

Dr Simon D'Alfonso | Academic CV

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Citizenship: Australian

Current Position: Research fellow in the School of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Melbourne

Website: <http://people.eng.unimelb.edu.au/dalfonso/>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=hXEZnsUAAAAJ>

Research Areas

- E-Psychology, Cyberpsychology
- Expert Systems and Knowledge Representation
- Formal Epistemology and Decision Theory
- Philosophy of Information and Computing

Education

- 2009 – 2012: University of Melbourne, PhD (Awarded March 2013)
 - Thesis Title: [Towards a Framework for Semantic Information](#)
- 2000 – 2004, 2006: University of Melbourne, Bachelor of Arts & Sciences. Majors in Philosophy and Computer Science.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles (Primary Authorship)

- E-Psychology
 - D'Alfonso, S., Santesteban-Echarri, O., Rice, S., Wadley, G., Lederman, R., Miles, C., ... Alvarez-Jimenez, M. (2017). *Artificial Intelligence-Assisted Online Social Therapy for Youth Mental Health*. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8, 796. <http://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.00796>
- Knowledge Representation and Philosophy
 - D'Alfonso, S. *Truthlikeness and the Lottery Paradox via the Preface Paradox*. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2018) 96 (2): pp 391-397 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00048402.2017.1372491>
 - D'Alfonso, S. *Belief merging with the aim of truthlikeness*. *Synthese* (2016) 193 (7): pp 2013-2034. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-015-0825-y>
 - D'Alfonso, S. *The Logic of Knowledge and the Flow of Information*. *Minds and Machines* (2014) 24 (3): pp 307-325. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11023-013-9310-x>
 - D'Alfonso, S. *Explicating a Standard Externalist Argument against the KK Principle*. *Logos and Episteme* (2013) (4): pp 399-406. <https://doi.org/10.5840/logos-episteme2013442>

- D'Alfonso, S. [*Supplementing Belief Revision for the Aim of Truthlikeness*](#). *The Reasoner*, (2011) 5(9): pp 143-145.
- D'Alfonso S. *On Quantifying Semantic Information*. *Information*. (2011) 2(1):61-101. <https://doi.org/10.3390/info2010061>

Refereed Journal Articles (Contributing Authorship)

- E-Psychology
 - Alvarez-Jimenez, M., et al., *4.3 Enhancing Social Functioning and Long-Term Recovery in Young People with First Episode Psychosis (FEP) and Young People at Ultra High Risk (UHR) for Psychosis: A Novel Online Social Therapy Approach*, *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, Volume 44, Issue suppl_1, 1 April 2018, Pages S4–S5, <https://doi.org/10.1093/schbul/sby014.010>
 - Rice, S., et al., *Implementation of the Enhanced Moderated Online Social Therapy (MOST+) Model Within a National Youth E-Mental Health Service (eheadspace): Protocol for a Single Group Pilot Study for Help-Seeking Young People*. *JMIR Res Protoc* 2018;7(2) <http://www.researchprotocols.org/2018/2/e48>
 - Santesteban-Echarri, O., et al., *A next-generation social media-based relapse prevention intervention for youth depression: Qualitative data on user experience outcomes for social networking, safety, and clinical benefit*, In *Internet Interventions*, Volume 9, 2017, Pages 65-73, ISSN 2214-7829, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.invent.2017.06.002>
 - Rice, S., et al., (2016) *Moderated online social therapy for depression relapse prevention in young people: pilot study of a 'next generation' online intervention*. *Early Intervention in Psychiatry*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/eip.12354>

Reviews

- D'Alfonso, S. *Weathering the Infostorm*. *Metascience* (2015) 24: 441. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-015-9997-9>
- D'Alfonso, S. [*Quitting Certainties*](#). *Philosophy in Review*, 34(1-2):34-36, 2014
- D'Alfonso, S. [*Information: A Very Short Introduction*](#). *Essays in Philosophy*, 11(2):238-243, 2010.

Book Chapters

- [*"Knowledge"*](#) and [*"Truth"*](#). In Phyllis Illari, editor, *The philosophy of information: A simple introduction*. The Society for the Philosophy of Information, 2013.

Conference Papers

- Alvarez-Jimenez, M., Rice, S., Gleeson, J., WADLEY, G., Lederman, R., D'Alfonso, S. (2016) [*Moderated online social therapy in youth mental health: Seizing the opportunity*](#). Workshop position paper at CHI 2016 Symposium on Computing and Mental Health.

Media Articles

- [4 ways tech can help your mental health](#). The University of Melbourne Pursuit Magazine. 2017.

Presentations

- *The Psychology and Ethical Design of an Online Social Therapy Platform* (SWARM symposium Melbourne, August 30th, 2018)
- *Mental Health - Stories from the Trenches* (Peak15 Health Tech, October 18th, 2017)
- *Integrity Constraints and Truth for Belief Change* (RMIT Computer Science Department Seminar, November 27th, 2015)
- *Revising our Beliefs Towards the Truth* (University of Wollongong Decision Systems Lab Research Seminar, October 20th, 2014)
- *A Framework for Semantic Information* (University of Melbourne Philosophy Postgraduate Seminar Series, July 24th, 2012)
- *The Logic of Knowledge and the Flow of Information* (Fourth Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, May 2012, University of Hertfordshire)
- *The Logic of Knowledge and the Flow of Information* (University of Melbourne Logic Seminar Series, November 4th, 2011)
- *Conceptions of Information within Philosophy* (The Difference that Makes a Difference, Open University Milton Keynes, 2011)
- *Agent-Relative Informativeness: Combining Truthlikeness Semantic Information Measures with Belief Revision* (University of Melbourne Logic Seminar Series, April 8th, 2011)
- *A Logic for Agent-Oriented Relevance* (University of Melbourne Logic Seminar Series, September 17th, 2010)
- *Knowledge and Information* (University of Melbourne Philosophy Postgraduate Seminar Series, August 31st, 2010)
- *An Analysis of Informational Relevance* (Australasian Association of Logic Conference, 2nd July 2010)
- *The Logic of Being Misinformed* (University of Melbourne Logic Seminar Series, April 16th, 2010)
- *Knowledge and its Value: Some Reasons Why Knowledge Is More Valuable Than True Belief* (University of Melbourne Philosophy Postgraduate Seminar Series, March 9th, 2010)

