

# PABLO FERNANDEZ VELASCO

## EDUCATION

PhD Institut Jean Nicod (ENS, EHESS, CNRS)	2021
<i>A Unified Theory of Disorientation</i>	
Supervisor: Roberto Casati	
Committee: Christopher Peacocke, Barbara Tversky, Marcella Schmidt, Jérôme Dokic	
MSc University of Edinburgh   Philosophy	2016
Specialization: Mind, Language and Embodied Cognition	
Supervisor: Andy Clark	
Certificate UC Berkeley Extension   Creative Writing	2014
BA UC3M   Business Management	2013

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow	2025-
Centre for the Sciences of Place and Memory, University of Stirling	
British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow University of York	2023- 2025
Associate Lecturer Department of Psychology, UCL	2023
Associate Lecturer Birkbeck, University of London	2023
Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellow	2021-2023
Trinity College Dublin	
Postdoctoral Research Fellow CNRS	2021
DAAD Visiting Researcher Bremen Spatial Cognition Centre	2021
Affiliate Researcher Spatial Cognition Lab, UCL	2019-

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2025  
Fernandez Velasco, & Niikawa [What are atmospheres?](#) *The Philosophical Quarterly*
- Fernandez Velasco [Atmospheres and Extended Feelings](#) *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*
- Fernandez Velasco, ... & Spiers [Expert Navigators Deploy Rational Complexity-Based Decision Prioritization for Large-Scale Real-World Planning](#) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*
- Perroy, Fernandez Velasco ... & Casati [Three forms of temporal disorientation: A thematic analysis of subjective reports about Covid-19 restriction periods](#) *PLOS ONE*
- Goodroe, Fernandez Velasco ... & Spiers [Predicting real-world navigation performance from a virtual navigation task in older adults](#) *PLOS ONE*
- 2024  
Fernandez Velasco & Spiers [Wayfinding across ocean and tundra: what traditional cultures teach us about navigation](#) *Trends in Cognitive Science*
- Fernandez Velasco [Self-location in perceptual experience: A top-down account](#) *Mind & Language*
- Fernandez Velasco [Ecological Grief as a Crisis in Dwelling](#) *European Journal of Philosophy*
- Fernandez Velasco & Loev [Metacognitive Feelings: A Predictive Processing Perspective](#) *Perspectives on Psychological Science*
- Ratcliffe & Fernandez Velasco [The nature of grief: implications for the neurobiology of emotion](#) *Neuroscience of Consciousness*
- Griesbauer, Fernandez Velasco, ... & Spiers [London taxi drivers exploit neighbourhood boundaries for hierarchical route planning](#) *Cognition*
- Fernandez Velasco, ... Casati [Social and temporal disorientation during the Covid-19 pandemic: An analysis of 3306 responses to a quantitative questionnaire](#) *British Journal of Psychology*
- Fernandez Velasco & Gleizer [Wayfinding and environmental experience: an analysis of the navigational culture of Evenki reindeer herders and hunters.](#) *Journal of Navigation*
- Garg, Fernandez Velasco, ... Spiers [The relationship between object-based spatial ability and virtual navigation performance](#) *PLOS ONE*
- 2023  
Fernandez Velasco, ... Spiers [No link between handedness and spatial navigation: Evidence from over 400,000 participants in 41 countries](#) *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*
- Fernandez Velasco [Entropy, prediction and the cultural ecosystem of human cognition: A challenge to the integration of Distributed Cognition and Predictive Processing](#) *Synthese*
- Yesiltepe, Fernandez Velasco ... Spiers [Entropy and a Sub-Group of Geometric Measures of Paths Predict the Navigability of an Environment](#) *Cognition*

