Julian Lee-Sursin

Curriculum Vitae — November 2026

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Research Areas: Language, Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Mind

Research Position

Visiting Scholar (*chercheur invité*), Johns Hopkins University 2025–2026
Department of Comparative Thought and Literature
Invited research position with independent fellowship (see Fellowships & Awards)
Report: julianleesursin.com/Rapport_de_sejour_final.pdf

Education

École Normale Supérieure, **MS** in Cognitive Science 2024–present
17/20 GPA (first year)[1]

Johns Hopkins University, Visiting Graduate Student 2025–2026
With full tuition grant to enroll in graduate courses (see Fellowships & Awards)

Sorbonne Université, **MPhil**, 2023–2025
Mention très bien (highest honors)
Spécialité : Philosophie des sciences, de la connaissance et de l'esprit

Oberlin College, **BA**, French and Philosophy, Honors in Philosophy 2020–2023

Papers

2. **Lee-Sursin, J.** (2026) "Panpsychism and the Individuation Problem: Comments on Taofeek" *Southwest Philosophy Review*, 42 (2): 89-96.
https://doi.org/10.5840/swphilreview202642247

1. **Lee-Sursin, J.** and Ryoo, H.J. (2026) "A Regress Argument Concerning Autonomous Self-Correction in AI Agents" [Preprint]
https://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/id/eprint/30629

Under Review (Manuscripts are available upon request)

- "Is Acquaintance a *Sui Generis* Epistemic Relation?"
A draft of this paper was awarded the *Indiana Philosophical Association 2025 Graduate Paper Prize*
- "Perception and Mode-Dependent Content in Fashion"
A draft of this paper was awarded an *Honorarium* by the Institut Français de la Mode
- "Towards a Cognitive Model of Informativeness"
- "From Complementarity to Explanation" (with Hong Joo Ryoo)

[1] Grades in France are assigned on a scale from 0–20. An average of 10 is passing, 12 awards honors (*mention assez bien*), 14 awards high honors (*mention bien*), and 16 awards highest honors (*mention très bien*).

Talks (* = abstract refereed ** = paper refereed †= invited)

Where multiple venues are listed under one entry, the title shown is the most recent; earlier presentations may have appeared under a different title.

12. New work on why-questions, title TBD

    American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting ** (Boston, MA, Jan 2027)
    Papers in Progress Workshop

11. "A Truthmaker Semantics for Constraint-Based Explanation"

    Illinois Philosophical Association Annual Meeting ** (Normal, IL, Oct 2026)

10. "Is Acquaintance a *Sui Generis* Epistemic Relation?"

    Southwest Philosophical Society Annual Meeting ** (El Paso, TX, Nov 2026)
    Indiana Philosophical Association Annual Meeting ** (Bloomington, IN, Nov 2025)
    CREPH: MIND Conference, University of Liège * (Belgium, Oct 2025)

9. "A Regress Argument Concerning Autonomous Self-Correction in AI Agents"
   (with Hong Joo Ryoo)

    SOPhiA * (Salzburg, Austria, Sep 2026)

8. "Presentism Precludes Explanation"

    European Congress of Analytic Philosophy ** (Madrid, Spain, Aug 2026)
    American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting * (Chicago, IL, Feb 2026)
    Philosophy of Time Society, Affiliated Group Session

7. "Curb Your (Brain-Model Alignment) Enthusiasm"
   (with Arnold Fleishman)

    European Congress of Analytic Philosophy * (Madrid, Spain, Aug 2026)

6. "A Semantic Argument Against Radical Cognitivism"

    Joint Session of the Aristotelian and Mind Societies ** (Reading, UK, July 2026)
    University of Florida Graduate Philosophy Conference ** (Gainesville, FL, Apr 2026)

5. "Answering Why-Questions"

    Swedish Congress of Philosophy * (Stockholm, Sweden, June 2026)
    Semantics Lab, Dept. of Cognitive Science, JHU † (Baltimore, MD, Apr 2026)
    American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting * (Baltimore, MD, Jan 2026)
    Society for Philosophy of Causation, Affiliated Group Session
    Illinois Philosophical Association Annual Meeting ** (Charleston, IL, Nov 2025)
    University of Toronto Graduate Conference ** (Toronto, Canada, Oct 2025)

4. "Towards an Explanatory Cognitive Model for Blackwell Informativeness"

    International Conference on Model-Based Reasoning * (Rome, Italy, June 2026)

3. "On Fashion's Perceptual Content"

    European Society for Aesthetics ** (Jyväskylä, Finland, June 2026)
    American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division Meeting ** (Philadelphia, PA, Apr 2026)
    Symposium, Institut Français de la Mode ** (Paris, France, Nov 2025)

2. "Do AI Agents Meet the Epistemic Norms for Explanation?"

