

M Folescu

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Positions

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, USA || 2019–*present*

Humboldt Research Fellow at Hamburg University, Hamburg, Germany || June–August 2026

Humboldt Research Fellow at Hamburg University, Hamburg, Germany || June–July 2025

Humboldt Research Fellow at the Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany || August, 2022–July 2023

Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, UK || February–July, 2022

American Philosophical Association Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, UK || September–October, 2017

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, USA || 2013–2019

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Southern California, 2013

M.A. Art History, Western University, Canada, 2005

M.A. Philosophy, University of Bucharest, Romania, 2003

B.A. Art History, National University of Fine Arts, Romania, 2002

Areas of Specialization

History of Modern Philosophy (18th and 19th centuries), Aesthetics, Action Theory

Areas of Competence

Logic, Metaphysics and Epistemology

Publications

Folescu, M. "Locke's Legacy: Reid and Shepherd on Intuitive, Demonstrative, and Probable Knowledge." In Patrick Connolly (ed.), *Oxford Handbook of John Locke*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Folescu, M. & Zhou, T. "Reid and Shepherd on Beauty and the Subjectivity of Taste." In Keota Fields (ed.), *Essays on Mary Shepherd: Causation, Mind, and Knowledge*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Folescu, M. "Lady Mary Shepherd's Epistemology." In Kurt Sylvan, Jonathan Dancy, Ernest Sosa, and Matthias Steup (eds.), *A Companion to Epistemology, 2 volume set (Blackwell Companions to Philosophy)*, pp. 679-683. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2025.

Folescu, M. "Thomas Reid on Powers and Abilities." In Sebastian Bender and Dominik Perler (eds.), *Powers and Abilities in Early Modern Philosophy*, pp. 326-342. New York: Routledge, 2024.

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on the Role of Proofs in Our Knowledge of First Principles." *Noûs* 56(2) (2022): 473-493.

Recognized by *Noûs* as a top cited article for 2022-2023.

Folescu, M. "Perception As A Multi-Stage Process: A Reidian Account." *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*. 19(1) (2021): 57-74.

Folescu, M. "Relinquishing Control: What Romanian *De Se* Attitude Reports Teach Us About Immunity To Error Through Misidentification." In Alessandro Capone, Manuel Garcia-Carpintero, and Alessandra Falzone (eds.), *Indirect Reports and Pragmatics in the World Languages*, pp. 299-313. Springer International Publishing, 2019.

Folescu, M. "Using Benevolent Affections To Learn Our Duty." *Mind* 127(506) (2018): 467-489.

Folescu, M. "Reid's View of Memorial Conception." *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 16(3) (2018): 211-226.

Folescu, M. "A Reidean Account of (Episodic) Memory." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 97(2) (2018): 304-321 (Published online in 2016).

Folescu, M. "Thinking About Different Nonexistents Of The Same Kind." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93(3) (2016): 627-649.

Folescu, M. "Perceiving Bodies Immediately: Thomas Reid's Insight." *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 32(1) (2015): 19-36.

Folescu, M. "Perceptual and Imaginative Conception: The Distinction Reid Missed." In Todd Buras and Rebecca Copenhaver (eds.), *Mind, Knowledge, and Value: Essays in Honor of Reid's Tercentenary* pp. 52-74. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Folescu, M. and J. Higginbotham. "Two Takes on the *De Se*." In Simon Prosser and François Recanati (eds.), *Immunity to Error Through Misidentification: New Essays*, pp. 46-62. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Encyclopedia Entries

Markie, P. & Folescu, M. "Rationalism vs. Empiricism." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rationalism-empiricism/>

Folescu, M. "Reid's Philosophy of Mind." *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
<https://iep.utm.edu/reidmind/>

Work in Progress

Folescu, M. *Thinking Through The Past: Reid On The Epistemic Value Of Memory* (book manuscript, working on the final three chapters, out of seven).

Folescu, M. "On Two Kinds of Photographs: Distinguishing between Documentaries and Photographic Works of Fiction" (draft available upon request).

Selected Non-Academic Art Writing

Folescu, M. (2023). From Cinematic to Static: Isa Genzken's 75/75 Retrospective in Berlin. *Momus*, Toronto, Canada
<https://momus.ca/from-cinematic-to-static-isa-genzkens-75-75-retrospective-in-berlin/>

Folescu, M. (2023). "Decolonizing Our Ancestors: Review of Julius von Bismarck's "When Platitudes Become Form"." *Curatorial Affairs*
<https://curatorialaffairs.com/Decolonizing-our-Ancestors>

Folescu, M. (2023). "Art Basel 2023: Anul oglinzii" ("Art Basel 2023: The Year of the Mirror", published in Romanian). *Observator Cultural* 1165: 20.
<https://www.observatorcultural.ro/articol/art-basel-2023-anul-oglinzii/>

