-Ziv, H. B. Schmid (eds.), *Self-Evaluation: Affective and Social Grounds of Intentionality*, Frankfurt: Ontos 2011, 45 – 58
* “Lifeworld, Discourse, and Realism: On Jürgen Habermas’ Theory of Truth”, in: D. Rasmussen and J. Swindal, *Habermas II*, London: Sage 2010, 241 - 251 (reprint)

**Other Publications**

* “Loneliness and You”, a fortnightly podcast on the research and experience of loneliness, <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/axel-seemann>
* “Living in the Shared World”, *The Brains Blog*, 2019, <https://philosophyofbrains.com/2019/06/10/living-in-the-shared-world.aspx>
* “Acting in Social Space”, *The Brains Blog*, 2019, <https://philosophyofbrains.com/2019/06/11/acting-in-social-space.aspx>
* “Demonstration and Communication”, *The Brains Blog*, 2019, <https://philosophyofbrains.com/2019/06/12/3-demonstration-and-communication.aspx>
* “Common Knowledge and Experience in Social Space”, *The Brains Blog*, 2019, <https://philosophyofbrains.com/2019/06/13/4-common-knowledge-and-shared-experience.aspx>
* “Joint Attention”, *The Brains Blog*, 2019, <https://philosophyofbrains.com/2019/06/14/5-joint-attention.aspx>
* “Language, Mind, and Social Reality: An Interview with John Searle”, *Philosophy of Management*, 2009, 7 (2), 3 - 11
* “Rational Trust: An Interview with Onora O’Neill”, *Philosophy of Management*,2007, 6 (2), 3 – 8

**Interviews**

* Guest on the podcast “AI in Academia: Navigating the Future”, 2024, <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2313219/14541928-episode-2-axel-seemann>
* Guest on the podcast “How to Eat Alone”, 2023, <https://open.spotify.com/episode/4ACtQX8tGVYYxQ0rlOszSY?si=a994d21b68d9452f&nd=1>
* “The Shared World”, *New Books Network*, 2019, <https://newbooksnetwork.com/axel-seemann-the-shared-world-perceptual-knowledge-demonstrative-communication-and-social-space-mit-press-2019>

**SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

* “The Epistemology of Loneliness”, Tufts University, April 2024
* “Joint Attention as a Kind of Know-How”, *Group Know-How and Joint Expertise*, University of Antwerp, September 2023
* “A Model-Theoretic Account of Loneliness” (invited), *The Phenomenology of Loss*, York University, May 2023
* “Spatial Frameworks and the Embodied Mind”, 4th International Conference on Philosophy of Mind: 4E’s Approach to the Mind/Brain, Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, Braga, March 2023
* “The Psychological Structure of Loneliness” (online keynote), annual meeting of the National Congress of the Portuguese Society of Psychiatry, November 2022
* “Loneliness and Social Space” (graduate seminar, guest speaker), University of York, March 2022
* “Loneliness and Social Space”, *Alone Together*, University of Sczeczin, April 2022
* “An Externalist Account of Perceptual Common Knowledge”, *Mutual Knowledge at 40*, UCL (online conference), July 2021
* “Loneliness and the Social Environment”, *Loneliness in Philosophy and Psychology*, Bentley University (online conference), July 2021
* “What Do We Mean by “Loneliness”?” *Loneliness and Social Isolation in Mental Health,* UCL, January 2020
* “Is Loneliness a State of Mind”? *Alone Together*, York St John University, April 2019
* “Joint Perception, Social Space, and the Limits of the Self”, *Conference Open Self*, TU Berlin, September 2018
* “The Spatial Structure of Demonstrative Communication”, *Workshop Communication and Co-operation*, University of Milan, June 2018
* “Perspective-Taking and the Social Spatial Framework”, *Joint Action Meeting*, Queen Mary University, July 2017
* “Joint Experience, Demonstrative Reference, and Spatial Perception”, *ICOG 3*, University of London, February 2016
* “Joint Action, Joint Attention, Joint Experience”, *Joint Action Meeting,* Central European University, Budapest, July 2015
* “The Role of Pointing in Demonstrative Reference” (Invited), *Pointing and Gestural Communication*, University of Connecticut, March 2015
* “Groups, Explanation, and Collective Understanding” (Invited), *Thinking About Groups*, University of Copenhagen, September 2014
* “The Phenomenology of Face-to-Face Encounters”, *Towards a Science of Consciousness*, Tucson, April 2014
* “Joint Attention and the Self-Other Distinction”, *Self And Social*, Lisbon, March 2014
* “Joint Attention: A New Approach”, *Conference on Cognition, Emotion, and Action*, Ahmedabad, December 2013
* “The Role of Understanding in Demonstrative Reference” (Invited), *Social Ontology Seminar*, UC Berkeley, February 2013
* “Against Sharing: Intersubjectivity and Cross-Creature Embodiment”, *Collective Intentionality VIII*, Manchester, August 2012
* “Against Sharing: Intersubjectivity and Cross-Creature Embodiment”, *Minds, Bodies, Problems*, Ankara, June 2012
* “Perceptual Experience and the Study of What There Is”, *Psycho-Ontology*, Jerusalem, December 2011
* “Joint Action: A Perception-Based Approach”, *Joint Action Meeting IV*, Vienna, July 2011
* “The Social Dimension of Perceptual Experience”, annual meeting of the *ASSC*, Kyoto, June 2011
* “Neuroscience: Affectivity, Adaptivity, and Learning in Organizations” (Invited), Panel Discussion, George Washington University, Washington DC, October 2010
* “From Feeling Perception to Joint Action: The Case for Social Externalism”, *Collective Intentionality VII*, Basel, August 2010
* “Narratives, Selves, and Common Cause Experiences”, Panel for the Society of the Philosophy of History, Pacific Division Meeting of the *American Philosophical Association*, San Francisco, April 2010
* “Intersubjectivity, Co-Operation, and Moral Agency”, *Ethics and Emotions*, University of Salamanca, March 2010
* “Gaze Following, Mirror Neurons, and Attentional Capture” (Invited), Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Duke University, Durham NC, February 2010
* “Joint Attention: An Intersubjective Framework”, *Joint Attention: Developments in Developmental and Comparative Psychology, Philosophy of Mind, and Social Neuroscience*, Bentley University, Boston, October 2009
* “The Feeling of Trust” (Invited)*, Conference on the Philosophy of Onora O’Neill*, British Academy, September 2009
* “Action Explanation, Causes, and Narratives” (Invited), *Philosophy of Mind Research Seminar*, University of Hertfordshire, March 2009
* “The Evaluative Dimension of Self-Awareness”, *Self-Evaluation: Individual and Collective*, University of Basel, January 2009
* “Collectivity, Action, and Feelings”, *Collective Intentionality VI*, UC Berkeley, July 2008
* “Joint Action: Experience, Intentionality, and Explanation”, *Consciousness, Agency, and the Will,* University of Edinburgh, June 2008 (poster)
* “Joint Attention, Intentionality, and Action” (Invited), *Ontology of the Social Research Seminar*, UC Berkeley, November 2007
  + “Action, Intention, and Narrative”, *Narrative Alternatives to Theories of Mind*,

University of Hertfordshire, July 2007

* “Joint Attention, Affective Perception, and Trust”, *Other Minds and Moral*

*Agency*, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester (Mass.), April 2007

* “Collective Intentionality and Joint Attention”, *Ontology of the Social Research Seminar*, UC Berkeley, November 2006

**HONOURS AND GRANTS**

* Bentley University Summer Grant, 2004 – 2019, 21, 22, 23
* Valente Center for the Arts & Sciences Fellowship, 2016
* Visiting Fellowship, King’s College London, 2011
* Valente Center for the Arts & Sciences Fellowship, Bentley University, 2009/10
* Visiting Researcher Fellowship, University of Hertfordshire, 2009
* National Science Foundation Conference Grant ($15.000), 2008
* Service Learning Award, Bentley University, 2005
* Research Grant, The Boston Consulting Group, 2004
* Visiting Scholarship, UC Berkeley, 1999
* Graduate Studentship, The British Academy, 1998
* PhD-Fellowship, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, 1996
* PhD-Fellowship, Daimler-Benz-Stiftung, 1996 (*declined)*

