

CURRICULUM VITAE

John MICHAEL
Department of Philosophy
University of Milan
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Areas of Specialization: philosophy of science, philosophy of cognitive science, social cognition, joint action, commitment, human-robot interaction, philosophy of economics, moral/normative psychology, meta-ethics, action theory, decision theory

• EDUCATION

- 2010 PhD, University of Vienna, Austria
 Doctoral Program (*Initiativkolleg*) for Philosophy and History of Science,
 Defended on 08.03.2010, received the highest possible grade (= 1)
- 2006 M.A., University of Tübingen, Germany
 Philosophy (Major Subject/ *Hauptfach*), grade: very good (*sehr gut*); Rhetoric
 (Minor Subject/ *Nebenfach*), grade: very good (*sehr gut*); Cultural Studies
 (=*empirische Kulturwissenschaft*) (Minor Subject/ *Nebenfach*), grade: very
 good (*sehr gut*). MA thesis in philosophy of biology.
- 2000 B.A. Wesleyan University (CT), USA
 Department of Philosophy

• PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2022 – Assistant Professor (RTD-B), Department of Philosophy, University of Milan,
 Italy.
- 2021 – 2022 Senior Lecturer and Research Lead, Psychology Department, BPP University
 & Affiliated Faculty Member, Department of Cognitive Science, Central
 European University
- 2020 Lecturer, Psychology Department, University of Stirling
 & Affiliated Faculty Member, Department of Cognitive Science, Central
 European University
- 2016 – 2019 Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department, University of Warwick
 & Affiliated Faculty Member, Department of Cognitive Science, Central
 European University
- 2014 – 2016 Marie Curie Research Fellow (Proposal received a score of 98.7 out of 100).
 Department of Cognitive Science, Central European University, Hungary

- 2013 – 2014 Post-doctoral Researcher, Center for Subjectivity Research, University of Copenhagen
- 2009 – 2013 Post-doctoral Researcher, Mindlab and Gnosis Research Center, Aarhus University, Denmark

• **GRANTS AND PRIZES**

- 2016—2021 European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant nr 679092, ‘The Sense of Commitment: An Integrative Framework for Modeling the Sense of Commitment’ (PI). €1,4833,000
- 2019 British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant: ‘Commitment to Joint Travel in Chimpanzees.’ 10,000 GBP
- 2018/2019 Economic and Social Research Council, Impact Acceleration Funding: ‘Interacting with Facial Paralysis.’ 6,000 GBP
- 2017 Philip Leverhulme Prize. 100,000 GBP
- 2016/2017 Warwick Impact Fund, 'Developing a Social Skills Workshop for Teens with Möbius Syndrome' (PI). Total Value: 41,000 GBP
- 2014 Marie Curie Fellowship awarded by the European Commission (hosted by Günther Knoblich and Natalie Sebanz, Central European University, Budapest). Proposal received a score of 98.7 out of 100 (PI). Total Value: €138,475.20
- 2014 Möbius Syndrome Foundation Research Grant for the project ‘A Social Skills Workshop for Teens with Möbius’ (CO-PI). Total Value: \$13,710 ~ €12,149.
- 2012 ‘Short-Term Scientific Mission’ Grant from ESF: COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology), for research at the Italian Institute of Technology, Genoa (PI). Total Value: €2,000

• **HONORARY APPOINTMENTS AND ACADEMIC OFFICES**

- 2017- Treasurer, European Society for Philosophy and Psychology
- 2019 Program Committee, European Philosophy of Science Association
- 2016 – Affiliated Researcher: CEU, Budapest
- 2013 – Affiliated Researcher
Interacting Minds Centre, Aarhus University

Fall 2012 Visiting Fellow
Center for Cognitive Studies, Tufts University (hosted by Daniel Dennett)

Spring 2011 Guest Researcher
Italian Institute of Technology, Genoa, Italy

Spring 2007 Guest Researcher
MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany

PUBLICATIONS

Google Scholar Citations=1476 / H-Index=21

BOOKS

Michael, J. (2021). *The Philosophy and Psychology of Commitment* (1st ed.). Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315111308>

PRE-PRINTS

Liang, Y., Wolf, T., Török, G., & Székely, M., & Michael, J. (2019, May 9). Comparing effort perception in individual and joint action contexts.
<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/B7STN>

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Siposova, B., Grueneisen, B., Green, A., & Michael, J., (Accepted as Registered Report, *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*), ‘The other side of the prosocial coin: the developmental roots of strategic ignorance’

McEllin, L. & Michael, J. (forthcoming) ‘Sensorimotor communication fosters trust and generosity: The role of effort and signal utility’, *Cognition*.

