

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Sam Fellowes

Institutional Affiliation:

Lancaster University, School of Global Affairs, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YL, UK
s.fellowes1@lancaster.ac.uk

AOS

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Psychiatry, Philosophy of Medicine, Epistemology, Metaphysics, History of Autism

AOC

Bioethics, Medical Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Kant, Disabilities Studies, History of Psychiatry

Website:

<http://www.samfellowes.com>

Youtube and podcasts:

Philosophy of Psychiatric Diagnoses: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-tHfoili9XW3ueQtuC2JOW>

History of Autism podcast: In production

Academic Qualifications:

PhD Philosophy of Psychiatry, Lancaster University, September 2010 to June 2016. Viva 2nd June 2016, Minor Revisions which were successfully approved. Part time PhD, ESRC funded, supervised by the philosophy (Rachel Cooper) and psychology (Alan Collins) departments. External examiner Peter Zachar, internal examiner Brian Garvey. The PhD was titled 'Does autism merit belief? Developing an account of scientific realism for psychiatry'. Three history of autism chapters and three philosophy of psychiatry chapters. The PhD establishes conditions under which psychiatric classifications merit belief and shows autism broadly meets those conditions through developing an alternative framework to typical notions of validating psychiatric classifications. My PhD awarding institution was Lancaster University, it was awarded on the 26th of April 2017 and the discipline was Philosophy of Psychiatry and History of Autism.

MA History and Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds, September 2006 to September 2008. Merit. Part time research Masters. I studied philosophy of psychiatry, philosophy of the social sciences, philosophy of quantum theory, philosophy of time, opposition between metaphysics and science, belief in scientific theories, scientific models, Galileo's theology, Newton on optics, natural theology, and history and philosophy of quantum theory.

BSc Science and Science Fiction, University of Glamorgan, September 2003 to June 2006. 1st Class Honours. Full time degree. Studied history of science, philosophy of science and science communication. A third of the degree was literature criticism (I primarily focused on 1960s to 1970s New Wave Science Fiction). An anthropological field trip to the south-west United States also occurred.

Supporting Learning Program, Higher Education Academy accredited training course, focusing on enhancing teaching techniques, Passed, Lancaster University, October 2015 to January 2016. This awards me AFHEA

status.

Employment

Convener, Faculty of Health and Medicine, Lancaster University, October 2024 to April 2025

Temporary Lecturer in Applied Philosophy, Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, January 2024 to June 2024

Convener, Faculty of Health and Medicine, Lancaster University, October 2023 to April 2024

Temporary Lecturer, Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, November 2022 to May 2023

Lecturer in Philosophy (Philosophy of Medicine), Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, September 2021 to July 2022

Postdoctoral Researcher, Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, March 2018 to August 2021, Wellcome Trust funded three year project entitled 'Neo-Kantianism as an alternative conceptual basis for psychiatry'. Working with Rachel Cooper as supervisor.

Temporary Lecturer in Philosophy of Mental Disorder, Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, January 2020 to May 2020

Temporary Lecturer in Applied Ethics, Philosophy Department, University of Central Lancashire, February 2017 to May 2017

Temporary Lecturer in Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, October 2016 to January 2017

Sessional Lecturer, Clinical Psychology Department, Lancaster University, April 2014, March 2015, June 2016, May 2017

Seminar Tutor, Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, October 2011 to June 2018 then October 2022 to May 2023

Academic Researcher on Catalyst Project Access ASD, November 2012 to June 2013, Research project that developed a digital technology to help autistic people through co-design with autistic people. My role, as an autistic person, was advising on autism and interviewing autistic participants about experiences of anxiety and depression.

Publications:

Books

"In Defence of Psychiatric Diagnoses", 2025 published by Palgrave Macmillan

Journal Articles

"The epistemology of psychiatric diagnoses in lived experience research", *Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology*, forthcoming

"A history of childhood schizophrenia and consequences for Autism", *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, 2024, 46/29

"Establishing the accuracy of self-diagnosis in psychiatry", *Philosophical Psychology*, 2024, 1-28

"The importance of involving experts-by-experience with different psychiatric diagnoses when revising diagnostic criteria", *Synthese*, 2023, 178, 1-26

"Self-diagnosis in psychiatry and the distribution of social resources", *Royal Institute of Philosophy Volume on Public Mental Health*, 2023, 94, 55-76.