Folescu, M. (2023). "ART Paris – Angajamente si Promisiuni" ("Art Paris – Commitments and Promises", published in Romanian). *Observator Cultural* 1157: 19.
<https://www.observatorcultural.ro/articol/art-paris-angajamente-si-promisiuni/>

Honors, Fellowships, and Grants

Humboldt Foundation Fellowship for a Renewed Research Stay (€10,800); Summer 2026
(competitive international residential fellowship)

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) Visiting Faculty Travel Program; 2025-2026
(competitive travel award, intended to enhance faculty collaboration between SEC
member universities, in this case, the University of Missouri and the University of Texas)

A&S Writing Fellows program; 2025-2026
(competitive College of Arts and Science fellowship, granting 1 course release)

Humboldt Foundation Fellowship for a Renewed Research Stay (€6,400); Summer 2025
(competitive international residential fellowship)

University of Missouri Arts & Humanities Research and Creative Works Fellows (\$12,500); 2023-2025
(competitive university fellowship, granting 1 semester of research leave)

Humboldt Foundation Fellowship for Experienced Researchers (€38,040); 2022-2023
(competitive international residential fellowship)

The Journal of the History of Philosophy Masterclass (\$1,750); 2018
(competitive international summer research seminar, conducted at the New York University;
Leader: Don Garrett)

The APA Edinburgh Fellowship; 2017-2018
(competitive international residential fellowship, at the Institute for Advanced Studies
in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, UK)

British Society for the History of Philosophy Graduate Student Essay Prize, for
"Reid on the Objects of Perception" (£500 GBP); 2011

Invited Presentations

Folescu, M. Invited series of discussions on Mary Shepherd's philosophy
University of Texas, Austin, supported by the SEC Faculty Travel Initiative, February 2026

Folescu, M. & Zhou, T. "Reid and Shepherd on Beauty and the Subjectivity of Taste"
The Oxford New Histories of Philosophy Workshop on Mary Shepherd, March 2026

Workshop on Shepherd's Philosophy, Paris-Nanterre, November 2022

Colloquium Series, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2022

Early Modern Philosophy Colloquium, Humboldt University, Berlin, November 2022

Philosophy Seminar, University College Dublin, November 2022

Folescu, M. "Locke's Legacy: Reid and Shepherd on Intuitive, Demonstrative, and Probable Knowledge"

Department of Philosophy Colloquium, University of Illinois, Chicago, September 2025

The Colloquium of the Institute of Philosophy, Hamburg Universität, Germany, July 2025

Folescu, M. "Reid on Powers and Abilities"

Department of Philosophy Colloquium, King's College London, UK, March 2024

Philosophy Colloquium, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, February 2024

Philosophy Speaker Series, Union College, Schenectady, NY, February 2024

Department of Philosophy Colloquium, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Nov 2023

Faculty Speaker Series, University of Missouri, Columbia, August 2023

Powers and Abilities in Early Modern Philosophy Conference

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, March 2023

Folescu, M. & Zhou, T. "Reid and Shepherd on Beauty and the Subjectivity of Taste"

The Oxford New Histories of Philosophy Workshop on Mary Shepherd, March 2026

Workshop on Shepherd's Philosophy, Paris-Nanterre, November 2022

Colloquium Series, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2022

Early Modern Philosophy Colloquium, Humboldt University, Berlin, November 2022

Philosophy Seminar, University College Dublin, November 2022

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd's Philosophy"

Work in progress talk, The Institute for the Advanced Studies in the Humanities

Edinburgh UK, July 2022

Folescu, M. "Some remarks on Mary Shepherd's Essays on the Perception of an External Universe"

Early Modern Philosophy Workshop, St Andrews, UK, June 2022

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on the Role of Proofs in Our Knowledge of First Principles."

University College London – Philosophy Department Research Talk, UK, March 2022

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on the Role of Proofs in Our Knowledge of the External World."

The *Cogtweeto* Philosophy Workshop Series, organized by Jen Foster (USC) and Cassie Finley (University of Iowa), January 2021

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on Our Knowledge of Ourselves and of the External World."

Early Modern Virtual Workshop – organized by Anat Schechtman, University of Wisconsin, July 2020

Folescu, M. "Some Remarks on Mary Shepherd's Views on the Perception of the External World"

APA – Eastern, Philadelphia, January 2020

Folescu, M. "Perception as a Multi-stage Process: A Reidian Account."

