

# TIINA CARITA ROSENQVIST

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### CONTACT

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### RESEARCH

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**AOS:** Philosophy of Psychology and Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Perception, Philosophy of Mind, Color Vision, Pain

**AOC:** Epistemology, Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy, Cross-Cultural Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Animal Minds

### APPOINTMENTS

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**Dartmouth College**, NH, USA.

— Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows.

7/2023-

— Lecturer, Department of Philosophy.

7/2024-

**University of Pennsylvania**, PA, USA.

— Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy.

F 2022

— Benjamin Franklin Fellow, Department of Philosophy.

9/2017-6/2022

### DEGREES

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**PhD | Philosophy**, University of Pennsylvania, USA.

2023

Dissertation title: *Color, Competence, and Correctness*

Dissertation Advisor: Gary Hatfield

**MA | Philosophy**, University of Tampere, Finland.

2011

Thesis advisor: Leila Haaparanta | Overall grade: *Excellent*

**BSc | Philosophy**, University of Tampere, Finland

2008

Thesis advisor: Sami Pihlström | Overall grade: *Excellent*

### CERTIFICATES AND OTHER EDUCATION

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— *Graduate Certificate in Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience*,

2020

Center for Neuroscience and Society (CNS), University of Pennsylvania.

— *Certificate in College and University Teaching*,

2020

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), University of Pennsylvania.

— Tibetan Language & Buddhist Philosophy (full-time),

2014-2017

Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA) Center for Tibetan Studies, India.

— Asian Studies (six graduate courses, part-time),

2012-2016

Finnish University Network for Asian Studies, Finland.

### PUBLICATIONS (✧ Peer-reviewed)

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#### *Journal Articles*

[J1] "Seeing *with* color: Psychophysics and the function of color vision." *Synthese* 202, 20 (2023).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-023-04226-y> ✧

### Book Chapters

- [C2] "The Pain System is Not a Bodily Disturbance Detector" in Cuevas-Badallo, A., Martín-Villuendas, M., Gefaell, J. (Eds), *Life and Mind: Theoretical and Applied Issues in Contemporary Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Sciences*. Springer, Cham (**forthcoming**). ✦
- [C1] "Color and Competence: A New View of Color Perception" (pp. 73-103) in Viejo, J.M., Sanjuán, M. (Eds), *Life and Mind: New Directions on the Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Sciences*. Springer, Cham (**2023**). [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-30304-3\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-30304-3_5) ✦

### Public / Accessible Philosophy

- [P1] "Philosophy of Color," *1000-Word Philosophy* (**2023**). <https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2023/10/26/philosophy-of-color/> ✦

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- [\*] "Perceptual Competences and the Primary/Secondary Quality Distinction" (*in draft*)
- [\*] "Pain and Color Perception: A Unified, Agent-Centered Account" (*in draft*)
- [\*] "Philosophy of Color: A Novel Typology" (*in draft*)
- [\*] "Pain and Cognitive Penetration: Insights from Neuroscience" (*in preparation*)
- [\*] "Credibility Deficits in Testimonial Exchanges Surrounding Medically Unexplained Chronic Pain" (*in preparation*)
- [\*] "What Perceptual Agreement Does and Doesn't Show" (*in preparation*)

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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### Fellowships and Major Awards

- Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth College. 2023–2026
- The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) Fellowship. \$20,000 (awarded, declined). 2023–2024
- Kone Foundation Research Grant, Finland. €30,000 (selective, ~ 5% success rate). 2022–2023
- Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania. 5 years of full PhD funding. 2017–2022

### Small Grants and Awards (Selected)

- Teaching Professional Development Grant, Dartmouth. \$1,000. 2024
- Philosophy Department Travel Grant, Penn. \$2,857 total. 2022 (x 2), 2023
- SAS Dean's Travel Subvention, Penn. \$1,000 total. 2022, 2023
- GAPSA Research Student Travel Grant, Penn. \$1,600 total. 2022 (x 2)
- SASGov Small Grant, Penn. \$400. 2022