McEllin, L., Felber, A., & Michael, J. (forthcoming), ‘The Fruits of our Labor: Interpersonal coordination generates commitment by signaling a willingness to adapt’, *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*

Chennells, M. & Michael, J. (In Press, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*), Breaking the Right Way: A Closer Look at How We Dissolve Commitments

Hattersley M., Brown, G., Michael, J., Ludvig, E., (2022), ‘Of Tinfoil Hats and Thinking Caps: Reasoning is More Strongly Related to Implausible than Plausible Conspiracy Beliefs’, *Cognition*, Volume 218, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2021.104956>

Zhang, N., Michael, J., Bogart, K., & McEllin, L. (2022), Web-Based Sensitivity Training for Interacting with Facial Paralysis, *PLoS One*, 17(1), e0261157.

Vignolo, A., Powell, H., Sciutti, A., Rea, F., & Michael, J., (2021), 'Humanoid Robot's Effortful Adaptation Boosts a Human Partner's Commitment to Joint Action', *Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction* (9), 1-17. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3481586>

Green, A., Siposova, B., Kita, S., & Michael, J. (2021), 'Stopping at Nothing: Two-Year-Olds Differentiate Between Interrupted and Abandoned Goals', *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022096521000898>

Bonalumi, F., Michael, J. & Heintz, C. (2021), Perceiving commitments: When we both know that you're counting on me, *Mind & Language*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mila.12333>

Michael, J., Chennells, M., Nolte, Ooi, J., Griems, J., London Personality and Mood Disorder Network, T, Christensen, W King-Casas, B., Fonagy, P. & Montague, R. (2021), Probing Commitment in Individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychires.2021.02.062>

Westra, E., Terrizzi, B., van Baal, S., Beier, J., & Michael, J. (2021), 'Beyond avatars and arrows: Testing the mentalizing and submentalizing hypotheses with a novel entity paradigm', *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology* <https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218211007388>

Michael, J., & van Baal, S. (2021). Key themes in recent research on interpersonal functioning in borderline personality disorder. *Current Opinion in Psychiatry*, 34(1), 44-47.

Székely, M. & Michael, J. (2020), The Sense of Effort: A Cost-Benefit Theory of the Phenomenology of Mental Effort, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13164-020-00512-7>

Arndis Simonsen, Mia Ilsø Mahnkeke, Riccardo Fusaroli, Thomas Wolf, Andreas Roepstorff, John Michael, Chris D Frith, Vibeke Bliksted (2020), Distinguishing Oneself from Others: Spontaneous Perspective-Taking in First Episode Schizophrenia and its relation to Mentalizing and Psychotic Symptoms, *Schizophrenia Bulletin Open*, sgaa053, <https://doi.org/10.1093/schizbullopen/sgaa053>

Cross, L., Michael, J., Wilsdon, L., Henson, A., & Atherton, G. (2020), Still Want to Help? Interpersonal Coordination's Effects on Helping Behaviour After a 24 Hour Delay,' *Acta Psychologica* 206, 103062.

Michael, J., Felber, A., and McEllin, L. (2020), 'Prosocial Effects of Coordination: What, Why and How?', *Acta Psychologica* 207, 103083.

Ooi, J., Siew, C., Butterfill, S., Lemola, S., Michael, J. (corresponding author), & Walasek, L., (2020), 'Interpersonal Functioning in Borderline Personality Disorder Traits: A Social Media Perspective', *Nature: Scientific Reports* 10, 1068 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-58001-x>

Vignolo, A., Sciutti, A., & Michael, J. (2020, November). Using Robot Adaptivity to Support Learning in Child-Robot Interaction. In *International Conference on Social Robotics* (pp. 428-439). Springer, Cham.

Michael, J., & De Bruin, L. (2020). How does social cognition shape enculturation? *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 43, E108. doi:10.1017/S0140525X19002814

Vignolo, A., Sciutti, A., McEllin, L., Powell, H., Rea, F. & Michael, J (2019), An Adaptive Robot Teacher Boosts a Human Partner's Learning Performance in Joint Action, Conference: 2019 28th IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (*RO-MAN 2019*).

