

# JULIAN LEE-SURSIN

Curriculum Vitae — March 2026

✉ jleesur1@jh.edu    🌐 julianleesursin.com

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

---

Visiting Scholar (*chercheur invité*), JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY 2025–2026

## EDUCATION

---

ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE, MS in Cognitive Science 2024–present  
17/20 GPA (first year)<sup>1</sup>

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, Visiting Graduate Student 2025–2026  
🌐 [comphoughtlit.jhu.edu/directory/julian-lee-sursin](https://comphoughtlit.jhu.edu/directory/julian-lee-sursin)

SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ, MPhil 2023–2025  
Philosophy of Science, Knowledge and Mind, *Mention très bien* (highest honors)

OBERLIN COLLEGE, BA, Honors in Philosophy 2020–2023

## WRITTEN WORK (SELECTED)

---

### PAPERS

- 4. Subject-Dependence in Science: The Argument from Complementarity**  
Co-authored with HONG JOO RYOO  
Under review
- 3. Is Acquaintance a *Sui Generis* Epistemic Relation?**  
Manuscript, Winner of the 2025 Graduate Paper Prize, Indiana Philosophical Association

### THESES

- 2. *Ontologie et Mereologie: une désambiguïsation métalinguistique*** (in French)  
Master's Thesis, Sorbonne Université, defended June 18  
Committee: Jean-Baptiste Rauzy (advisor), Pascal Ludwig, Max KISTLER (external)
- 1. Modality and Free Will: An Incompatibilist Account of Frankfurt-style Cases**  
Honors Thesis, Oberlin College, defended April 28

## PRESENTATIONS

\* = abstract refereed    \*\* = paper refereed    † = invited

- 18. Towards an Explanatory Cognitive Model for Blackwell Informativeness (\*)** June 17-19, 2026  
10th International Conference on Model-Based Reasoning, Rome, Italy
- 17. Fashion and The Jacksonian Mode: Intentionality Beyond Language (\*\*)** June 8-10, 2026  
17th annual conference of the European Society for Aesthetics, Jyväskylä, Finland
- 16. Do AI Agents Meet the Epistemic Norms for Explanation? (\*)** Apr 24-26, 2026  
Inaugural Humanities of AI Workshop, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- 15. Curb Your (Brain-Model Alignment) Enthusiasm (\*)** Apr 16, 2026  
Co-authored with ARNOLD FLEISHMAN  
AI and Philosophy, New Orleans, LA
- 14. On Fashion's Perceptual Meaning (\*\*)** Apr 10–11, 2026  
American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA

---

<sup>1</sup>Grades in France are assigned on a scale from 0–20: 10 is passing, 12 awards honors (*mention assez bien*), 14 awards high honors (*mention bien*), and 16 awards highest honors (*mention très bien*).

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 13. <b>A Semantic Argument Against Radical Cognitivism</b> (**)                 | April 4, 2026 |
| UF Graduate Philosophy Conference, Gainesville, Florida                         |               |
| 12. <b>Why Presentism Precludes Explanation</b> (*)                             | Feb 18, 2026  |
| Central APA, Philosophy of Time Society, Chicago, IL                            |               |
| 11. <b>How Causation Explains: A Semantic Inquiry</b> (*)                       | Jan 7, 2026   |
| Eastern APA, Society for Philosophy of Causation, Baltimore, MD                 |               |
| 10. <b>Fashion and the Jacksonian Mode: Intentionality Beyond Language</b> (**) | Nov 20, 2025  |
| Symposium, Institut Français de la Mode, Paris, France                          |               |
| 9. <b>Semantics for Explanation</b> (**)  | Nov 8, 2025   |
| Illinois Philosophical Association, Charleston, IL                              |               |
| 8. <b>Composition and Metalinguistic Negotiation</b> (†)                        | Nov 3, 2025   |
| Talk for philosophy majors and faculty, Oberlin College                         |               |
| 7. <b>Is Acquaintance a Sui Generis Epistemic Relation?</b> (**)                | Nov 1, 2025   |
| Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington, IN                              |               |
| 6. <b>Semantics for Explanation</b> (**)  | Oct 24, 2025  |
| 24th University of Toronto Grad Conference, Toronto, Canada                     |               |
| 5. <b>Is Acquaintance a Sui Generis Epistemic Relation?</b> (*)                 | Oct 16, 2025  |
| CREPH: Mind Conference, Liège, Belgium  |               |
| 4. <b>Do AI Agents Meet the Epistemic Norms for Explanation?</b> (*)            | Oct 9, 2025   |
| XVI International Ontology Congress, Basque Country                             |               |
| 3. <b>The Special Questions Dispute</b> (**)                                    | Sep 5, 2025   |
| SOPhiA, Salzburg, Austria   |               |
| 2. <b>The Special Questions Dispute</b> (**)                                    | Jul 13, 2025  |
| 99th Joint Session of the Aristotelian and Mind Societies, Glasgow, Scotland    |               |
| 1. <b>Composition and Metalinguistic Negotiation</b> (†)                        | May 9, 2025   |
| Salvador Mascarenhas Lab Meeting, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France            |               |