### Event Support Grants (Selected)

- The Leslie Center for the Humanities Event Support Award, Dartmouth. \$1,000. 2024
- Society of Fellows Venture Fund Award (with Robert Weiner), Dartmouth. \$6,060. 2024
- MindCORE Activity Fund Award (with Sara Purinton). \$1,200. 2023
- GAPSA Conference Grant (with MAP-Penn). \$1,500. 2023
- Perry World House International Visitors Program Award (with MAP-Penn). \$850. 2023
- Wolf Humanities Center Conference Grant (with MAP-Penn). \$1,000 total. 2022, 2023
- SASGov Conference Grant (with MAP-Penn). \$4,400. 2021, 2022, 2023
- The Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium Grant (with MAP-Penn). \$2,000. 2022
- Marc Sanders Foundation Grant (with MAP-Penn). \$300. 2021

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (✧ Refereed | ✨ Invited)**


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*Talks and Paper Presentations*
**“Pain and Color Perception: A Unified, Agent-centered Account”**

[T20] *Canadian Philosophical Association (ACPA) Annual Conference*, Montréal, Canada, 6/2024  
with comments from Louise Daoust. ✧

[T19] *Midsouth Philosophy Conference (MPC)*, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, USA, 4/2024  
with comments from Kari Theurer. ✧

**“Seeing with Color: Psychophysics and the Function of Color Vision”**

[T18] *phiVis: Philosophy of Vision Science Workshop*, Annual Meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Florida, US. ✨ 5/2024

**“Pain, Color, and Agent-Centered Perception”**

[T17] *Color and Pain Workshop*, Dartmouth, NH, US. ✨ 4/2024

**“Perceptual Competences and the Primary/Secondary Quality Distinction”**

[T16] *Kinds of Consciousness Webconference*, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA 2/2024  
(delivered virtually). ✧

[T15] *International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (ISPSM) Webconference* (delivered virtually). ✧ 11/2023

[T14] *Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) Annual Conference*, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. ✧ 6/2023

**“Pain, Its Function, and Why It Matters”**

[T13] *Cognitive Science Fall Speaker Series*, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA. ✨ 10/2023

**“Pain is not a Bodily Disturbance Detector”**

[T12] *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP) Annual Conference*, Louisville, KY, USA, with comments from Gabriel Siegel. ✧ 3/2023

[T11] *Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Sciences (PBCS) XI*, University of Salamanca-ECyT, Spain. ✧ 11/2022

**“Seeing with Color: Insights from Psychophysics”**

[T10] *The 3rd Context, Cognition, and Communication (CCC) Conference: Varieties of Meaning and Content*, University of Warsaw, Poland. ✧ 9/2022

[T9] *The 3rd Joint Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) and the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP)*, University of Milan, Italy. ✧ 7/2022

[T8] *Language, Culture and Mind (LCM) 9: Sensory Experience and Communication*, University of Almería, Spain. ✧ 7/2022

**“Color and Competence: A New View of Color Perception”**

[T6] *Primary and Secondary Qualities Reading/Research Group*, University of California, Irvine, USA (delivered virtually). 7/2021

**“What (on Earth) Are Color Visual Systems Doing?”**

[T7] *Virtual Vision Futures*, York University, Toronto, Canada (delivered virtually). ✧ 6/2021

**“Color Illusions and the ‘Competence-Embeddedness’ of Color Vision.”**

[T5] *Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Sciences (PBCS) X*, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain (delivered virtually). ✧ 5/2021

[T4] *Philosophy in the Wild Workshop*, Philadelphia, USA. 8/2020

[T3] *15th Annual West Chester Philosophy Graduate Conference: Philosophy of Mind*, West Chester University, USA (cancelled due to COVID-19). ✧ 4/2020