Clarke, S., McEllin, L., Francová, A., Székely, M., Butterfill, S. A., & Michael, J. (2019). Joint action goals reduce visuomotor interference effects from a partner's incongruent actions. *Nature: Scientific Reports*, 9(1), 1-9.

Michael, J., Gutoreva, A., Lee, H. M., Tan, P. N., Bruce, E. M., Székely, M., ... Ludvig, E. A. (2019) Decision-makers use social information to update their preferences—but choose for others as they do for themselves, *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, 1-16. DOI: 10.1002/bdm.2163.

Székely, M., Powell, H., Vannucci, F., Rea, F., Sciutti, A., & Michael, J. (2019). The perception of a robot partner's effort elicits a sense of commitment to human-robot interaction. *Interaction Studies*, 20(2), 234-255.

Bonalumi, F., Isella, M., & Michael, J. (2019). Cueing implicit commitment. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 10(4), 669-688.

Green, A., McEllin, L., & Michael, J. (2019). Does Sensorimotor Communication Stabilize Commitment in Joint Action?: Comment on “The body talks: Sensorimotor communication and its brain and kinematic signatures” by G. Pezzulo et al. *Physics of Life Reviews*. 10.1016/j.plrev.2019.01.009.

Powell, H., & Michael, J. (2019). Feeling committed to a robot: why, what, when and how? *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 374(1771), 20180039.

Michael, J & Szigeti A. (2019) The Group Knobe Effect Evidence that People Intuitively Attribute Agency and Responsibility to Groups, *Philosophical Explorations*. 22(1), 44-61.

Vignolo A., Sciutti A., Rea F., Michael J. (2019) Spatiotemporal Coordination Supports a Sense of Commitment in Human-Robot Interaction. In: Salichs M. et al. (eds) Social Robotics. *ICSR 2019*. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 11876. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-35888-4_4

Chennells, M & Michael, J. (2018). Effort and performance in a cooperative activity are boosted by the perception of a partner's effort, *Nature: Scientific Reports* (2018) 8:15692 | DOI:10.1038/s41598-018-34096-1

Ooi, J., Francová, A., Székely, M., & Michael, J (2018). The Sense of commitment in individuals with borderline personality disorder traits in a non-clinical population, *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 9: 519. doi: 10.3389/fpsy.2018.00519

Michael, J., & Székely, M. (2018). The Developmental Origins of Commitment *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 49 (1), 106-123

Székely, M. & Michael, J. (2018), Investment in Commitment: Persistence in a Joint Action is Enhanced by the Perception of a Partner's Effort, *Cognition* 174, 37-42.

Nagatsu, M, Larsen, L, Karabegovic, M, Székely, M, Mønster, D. & Michael, J. (2018) Making good cider out of bad apples -- Signaling expectations boosts cooperation among would-be free riders, *Judgment and Decision Making* 13 (1), 137-149.
<http://journal.sjdm.org/16/161219/jdm161219.pdf>

Bing, R. & Michael, J. (2018). Overcoming The Uncanny Valley Through Shared Stressful Experience with a Humanoid Robot. *Journal of Emerging Investigators*, 1-6.

de Bruin, L. & Michael (2018) Prediction Error Minimization as a Framework for Social Cognition Research, *Journal of Erkenntnis* pp. 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-018-0090-9>

Michael, J., Székely, M & Christensen, W. (2018), Using episodic memory to gauge implicit and/or indeterminate social commitments, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
doi:10.1017/S0140525X1700142X

Michael, J, Wolf, T., Letesson, C., Butterfill, S., Skewes, J., Hohwy, J. (2017). Seeing it both ways: Using a double-cueing task to investigate the role of spatial cueing in level-1 visual perspective-taking. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*. DOI: 10.1037/xhp0000486

Hohwy, J & Michael, J (2017) Why does any body have a self? In: *The Body and the Self, Revisited*. (eds.) Alsmith & Vignemont. MIT Press.

Michael, J., & Székely, M. (2017). Goal slippage: a mechanism for spontaneous instrumental helping in infancy? *Topoi*, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11245-017-9485-5>

Michael, J., & Salice, A. (2017). The Sense of Commitment in Human–Robot Interaction. *International Journal of Social Robotics*, 9 (5), 755-763
DOI 10.1007/s12369-016-0376-5

de Bruin, L., & Michael, J. (2017). Prediction error minimization: Implications for embodied cognition and the extended mind hypothesis. *Brain and cognition*, 112, 58-63.
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/John_Michael8/publication/293196280_Prediction_error_minimization_Implications_for_Embodied_Cognition_and_the_Extended_Mind_Hypothesis/links/56b9fa3408ae9d9ac67f421d.pdf

Michael, J, Sebanz, N, & Knoblich G., (2016), Observing Joint Action: Coordination Creates Commitment, *Cognition* 157, 106-113.

