Undergraduate Research Opportunity

**Visual Perspective Taking**

Prof. Ben Phillips  
Philosophy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours required p/week</th>
<th>3</th>
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<td>Credits anticipated</td>
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This project is about children's understanding of the visual perspectives of others. The aim is to determine when children first understand that people divide their attention unevenly between the objects that populate their visual fields (e.g., we tend to focus on objects that are bright; objects that are relevant to our goals; and so on). Children between the ages of 2 and 7 years of age will be tested on a series of short tasks. The passing of each task will require the child to understand that an object's surroundings can make it less noticeable than other objects. In other words, each task is designed to test the child's understanding of how camouflage works.

**Research assistant's duties:**
The research assistant's duties will include helping me to administer the tests; recording observations; and helping parents to sign consent forms.

**Required skills or qualifications:**
The student must be comfortable working with children. Experience working in a research lab is a plus, but not necessary.

**Skills student will acquire:**
The student will learn how to run an experiment and collect data. The student will also learn about 'theory of mind', the ability to represent the mental states of others. Theory of mind is a central research topic in both philosophy of mind and developmental psychology.