

## Tim Button

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### Areas of specialisation

Logic, metaphysics, philosophy of mathematics

### Areas of further interest

Philosophy of language, metametaphysics

### Principal career details

- 2010–13 Research Fellow at St. John's College, Cambridge  
Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, Cambridge
- 2005–6 Analyst at Accenture

### Additional affiliations

- 2012 Visiting Scholar at UTexas, Austin (January–May)
- 2008–9 Visiting Fellow at Harvard University (recipient of a Kennedy Scholarship)

### Education

- 2006–10 PhD in philosophy at Darwin College, Cambridge (AHRC funded)  
Thesis title: *Cats & Vats: Putnam's attacks on metaphysical realism*  
Submitted 2.ix.2010; graduated 19.ii.2011
- 2004–5 MPhil in philosophy at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge (AHRC funded)  
First class in all components; awarded 12.xi.05
- 2001–4 BA in philosophy at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge  
First class with distinction (1\*); awarded 24.vi.04

### Publications

- 2011 The philosophical significance of Tennenbaum's Theorem (with Peter Smith)  
*Philosophia Mathematica*, doi: 10.1093/phimat/nkr031
- 2011 The metamathematics of Putnam's model-theoretic arguments  
*Erkenntnis* 74.3, pp. 321–49
- 2011 Spotty scope and our relation to fictions  
*Noûs* 45.1, pp. 1–16
- 2010 Dadaism: restrictivism as militant quietism  
*Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 110.3, pp. 387–98
- 2009 SAD computers and two versions of the Church–Turing Thesis  
*British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 60.4, pp. 765–92
- 2009 Hyperloops do not threaten the notion of an effective procedure  
*CiE 2009, Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, 5635, pp. 68–78

- 2007 Every Now and Then, no-futurism faces no sceptical problems  
*Analysis* 67.4, pp. 325–32
- 2006 Realistic structuralism’s identity crisis: a hybrid solution  
*Analysis* 66.3, pp. 216–22
- 2006 There’s no time like the present  
*Analysis* 66.2, pp. 130–35

### **Selected peer-reviewed & invited talks**

- 2011 Carnap, Dummett, and metaphysical solipsism. Geneva
- 2011 The analogy between brain-in-vat scepticism & Skolemism. Arché
- 2011 Slicing & dicing, scheming & polyscheming. Institute of Philosophy, London
- 2009 Inspecting cats and snake attacks. Moral Sciences Club, Cambridge
- 2009 Restrictivism as militant quietism. Graduate Session of the Joint Session, UEA
- 2009 Hyperloops do not threaten the notion of an effective procedure. Computability in Europe, 2009, Heidelberg
- 2009 What hypercomputers (don’t) tell us about effective procedures. Science & Philosophy of Unconventional Computing, Cambridge
- 2009 Referring in fictions & referring to fictions. BW6: Reference and Non-Existence, Barcelona
- 2009 Truth in structures & referential underdetermination. Pitt & CMU graduate conference
- 2009 “What is an indefinite totality?” How not to approach indefinite extensibility. UCLA & USC graduate conference
- 2008 Model theory versus fictionalism. MWPMW9, Notre Dame
- 2008 Where fiction ends and reality begins. MetaMetaphysics at LOGOS, Barcelona
- 2007 Hypercomputers and Turing computers. Arché graduate conference

### **Teaching, supervising & examining**

- 2011 Birkbeck: Co-convened research/grad seminar on philosophy & model theory
- 2011 Cambridge: Lectured third year course on realism & anti-realism
- 2011 Cambridge: Lectured second year course on transcendental arguments
- 2011 Cambridge: Undergraduate examinations assessor
- 2010, 11 Cambridge: Lectured first year course on formal logic
- 2009, 10 Cambridge: Lectured second year course on modal logic
- 2006–11 Cambridge: Supervised third year papers on metaphysics, philosophical logic, and mathematical logic; second year papers on metaphysics & philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, and logic; first year papers on metaphysics & philosophy of mind, and logic
- 2006–11 Cambridge: Tutored first year logic classes
- 2009 Harvard: TF’d undergraduate courses on pragmatism
- 2008 Harvard: TF’d undergraduate courses on deductive logic
- 2006–8 Cambridge: Led undergraduate discussion groups on various topics

## Administrative experience

- 2012 Conference organiser  
With two colleagues, I am organising a conference: *Foundations of mathematics: what are they and what are they for?* This will be a residential conference lasting three days, with thirteen invited speakers. The total budget will be approximately £18,000, and we have received funding from the British Academy and the Mind Association.
- 2008–11 Referee for various journals  
Refereeing papers for: *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*; *Dialectica*; *Erkenntnis*; *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*; *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Synthese*; *Theoria*.
- 2007, 10–11 Undergraduate interviewer at Pembroke College, Cambridge
- 2007–8 Secretary of Cambridge's Moral Sciences Club
- 2008 Graduate conference organiser  
A colleague and I set up Cambridge's first philosophy graduate conference, in philosophy of logic & mathematics. This two-day event featured two keynote speakers, six graduate speakers, and respondents for all talks. It was funded by the Analysis Trust, the Aristotelian Society, the BSPS and the *EJP*. This conference is now an annual event.

## Selected academic prizes & awards

- 2009 Two Certificates of Distinction in Teaching, from Harvard University, for both courses for which I was a teaching fellow (Deductive Logic & Pragmatism)
- 2008 Kennedy Scholarship, from the Kennedy Memorial Trust
- 2006–10 Philosophy studentship, from Darwin College
- 2004–10 M.Phil & PhD Funding, from the AHRC
- 2007 Best talk at the Arché graduate conference
- 2005 Matthew Buncombe Prize (shared), from the Cambridge Philosophy Faculty, for the best overall M.Phil
- 2004 Schuldham Plate (shared), from Gonville & Caius College, for the best overall undergraduate academic performance

Last updated: Monday, 9 January 2012