"The Value of Categorical, Polythetic Psychiatric Diagnoses", *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2022, 73(4), 941-963

"How Autism shows that Symptoms, like Psychiatric Diagnoses, are 'Constructed': Methodological and Epistemological Consequences", *Synthese*, 2021, 199, 4499-4522

"Scientific Perspectivism and Psychiatric Diagnoses: Respecting History and Constraining Relativism", *European Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 2021, 11/8

"Symptom modelling can be influenced by psychiatric categories: Choices for RDoC", *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, 2017, 38/4, 279-294

"A reappraisal of Kendell and Jablensky's account of validity", *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, 2016 22/4, 522-529

Book Chapters

"Autism, the double empathy problem and feeling the emotions of another person", 2025, in *Contemporary Philosophy of Autism*

"Philosophical issues raised by autism: sociality, explanations, heterogeneity and neurodiversity", 2025, in *Handbook of the Philosophy of Medicine*

"A Kantian approach to psychiatric diagnoses", 2024 in *Conversations in Critical Psychiatry*

"Realism, Anti-realism and Psychiatric Classifications", 2019, in *Bloomsbury Companion to the Philosophy of Psychiatry*, 2019, (eds Robyn Bluhm & Şerife Tekin)

Essay Review and Extended Book Reviews

"Neurodiversity, Liberal Capitalism and Self-Understanding", Essay Review of Robert Chapman's *Empire of Normality* for *Philosophy of Medicine*, *Philosophy of Medicine*, 2024, 5/1

"Putting the Present into the History of Autism", Essay Review of *Neurotribes* and *In a Different Key*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 2016, 67, 54-58

Letters to the Editor

"The Importance of Getting Kanner's Account Right in Debates over First Descriptions of Autism" (Letter to the Editor), 2020, *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorder*, 50, 4329-4330.

"Did Kanner actually describe the first account of autism? The mystery of 1938", Letter to the Editor, *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 2015, 45, 2274-2276

Commentaries

"Scientific expertise, service users and democratising psychiatric research", *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology*, 2024, 31/2, 135-137

"The intuitions of diagnosed individuals" *Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry Bulletin*, 2021, 28/1

"Additional Challenges to Fair Representation in Autistic Advocacy" *American Journal of Bioethics*, 2020, 20/4, 44-45

Book Reviews

"Intelligent Love: The Story of Clara Park, Her Autistic Daughter, and the Myth of the Refrigerator Mother", Book Review, 2021, *Medical History*, 65/4, 427-429

"Alternative Perspectives On Psychiatric Validation: DSM, ICD, RDoC, and Beyond", Book Review, *History of Psychiatry*, 2015, 26, 499-501

Under review

"Limitations of experimental studies supporting the double empathy problem", *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*

"Autism, Neurodiversity and the Double Empathy Problem", *Psychiatric Clinics*

“Could self-diagnosis in psychiatry improve groupings for scientific research”, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*

Research Grants:

Neo-Kantianism as an alternative conceptual basis for psychiatry, Wellcome Trust funded Postdoctoral Researcher, Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, March 2018 to August 2021

Does autism merit belief? Developing an account of scientific realism for psychiatry, ESRC funded part time PhD, Philosophy Department and Psychology Department, Lancaster University, September 2010 to June 2016

Academic conference presentations:

A tension between neurodiversity and self-diagnosis, Philosophy of Psychiatry work in progress day, Lancaster, June 2025

How self-diagnosis relates to categorical and dimensional approaches to psychiatric diagnosis, Psychiatric Diagnoses – Empirical and Philosophical Perspectives, Online, February 2025

Philosophically analysing the double-empathy problem, Neurodiversity, Autism, ASD, and Other Categories in Psychiatry and Mental Health, Tilburg, December 2024

Can self-diagnosis help improve the validity of psychiatric diagnoses?, Philosophy of Psychiatry work in progress day, Lancaster, May 2024

Is neurodiversity a fact and does it factual status matter?, Philosophy of Psychiatry work in progress day, Lancaster, June 2023

How the lived experience of experts-by-experience relates to the abstract nature of science, Keynote Speaker, Too Mad To Be True, The Promise and Perils of the First Person Perspective, Museum Dr Guislain, Ghent, May 2023 and British Society for the Philosophy of Annual Conference, Bristol, July 2023