**“Seeing with Color: Lessons from Visual Ecology, Psychophysics and Neuroscience”**

[T2] *Philosophy Graduate Student Colloquium Series*, Penn (delivered virtually). 12/2020

**“Philosophy of Color: Lessons from Neuroscience?”**

[T1] *6th Annual Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (SCAN) Retreat*, Penn. ✨ 2/2020

### Comments

- On Rachel Rudolph's "Engineering Conceptual Prototypes"**  
 [C2] *Midsouth Philosophy Conference (MPC)*, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, USA. ❖ 4/2024
- On Christopher Masciari's "Contingent Perceptual Experience"**  
 [C1] *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP) Annual Conference*,  
 Mobile, USA. ❖ 4/2022

### Posters

- "PHILSKILLS: A Skill-Based Approach to Teaching Philosophy"**  
 [P2] *Midsouth Philosophy Conference (MPC) Poster Session on Teaching Philosophy*, Rhodes  
 College, Memphis, USA. ✨ 4/2024
- "Perceptual Competences and the Primary/Secondary Quality Distinction"**  
 [P1] *2024 Postdoctoral Research Day*, Dartmouth, NH, USA. 3/2024

## TEACHING

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### Instructor of Record

- Philosophy and Visual Perception, Penn. F 2021, F 2022

### Teaching Assistant

- Visual Studies: Mind, Eye, and Image (two sections), Penn. SP 2019, SP 2022
- Philosophy of Science (grader), Penn. SP 2021
- Philosophy of Mind and Language: What is Meaning? (two sections), Penn. SP 2020
- Epistemology (two sections), Penn. F 2019
- Logic & Formal Reasoning (two sections), Penn. F 2018

### Guest Lecturer

- "Color, Thinking, Looking" (x2), *How to Look* (Instructor: J. W. Barger), Dartmouth. W 2024
- "The Function of Pain," *Cognitive Science Major Seminar* (Instructor: J. Phillips), Dartmouth. F 2023
- "Looking at/ with Color" (x 2), *How to Look* (Instructor: J. W. Barger), Dartmouth. F 2023
- "Millikan and the Myth of the Essential Indexical," *Philosophy of Mind and Language* (Instructor: L. Titus), Penn. SP 2020
- "Chirimuuta on Color," *Philosophy of Mind and Language* (Instructor: L. Titus), Penn. SP 2020

### Other

- Workshop Facilitator, Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Penn. SU 2022
- Mentor, *Step-Ahead Mentorship Program (STAMP)*, MindCORE, Penn. 2020–2021
- TA Trainer, Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Penn. SU 2021
- Philosophy Tutor, Philosophy Department, Penn. SP 2021

## SERVICE

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- Leaf Editor, *PhilPapers* 2024–
- Occasional Reviewer, Various 2023–
- Co-organizer (with Robert Weiner), *Diné Philosophies: A Discussion with Richard M. Begay '87 and Vangee Nez, PhD* 2/2024
- Chapter Representative, *Minorities and Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania* 2019–2023
- Co-organizer, *MAP-Penn Conference on Climate Justice* 4/2023
- Co-organizer (with Sara Purinton), *MAP-Penn Visiting Speaker Series: Dr. Polaris Koi* 4/2023
- Graduate Representative to the Philosophy Department, Penn. 2021–2022
- Graduate Wellness Representative to the Philosophy Department, Penn. 2020–2022

- Co-organizer (with Sara Purinton), *Penn Philosophy Teaching Workshop on Disability Inclusion and Accessibility* 8/2022
- Co-organizer, *MAP-Penn Summer Colloquium on Philosophy of Disability and Illness* 8/2022
- Co-organizer, *MAP-Penn Conference on Philosophy of Disability and Illness* 4/2022
- Organizational Consultant and Website Creator, *6th Latinx Philosophy Conference*, Temple University 3/2022
- Organizer, *Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science Research Group*, Penn F 2021
- Co-organizer (with Sara Purinton), *Philosophy of Pain Reading Group*, Penn SP 2021
- Co-organizer, *MAP-Penn Conference on Philosophy of Race* 11/2020
- Co-organizer (with Deven M. Patel and Ben Baker), *Indian Philosophy Reading Group*, Penn SP 2019
- Co-organizer (with Yosef Washington), *Philosophy & Film Series*, Penn 2017–2019
- Office Hour Coordinator, Philosophy Department, Penn 2018–2019

## AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

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- Member, *American Philosophical Association (APA)*. 2020–present
- Member, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP)*. 2022–present
- Member, *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP)*. 2022–2023
- Member, *Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP)*. 2023–present
- Member, *Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA)*. 2023–present
- Member, *Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)*. 2023–present
- Member, *International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (ISPSM)* 2023–present
- Member, *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*. 2024–present
- Member, *The New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS)* 2024–present
- Graduate Student Associate, *MindCORE*, Penn. 2019–2023
- Member, *Minorities and Philosophy at University of Pennsylvania (MAP-Penn)*. 2017–2023
- Member, *Philosophy of Psychology Reading Group*, Penn. 2021–2022
- Member, *MIRA (Mind-like Intelligence, Research, and Analysis) Group*, Penn. 2017–2021
- Member, *History and Philosophy of Science Group*, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine. 2021
- Member, *Primary and Secondary Qualities Reading Group*, University of California, Irvine. SP/SU 2021

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

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### *Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania* (\* = audited), GPA 4.0 / 4.0

- Philosophy of Race (Quayshawn Spencer).\* SP 2022
- Philosophy of Science (Quayshawn Spencer).\* SP 2021
- Philosophy of Psychology (Gary Hatfield).\* F 2020
- Philosophy of Psychology: Phenomenal Consciousness (Gary Hatfield). SP 2020
- Philosophy of Mind: the Mental and the Normative (Lisa Miracchi Titus). F 2019
- Philosophy of Psychology (Gary Hatfield)\* F 2019
- Topics in Epistemology: Normativity in Epistemology (Daniel Singer). SP 2019
- Philosophy of Psychology: Appearances from Descartes to Chisholm (Gary Hatfield). SP 2019
- Aristotle's Ethics (Susan Sauvé Meyer). F 2018
- Philosophy and Visual Perception (Gary Hatfield) F 2018
- Philosophy of Mind: Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (Lisa Miracchi Titus). SP 2018
- Political Authority and Political Obligation (Stephen Perry). SP 2018
- Philosophy of Language (Lisa Miracchi Titus). SP 2018
- Formal Logic I (Scott Weinstein). SP 2018
- Philosophy of Psychology: Mind in Nature (Gary Hatfield). F 2017
- Kant's Philosophy of Religion (Andrew Chignell). F 2017
- Proseminar (Quayshawn Spencer). F 2017

**Neuroscience, University of Pennsylvania, GPA 4.0 / 4.0**

- Contemporary Research Issues in Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (Martha Farah). SP 2020
- Neuroscience, Brain Development and Learning (Hilary Gerstein, PHIL 999). F 2019
- Foundations of Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience (Martha Farah). F 2018

For graduate courses completed at the University of Tampere and the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies, please ask to see transcripts.

**PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING**

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*Workshops, External*

- Plenary Workshop on Teaching Philosophy, MidSouth Philosophy Conference 4/2024
- CogTeacho Workshop, Cogtweeto and The American Association for Philosophy Teachers (AAPT), online. 8/2023

*Workshops, Dartmouth College*

- Making Student Thinking Visible (Majo Brito Paez) 4/2024
- Revising Syllabi for the Generative AI Generation (Elizabeth Losh, William & Mary) 4/2024
- Handling Difficult Conversations in the Classroom (Elizabeth Hayes Alvarez, Dartmouth). 1/2024
- Dartmouth Designs To Teach the Whole Student (Lillian Nave, Appalachian State). 12/2023
- Balancing Structure and Flexibility in Your Course (Carly Lesoski, Dartmouth). 8/2023