### COMMENTS

- Adekunle Taofeek: “The Individuation Problem for Plant Souls in Panpsychist Ontology” Nov 22, 2025  
87th Meeting of the Southwest Philosophical Society, Savannah, GA
- Patrick Skeels: “There can be no Dispute” Nov 8, 2025  
Illinois Philosophical Association, Charleston, IL

### CHAIR

- Matthew Jackson: “Why AI Representation is Incompatible with Democratic Values” Nov 1, 2025  
Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington, IN
- Mack Sullivan: “Mountains out of Myhills” Nov 1, 2025  
Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington, IN

### FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 
- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 9. <b>Research Fellowship</b> , Johns Hopkins University (\$12,000)                  | 2025–2026 |
| Fellowship stipend to conduct independent research                                   |           |
| 8. <b>Tuition Subsidy</b> , Johns Hopkins University (\$66,670)                      | 2025–2026 |
| Full subsidy to take any course(s) at JHU  |           |
| 7. <b>Honorarium</b> , Institut Français de la Mode (€1,600)                         | Nov 2025  |
| Award for presentation at the Fashion and Language Symposium                         |           |
| 6. <b>Graduate Paper Prize</b> (\$100)   | Oct 2025  |
| Best paper by graduate student, Indiana Philosophical Association                    |           |
| 5. <b>Bursary</b> , CREPH ARC research project: MIND (€500)                          | Aug 2025  |
| Funding for presentation at the University of Liège                                  |           |
| 4. <b>Travel Grant</b> , Sorbonne Philosophy Department (€500)                       | May 2025  |
| Funding for AS/Mind Joint Session presentation                                       |           |
| 3. <b>Paul W. Wurzburger Prize in French</b> (\$1,000)                               | May 2023  |
| Concours de la Maison Française de Cleveland, affiliated with the Alliance Française |           |

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 2. <b>Prix Lahaurine-Johnston</b> (\$1,000)<br>Annual prize for investment in Oberlin's Maison Française                        | May 2022  |
| 1. <b>John F. Oberlin Merit Scholarship</b> (\$30,000 total)<br>Merit scholarship, renewed for all three years I was at Oberlin | 2020–2023 |

## TEACHING

---

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| OBERLIN COLLEGE<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole Grader and Tutor, Deductive Logic</li> <li>• Tutor: Philosophy, French, Math, CS, Latin, Econ</li> <li>• Sole Resident Assistant, Maison Française (2022–2023)</li> <li>• TA (weekly session as sole instructor), Intermediate French (Spring 2021)</li> </ul> | 2021–2023   |
| US MILITARY / ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole instructor: Robotics, CS, and Biochem courses for the Army Educational Outreach Program</li> </ul>   | Summer 2021 |

## EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

---

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, Arnosti Lab<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigated modified retinoblastoma (Rbf) gene in <i>Drosophila</i> using dCas9 chimeras</li> </ul>   | Summer 2019 |
| FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, Arbeitman Lab<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRISPR &amp; U6-gRNA cloning, <i>Drosophila</i> cortex dissection, gel electrophoresis</li> </ul>   | Summer 2018 |
| NATIONAL HIGH MAGNETIC FIELD LABORATORY, Condensed Matter Lab<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed a millimeter wave resonator. When measuring polymers (e.g., polystyrene), intensity increased by a factor of 8, pulse lengths decreased by a factor of 3-4 (compared to measurements without the resonator).</li> <li>• Built miniature solar-powered vehicle using CAD and soldering</li> </ul> | 2015–2017   |

## SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

---

**Member:** American Philosophical Association, American Society for Aesthetics, Aristotelian Society, European Society for Aesthetics, Philosophy of Time Society, Society for Philosophy of Causation, Southwestern Philosophical Society

**Board Member:** National High Magnetic Field Laboratory  
 Founding member of the Youth Advisory Board (2021–2023)

**Editor:** *The Synapse: Intercollegiate science magazine* (2021–2022)

## VARIA

---

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Fashion:</b> Performed in Paris Fashion Week ( <i>Duranimal</i> ) and the Saut Hermès Dinner  | Mar 2025   |
| <b>Music:</b> I sing bass, currently studying at Peabody Preparatory. Notable concerts below:  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verdi's <i>Macbeth</i> with Plácido Domingo (Salle Gaveau)</li> <li>• Rossini's <i>Le Comte Ory</i> (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées)</li> <li>• Bastille Day Parade (ft. Macron and the Olympic torch)</li> <li>• Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, dir. Joe Hisaishi (La Défense Arena)</li> <li>• Mozart's Mass in C minor at Les Invalides</li> <li>• Regular concerts at the Philharmonie de Paris</li> </ul> | Apr 2025<br>Nov 2024<br>Jul 2024<br>Apr 2024<br>Dec 2023 |

## REFERENCES

---

*Available upon request*