

Patricia Smith Churchland has a B. A. from the University of British Columbia, an M. A. from the University of Pittsburgh, and a B. Phil. from the University of Oxford. Her curiosity about the philosophical implications of advances in brain science matured when she was a junior professor at the University of Manitoba in Canada. Aided by a Woodrow Wilson Faculty Development Grant (1975-76), she studied neurology at the University of Manitoba Medical School, and learned basic neuroscience in the Jordan spinal cord lab. She and her colleague-husband, Paul Churchland, came to the University of California, San Diego in 1984, where she pioneered the subfield of neurophilosophy. She is also an adjunct Professor at the Salk Institute.

Patricia Churchland was chair of the Philosophy Department at the University of California, San Diego from 2000-07, where she is a researcher in neurophilosophy – the interface between traditional philosophy questions concerning consciousness, knowledge, meaning, and free will and developments in neuroscience. Her best known book is Neurophilosophy (MIT Press 1986). A more recent treatment of neurophilosophical issues is found in her book, Brain-Wise: Studies in Neurophilosophy (2002; MIT Press.) She is also co-author with T. J. Sejnowski of The Computational Brain (MIT 1992), co-author with Paul Churchland of On The Contrary (MIT 1998) and co-editor with Rodolfo Llinas of The Mind-Brain Continuum (MIT Press 1996).

She and her husband, Paul M. Churchland are the focus of two recent books: The Churchlands and Their Critics (ed. R. M. McCauley; Blackwells, 1996) and The Churchlands, by W. Hirstein (Wadsworth 2002). She has been president of the American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division) and the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, and won a MacArthur Fellowship in 1991. She has done television work, including an interview with Bill Moyers for The World of Ideas, Charlie Rose on NightLine, a debate with John Searle on Britain's Channel 4, and appearances on The Human Quest (PBS), The Universe Within (Discovery Channel), Changing the Mind (TBS/CNN), and a number of interviews for European television. An extended interview can be found on The Science Network <http://thesciencenetwork.org/>. Patricia Churchland's webpage address is <http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/faculty/pschurchland/index20.html>