

## Joel Parthemore

Stallebergsvägen 8, 43082 Donsö, Sweden  
[joel.parthemore@his.se](mailto:joel.parthemore@his.se)  
+46.702 723 849

**Nationality:** dual US/Swedish national

**Guest researcher** at the University of Skövde, Sweden (2016-present).

**Engaging lecturer and active researcher** with over eight years' experience in classroom teaching (7 courses), online teaching (2 courses), bachelor's thesis supervision (18), bachelor's thesis examination (20), master's thesis supervision (18), and master's thesis examination (20). I have 12 articles in peer-reviewed journals, contributed chapters to five books, and helped edit one volume. My most-read paper on Research Gate has over 7,000 reads, and I have near 10,000 reads there in all.

**Doctoral thesis:** Concepts enacted: Confronting the Obstacles and paradoxes inherent in pursuing a scientific understanding of the building blocks of human thought.  
[http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/6954/1/Parthemore%2C\\_Joel.pdf](http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/6954/1/Parthemore%2C_Joel.pdf) (Theories of concepts and conceptual agency in light of Peter Gärdenfors' Conceptual Spaces Theory of concepts.)

**AOS:** philosophy of cognitive neuroscience / cognitive science, ethics of technology.

**AOC:** machine ethics, moral philosophy, logic, philosophy of language, artificial intelligence, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, communication, consciousness studies.

## Research interests

- Non-reductive theories of consciousness and mind.
- Machine ethics, "artificial" ethics, artefactual moral agency, machine consciousness, free will.
- Theories of concepts, esp. prototype-based theories; relationship between conceptual agency and language, conceptual agency and moral agency, concepts and consciousness; limits of human cognition.
- Enactive tradition; Extended Mind Hypothesis; relation between embodiment, situatedness, and cognition.
- Metaphor in relation to thought ("conceptual metaphor") and language and in relation to so-called "literal" meaning.

## Recent publications

**Citations: 284    h-index: 8    i10-index: 8    (Google Scholar)**

Parthemore, J. (2020, *in press*). Establishing communication by common conceptual agency: No natural kinds, just "sufficient" overlap of frameworks. In Vakoch, D. (ed.), *Cognition and Communication in Extraterrestrial Intelligence*.

Parthemore, J. (2020). Will the real artist stand up? Computational creativity as mirror to the human soul. *Proceedings of the 2020 AISB Convention, Symposium on Computational Creativity*, London, UK.

Parthemore, J. (2019). On the essentially dynamic nature of concepts. In M. Kaipainen, A. Hautamäki, P. Gärdenfors & F. Zenker (eds.) *Conceptual Spaces: Elaborations and Applications*. Springer.

Parthemore, J. (2017). Consciousness, semiosis, and the unbinding problem. *Language & Communication*. **54**: 36-46.

Parthemore, J. (2016). A cognitive semiotic perspective on the nature and limitations of concepts and conceptual frameworks. In Zlatev, J., Sonesson, G. & Konderak, P. (eds.), *Meaning, Mind, and Communication: Explorations in Cognitive Semiotics*, Peter Laing.

Parthemore, J. (2015). Specification of the unified conceptual space, for purposes of empirical investigation. In Zenker, F. & Gärdenfors, P. (eds.), *Applications of Conceptual Spaces* (223-244). Springer.

Parthemore, J. (2014). The case for protoconcepts: Why concepts, language, and protolanguage all need protoconcepts. *Theoria et Historia Scientiarum*. **11**: 159-178.

Parthemore, J. (2014). Conceptual change and development on multiple time scales: From incremental evolution to origins. *Sign Systems Studies*: **42**(2-3): 193-217.

Parthemore, J. & Whitby, B. (2014). Moral agency, moral responsibility, and artifacts: What existing artifacts fail to achieve (and why) and why they, nevertheless, can (and do!) make moral claims upon us. *International Journal of Machine Consciousness*. **6**(2): 141-161, OI: 10.1142/S1793843014400162.