Theory-ladenness in expert-by-experience involvement in psychiatric research, Faculty of Arts and Social Science Health Hub, Lancaster University, May 2023

Psychiatric Diagnoses as Idealised Models, Arguments and Consequences, Departmental Seminar, Lancaster, November 2022

The importance of involving service users with different psychiatric diagnoses when revising diagnostic criteria, Work in Progress session, Lancaster, November 2022

The importance of engaging service users with different diagnoses in participatory research, Philosophically analysing the role of service users in psychiatric research, June 2022

Service users and the limits of objectivity, Philosophy of Psychiatry work in progress day, Lancaster University, June 2022

Validating systems of psychiatric diagnoses, Philosophy of Psychiatry work in progress day, Lancaster University, June 2021

A historical overview of subtyping autism, Workshop on subtyping autism, November 2019, London South Bank University

Psychiatric symptoms, like psychiatric diagnoses, are “constructed”: epistemic consequences, British Society for the Philosophy of Science, July 2020, Kent (Cancelled due to Covid-19); International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry, October 2019, Warsaw; Philosophy of Psychiatry Work in Progress Day, University of Lancaster, June 2019

Psychiatric Diagnoses as recipes for constructing models of people, Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry, San Francisco, May 2019; British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Durham, July 2019; Philosophy of Psychiatry Summer School, July 2019, Vienna

Broadening the voice of neurodiversity through subtyping autism, Disabilities Studies Conference, Lancaster University, September 2018; Uniting Two Perspectives on Mental Illness, Essex University, September 2018; Interdisciplinary Material Cultures in Medical Humanities, Lancaster University, July 2019

Lessons for the Today from the History of Autism, Philosophy and Mental Health Workshop at Accrington College, April 2018

Using perspectivism to counter discontinuity arguments over psychiatric diagnoses, Philosophy of Psychiatry work in progress day, Lancaster University, May 2018

Functionalism, mechanisms and psychiatric diagnosis, British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Edinburgh University, July 2017

What was childhood schizophrenia and how did it relate to autism?, British Society for History of Science Annual Conference, York University, July 2017

Causal Structures vs Causal Mechanisms: Implications for RDoC, Philosophy of Psychiatry work in progress day, Lancaster University, June 2017

How symptom formulation can depend upon classifications, 6th Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable: Understanding Disease and Illness, University of Bristol, August 2015

The 1950s origin of autism as low social skills and intellectual deficiency, British Society for History of Science Annual Conference, Swansea, July 2015

Problems with Validity as an Epistemic Standard for Psychiatry, International Conference for Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology, Varna, Bulgaria, June 2014

Executive functioning as a barrier to participation and inclusion (Poster), Participation and Inclusion, National Autistic Society Conference, London, January 2014

Theory ladenness, corroboration and psychological theories of autism, Philosophy of Psychiatry Work in Progress Day, Lancaster University, May 2013

Scientific Realism and Antirealism in Psychiatry, Concepts of Mental Health, 11th British Postgraduate Philosophy Association Masterclass, UCL, April 2013

From childhood schizophrenia to Asperger's syndrome, A History of Autism, Psychology Post-Graduate Seminar, Lancaster University Psychology Department, December 2012

The historical challenge to the reality of autism, Philosophy of Psychiatry Work in Progress Day, Lancaster University, February 2012.

Why historians cannot locate accounts of autism in pre-1943 psychiatry (Poster), 14th International Conference for Philosophy and Psychiatry, Gutenberg, Sweden, September 2011

Inductive success and prevalence of symptoms in psychiatric entity construction, Philosophy Post-Graduate Seminar, Lancaster University Philosophy Department, June 2011

Prizes:

"RDoC should not always see symptoms as independent of psychiatric categories", Winner of the 2016 Jaspers Award from the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry
<https://philosophyandpsychiatry.org/jaspers-award/>

Teaching experience (lecturing, seminar tutoring and marking unless otherwise stated)

Health, Culture and Society, 3rd Year, Medical School, Lancaster, 2023-2025.

Special Study Module Two, 2nd Year, Medical School, Lancaster, 2023-2025.

Special Study Module One, 1st Year, Medical School, Lancaster, 2023-2025.

Applied Philosophy, 3rd Year, Philosophy, Lancaster, 2024.