   Inaugural Humanities of AI Workshop, JHU * (Baltimore, MD, Apr 2026)
   International Ontology Congress * (Donostia, Basque Country, Oct 2025)

1. "Composition and Metalinguistic Negotiation"

   Talk for philosophy majors and faculty, Oberlin College † (Oberlin, OH, Nov 2025)
   SOPhiA ** (Salzburg, Austria, Sep 2025)
   Joint Session of the Aristotelian and Mind Societies ** (Glasgow, Scotland, July 2025)
   Salvador Mascarenhas Lab Meeting, Institut Jean Nicod † (Paris, France, May 2025)

Comments †

- Rachel Cripps, "The 'Alignment' Problem"
  American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting (Denver, CO, Feb 2027)
- Jiusi Guo, "Knowledge, Inquiry, and Taking Epistemic Logic Seriously"
  Illinois Philosophical Association Annual Meeting (Normal, IL, Oct 2026)
- Jon Joey Telebrico, "Epistemic Debt and Responsibility"
  Inaugural Humanities of AI Workshop, JHU (Baltimore, MD, Apr 2026)
- Adekunle Taofeek, "The Individuation Problem for Plant Souls in Panpsychist Ontology"
  Southwest Philosophical Society Annual Meeting (Savannah, GA, Nov 2025)
- Patrick Skeels, "There can be no Dispute"
  Illinois Philosophical Association Annual Meeting (Charleston, IL, Nov 2025)

Fellowships & Awards (Selected)

9. **Research Fellowship**, Johns Hopkins University ($12,000) 2025–2026
   Fellowship stipend to conduct research as a Visiting Scholar

8. **Tuition Subsidy**, Johns Hopkins University ($66,670) 2025–2026
   Full subsidy to take any course(s) as a visiting graduate student

7. **Honorarium**, Institut Français de la Mode (€1,600) Nov 2025
   Award for paper presentation at the Fashion and Language Symposium

6. **Graduate Paper Prize** ($100) Oct 2025
   Indiana Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, best paper by a grad student

5. **Bursary**, CREPH ARC research project: MIND (€500) Aug 2025
   Funding for presentation at the University of Liège

4. **Travel Grant**, Sorbonne Philosophy Department (€500) May 2025
   Funding for 2025 Joint Session presentation in Glasgow

3. **Paul W. Wurzburger Prize in French** ($1,000) May 2023
   Concours de la Maison Française de Cleveland, affiliated with the Alliance Française

2. **Prix Lahaurine-Johnston** ($1,000) May 2022
   Annual prize for investment in Oberlin's Maison Française

1. **John F. Oberlin Merit Scholarship** ($30,000 total) 2020–2023
   Merit scholarship, renewed for all three years I was at Oberlin

Teaching

Oberlin College 2021–2023

- Sole Grader and Tutor, Deductive Logic
- Tutor: Philosophy, French, Math, CS, Latin, Econ
- Sole Resident Assistant, Maison Française (2022–2023)
- TA (weekly session as sole instructor), Intermediate French (Spring 2021)

US Military / Rochester Institute of Technology Summer 2021

- Sole instructor: Robotics, CS, and Biochem courses for the Army Educational Outreach Program

Empirical Research

Michigan State University, Arnosti Lab Summer 2019

- Investigated modified retinoblastoma (Rbf) gene in Drosophila using dCas9 chimeras

Florida State University, Arbeitman Lab Summer 2018

- Tasked with CRISPR & U6-gRNA cloning, Drosophila cortex dissection, and gel electrophoresis

National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Condensed Matter Lab 2015–2017
(under the supervision of Johan van Tol)

- Designed a millimeter wave resonator. When measuring polymers (e.g., polysterene), intensity increased by a factor of 8 and pulselengths decreased by a factor of 3-4 (compared to measurements without the resonator).
- Designed and built miniature solar-powered vehicle using CAD and soldering

Service & Affiliations

Referee: NeurIPS (Neural Information Processing Systems), 2026 Workshop on Interpreting Agent Behavior

Member: American Philosophical Association (Eastern), American Society for Aesthetics, Aristotelian Society, European Society for Aesthetics, European Society for Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Time Society, Society for Philosophy of Causation, Southwestern Philosophical Society

Board Member: Youth Advisory Board, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (2021–2023)

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

References are available upon request.