- Fernandez Velasco P [Social reality without language: enacted representations and institutions in a more-than-human world](#) *Journal of Social Ontology*
- Fernandez Velasco, Nijman, Casati [The cognitive advantages of the notebook](#). *Cognitive Semiotics*
- Walkowiak, Coutrot, Hegarty, Fernandez Velasco, ... Manley [Cultural determinants of the gap between self-estimated navigation ability and wayfinding performance: evidence from 46 countries](#). *Scientific Reports*
- 2022 Gregorians, Fernandez Velasco, Zisch, Spiers [Architectural experience: clarifying its central components and their relation to core affect with a set of first-person-view videos](#). *Journal of Environmental Psychology*
- Fernandez Velasco, ... Casati [Experiencing a slow passage of time was an indicator of social and temporal disorientation during the Covid-19 pandemic](#). *Scientific Reports*
- Fernandez Velasco, ... Casati [Development and validation of a quantitative instrument for measuring temporal and social disorientation in the Covid-19 crisis](#). *PLOS ONE*
- Fernandez Velasco [Group navigation and procedural metacognition](#) *Philosophical Psychology*
- Fernandez Velasco, ... Casati [Lost in pandemic time: A phenomenological analysis of temporal disorientation during the Covid-19 crisis](#). *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*
- Loev, Inchingolo, Fernandez Velasco [What is it \(like\) to imagine an emotion?](#) *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*
- Fernandez Velasco [Come Closer, Famous Odysseus: A Distributed Account of Moral Responsibility](#). *Teorema*
- 2021 Fernandez Velasco & Loev [Affective experience in the predictive mind: a review and new integrative account](#). *Synthese*
- Fernandez Velasco, Perroy, Casati [The collective disorientation of the COVID-19 crisis](#). *Global Discourse: An interdisciplinary journal of current affairs*
- 2020 Fernandez Velasco & Casati [Subjective disorientation as a metacognitive feeling](#). *Spatial cognition & computation*
- Fernandez Velasco & Casati [The many faces of disorientation: a response to Daniel R. Montello](#). *Spatial cognition & computation*
- Fernandez Velasco [Disorientation and self-consciousness: a phenomenological inquiry](#). *Phenomenology and the cognitive sciences*
- 2019 Fernandez Velasco & Casati [Disorientation and GIS-informed wilderness search and rescue](#). *The Philosophy of GIS | Springer*
- 2017 Fernandez Velasco [Attention in the Predictive Processing framework and the phenomenology of Zen meditation](#). *Journal of Consciousness Studies*

## **TEACHING**

Phenomenology & Psychiatry MA Department of Philosophy, University of York

Brain & Behaviour UG Department of Experimental Psychology, University College London

Cognitive Psychology UG Department of Experimental Psychology, University College London

Biological Psychology MSc Department of Experimental Psychology, University College London

Philosophy of Mind UG & MA Department of Philosophy, Birkbeck

Research Graduate Seminar MA & PhD Department of Philosophy, Birkbeck

Philosophy of Place UG Department of Philosophy, Trinity College Dublin

Irish Landscapes BA Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin

Intro to Cognitive Science Scholars Programme, UK

Philosophy of Space and Time BA Department of Philosophy, University College London

Disorientation: Past, present and future MA École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

Philosophy of Cognitive Science MSc Ecole Normale Supérieure

## **SUPERVISION and MENTORSHIP**

PhD Supervision University of Stirling

PGR Mentoring Scheme University of York

PhD Thesis Committee Institute of Behavioural Neuroscience, UCL

Design for Performance & Interaction Master of Architecture Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL

Advanced Architectural Research PG Cert Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL

## **GRANTS**

York AHRC-Aligned Impact Accelerator Fund £7,886 2024  
British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship £392,828 2023  
Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship €86154 2021  
Agence Nationale de la Recherche RA-Covid-19 call (Co-I) €75600 2021  
DAAD: German Academic Exchange Scholarship €3200 2021  
UCL Culture Trellis: Public Art Seed funding €2350 2021  
European Cultural Foundation STEP Grant €500 2019  
UCL-French Embassy Funded Arts, Humanities and Social Science Workshops €2400 2019  
APA Mairie de Paris €2000 2019  
AIE Paris Sciences et Lettres 2000 2019  
CROUS Cultures Actions €1500 2019  
EHESS Aires Culturelles €1200 2018  
EHESS PhD Scholarship €94,623 2017  
University of Edinburgh PGA Fund €700 2015  
International Development Centre UC3M Fellowship €4350 2012