## Current employment

### English instructor

Dec. 2018 – present

### SayABC

online: <http://www.sayabc.com>

Students are Chinese children aged 4-13 at all levels of English ability, 80% at an introductory or lower level and 20% at an advanced level. Commended by parents for clarity of instruction, use of props, and patience.

## Academic employment

### Managing editor

March 2020 – present (part-time)

### Journal of Intercultural Communication

online: <http://immi.se/intercultural>

In charge of final proofreading and formatting of papers for open-access publication in PDF and HTML format. Tasked with maintaining journal website. Editor-in-chief is **Jens Allwood**: [jens.allwood@ait.gu.se](mailto:jens.allwood@ait.gu.se). Meanwhile, I am an active reviewer for a number of other journals, including *Philosophical Psychology*, *Transactions on Affective Computing* and *Philosophies*. I proofread academic philosophical texts for additional income.

### Technology instructor

Aug. 2019 – Feb. 2020

### Amerikanska gymnasiet

Gothenburg, Sweden

Responsible for 31 students in the technology stream studying Web Development I and Computer and Network Technology. Subject areas include HTML, CSS, JavaScript, web server installation, Raspberry Pi computer projects, hardware and software installation, maintenance and troubleshooting.

### Supervisor in cognitive neuroscience

Jan. – Sept. 2019 (ongoing, as needed)

### Dept. of Cognitive Neuroscience

University of Skövde, Sweden

Most recently, supervisor to eleven undergraduate theses (ten in the spring of 2019, one in the autumn) and examiner till eight (five in May 2019, three in August). Employment continues on an as-needed basis. Department chair **Sakari Kallio**: [sakari.kallio@his.se](mailto:sakari.kallio@his.se).

### Researcher in philosophy and ethics

Aug. – Dec. 2017

### Dept. of Industrial Engineering and Innovation Sciences

University of Technology, Eindhoven, NL

Collaborated with and supervised by Drs. **Sven Nyholm** ([S.R.Nyholm@tue.nl](mailto:S.R.Nyholm@tue.nl)), **Elizabeth O'Neill** ([erh.oneill@gmail.com](mailto:erh.oneill@gmail.com)), and **Katleen Gabriels** ([k.Gabriels@tue.nl](mailto:k.Gabriels@tue.nl)). Employed as a distance worker, 80% full-time.

- Conducted research (through regular Skype sessions) with all three researchers on issues relating to ethics of technology and the possibilities for artefactual agency.
- Assisted all three researchers with preparing funding applications and submitted one of my own, to the Dutch research council, for empirical investigations into the nature of moral agency as a subcategory of conceptual agency.
- Commented on and proofread papers for one of the researchers (Katleen Gabriels).
- Organized a symposium on artefactual moral agency for the then upcoming April 2018 conference of the UK-based Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and the Simulation of Behaviour (AISB).
- Active reviewer for leading academic journals.

### Lecturer in philosophy

Aug. 2012 – Jan. 2013, Aug. 2013 – Jul. 2016

### Dept. of Cognitive Neuroscience

University of Skövde, Sweden

Head of department **Dr. Sakari Kallio** ([sakari.kallio@his.se](mailto:sakari.kallio@his.se)), assistant head **Dr. Daniel Broman** ([dbo@du.se](mailto:dbo@du.se)). Employment percentage varied between 20% and 100%, depending on semester. During my last period of regular employment with the department (Spring 2016) I taught an advanced undergraduate course on *Theories of consciousness* and supervised theses for five undergraduates and two master's students. Over the period 2012-2016, I taught:

- *Consciousness and the brain (I and II)*, an undergraduate distance-education course on philosophy of consciousness as replacement for the senior philosophy lecturer, **Dr. Paavo Pykkanen** ([paavo.pykkanen@his.se](mailto:paavo.pykkanen@his.se)).
- *Philosophy of science*, introductory undergraduate course.
- *Moral philosophy*, mid-level undergraduate course.
- *Theories of consciousness*, mid-level undergraduate course.

- *States of consciousness and their neural basis*, master's course.
- *Contemporary philosophy*, late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> Century analytic vs. Continental philosophy, advanced undergraduate.
- *Logic and philosophy of language*, advanced undergraduate course.
- *Research methods in philosophy*, methodology and metaphysics, advanced undergraduate course.