*Workshops, University of Pennsylvania*

- Inclusive & Equitable Teaching Mini Course (5 sessions) (Sebastian Dilones). SP 2023
- Designing for Disability: Pedagogical Practices That Support Disabled Folks (and Everyone Else) (Cait Kirby). 8/2022
- Inclusive Teaching Strategies: Supporting Students with Disabilities (Aaron Spector). 8/2022
- Mentor Training Workshop (Jamiella Brooks & Emily Elliot). 10/2020
- Effective Lecturing (Daniel Singer). 4/2019
- Wellness Advising in Difficult Spaces (Lisa Miracchi Titus). 3/2019
- Using Office Hours Effectively (Errol Lord). 11/2018
- Designing and Teaching an Online Course (Susan Sauvé Meyer). 11/2018
- Teaching Philosophy to Pre-College Students (Karen Detlefsen). 10/2018
- Giving Effective Feedback (Sherelle Ferguson). 10/2018
- Teaching Outside Your Area of Expertise (Ava Creemers). 10/2018
- Teaching to Non-Majors (Phoebe Askelson). 10/2018
- Establishing Relationships with Students (Elizabeth Bynum). 10/2018
- Making Group Works Work (Dana Cypress). 9/2018
- TA Training. 8/2018

**NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)**

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- བོད་ཀྱི་འཕྲུལ་ལོ་རྒྱུ་རྒྱུ་རྒྱུ་ལྷན་ཁག་། *Tibetan Folktales* (with Nyima Dekyi). Dharamsala, India: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA). 2019

**LANGUAGES**

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Native: Finnish  
 Fluent: English  
 Reading: Swedish, French, Tibetan

## REFERENCES

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**Gary Hatfield**, Adam Seybert Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia PA 19104-6304  
[hatfield@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:hatfield@sas.upenn.edu)

**Lisa Miracchi Titus**, Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Denver  
Denver CO 80210  
[lisa.titus@du.edu](mailto:lisa.titus@du.edu)

**Quayshawn Spencer**, Robert S. Blank  
Presidential Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia PA 19104-6304  
[qspencer@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:qspencer@sas.upenn.edu)

**Elizabeth (Zab) Johnson**, Executive  
Director & Senior Fellow  
Wharton Neuroscience Initiative  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia PA 19104-6302  
[zabj@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:zabj@wharton.upenn.edu)

**Daniel Singer**, Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia PA 19104-6304  
[singerd@phil.upenn.edu](mailto:singerd@phil.upenn.edu)  
(*Teaching Reference*)

## DISSERTATION SUMMARY

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The mainstream view in contemporary analytic philosophy is that perception is primarily in the business of representing the mind-independent world as it is. My dissertation explores an alternative conception: that the goal of perception is to guide successful action and that perceptions do not need to track mind-independent properties to play this action-guiding role. I focus on two types of perception: color perception and pain perception. I start with the former and advocate a pragmatist, empirically-guided approach which begins by inquiring into the function of color vision. After arguing that none of the extant philosophical views of color are satisfactory, I answer the function question by focusing on systematic color perceptual phenomena investigated by psychophysicists. I argue that the human color visual system is an enhancement system: that is, its job is to help us better discriminate, track, and recognize meaningful objects, properties, and relations. I then build on this idea using the notion of ‘competence-embeddedness.’ I propose that color vision is embedded in a network of competences: the aim of color vision is to help organisms manifest these competences, and color experiences are correct when they result from competence-enhancing processing. The framework is explanatorily robust. For example, it allows me to conceptualize many textbook color illusions as special cases of successful color perception where the demands of the relevant competences clash. Finally, I use the notion of ‘competence-embeddedness’ to develop a new account of pain. I argue that the pain system is not a bodily disturbance detector, but a sophisticated, context-responsive security system whose primary goal is to help organisms manifest important behavioral and cognitive competences.

