

TOBY TAN-DE SOUZA

Curriculum Vitae

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📍 Sunshine Coast, QLD

Professional Profile

I am a philosopher and educator with first class honours and an MPhil in Philosophy and research interests in relational ontology, contextualism, environmental philosophy and philosophy of science. My work examines how relations and context contribute to the constitution and understanding of objects, concepts and systems. I have taught philosophy, ethics, Responsible Data Science and philosophy of science at university level, including as Head Tutor at the University of Queensland. I am now exploring whether philosophical methods of conceptual analysis and contextual reasoning can contribute to emerging problems in AI evaluation and sociotechnical systems.

Research Interests

Established research:

- Relational ontology; contextual individuation; environmental philosophy; philosophy of science; metaphysics; ethics; metaphilosophy; education.

Current exploratory interest:

- Whether contextual and relational approaches can contribute to AI evaluation, especially where capabilities and harms emerge through particular sociotechnical contexts.
- What does AI do to philosophy now that there is another entity capable of rational inquiry?

Education and Research

2024 – Present	Master of Secondary Teaching University of Newcastle, Australia
2017 – 2019	Master of Philosophy University of Queensland, St. Lucia <i>Master's Thesis: "Is There a Need for a New, an Environmental, Metaphysic?"</i> • Developed a naturalistic and relational account of environmental philosophy, examining how entities and their identities are constituted through relations and context. • Research Funding: Research and Training Federal Scholarship.
2016 – 2026	First Class Honours in Philosophy (Class IA) University of Queensland, St. Lucia <i>Honours Theses:</i> • "Ecological Processes: An Account of Val Plumwood's Environmental Philosophy" • "Relational Ecology: A Mereological Application of Spinozism to Environmental Philosophy" Graduating GPA: 7.0
2012 – 2015	Bachelor of Arts University of Queensland, St. Lucia Extended Major: Philosophy Minors: Logic and the Philosophy of Science and Studies of Religion Graduating GPA: 6.38

Relevant Academic Experience

2017 – 2022

The University of Queensland – St Lucia, Brisbane

Sessional Academic and Head Tutor

- Taught DATA7002 (Responsible Data Science), STAT1201 (Ethics), PHIL1002 (Introduction to Philosophy), SCIE1000 (Philosophy of Science)
- Worked across philosophy, engineering, science and data-science cohorts, translating complex philosophical and ethical problems for interdisciplinary audiences.
- Served as Head Tutor, supporting tutor coordination, assessment and moderation; assessed argumentation and provided detailed analytical feedback

Other qualifications

2023 – 2023

Diploma of Teaching English as a Foreign Language

(170 hours), The TEFL Academy, 2023

Employment History

2026 – Present

Private High School Tutoring

English and Math tutor

- Provide out-of-school tutoring for high school students
- Plan and customize lessons tailored to meet each student's needs
- Online tutoring; ICT skills are showcased
- Communicating with families to nurture student success

2025 – 2026

Bremer State High School – Ipswich

Youth Worker

- Provide ongoing social and emotional support to students facing complex, personal, social and academic challenges
- Respond to student crises and disclosures with calm, immediate support and appropriate referrals, ensuring all actions align with child protection policies and procedures.
- Deliver brief, targeted interventions tailored to both individual students and whole year-level needs
- Design and implement individual and group programs that promote engagement, wellbeing, and academic success
- Maintain accurate and detailed case management notes in line with school and departmental requirements
- Liaise effectively with key stakeholders to provide holistic support

2023 – 2024

Unity Concord International School – Chiang Mai

High School English Teacher

- Planned and delivered differentiated English programs for multilingual secondary students.
- Designed curriculum, assessment and units of work aligned with the Common Core State Standards.
- Monitored student progress using STAR360 and WIDA assessment data.
- Communicated regularly with families regarding student learning and wellbeing.
- Collaborated across faculties to improve teaching practice and student outcomes.
- Applied evidence-based classroom management strategies to create safe and supportive learning environments.

2021 – 2022

Cooktown District Community Centre – Cooktown

AOD Counsellor and Youth Support Worker

- Delivered holistic case management for young people affected by alcohol and other drug use in remote communities.
- Provided advocacy, court support and school engagement.
- Delivered evidence-based brief interventions informed by established therapeutic frameworks.
- Worked collaboratively with schools, families and community agencies to support positive educational and social outcomes.
- Maintained detailed case notes and contributed to quarterly outcome reporting. Provide holistic case management for AOD affected youths in remote communities

2017 – 2020

Geok Tee Language School – Brisbane

ESL teacher

- Planning and implementing learner-centred lessons that are differentiated and scaffolded for ESL
- Assessing and reporting on student academic achievement in a timely manner
- Assessing and monitoring student progress using CEFR and WIDA data
- Reliably mark, moderate and assess student essays, providing detailed feedback and grades
- Collaborating with teachers within and across faculties to improve instruction and school processes
- Utilizing evidence-based classroom management strategies to create safe and supportive learning environments

Awards, Distinctions and Scholarships

- Semester 1 2017 – Semester 2 2019
Federally Funded Research Training Program Scholarship
University of Queensland
- Semester 1 2014 – Semester 2 2016
6 x Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence
- Semester 1 2012
Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence
- Semester 1 2015 – Semester 2 2016
3 x Dean's Scholar awards
- Semester 2 2014
Studies of Religion Paid Essay Prize

Professional references will be happily provided upon request.