

# Victoria Trumbull

Philosopher · Author · Public Intellectual

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## PROFILE

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Dr Victoria Trumbull is a philosopher, author, and public intellectual whose work explores the nature of memory, time, consciousness, and the human soul. Her debut book, *On the Memory of the Soul* (Bloomsbury Philosophy, 2026), develops a new philosophy of selfhood and experience by drawing upon the history of classical and spiritualist philosophy. She lectures regularly at leading public festivals and cultural institutions. She holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford (Oriental College) and a BA from Columbia University.

## BOOKS

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*On the Memory of the Soul*. London: Bloomsbury Philosophy, forthcoming October 2026.

## WRITING

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### Journal Articles

'The Personal Soul Presupposes the Memory'. *The Review of Metaphysics*, vol. 79, no. 2: 301–23, December 2025.

### Book Chapters

'Augustine's Philosophical Spiritualism'. In *Augustine's Philosophy: Classic and Contemporary Themes*, eds. A. Marmodoro and R. Ballon-Villaneuva. Abingdon: Routledge, forthcoming 2026.

'Ways of Knowing Truth'. *Truth and Lies through History*. Stockholm: Bokforlaget Stolpe, forthcoming 2026.

### Public Essays

'Consciousness is a Creative Force'. Institute of Art and Ideas, forthcoming 2026.

'Memory is Not Stored in the Brain'. Institute of Art and Ideas, November 2025.

'Thought and Creativity: On the Art of Poetic Invention'. *Epoche Magazine*, vol. 81, May 2025.

## PUBLIC LECTURES AND APPEARANCES

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### 2026

- Panel: 'What is It Like to Be Alive?' July 2026  
ZOE: Life Abundant in an Artificial Age, Cluny Institute, Napa Valley
- Panel: 'Maps of the Mind'. With Sir Simon Baron-Cohen and Professor Karl Friston. May 2026  
How the Light Gets In Festival, Hay
- 'Memory is Not Stored in the Brain' (solo talk) May 2026  
How the Light Gets in Festival, Hay
- Debate: 'Memes, Minds, and the Myth of Control'. May 2026  
Big Think in partnership with How the Light Gets In Festival, Hay
- 'Ways of Knowing Truth' March 2026  
Ax:son Johnson Foundation Seminar, Engelsberg
- Interviewer: Rowan Williams on Solidarity: The Work of Recognition March 2026  
Oxford Literary Festival
- 'Do We Have a Soul, and Does It Matter?' January 2026  
Leit House in partnership with Ladbroke Hall, London

### 2025

- Introduction to Iain McGilchrist March 2025  
Oxford Literary Festival

## RADIO, PODCASTS & SCREEN

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- Interviewee, Memory Documentary Forthcoming 2026  
Axess Television
- Interviewee, 'Memory is Not Stored in the Brain' Forthcoming 2026  
Institute of Art and Ideas TV
- 'The Philosophy of Henri Bergson' November 2025  
Timeline Theological Videos
- 'The Mind is Not the Brain, and the Brain is Not a Computer' May 2025  
Footnotes 2 Plato podcast

## SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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‘The Philosophical Question of the Survival of the Soul’ D Society, Cambridge	2026
‘Two Perspectives on Metaphysics’ History of Philosophy Seminar, University of Lisbon	2025
‘The Metaphysics of the Creative Will’ British Society for the Philosophy of Religion Conference, Oxford	2025
‘The Psychological and Cosmological Role of the Logos’ Logos in the Platonic Tradition Conference, Cambridge	2025
‘The Soul as Dynamic Unity: On the Spiritual Substance of the Soul’ Campion Hall Seminar, Oxford	2025
‘Image, Thought, and Word’ (co-organiser) Philosophy and Poetics Conference, All Souls College, Oxford	2024
‘Beyond Substance Dualism: Distinguishing between Body and Soul’ UK Medieval Philosophy Network, UCL	2024
‘Memory, Duration, and the Distentio Animi’ European Society for the Philosophy of Religion Conference, Oxford	2022

## EDUCATION

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DPhil, Oriel College, University of Oxford Dissertation: On the Memory of the Soul: The Spiritualist Metaphysic of Saint Augustine and Henri Bergson. Supervisor: Professor Mark Edwards, Christ Church.	2025
MPhil in Philosophical Theology, University of Oxford With Distinction. Supervisor: Professor Mark Edwards, Christ Church.	2021
BA in Philosophy, Columbia University Senior Thesis supervised by Professor Achille Varzi.	2019

## RESEARCH AREAS

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Philosophy of mind and memory · Metaphysics and philosophy of time · History and theories of the soul · Augustine, Plotinus, Neoplatonism · Henri Bergson and modern French philosophy · Artificial intelligence and consciousness · Philosophy of religion

## AWARDS

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John Jay Scholar Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program	2015–2019
Dean's List Columbia University	2015–2019
National Merit Scholarship NMSC	2014

## OTHER

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Peer-reviewer Bloomsbury Philosophy	2026
Managing Editor The Philosopher's Magazine	2024
Volunteer Tutor in Philosophy OxNet Programme, Pembroke College, Oxford	2024
Undergraduate Recruitment Committee Member Columbia University Admissions Office	2015–2019

## ENDORSEMENTS

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‘Victoria has written a fascinating and engaging thesis which demonstrates a high degree of intellectual creativity; familiarity with scholarly debates in a range of academic disciplines; and a capacity to penetrate and reconstruct complex ideas in her pursuit of some of the most profound questions raised in modern philosophy and theology.’ — Dr Rowan Williams

‘Ms Trumbull’s book should make an important contribution to the history of ideas.’ — Professor Mark Edwards

‘Ms Trumbull is doing something very different, finding in philosophers of the past — and in two very different ones — the resources to develop philosophy today in a promising new direction.’ — Professor John Marenbon