## **AWARDS**

Annual essay prize Runner-up | International Society for Social Ontology 2022  
Annual essay prize Centre for Philosophical Psychology | University of Antwerp 2021  
ILW Most Creative Project Award Finalist | University of Edinburgh 2016  
KPMG consulting competition Winner UC3M | National Finalist 2013

## SELECTED GENERAL AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS

Monet understood the elusive power of a place's atmosphere Psyche Fernandez Velasco	2025
How 'feelings about thinking' help us navigate our world Psyche Fernandez Velasco & Loev	2024
Quasi-textes et ChatGPT Le Monde Fernandez-Velasco, ... Casati	2023
L'art, la science et l'anthropocène The Conversation Fernandez Velasco	2022
Wandering in a suspended time The Oxonian Review Fernandez Velasco	2021

## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

How London's Taxi Drivers Navigate the City Without GPS Bloomberg	2025
The Pacific voyage guided by just a spiritual GPS The Observer	2025
Navigation research often excludes the environment. That's starting to change Science News	2024
How to improve your sense of direction BBC Future	2024
Off the charts: how a Polynesian canoe inspired a renaissance in traditional seafaring The Guardian	2023
Myth debunked: Left-handed people don't have superior spatial vision El País	2023
Feeling lost? You're not alone Irish Times	2023
Which Country Has the Lowest Percentage of Left-Handers? Psychology Today	2023
People in China are the least likely to report being left-handed New Scientist	2023
Arte inspirado por la crisis climática El País	2022
Ce que nous traversons se traduit en un sentiment : la désorientation Radio France	2022

## **SERVICE & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

Researcher Officer Centre for the Sciences of Place and Memory 2025

Postdoctoral Researcher Representative Department of Philosophy, University of York 2024

Co-organiser [Place, memory and emotion ESPP Symposium](#) 2024

Co-organiser [Exploring Place Workshop](#) | University of York 2024

Co-organiser [Place and Emotion Workshop](#) | University of Oxford 2024

Co-organiser [Emotion and Prediction Workshop](#) 2021

Coordinator [Disorientation Speaker series](#) | EHESS 2017-20

Lead Organiser [Experiencing Space Workshop](#) | University College London 2019

Co-organiser [Is Cognition Still in the Wild? Conference](#) | Ecole Normale Supérieure 2019

Co-organiser [Map Semantics Workshop](#) EHESS 2018

Graduate Student Representative Institut Jean Nicod 2017-18

**Refereeing:** Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, Current Anthropology, Emotion Review, Spatial Cognition & Computation, Synthese, Behavioural Brain Research, Erkenntnis, Journal of Consciousness Studies, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences.

## **IMPACT & POLICY ACTIVITY**

Researcher [Tamesis Unweaving Art Workshops](#) 2024-

External speaker [Making Time Residency](#) Science Gallery London 2023

External Researcher [Wandering in Other Worlds](#) Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford 2022

Co-curator [Among the Garbage and the Flowers Art-science Exhibition](#) | 6b Paris 2021

External Researcher [AutSpace Workshop design for neurodivergent participants](#) | UCL Culture 2021

External Observer [AtWork](#) Moleskine Foundation 2021

Researcher [Scholars Programme for disadvantaged students](#) Brilliant Club UK 2020

Producer [Scottish National Gallery](#) 2016

Producer [Glasgow International](#) 2016

## **TRAINING**

Effective Research Supervision University of York 2024  
Distributed Leadership University of York 2024  
Data visualisation UCL Psychology 2024  
Research Impact: Creating Meaning and Value University of York 2024  
Efficient Leadership University of York 2023  
CS50 Computer Science HarvardX 2022  
Creating Experiments in PsychoPy Ecole Normale Superieure 2022  
Statistical Parametric Mapping Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging 2020  
Rapid Reviewing Methodologies UCL Public Policy 2020  
Delivering online teaching UCL Philosophy 2020  
Providing formative feedback UCL Philosophy 2020  
Interactive educational methods Scholars Programme 2019  
Strategic consulting Paris Sciences et Lettres 2018  
Expanding Exhibitions Node Center for Curatorial Studies 2017  
Strategic consulting KPMG consulting competition 2013

## **LANGUAGES**

English (bilingual); Spanish (native); French (bilingual); Russian (elementary proficiency)