Ben Gaskin

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Summary

PhD candidate under Peter Godfrey-Smith at the University of Sydney, researching minimal cognition and the evolution of intelligence. I combine scientific and philosophical inquiry with technical expertise in computational neuroscience and evolutionary algorithms, leveraging simulations and models to explore contemporary debates.

Skills

Research

Interdisciplinarity: philosophy, cognitive science, developmental psychology, biology, computer science
Literature Reviews: interdisciplinary synthesis, statistical and experimental methods, historical context
Academic Communications: writing, proofreading and editing, audiovisual presentation, public speaking
Other Skills: data analysis, critical thinking, technical expertise, event coordination, project management

Programming

Languages: Python, Javascript, English
Libraries: MLX, PyTorch, Taichi, NumPy, Pandas, Ray
Computational Neuroscience: spiking neural networks, spike-timing dependent plasticity, spike coding
Evolutionary Computation: genetic algorithms, direct and indirect encoding, neural architecture search
Simulations & Models: neural cellular automata, physical systems, reinforcement learning environments

Education

University of Sydney 2024 –
Doctor of Philosophy *Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship*

University of Auckland 2020 – 2022
Master of Arts in Philosophy *Research Masters Scholarship, First Class Honours*

University of Auckland 2019 – 2020
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Philosophy *First Class Honours*

University of Auckland 2018 – 2019
Graduate Diploma in Philosophy

University of Auckland 2015 – 2018
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Politics

Experience

nScribe.ai 2023 –
Founder *International*

OnThisDay.com 2017 – 2024
Editor *Remote*

Watercare Laboratory Services 2010 – 2015
Laboratory Assistant *Auckland, New Zealand*

Publications

Symbol Grounding in the Age of LLMs 2025
Social Robots with AI: Prospects, Risks, and Responsible Methods

After Babel, the Horizontal War: City and Technique in Jacques Ellul 2023
Philosophical Journal of Conflict & Violence

Presentations

Symbol grounding in the age of LLMs 2024
Robophilosophy

Logic and artificial life: robotics and the later work of Kitarō Nishida 2024
International Society of East Asian Philosophy

Egocentric speech in children and machines 2024
Agency and Language in Artificial Intelligence

Containment and many-sidedness: a comparative study of Aristotelian and Jain logics 2022
World Congress on Logic and Religion

Where are words? Predictive processing and the cognitive penetration of language 2021
Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference

Certifications

Computational Neuroscience 2025
University of Washington *via Coursera (online)*

Mathematics for Machine Learning 2023
DeepLearning.ai *via Coursera (online)*

TensorFlow Developer Professional Certificate 2023
DeepLearning.ai *via Coursera (online)*

Basic Youth and Community Counselling 2019
Youthline *Auckland, New Zealand*

References

Peter Godfrey-Smith University of Sydney
peter.godfrey-smith@sydney.edu.au *Professor*

John Bishop University of Auckland
jc.bishop@auckland.ac.nz *Emeritus Professor*

Matheson Russell University of Auckland
m.russell@auckland.ac.nz *Associate Professor*