

# Wouter A. Cohen

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*Areas of specialisation:* metaphysics, history of analytic philosophy

*Areas of competence:* logic, philosophy of language, philosophy of music

## Employment

- 2024–2026 Humboldt Research Fellow  
*MCMP, Ludwig Maximilian University Munich*
- 2023–2024 Postdoctoral Researcher (Analysis Studentship)  
*University of Manchester*

## Education

- 2019–2023 PhD Philosophy  
*Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge*
- Thesis *Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein on existence and negative existentials*  
Supervisors: Alex Oliver, Michael Potter  
Examiners: Richard Gaskin, Peter Sullivan
- 2018–2019 Logic Year  
*ILLC, University of Amsterdam*
- 2017–2018 MPhil Philosophy (distinction)  
*Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge*
- 2014–2017 BA Musicology (*cum laude*)  
*Utrecht University*
- 2013–2017 BA Philosophy (*cum laude*)  
*Utrecht University*

## Publications (year in square brackets is year of acceptance)

- forthcoming Carnapian neo-Fregeanism and the bad company objection.  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- forthcoming Frege's many existence concepts.  
In *Varieties of Being: Comparative Historical Essays*, ed. D. Rami (Springer).
- 2024 [2022] The audibility problem and indirect listening.  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 102: 147–158.
- 2023 Would Carnap have tolerated modern metaphysics?  
(with Benjamin Marschall)  
*The Monist* 106: 326–41.
- 2022 Denoting concepts and ontology in Russell's *Principles of Mathematics*.  
*Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy* 10(7): 1–22.

- 2021           Ways of being have no way of being useful.  
*Thought* 10: 293–301.
- 2017           Fictional realism and metaphysically indeterminate identity.  
*Analysis* 77: 511–19.

### **Presentations** (\* = refereed, † = invited)

- 2024\*           Bertrand Russell and the roots of higher-order existence.  
*Postgraduate Session at the 98<sup>th</sup> Joint Session (University of Birmingham)*
- 2024†           Intensions: Venn, Lewis, Russell  
*Evolution of Intension Workshop (University of Manchester)*
- 2024           How Carnapians show bad (and good) company the door.  
*Departmental Work-in-Progress Seminar (University of Manchester)*
- 2023           James Baldwin and the redirection of blame through forgiveness.  
*Departmental Work-in-Progress Seminar (University of Manchester)*
- 2023†           Russell’s existential struggles 1903–1919.  
*Higher-order Theories of Existence: From Kant to Ryle Workshop (Dortmund)*
- 2023\*           A note on existence and negative existentials in Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*.  
*44<sup>th</sup> International Wittgenstein Symposium 2023 (Kirchberg am Wechsel)*
- 2023\*           A Russellian theory of modality.  
*11<sup>th</sup> European Congress for Analytic Philosophy (University of Vienna)*
- 2023\*           Russell’s existential struggles 1910–1914.  
*Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy Annual Conference (Humboldt University, Berlin)*
- 2023\*           Would Carnap have tolerated modern metaphysics?  
*10<sup>th</sup> Dutch Research School of Philosophy (OZSW) Conference (Leiden University)*
- 2022†           Appreciating music.  
*Moral Sciences Club (University of Cambridge)*
- 2022           Would Carnap have tolerated Sider? (with Benjamin Marschall)  
*Serious Metaphysics Group (University of Cambridge)*
- 2021           Frege on existence.  
*Serious Metaphysics Group (University of Cambridge)*
- 2018           The logic of relative modality.  
*Cool logic seminar (IILC, University of Amsterdam)*

### **Awards and scholarships**

- 2024–2026     Humboldt Research Fellowship  
*Alexander von Humboldt Foundation*
- 2023–2024     Analysis studentship  
*Analysis Trust*

2023	Travel bursary <i>Women in London Philosophy Conference, Institute of Philosophy (London)</i>
2022	Postgraduate fellowship <i>British Society for the History of Philosophy</i>
2022	Student bursary <i>The Aristotelian Society</i>
2022	Student bursary <i>Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds</i>
2019–2022	Bauer PhD scholarship <i>Gonville and Caius College</i>
2019	Travel bursary <i>CUSO Summer School in Recursion Theory and Philosophy (Geneva)</i>
2017	MPhil bursary <i>Hendrik Mullerfonds</i>
2017	MPhil bursary <i>Fundatie van Renswoude</i>

## Teaching

2025	<b>Ludwig Maximilian University Munich</b> Lecturer: - <i>Metaontology (MA)</i>
2023	<b>University of Manchester</b> Guest lecturer: - <i>History of Analytic Philosophy (MA)</i>
2019–2023	<b>University of Cambridge</b> Lecturer: - <i>IB Modality (year 2)</i>  Supervisor: - <i>IA Meaning (year 1)</i> - <i>IB Knowledge, Language and World (year 2)</i> - <i>IB History of Analytic Philosophy (year 2)</i> - <i>II Mathematical Logic (year 3)</i>  Class leader: - <i>IA Formal Methods (year 1)</i>  Discussion group leader: - <i>IA Metaphysics (year 1)</i> - <i>IB History of Analytic Philosophy (year 2)</i>

2016–2017     **Utrecht University**  
Teaching assistant:  
- *Mathematics for A.I. (Wiskunde voor K.I.)*  
- *Philosophy of Mind (Filosofie van de Geest)*

## Academic service

*Referee*           British Journal for the History of Philosophy, Asian Journal of Philosophy

*University of Manchester*

2024            Organiser of the Internal Philosophy of Music Mini-Workshop

*University of Cambridge*

2024            Co-organiser of the Cambridge Workshop on the History of Analytic Philosophy

2023            Co-organiser of the Extended Essays and Dissertations Workshop for second- and third-year undergraduates

2021            Co-organiser of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Conference of Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic

2020–2021      Co-convenor of the Serious Metaphysics Group

2020–2021      Secretary of the Moral Sciences Club

2020            Philosophy Tripos admissions interviewer (*Lucy Cavendish; Churchill College*)

2020            Chair of the Graduate Seminar (Easter term)

2020            Co-organiser of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Conference of Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic

## Summer schools

2019            CUSO summer school in recursion theory and philosophy  
*University of Geneva*

2016            28<sup>th</sup> European summer school in logic, language and information  
*Free University of Bolzano-Bozen*

2016            The challenges of natural teleology: final causes from Aristotle to Darwin  
*University of Groningen*

## Outreach

*Columnist (in Dutch) for Bij Nader Inzien: <https://bijnaderinzien.com/author/wouter-cohen/>*

2024            De schijnobjectiviteit van publicaties.  
[The false objectivity of publications.]

2024            Toen filosofen nog gemeen waren.  
[When philosophers were still mean.]

2023            Criminaliteitsstatistieken spreken niet voor zich.  
[Criminality statistics do not speak for themselves.]

2023            Hoeveel haren heb je nodig om niet meer kaal te zijn?  
[How many hairs do you need to not be bald?]

2022            Moet je expert zijn om kunst te waarderen?  
[Do you have to be an expert to appreciate art?]

2022            Moeten we controversiële standbeelden toch maar laten staan?  
[Should controversial statues stand?]

- 2022 Bertrand Russell en de dochter van Mark Rutte.  
[Bertrand Russell and the daughter of Mark Rutte.]
- 2021 Waarom diversiteit belangrijk is: *stereotype threat*.  
[Why diversity is important: stereotype threat.]
- 2021 Problematische grappen doen meer dan kwetsen.  
[Problematic jokes do more than hurt.]
- 2021 We moeten af van 'hij' en 'zij'.  
[We should get rid of 'he' and 'she'.]