## Senior lecturer in communications

Feb./Mar. – Jun. 2016/2015/2014

Supervised total of fifteen master's students on their thesis work in communication studies and assisted with the thesis examinations; served as occasional guest lecturer. Employed approximately 20% full time on a seasonal basis.

## Department of Applied IT

University of Gothenburg, Sweden

## Postdoctoral researcher

Jan. 2011 – Dec. 2014

## Centre for Cognitive Semiotics

Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Supervisors **Dr. Göran Sonesson** ([Goran.Sonesson@semiotik.lu.se](mailto:Goran.Sonesson@semiotik.lu.se)) and **Dr. Jordan Zlatev** ([Jordan.Zlatev@ling.lu.se](mailto:Jordan.Zlatev@ling.lu.se)), directors of the Centre for Cognitive Semiotics (<http://project.sol.lu.se/en/ccs/>), a five-year interdisciplinary program 2009-2014 funded by Sweden's central bank, bringing together semioticians, linguists, psychologists, and philosophers. Position involved research into conceptual development as it can usefully be distinguished from linguistic development; contributions to empirical studies in cognitive evolution; discussions on the relationship of (and continuities/discontinuities between) human and non-human animal cognition; and various administrative tasks including organizing the group's seminar series and managing their web pages. I was one of the most highly published members of the group. I was employed mostly at 75% full time.

I organized three successful symposia on enactive philosophy and mental health for the annual conference of the UK-based Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness and the Simulation of Behaviour (AISB). I was an active participant in the EU Cognition network of researchers (<http://www.eucognition.org>) from 2008 onward. From July 2011 through December 2013 I served as managing editor of the *Journal of Cognitive Semiotics*, editing and desktop publishing three back issues that had been waiting for production.

## Doctoral studies

### Visiting research student

Aug. 2009 – Dec. 2010

### Philosophy Department

Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Writing-up year spent in Lund at the invitation of **Prof. Peter Gärdenfors** ([peter.gardenfors@lucs.lu.se](mailto:peter.gardenfors@lucs.lu.se)), whose *Conceptual Spaces Theory* of concepts provided much of the foundation for my doctoral thesis and the inspiration for my own *Unified Conceptual Space Theory*. Twice invited (paid) guest lecturer for the cognitive science seminar series at the University of Gothenburg and twice for a cognitive psychology course in Skövde. Occasional speaker for the department's higher seminar in theoretical philosophy and the department's cognitive science seminar.

From April-June 2008 and from October 2008 to August 2009 I was a visiting doctoral student at the University of Skövde, initially on funding from EU Cognition, working on a project with post-doctoral researcher **Dr. Anthony Morse** ([anthony.morse@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:anthony.morse@plymouth.ac.uk)). That collaboration resulted in a 2010 article in *Pragmatics & Cognition*.

### Doctoral candidate, cognitive science

Oct. 2005 – Sept. 2010

### School of Informatics

University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

Supervisor **Dr. Blay Whitby** ([blayw@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:blayw@sussex.ac.uk)). Organized various seminar series including the prestigious Centre for Research in Cognitive Science (COGS) seminars from October 2008 through June 2009 and the research group's own E-Intentionality seminar series from October 2006 through June 2008.

Employed as IT support person by the university; as a residential counsellor; and as associate tutor in the School of Informatics, with strong positive evaluations from my students and personal commendation from the head of department, **Dr. John Carroll** ([J.A.Carroll@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:J.A.Carroll@sussex.ac.uk)). Employed on short-term research assistantship for Autumn 2006 by **Dr. Ron Chrisley** ([ronc@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:ronc@sussex.ac.uk)), programming an AIBO robot as part of the SEER-3 robotic platform exploring the non-conceptual content of visual experience. My first-ever C++ program, the control software was a complex and substantial project. I passed my viva in March 2011 with minor corrections.