**MEMBERSHIPS**

* Foundational Member Research Group “Enactive Cognition and Narrative Practices”, University of Wollongong, 2019
* Member Research Group “Pathologies of Solitude”, Queen Mary University of London, 2019
* Member Research Network “Loneliness and Social Isolation in Mental Health”, University College London, 2019
* Member American Philosophical Association

**TEACHING**

Bentley University

* PH 101, *Introduction to Philosophy* 2004-21,

regularly

* PH 251, *Moral Philosophy and Experimental Ethics* 2008
* PH 254, *Groups, Minds, and Responsibility* 2007, 18
* PH 270, *Consciousness and Experience* 2015, 16, 18, 22
* PH 271, *Other Minds* 2014, 17, 20, 21
* PH 272, *Perception and Perspectives* 2014, 2019, 2023
* PH 275, *Loneliness and the Self* 2023
* PH 311, *Agreement and Social Reality* 2004
* PHD 1501, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* (PhD Seminar)2006-2021,

regularly

Santa Rosa Junior College

* *Introduction to Logic* 2002 – 03

UC Berkeley (TA) 2002 – 04

* *Philosophy of Mind*
* *Philosophy of Language*
* *Individual Morality and Social Justice*

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

* Organisation of an Interdisciplinary Year-long Seminar on Loneliness for the Valente Center of Arts and Sciences, Bentley University 2022/23
* Member Scientific Conference Committee, *Alone Together* 2022
* Organisation of an Online Conference on Loneliness 2021

<https://www.lonelinessphilpsych.org>

* Member Organisational Committee, *Mutual Knowledge at 40*  2021
* Reviewer (often repeatedly) for: Human Development, International Journal of Philosophical Studies, Journal of Consciousness Studies, Mind & Language,

MIT Press, Pacific Phil Quarterly, Philosophies, Philosophy and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophical Psychology, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Southwest Philosophy Review, Synthese,

* Organisation of a Workshop on Social Cognition 2010
* Organisation of an Interdisciplinary Conference on Joint Attention 2009
* Member of the Editorial Board of *Philosophy of Management* 2007 - 2009

**INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

* Chair, Search Committee for a lecturer position 2023/24
* Member Research Council Fall 2022 onward
* Chair, Search Committee for a tenure-track position 2021/22
* Chair, Departmental Tenure Committee 2021/22
* Major and Minor Co-Ordinator Since 2021
* Chair, Search Committee for a lecturer position 2021, 2023
* Member Sabbatical Committee Since 2020
* Member ‘Satellite’ Undergraduate Curriculum Task Force Since 2018
* Member PhD Council Since 2018
* Member Salary & Benefits Committee 2018-2019
* Assurance of Learning co-ordinator 2017-2019
* Member-at-Large of Faculty Senate 2017-2019
* Member Academic Standards Committee 2013 - 2015
* Member Honours Program Task Force 2011
* Bentley Alumni Series in the Humanities, Presenter2009
* Member Advisory Board, Valente Center for the Arts & Sciences 2007 - 2013
* Member Honours Council 2008 - 2012
* Member Institutional Review Board 2007 - 2009
* Member Research Committee 2006 - 2008
* Member Teaching and Scholarly Activities Committee 2005 - 2007
* Member Academic Standards Committee 2005 - 2006
* Member PhD Program Committee 2005 – 2006

**GRADUATE SUPERVISION**

* Joe Dery (PhD Business, Bentley University, 2019), dissertation committee member

This dissertation makes use of the sense/reference distinction in the philosophy of language to develop a novel approach to branding

* Ulla Schmid (PhD Philosophy, 2012, University of Basel), external advisor

This dissertation draws on Moore’s Paradox to develop an argument against representationalism in the philosophy of mind

* Massimiliano Cappuccio (Postdoctoral Fellow of the Valente Center for the Arts & Sciences, Bentley University, 2010), postdoctoral supervisor
* James Dow (PhD Philosophy 2010, CUNY), external dissertation committee member

This dissertation develops an interpersonal account of self-consciousness

**LANGUAGES**

* Fluent in English, German, French
* Basic Italian and Russian