## DISSERTATION ABSTRACT (EXTENDED)

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The dissertation consists of five separate but interconnected chapters. The first chapter pertains to philosophical methodology. How should we first approach the problems of color? I compare two empirically-informed approaches: the intuition-led, empirically-refined approach and the empirically-guided approach. I argue that the first approach isn’t viable: intuitions aren’t reliable

guides to truths about color because they conflict in both intrapersonal and interpersonal contexts. I advocate the empirically-guided approach: I propose that we start with the question of the function of color vision and answer that question in light of the phenomena studied by vision scientists. What is the best explanation for those phenomena? Which conception of the function of color vision best accommodates the data? Once this question has been answered, we can work our way up to an epistemology of color perception and to a metaphysics of color in a genuinely empirically-grounded way.

In the second chapter, I provide a critical overview of the main positions in contemporary philosophy of color. I first discuss how philosophers have attempted to carve up the logical space of philosophy of color and I then propose an alternative typology which proceeds from epistemological and semantic considerations. I use this typology to draw attention to important commonalities masked by other typologies and to highlight some major problems that the views in each category face. I discuss theories in five broad groups: traditional views, radical error theories, hybrid views, radically relativist views, and radically pragmatist views. I argue that radical error theories operate within a severely restricted account of what real colors could be like, traditional views entail widespread color misperception, hybrid views cannot resolve the tension between usefulness and correspondence as standards of correctness, radically relativist views struggle to accommodate our intuitions about color misperception, and existing radically pragmatist views fail to provide a much-needed analysis of 'usefulness.'

In the third chapter, I inquire into the function of color vision. I focus on perceptual phenomena studied in psychophysics and argue that the best explanation for these phenomena is that the color visual system is a perceptual enhancement system. I first introduce two rival conceptions of the function of color vision: that color vision aims to detect/track and represent the fine-grained colors of distal objects and scenes (*Seeing Color*) and that it aims to help organisms discriminate, detect, track and/or recognize ecologically important objects, properties, and relations more directly (*Seeing with Color*). I then discuss two kinds of systematic perceptual phenomena investigated by psychophysicists: approximate color constancy and color induction. I argue from the premise that *Seeing with Color* better accommodates and explains these phenomena to the conclusion that it is the conception that an empirically-guided philosopher of color ought to adopt.

The fourth chapter builds on the *Seeing with Color* conception of the function of color vision. Here I have two main goals. The first is to sketch a new view of color perception, one that analyzes the notion of 'usefulness' in terms of 'competence-embeddedness.' The core of the view can be expressed in the following two theses: (i) the overarching *function* of color vision is to enable and enhance the manifestation of relevant (species-specific) competences and (ii) color experiences are *correct* when they result from processing that directly and non-accidentally subserves the manifestation of such competences. The second goal is to show that the view can accommodate and account for a wide variety of color perceptual phenomena, including many problem cases. Importantly, the framework allows us to differentiate between two kinds of good cases of color perception: *ideal* cases where the demands of the relevant competences converge and *non-ideal* cases where the demands of the relevant competences diverge and clash.

In the fifth chapter, I apply the empirically-guided approach and the framework of competences and competence-embeddedness to pain. A popular view in contemporary philosophy is that the pain system is a bodily disturbance detector: that the function of pain states is to track/detect and represent physical, mind-independent bodily disturbances and their mind-independent properties, and that the phenomenal character of (the sensory dimension of) pain experience supervenes on this representational content. The view can accommodate paradigmatic pain cases, *e.g.*, when pain follows from touching a hot stove. Once we consider more complex pain phenomena, however, it has seemingly little to offer. I discuss disassociation of bodily disturbances and pain experiences, interpersonal and intrapersonal variation in pain thresholds, the effects of repeated stimulation on experienced pain intensity, and the modulation of pain experience by contextual factors. I argue that these phenomena suggest that the pain system is a sophisticated security system, not a bodily disturbance detector.