University of York, UK – Department of Philosophy, November 2019

University of Edinburgh, UK – Department of Philosophy, April 2019

University of Massachusetts, Amherst – Department of Philosophy, January 2019

Folescu, M. "Some Remarks on Reid's View of *Memorial* Conception"

Philosophy Club Talk, University of St. Andrews, October 2017

Work in progress talk, The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
Edinburgh, UK, September 2017

Folescu, M. "Using Benevolent Affections to Learn our Duty"

Faith and Philosophy, Washington University – St. Louis, May 2016

Folescu, M. "A Reidean Account of (Episodic) Memory"

University of Kansas – Department of Philosophy, January 2016

Conference Talks

Folescu, M. & Zhou, T. "Reid and Shepherd on Beauty and the Subjectivity of Taste"

Reappearing Ink: Workshop on Early Modern Philosophy and Metaphilosophy,
University of Groningen, Netherlands, March 2023

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on the Role of Proofs in Our Knowledge of First Principles"

The Traveling Early Modern Philosophy Organization, online, June 2021

Folescu, M. "Perception as a Multi-stage Process: A Reidian Account"

ECAP 10 – The Tenth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Utrecht, Netherlands, August 2020
(delivered online)

Folescu, M. "Mary Shepherd on Our Knowledge of Ourselves and of the External World"

Berlin-Hamburg Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, Humboldt University, Berlin, June 2020
(delivered in person in 2022)

Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands, August 2020
(delivered online in 2021)

Folescu, M. "Perception As A Two-Stage Process: A Reidean Account"

Margaret Wilson Conference, Northern Arizona University, June 2016

The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) 11

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, June 2016

Folescu, M. "Reid on Remembering Events"

APA – Central, St. Louis, February 2015

The British Society for the History of Philosophy, University of Edinburgh, May 2014

Folescu, M. "Benevolent Affections and Moral Agents in Reid's Action Theory"

Sentiment and Reason in Early Modern Ethics, State University of New York
Buffalo, March 2014

Folescu, M. "The Role of Sympathy in Reid's Action Theory"

APA – Pacific, San Francisco, March 2013

Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy Spring Conference, Princeton, March 2012

Folescu, M. "Reid on the Objects of Perception"

Margaret Wilson Conference, Dartmouth College, June 2012

Folescu, M. "Reid's Account of Perception as a Two-Stage Process"

The Early Modern Circle at Caltech, Pasadena, Oct 2011

Conceptual Content – History and Prospects, University of Cambridge, UK, Sep 2011

Folescu, M. "The Peculiar Photographic Character of Documentaries"

APA – Pacific, San Diego, April 2011

American Society for Aesthetics – Pacific, Pacific Grove, April 2010

Folescu, M. "Some Remarks on Reid's Theory of Imagination"

South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Texas A & M University,
November 2010

Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University,
Canada, July 2010

Folescu, M. "An Inconsistency in Reid's Construal of the Power of Conception"

The British Society for the History of Philosophy, University of Aberdeen and
University of Glasgow, March 2010

Folescu, M. "Hume's Law Is (Still) Standing"

Second Buenos Aires Metaethics Workshop, Centro de Estudios Filosoficos y Fenomeno-
logicos Avanzado, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2009

Comments

Panelist on Gordon Graham's *David Hume and the Aberdeen Philosophers* (EUP 2025)

52nd International Hume Conference, Prague, The Czech Republic; July 2026

David Landy. "Shepherd on Judgment, Predication, and the Representation of Causal Relations"

50th Hume Conference, Oxford, UK; July 3, 2024

Sandra Lindblom. "The Epistemic Humility in Mary Shepherd's Anti-Humean Theory of Causal-
ity: Exploring its Kantian Origin"

Extending New Narratives Monthly Works-in-progress Seminar for Early Career Researchers
A Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Partners initiative;
November 23, 2020

Jessica Adkins. "Aesthetic Value of Anatomical Displays of Plastinated Bodies"

APA – Eastern, New York, NY; January 2019

Alicia Hall. "Bridging the Gap Between Well-being Research and Policy"

APA – Pacific, San Francisco; March 2016

Lewis Powell. "Reid vs. Hume on the Objects of Belief"

APA – Central, Chicago; March 2016

Bryan Pickel. “Rigidification and Attitudes”

Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference # 13: *Reference and Referring*, Washington State University, Pullman WA and University of Idaho; May 2010

Brian Laetz and Joshua J. Johnston. “On Fantasy”

American Society for Aesthetics – Pacific, Pacific Grove; April 2007

Teaching Development

Faculty Inclusive Teaching Course, Teaching for Learning Center, University of Missouri: Fall 2023

Online Teaching Certification Seminar, University of Missouri: Spring 2021

Teaching Experience

Here Be Monsters (2nd installment – covering the medieval and Renaissance period – in a Great Books Humanities Honors sequence): Spring 2026

Aesthetics: Fall 2025; Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Elementary Logic: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2017