## Prior employment

### IT support specialist

Mar. 2002 – Aug. 2005

### Overseas Technical Support

US Peace Corps, Washington, DC

One of a 12-person team based at Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, providing second-tier support to IT specialists at operations in 75 countries and directing the transition from a Macintosh to an MS Windows architecture,

then from NT/Win2000 to 2003Server/XP. Work involved frequent travel to overseas posts (40%), preparing them for the transition, installing the new equipment, troubleshooting any problems with the network and providing training.

While in Washington, I wrote IT training materials, assisted in delivering trainings, and ran the testing network. Received a salary bonus in my final year in recognition for outstanding performance.

## Maths teacher / IT instructor

Jun. 1997 – Aug. 2001

## Wenchi Secondary School

Peace Corps Ghana, Wenchi, Ghana

Taught mathematics to UK A-level standard for regular and advanced students. Desktop-published a mathematics textbook written by Peace Corps volunteers, to which I contributed approximately one third of the contents at the same time as doing all of the layout.

Starting with one computer in my living room, built an educational and public-use computer facility from the ground up, still in operation as of 2019, with one of my former students in charge of the lab. Wrote grant proposals and received two major grants. Installed Ethernet LAN, training unskilled students in network installation. Taught computer literacy to over 300 students per term and organized email penpal exchanges with US schools. Directed procurements and maintained financial records for the facility, including all accounting.

## Previous education

### MSc knowledge-based systems

Sept. 1990

### Cognitive & Computing Sciences

University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

Coursework in theory of artificial intelligence (AI), AI computer programming, linguistics, natural-language processing, knowledge representation, and graphics. Completed in top third of group of thirty. Supervisor Dr. Mike Sharples.

Subsequently employed as a researcher at the University of Manchester, UK, on a project in computer-aided personal interviewing.

### BSc journalism

Jun. 1986

### Medill School of Journalism

Northwestern University, Chicago

Program included newspaper internship in Bellingham, Washington, and Junior Year Abroad spent studying computers and artificial intelligence at University of Sussex, UK. GPA (grade-point average) 3.66 out of 4.00.

## Other skills

My mother tongue is English. I speak and write Swedish at an advanced level. I have lectured in Swedish, and approximately a third of the student work I have examined has been in Swedish. I have a working knowledge of German.

I am a freelance proofreader and copy editor with specialization in academic philosophical texts.

I am a skilled IT technician and trainer with the rare ability to write both good programming code and technical documentation.

## Interests

I enjoy bicycle touring and backpacking. I hiked the US-based Appalachian Trail (3,500 kilometres) in 1994, the International Appalachian Trail (1,200 kilometres) in 2004, and (most recently) the *Kungsleden* ("King's Trail") in northern Sweden (July 2016, July 2019). I cycled from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Newark, Maryland the summer of 2018; from northern Norway to southern Sweden the summer of 2011; and along the *Inlandsvägen* in 2012. I read and occasionally write science fiction. I have worked on Linux systems for the fun of it for 22 years, with a particular interest in the Gentoo and Fedora distributions and building custom kernels. I avidly follow politics.

## References

- Daniel Broman ([dbo@du.se](mailto:dbo@du.se)), department chair, Department of Educational Sciences, University of Dalarna, 79188 Falun, Sweden +46 23 77 85 80.
- Peter Gärdenfors ([peter.gardenfors@lucs.lu.se](mailto:peter.gardenfors@lucs.lu.se)), professor emeritus, Department of Philosophy, Lund University, Box 192, 22100 Lund, Sweden, +46 46 222 4817, +46 70 914 6246.
- Blay Whitby ([B.R.Whitby@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:B.R.Whitby@sussex.ac.uk)), lecturer, School of Engineering and Informatics, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RH, UK, +44 1273 678386.
- Jordan Zlatev ([jordan.zlatev@semiotik.lu.se](mailto:jordan.zlatev@semiotik.lu.se)), professor of cognitive semiotics, Department of Languages and Literature, Box 201, 22100 Lund, Sweden, +46 46 222 84 41.
- Jens Allwood ([jeall@chalmers.se](mailto:jeall@chalmers.se), [jens@allwood.se](mailto:jens@allwood.se)), professor of linguistics, Department of Applied Information Technology, University of Gothenburg, 41756 Göteborg, Sweden, +46 31 786 18 76.