

# Curriculum Vitae

**Brendan Conway-Smith**

Ottawa, ON

Citizenship: Canadian

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## Education

- 2025(expected) Ph.D. in Cognitive Science, Carleton University  
Thesis: Metacognitive Skill Learning: A Computational Account
- 2020 Master of Cognitive Science, Carleton University  
Thesis: Clarifying Metacognition Through Computational Modeling
- 2014 B.A. in Psychology, *Cum Laude*, Ottawa University  
Major Psychology, Major Political Science

## Employment

### Contract Instructor, Carleton University

2023/24 Fall/Winter (Sept. – April)

Thinking and Knowing – FYSM 1607 C

Responsibilities: Creating course content, marking, lecturing.

2023 Winter (Jan. – April)

Theories in Cognitive Science - CGSC 2001D

Responsibilities: Creating course content, marking, lecturing.

2022 Fall (Sept. – Dec.)

Theories in Cognitive Science - CGSC 2001B

Responsibilities: Creating course content, marking, lecturing.

2021 Summer (July-Sept.)

Theories in Cognitive Science - CGSC 2001B

Responsibilities: Creating course content, marking, lecturing.

## **Teaching Assistant, Carleton University**

2022 - Methods in Cognitive Science - CGSC 2002B

Instructor: Nadiya Slobodenyuk

Responsibilities: Lecturing, lab instructing, marking assignments.

2021 - Theories in Cognitive Science - CGSC 1001B

Instructor: Rebecca Merkle

Responsibilities: Lecturing, marking assignments, office hours.

2018 - 2021 - Mysteries of the Mind - CGSC 1001

Instructor: Jim Davies

Responsibilities: Marking essays, office hours, lecture attendance.

2017 - Cognitive Psychology - PSYC 2700

Instructor: Robert West

Responsibilities: Host discussion groups, office hours, marking.

## **Awards and Honours**

2024 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Awarded for outstanding research in Cognitive Science.

(Amount: Up to \$80,000)

2023 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS).

2022 Cognitive Science Graduate Scholarship.

Awarded annually to outstanding graduates in Cognitive Science.

2021 Lew Stelmach memorial scholarship - awarded to students who demonstrate excellence in the area of perception or cognition.

2020 Kevin Sampson Graduate Scholarship - awarded annually to students doing research in Human or Artificial Cognition.

2019 Hamlin graduate scholarship (nominated) - awarded annually by the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs to outstanding students.

2018 TA Award for Excellence - Department of Cognitive Science, Carleton.

2018 The Mindtrust Leadership Development Program - leadership certificate.

## **Publications**

- Conway-Smith, B., & West, R. L. (In press 2024). The computational mechanisms of detached mindfulness. In *Proceedings of ICCM 2024, 22nd International Conference on Cognitive Modelling*.
- Conway-Smith, B., & West, R. L. (2024). Toward autonomy: metacognitive learning for advanced AI performance. In *AAAI Spring Symposium: Human-like learning*.
- West, R., Eckler, S., Conway-Smith, B., Turcas, N., Tomkins, E., Kelly, M. (2023). Bridging generative networks with the common model of cognition. In *AAAI Fall Symposium*.
- Conway-Smith, B., & West, R. L. (2023). Metacognitive threshold: a computational account. In *Proceedings of ICCM 2023, 21st International Conference on Cognitive Modelling*.
- Conway-Smith, B., West, R. L., & Mylopoulos. (2023). Metacognitive skill: how it is acquired. In *Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Conway-Smith, B., & West, R. L. (2022). System-1 and System-2 realized within the Common Model of Cognition. In *AAAI Fall Symposium: Thinking Fast & Slow and Other Cognitive Theories in AI*.
- Conway-Smith, B. & West, R. (2022). Clarifying System-1 & 2 through the common model of cognition. In *Proceedings of ICCM 2022, 20th International Conference on Cognitive Modelling*.
- West, R., & Conway-Smith, B. (2019). A computational theory of feeling. In *Proceedings of ICCM 2019, 17th International Conference on Cognitive Modelling*.

## **Conferences & Presentations**

### **2024**

“Toward Autonomy: Metacognitive Learning for Enhanced AI Performance.”  
AAAI Spring Symposium on Human-like learning. Stanford, USA.

## **2023**

“Metacognitive threshold: a computational account.” 21st International Conference on Cognitive Modelling (ICCM). Amsterdam, Netherlands.

“Metacognitive skill: how it is acquired.” Carleton University graduate conference. Ottawa, Canada.

## **2022**

“Meta-reasoning and the influence of culture.” Meta-reasoning conference. Jerusalem, Israel.

“System-1 and System-2 realized within the Common Model of Cognition.” AAAI Fall Symposium: Thinking Fast & Slow and Other Cognitive Theories in AI. Virginia, USA.

“Clarifying Metacognition System 1 & 2 with the Common Model.” In Proceedings of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Toronto, Canada.

“ACT-R workshop presentation.” In Proceedings of ICCM 2022, 20th International Conference on Cognitive Modelling, Toronto, Canada.

“Clarifying System 1 & 2 through the Common Model of Cognition.” In Proceedings of ICCM 2022, 20th International Conference on Cognitive Modelling, Toronto, Canada.

## **2021**

“The Proceduralization of Metacognitive Skills.” Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Virtual.

“Metacognitive Skill Acquisition.” presentation at the annual Conference at Carleton University, Ottawa, ON.

## **2020**

“A Hierarchical Model of Metacognition.” Proceedings of the 42th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

“Modeling Metacognition.” Departmental Colloquium, Carleton, ON

## **2019**

“Metacognitive Modeling; using cognitive modeling to clarify philosophical metacognitive concepts.” Annual conference CogSci. Mtl, QB

## **Technical Skills**

*Statistical Analysis & Modeling:* Proficient in SPSS for statistical analysis and data interpretation.

*Cognitive Modeling:* Experienced with ACT-R for cognitive modeling, demonstrating advanced understanding of cognitive architectures.

*Programming & Development:* Skilled in Python for data analysis, automation, and scripting tasks.

*Graphic Design & Video Editing:* Skilled in Adobe Photoshop for image editing and graphic design; experienced with DaVinci Resolve for professional video editing.

## **Selected Professional Activities**

2024 – Submission reviewer for the International Conference on Cognitive Modeling (ICCM)

2023 – Consultation on FUSION metacognition e-learning modules, Carleton University.

2023 – TEDx “Metacognition: an important skill for modern times”

2022 – Re-branding and marketing for AI Guides company.

2022 – Construction of a model of metacognitive accuracy. In collaboration with the Medical University of Graz, Austria.

2021 - The Conversation (article) “How metacognition - thinking about thinking - can improve the mental-health crisis.”

2021- Submission reviewer for the International Conference on Cognitive Modeling (ICCM)

2018-24 -Graduate Student Association - Councillor

2018 - The Mindtrust Leadership Development Program

2017 - Stanford "Writing in the Sciences," with distinction

2015-16 - Director of Media Operations, Global Dignity Canada

2012 - Participant, Dr. David Vago, Neuroimaging Laboratory, Harvard