Introduction to Philosophy: Spring 2021 (H), Spring 2020, Spring 2019 (H), Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Spring 2015 (H), Fall 2014 (H)

Modern Philosophy: Spring 2026; Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Spring 2015 (WI), Fall 2014

Philosophy of Film: Fall 2025; Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2018, Spring 2014

Reasonable Devils, Dark Visions (3rd installment – covering the early modern period – in a Great Books Humanities Honors sequence): Fall 2024

Topics in Modern Philosophy (Graduate Seminar): Fall 2023, Fall 2019

The Empiricists (Graduate Seminar): Spring 2025, Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Spring 2014

Guest Lectures

Aesthetics (Instructor: Philip Robbins); November 8, Fall 2013

Aesthetics and the Film; November 30, Fall 2011

Instructor: George M. Wilson

British Empiricism; December 2, Fall 2010

Instructor: James Van Cleve

Professional Memberships and Activities

Co-organizer (with Stephan Schmid) of the Hamburg Reid Workshop, at the University of Hamburg, Germany, 2025

American Philosophical Association (member since 2007)

British Society for the History of Philosophy (member since 2022)

International Association of Art Critics – AICA (member since 2002)

APA Central Division Nominating Committee – elected member; 2022-2023

Organizer of the “Women Philosophers in the (Early) Modern Era” Symposium
British Society for the History of Philosophy, Edinburgh, UK, 2022

APA Central Division Program Committee – member; 2021, 2017

Referee for: *Berkeley Studies*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Edinburgh University Press*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Hume Studies*, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Polish Journal of Philosophy*, *Research Foundation Flanders – FWO*, *Routledge*, *Synthese*

Service

Member of the Awards Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2025-2026

Member of the Promotion & Tenure Personnel committee for a member of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2024-2025

Chair of the Promotion & Tenure Review committee for a member of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2024-2025

Chair of the Awards Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2024-2025

Chair of the Awards Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2023-2024

Chair of the PFFIE Search Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2023-2024

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2020-2021

Member of the Raise Advisory Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2020-2021

Member of the Search Committee for Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of the Raise Advisory Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Revision of Standards for Promotion and Tenure
Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri; 2019-2020

Member of CORE 42 Faculty Discipline Review Group for Philosophy and Religion
A state-wide Initiative for Missouri; 2019-2020

Creator of the Newsletter for the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2018-2019

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2018-2019

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2018-2019

Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Journal and Press Assessment
Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri; 2018-2019

Member of the Search Committee for Assistant/Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2017-2018

Member of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2016-2017

Job Mentoring Program for Women in Philosophy – Mentor; 2015–2016

Organizer of the Spring 2015 Kline Workshop (MU Department of Philosophy): *Philosophy and Science in The British Empiricist Tradition*; 2015

Member of the Placement Committee of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2014-2015

Member of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Future of the Department of Philosophy
University of Missouri; 2013-2014

Undergraduate Supervision

Hope Nowack – Chair of BA Honors Thesis committee (defended in 2025): *Surprise-Based Creativity Generative AI, and the Limits of Computation Programs*

Graduate Supervision

Nick Parker – MA Research paper first reader (under development)

Argon Gruber – MA Thesis first reader (defended in 2021): *Personal identity and scattered objects*

Tieying Zhou – Chair of PhD dissertation committee (defended in 2022): *An Investigation of Aesthetic Appreciation*

– MA Research paper first reader (defended in 2020): *Distance theory in art appreciation*

Phillip Zema – Co-chair of the PhD dissertation committee (defended in 2016)

– PhD proposal second reader (defended in 2014): *Reid on moral perception*

Seokman Kang – MA Research paper second reader (defended in 2014): *Perceptual content*

David Swerling – MA Thesis second reader (defended in 2014): *Conceptual vs. non-conceptual content*

Languages

English (bilingual proficiency)

French (reading: professional working proficiency)

Italian (reading: professional working proficiency)

Romanian (native proficiency)

References

Rebecca Copenhaver – Department of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis
Email: rcopenhaver@wustl.edu; Office Phone: 314-935-5834.

Don Garrett – Department of Philosophy, New York University
Email: don.garrett@nyu.edu; Office Phone: 212-998-8320.

Antonia LoLordo – Corcoran Department of Philosophy, University of Virginia
Email: lolordo@virginia.edu; Office Phone: (434) 924-6917.

Matthew McGrath – Department of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis
Email: matthew.m@wustl.edu; Office Phone: 314-935-5834.

James Van Cleve – School of Philosophy, USC
Email: vancleve@usc.edu; Office Phone: 213-740-5177.

Kenneth Winkler – Department of Philosophy, Yale University
Email: kenneth.winkler@yale.edu; Office Phone: 203-432-1679.

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