Philosophy of Mental Disorder, Masters, Philosophy, Lancaster. Score 4.67 out of 5, 2019.

Philosophy of Medicine, 3rd Year, Philosophy, Lancaster. Score 3.80 out of 5, 2023.

Philosophy of Science, 2nd Year, Philosophy, Lancaster. Score 4.25 out of 5, 2021.

Health and Disease: Concepts and Policy, 2nd Year, Philosophy, Lancaster. Score 4.38 out of 5, 2022.

Philosophy of Mind, 2nd Year, Philosophy, Lancaster, 2017.

Applied Ethics, 1st Year, Philosophy Department, UCLan, 2017.

Introduction Knowledge and Reality, 1st Year, Philosophy, Lancaster, no lecturing, 2011-2022.

Moral and Political Philosophy, 1st Year, Philosophy, Lancaster, no lecturing, 2021.

Session on Autism, PhD Students, Clinical Psychology Department, Lancaster, no marking, 2014-2017.

Darwin and Philosophy, 3rd Year, Lancaster, 2024, marking only

Metaphysics, 2nd Year, Lancaster, 2022, double-marking

What is Philosophy? Methods, Aims, Debates, Lancaster, 2021, single session

Dissertation, Masters and 3rd Year, Lancaster 2022-2023, supervision and double-marking

Other Relevant Employment:

Website Development, Philosophy Department, Lancaster University, July 2017, Designing and building a philosophy of medicine and bioethics webpage for Lancaster University Philosophy Department:

Services to Discipline:

Reader: Feedback on book proposal or book draft for Bloomsbury and Beacon Press.

Reviewer: I have reviewed for The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science; Synthese; Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology; Studies in the History and Philosophy of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Philosophy of Medicine; Philosophical Psychology; Studies in the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences; Journal of Social Philosophy; Revue de Societe de Philosophie, de Science (English Translation: Journal of the Society of the Philosophy of Science); Philosophical Explorations; Neuroethics.

Services to Lancaster University:

Academic Tutor: Provided one to one support to students at Lancaster University on academic or pastoral issues. These are typically students who I have not taught

Ethics Panel: I have been on an ethics panel relating to autism for Lancaster University

Research Assistant, Spectrum Centre for Mental Health Research, Lancaster University, December 2015 to June 2016, Working on separate projects "Psychological difficulties in the moment" and Understanding personal recovery experiences in bipolar disorder". Both studies are large diary studies exploring day-to-day experiences using experience sampling methodology (ESM)

Advisor, Lancaster University Support Services, June 2011 to present, I have provided advice to professionals in student support, in my capacity as an autistic individual, about setting up a social group for autistic students and setting up a mentoring scheme to help autistic students

Conferences, Workshops and Groups Organised:

Symposium on Philosophically analysing expert-by-experience involvement in psychiatry, British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Bristol University, 2023

Philosophically Analysing the Role of Service Users in Psychiatric Research, Lancaster University, June 2022

Network on Ethics, Values and Policy in Health, Lancaster University, January 2022 to July 2022

Conference on Subtyping Autism (Jointly organised with Chloe Farahar and Annette Foster), aimed to gain the views of autistic individuals upon the advantages and disadvantages of subtyping autism, London Southbank University, November 2019

Philosophy of Psychiatry Work In Progress Day, Established academics and postgraduates, both internal and external, present on philosophy of psychiatry, Lancaster University, June 2015

Post-Graduate Philosophy Discussion Group (Jointly organised with Faye Tucker), Weekly meeting in Lancaster University philosophy department, May 2015 to present

Psychology Postgraduate Conference (Jointly organised with Emma Armitage), psychology postgraduates presenting on their work, Lancaster University psychology department, June 2012

Additional Academic Training:

Religion and Psychoanalytical Thought, Masters Module, Lancaster University Philosophy Department, audited, October 2016 to December 2016

Philosophy of Psychiatry, Masters module, Lancaster University Philosophy department, audited, January 2015 to May 2016

Historical Methods for the Arts and Social Sciences, PhD level module assessing advantages and challenges of applying historical study to arts and social sciences, Passed, Lancaster University, January 2015 to March 2015

Developmental Psychology, Masters module, Lancaster University Psychology department, audited, October 2011 to December 2011

Statistics, 2nd year module, Lancaster University Psychology department, audited, October 2011 to December 2011