Academic Employment History

- 2017 – Present: Research fellow in the School of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Melbourne. Tech lead and computing researcher at [eOrygen](#), the e-mental health group of [Orygen](#), the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health.

- 2013 – 2016: Research Assistant in the Department of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Melbourne. Lead programmer of the [MOST](#) online therapy project.
- For a summary of my general professional IT employment history, see <http://simondalfonso.id.au/resume.pdf>

Teaching and Supervision

- 2018: Tutoring/supervision in the following University of Melbourne CIS subjects:
 - [Web Information Technologies](#)
 - [Foundations of Computing](#)
 - [Emerging Technologies and Issues](#)
 - [Master of Information Technology](#) Software Project supervision
 - Worked with two teams for the subject [Software Requirements Analysis](#)
 - Worked with three teams for the subject [Masters Software Engineering Project](#)
- 2015: Tutor for [Database Systems & Information Modelling](#) at the University of Melbourne.
- 2012: Tutor for [Objects, Events and Knowledge](#) at the University of Melbourne. This appointment also involved some lecturing duties.
- 2010, 2011, 2013: Tutor for [Philosophy: The Big Questions](#) at the University of Melbourne.

Professional Services and Associations

- Membership of [Association for Computing Machinery](#)
- Fellow of the [Melbourne Academy](#)
- Referee for:
 - [JMIR Mental Health](#)
 - [Synthese](#)
 - [Erkenntnis](#)
 - [Philosophy & Technology](#)
 - [Logique et Analyse](#)
 - [Journal of Logic and Computation](#)
 - Editor of the [Philosophy of Information section at philpapers.org](#)

Funding/Grants

Funding Body and Scheme	Project Title	Year	Amount	Project Description	Role
University of Melbourne– University of Manchester Research Fund	Exploring therapeutic alliance for digital mental health	2018	9,850 AUD + 5692 GBP	Seed funding to travel, publish and host a symposium in collaboration with University of Manchester colleagues.	Investigator
Victorian Government Medical Research Acceleration Fund	Using artificial intelligence and smartphone sensor technology to personalise and optimise the digital delivery of mental health therapy.	2018	193,494 AUD	Using AI and smartphone sensor data to drive an advanced digital mental health therapy recommendation system for the Moderated Online Social Therapy (MOST) web platform.	Chief Investigator
Telstra Foundation Tech4Good Challenge	Passive Sensing for Moderated Online Social Therapy	2018	20,000 AUD	A seed grant to vie for more funding to develop a smartphone passive sensing and digital phenotyping framework for the detection of mental health and delivery of digital therapy.	Tech Lead and CIS Researcher
Movember Foundation	The Entourage Project	2018	200,000 AUD	Adaptation of the MOST online social therapy system for a cohort of youth with social anxiety disorder.	Tech Lead and CIS Researcher

Awards and Honours

- 2014: Research Support Award from the University of Melbourne School of History and Philosophical Studies.
- 2009 – 2012: Australian Postgraduate Award (APA). Funding in support of PhD candidature.

- 2006: [Laurie Prize for Honours in Philosophy](#). This prize is awarded to the candidate who has been placed second in the first-class honours list in the final year of the pure honours course in Philosophy for the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne.

Referees

- Dr Greg Wadley
 - Connection: Colleague
 - Position: Lecturer in the School of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Melbourne
 - E: greg.wadley@unimelb.edu.au
 - W: <http://people.eng.unimelb.edu.au/gwadley/>
 - T: +61 3 8344 1586
- Associate Professor Reeva Lederman
 - Connection: Supervisor
 - Position: Associate Professor in the School of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Melbourne
 - E: reeva.lederman@unimelb.edu.au
 - W: http://www.cis.unimelb.edu.au/people/staff.php?person_ID=5168
 - T: +61 3 8344 1535
- Associate Professor Mario Alvarez
 - Connection: Colleague, Project Leader
 - Position: (1) Associate Professor in the Centre for Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne (2) Director of eOrygen
 - E: mario.alvarez@orygen.org.au
 - W: <https://www.orygen.org.au/About/Our-People/Researchers/Mario-Alvarez-Jimenez>
 - T: +61 3 9342 2800
- Professor Greg Restall
 - Connection: Doctoral advisor
 - Position: Professor in the philosophy department at the University of Melbourne
 - E: restall@unimelb.edu.au
 - W: <http://consequently.org>
 - T: +61 3 8344 0282
- Dr Sebastian Sequoiah-Grayson
 - Connection: Thesis examiner

- Research fellow in the Centre for the Foundations of Science at the University of Sydney
- E: sebastian.sequoiah.grayson@sydney.edu.au
- W: <http://logic.tsd.net.au>

- Professor Luciano Floridi
 - Connection: Academic associate
 - Position: Professor of Philosophy at Oxford Internet Institute.
 - E: luciano.floridi@philosophy.ox.ac.uk
 - W: <http://www.philosophyofinformation.net>
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