Michael, J, & Christensen, W. (2016), Flexible goal attribution in early mindreading, *Psychological Review* Vol. 123, No. 2, 219–227.

- Michael, J., Sebanz, N. & Knoblich, K. (2016). The Sense of Commitment: A Minimal Approach, *Frontiers in Psychology* 6, 1968, DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.01968
- Michael, J. (2016). What are shared emotions (for)? *Frontiers in Psychology*, vol. 7, No. 412, DOI=10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00412, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00412>
- Salice, A., & Michael, J. (2016). Joint commitments and group identification in human-robot interaction. In *Sociality and Normativity for Robots* (pp. 179-199). Springer, Cham.
- Lowe, R., Almer, A., Lindblad, G., Gander, P., Michael, J., & Vesper, C. (2016). On the role of cognitive-affective states in joint action. *Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience*, 10, 88
- Steglich-Petersen, A. & Michael, J. (2015) Why Desire Reasoning is Developmentally Prior to Belief Reasoning, *Mind & Language* vol 30, no. 5, pp. 526-549
- Michael, J. (2015) Putting unicepts to work: A teleosemantic perspective on the infant mindreading puzzle, *Synthese*, DOI: 10.1007/s11229-015-0850-x
- Michael, J and D'Ausilio, A (2015). Domain-Specific and Domain-General Processes in Social Cognition – A Complementary Approach. *Consciousness and Cognition* 18, 434-437
- Michael, J., Bogart, K., Tylen, K., Østergaard, J.R., Krueger, J., & Fusaroli, R. (2015) Training in compensatory strategies enhance rapport in interactions involving people with Möbius Syndrome, *Frontiers in Endovascular and Interventional Neurology*. Volume 6, article 213, DOI: 10.3389/fneur.2015.00213
- Christensen, W. & Michael, J. (2015) From two systems to a multi-systems architecture for mindreading. *New Ideas in Psychology*, doi:10.1016/j.newideapsych.2015.01.003
- Michael, J. (2015) Cultural learning and the reliability of the intentional stance, in: Munoz Suárez, C. (Ed.) *Content and Consciousness 2.0: Four Decades After (Studies in Brain and Mind Series*, vol 7): Springer, pp: 163-184. Response by Daniel Dennett, pp: 216-218.
- Michael, J., Sandberg, K., Skewes, J., Wolf, T., Blicher, J., Overgaard, M., & Frith, C.D. (2014). Continuous theta burst demonstrates a causal role of premotor homunculus in action interpretation, *Psychological Science* 25: 963-972. DOI: 10.1177/0956797613520608
- Michael, J., Christensen, W. & Overgaard, S. (2014). Mindreading as social expertise, *Synthese* 191:817–840. DOI: 10.1007/s11229-013-0295-z
- Michael, J. and Pacherie, E. (2014) On Commitments and other uncertainty reduction tools in joint action, *Journal of Social Ontology*, <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jso.ahead-of-print/jso-2014-0021/jso-2014-0021.xml>
- Michael, J., Sandberg, K., Skewes, J., Wolf, T., Blicher, J., Overgaard, M., & Frith, C. (2014) Unconvincing statistical and functional inferences: Reply to Catmur, *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 8, nr: 00887. DOI=10.3389/fnhum.2014.00887
- Michael, J. & Fardo, F. (2014). What (if anything) is shared in pain empathy? A critical

discussion of De Vignemont and Jacob's (2012) theory of the neural substrate of pain empathy, *Philosophy of Science* 81: 154–160.

Michael, J. (2014). Towards a consensus about the role of empathy in interpersonal understanding, *Topoi* Vol. 33 (1): 157-172. DOI: 10.1007/s11245-013-9204-9

Skewes, J., Skewes, L., Michael, J., Konvalinka, I. (2014). Synchronised and complementary coordination mechanisms in an asymmetric joint aiming task, *Experimental Brain Research*, DOI: 10.1007/s00221-014-4135-2

Michael, J., Bogart, K., Tylen, K., Krueger, J., Bech, M., Ostergaard, J. R., & Fusaroli, R. (2014, September). Control and flexibility of interactive alignment: Mobius syndrome as a case study, *Cognitive Processing*, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. S125-S126, Heidelberg: Springer. DOI: 10.1007/s10339-014-0632-2.

Michael, J. & Salice, A. (2014) (How) Can robots makes commitments? A pragmatic approach. In: Seibt, J. et al. (Eds.), *Social Robots and the Future of Social Relations*, IOS Press 2014. DOI: 10.3233/978-1-61499-480-0-125

Michael, J. and Wolf, T. (2014) Why apply a hierarchical predictive processing framework to musical perception and performance? *Empirical Musicology Review*, Vol. 9 (3-4).

Michael, J. & Macleod, M. (2013) Applying the causal theory of reference to intentional concepts, *Philosophy of Science* 80 (2): 212-230

Overgaard, S. & Michael, J. (2013). The interaction theory of social cognition – a critique, *Philosophical Psychology* DOI: 10.1080/09515089.2013.827109

Krueger, J. & Michael, J. (2012). Gestural coupling and social cognition: Moebius Syndrome as a case study, *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 6:81. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2012.00081.

Michael, J. & Overgaard, S. (2012) Interaction and social cognition: A comment on Auvray et al.'s perceptual crossing paradigm, *New Ideas in Psychology* (30): 296–299.

Michael, J. (2012). Mirror systems and simulation: a neo-empiricist interpretation, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*: Volume 11 (4): 565-582

Michael, J. (2011). Interaction and Mindreading, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* 2(3): 559-578.

Michael, J. (2011). Shared Emotions and Joint Action, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* 2(2) 2011: 355-373.

Michael, J. (2011). Four Models of the Functional Contribution of the Mirror Neuron System *Philosophical Explorations* 14 (2) 2011: 185-194.

EDITOR OF SPECIAL ISSUES AND EDITED VOLUMES

Guest Editor of *Synthese* Special Issue: Thinking (about) Groups, Fall 2017.

Guest Editor of *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* Special Issue: Mental Actions and Mental Agency, Volume 6 (4), December 2015.

Guest Editor of *Consciousness and Cognition* Special Issue: How Direct is Social Perception? Volume 36, November 2015.

Co-editor of edited volume: Gallotti, M. & Michael, J. (2014) *Perspectives on Social Ontology and Social Cognition*, Studies in the Philosophy of Sociality 4, DOI 10.1007/978-94-017-9147-2_1. Springer: Dordrecht.

Guest Editor, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, Special Issue: Putting the Plastic Brain into Context, Volume 18, No. 7-8, 2011.

- **COMMISSIONS OF TRUST**

- European Society for Philosophy and Psychology: Treasurer since 2017
- European Philosophy of Science Association: Program Committee Member since 2018
- Ad hoc reviewer for:
 - *Cortex, Cognitive Science, Nature Human Behaviour, Scientific Reports, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Mind and Language, Mind, Psychological Review, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, Psychological Science, QJEP, Experimental Brain Research, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Journal of Consciousness Studies, Philosophical Psychology, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Philosophical Explorations, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Synthese, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Topoi, PLoS One, New Ideas in Psychology, Behavioral Brain Research, Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, Cognitive Semiotics, Robotics: Science and Systems 2015*
- Evaluator for:
 - ERC
 - European Science Foundation Community of Experts: Member of the College of External Reviewers
 - Fernand Braudel-IFER Incoming Program Fellowship
 - Research Foundation Flounders (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen, FWO)
 - Leverhulme Trust
 - DFG
 - ESRC

- **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

- TMS, R, SPSS, JASP, EPrime

- **MEDIA COVERAGE**

- An article in *Factor* on the sense of commitment project: <http://factor-tech.com/robotics/23824-researchers-are-studying-commitment-so-we-can-make-robots-that-care-about-us/>
- A piece in the *The New Scientist* about my TMS study on action understanding: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn25002-brain-zapping-makes-role-of-mirror-neurons-clearer.html#.UyRkgdwVfGA>
- A *Youtube* video describing my study on social interactions involving people with Möbius Syndrome: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JiBy5jqmTw&spfreload=10>
- Articles in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and in *Weekendavisen* on my study on social interactions involving people with Möbius Syndrome:
 - <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/wissen/seltene-krankheiten-versteinert-1.2826034?reduced=true>
 - <http://www.weekendavisen.dk/smarticle/view/3>

- **LANGUAGES**

English: native speaker

German: approaching native level

French: good reading ability, conversational

Danish: good reading ability, conversational

Latin: basic

Greek: basic