

Mark Bowker

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Bielefeld University. Postdoctoral Researcher. October 2024–October 2026

Lund University. Postdoctoral Researcher. September 2022–September 2024

University of Barcelona. Postdoctoral Researcher. May 2022–September 2022

New College of the Humanities (now Northeastern University London).
Lecturer. August 2021–May 2022

University College Dublin. Postdoctoral Researcher. October 2018–January 2021

University of St Andrews. External Tutor (Part Time). February 2018–September 2018

Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich.
Postdoctoral Researcher. August 2016–November 2017

PUBLICATIONS

12. A Serpent in the Garden? 2024. *Inquiry* 67(8): 2773–2782
11. Keeping Context in Mind: A Non-Semantic Explanation of Apparent Context-Sensitivity. 2024. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 47: 191–209
10. A Problem for Generic Generalisations in Scientific Communication. 2023. *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 40(1): 123–132
9. Introducing New Work on Indeterminacy and Underdetermination. 2022. *Synthese* 200(6), 495
8. As Editor: Topical Collection on ‘Indeterminacy and Underdetermination’. 2022. *Synthese*. With Maria Baghramian
7. Shifting Perspective on Indexicals. 2022. *Pragmatics* 32(4): 518–536
6. Ineliminable Underdetermination and Context-Shifting Arguments. 2022. *Inquiry* 65(2): 215–236
5. Truth in Fiction, Underdetermination, and the Experience of Actuality. 2021. *British Journal of Aesthetics* 61(4): 437–454
4. Cognitive Context-Sensitivity. 2021. In C. Penco, A. Negro (eds.) *Proceedings of the 2021 Workshop on Context: Semantics, Pragmatics and Cognition*
3. Saying a Bundle: Meaning, Intention, and Underdetermination. 2019. *Synthese* 196(10): 4229–4252
2. Underdetermination, Domain Restriction, and Theory Choice. 2019. *Mind & Language* 34(2): 205–220
1. Rich Situated Attitudes. 2017. With Kristina Liefke. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, vol. 10247, New Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence, JSAI-isAI 2016, Kurahashi S., Ohta Y., Arai S., Satoh K., Bekki D. (eds), pp 45–61

EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy. University of St Andrews. June 2016

Master of Letters (Distinction) in Philosophy. Universities of St Andrews and Stirling. Nov. 2011

Master of Arts (First Class Honours) in Philosophy. University of St Andrews. June 2010

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

PhD teaching

Social and Political Philosophy of Language. Lund University. Nov. 2022–Feb. 2023

Generic Generalizations in Science, Ethics and Society. University of Oslo. June 2022. With Mirela Fus-Holmedal and Ravi Thakral

Master's teaching

Philosophy of Emotion. Bielefeld University. Oct. 2025–Jan 2026

Philosophy of Language. New College of the Humanities, London. Jan.–March 2022

Philosophy of Mind. New College of the Humanities, London. Sep.–Dec. 2021

Philosophical Logic. New College of the Humanities, London. Sep.–Dec. 2021

Epistemology. New College of the Humanities, London. Sep.–Dec. 2021

Undergraduate teaching

Philosophy of Emotion. Bielefeld University. Oct. 2025–Jan 2026

Epistemic Modals. Bielefeld University. Oct. 2025–Jan 2026

Heuristics in Decision-Making. Bielefeld University. April–Sep. 2025

Context-Sensitivity in Language. Bielefeld University. April–Sep. 2025

What Are Concepts? Bielefeld University. Oct. 2024–Jan. 2025

Bad Language: Figleaves and Dogwhistles. Bielefeld University. Oct. 2024–Jan. 2025

Philosophy of Language. Lund University. March 2024

Philosophy of Language. New College of the Humanities, London. Jan.–March 2022

Philosophy of Mind. New College of the Humanities, London. Sep.–Dec. 2021

Philosophical Logic. New College of the Humanities, London. Sep.–Dec. 2021

Epistemology. New College of the Humanities, London. Sep.–Dec. 2021

The Analytic Revolution. University College Dublin. Jan.–May 2019. With Marinus Ferreira

Insults, Lies, and Bullshit. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich. May–July 2017

As Postgraduate Tutor. University of St Andrews. 2011–2016. Formal logic, Philosophical logic, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science, Ethics, Metaethics, Political Philosophy, Ancient Greek Philosophy

Supervision

Simon Retzlaff, BA thesis, Bielefeld University, Figleaves and Dogwhistles, 2025–6

RESEARCH VISITS AND COLLABORATION

Cognitive Development Lab, New York University. Visiting Scholar. Jan. 2021–25

InFraMinds Project. University College Dublin. Postdoctoral Researcher. Jan. 2021–25

African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science. University of Johannesburg. Visiting Fellow. July 2023

Rutgers University. Visiting PhD Student. Jan 2013–April 2013

Linguistic Creativity in Communication, CRC 1646. Bielefeld University. October. 2024–October 2026. Project Number: 512393437. Project role: Affiliated Researcher on sub-project B05: Open Texture as a Source of Semantic Creativity.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Major Grants, approx. value €457,000

Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Fellowship 2021. ‘Prejudice: Source and Propagation’, grant no. 101063848. Horizon Europe, European Research Executive Agency. €206,887.68

Juan de la Cierva-Incorporación Fellowship 2020. ‘Stereotypes as Hybrid Representations: The Evidential Bootstrapping Hypothesis’, grant no. IJC2020-043766-I. Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation. €97,800

Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2018. ‘Meaning and Meaninglessness: A Nihilist Account of Generics’, grant no. GOIPD/2018/605 Irish Research Council. €91,846

PhD Studentship. ‘Saying Nothing: In Defence of Syntactic and Semantic Underdetermination’, grant no. AH/J500446/1. Funding Source: UK Arts and Humanities Research Council. £52,230

Further Awards

Conference Funding 2019. Irish Research Council, New Foundations: €5,000

Conference Funding 2019. University College Dublin, Seed Funding: €1,000

Travel Scholarship 2013. University of St Andrews: £1600

Masters Scholarship 2010. University of St Andrews: £4000

Undergraduate Research Internship Programme 2009. University of St Andrews: £1800

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Departmental Service::

Bielefeld AI Task Force 2024–26

Examined theses:

On Open Texture and Mathematics, BA thesis. Bielefeld University. Aug. 2025

Skepticism and Simulated Worlds: What do we know about the External World?. BA thesis. Bielefeld University. May 2025

Conference Organisation:

Primary Organiser: Indeterminacy and Underdetermination. UCD. 24th–25th January 2020. With Maria Baghramian

Organising Committee: Situations, Information, and Semantic Content. MCMP, LMU. 16th–18th December 2016. Chair: Kristina Liefke

Referee: Arché/CSMN Graduate Conference 2011–13, St Andrews/Oslo, Arché Graduate Conference 2013–2016 St Andrews; CCC 2020, Warsaw; ECAP 9, Munich

Boards and Committees:

Editorial Board: *Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal* 2009–10

Officer: British Undergraduate Philosophy Society 2009–10

Journal Reviewer:

2025 Analysis, Theoria, Erkenntnis, Synthese (x2)

2024 Philosophers’ Imprint, Psychological Review, Synthese, Lingua, Philosophical Quarterly

2023 Philosophical Quarterly, Erkenntnis, Analysis, Ergo

2022 Journal of Philosophy, J. Aesthet. Art Crit (x2), Res Philosophica, Philosophical Studies

2021 Philosophical Studies

2020 Ergo, South. J. Philos., Mind & Language (x2), Ethical Theory and Moral Practice

2019 Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Mind & Language

2018 Mind & Language (x2)

2017 Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Inquiry

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teaching

- Introduction to Oral Assessment. Lund University. March 2024
- Coaching Techniques in PhD Supervision. Lund University. 26th Sep. 2023
- Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. 80 hours, equivalent to 3 ECTS credits. Lund University. Jan–May 2023
- Detecting, Reporting, and Addressing Cheating Using AI tools. Lund University. March 2023
- Handling the Impact of AI tools—Technical aspects. Lund University. Feb. & March 2023
- Handling the Impact of AI tools—Educational Possibilities. Lund University. Feb. 2023
- Handling the Impact of AI tools on Assessment. Lund University. Jan. 2023
- Teaching and Learning. University College Dublin. Dec. 2019–Jan. 2020
- Training in Good Academic Practice. University of St Andrews. Sep. 2014
- Tutoring and Demonstrating. University of St Andrews. Sep. 2011
- Assessment and Academic Misconduct: An introduction. University of St Andrews. Sep. 2011

Equality and Diversity

- See the Human Beyond - The Importance of By-Standers. Lund University. Nov. 2023
- Student Diversity Online Training Module. University of St Andrews. Sep. 2014

Statistics and Experiments

- Advanced Statistics With R. Bielefeld University. Oct. 2024–Jan. 2025
- Social & Behavioral Research - Basic/Refresher. CITI Program. July 2023
- Experimental Statistics: Design of Experiments. Lund University. March–June 2023
- Ethics in Research. Lund University. March 2023
- Personal Data in Research. Lund University. Sep. 2022
- Personal Data and Data Protection. Lund University. Sep. 2022
- Statistics II. Humanities Lab, Lund University. Feb–June 2021

Outreach and Communication

- Developing Research for Funding Bids. Lund University. Nov. 2022
- The Conversation* media training. Lund University. June 2021.
- Presenting Your Research Effectively. University College Dublin. Feb. 2019
- Sharing Your Research Interests Through Blogging. University College Dublin. Nov. 2018

PRESENTATIONS

Public Outreach

- Edgelordring: Provoking Criticism by Causing Offence. Public Lecture. *Lund Philosophical Society*. 7th Dec. 2022
- Generalisations about Social Groups. Podcast appearance. *Five Minute Philosophy*. 18th Nov. 2022. <https://anchor.fm/fiveminutephilosophy>
- How Should We Talk About the Pandemic? 2022. *Journal of Applied Philosophy Blog*. <http://justice-everywhere.org/health/how-should-we-talk-about-the-pandemic/>
- As Associate Researcher at St Leonards School, St Andrews. A series of eight lectures delivered to two classes of high-school students. Sep. 2013–2014.

Invited Presentations

Minimal Communication. Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich. Nov. 2025.

Minimal Semantics and Open Texture. Open Texture Workshop. Bielefeld University. Sep 2025

Minimal Semantics Without Pragmatics. Philosophy of Language and Linguistics Conference. Dubrovnik. 12th Sep. 2025

Cognition-Sensitive Minimalism. St Andrews Diaspora Seminar. August 29th 2025.

The Concept of Prejudice. Stats Club, Bielefeld University. 9th Jan 2025

Inconvenient Truth: Heuristics and Truth-Value Judgments. Lund-Uppsala Workshop on Philosophy of Language. Uppsala University. 28th Nov. 2024

Lies and Prejudice. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 2nd Oct. 2024

Experimental Results: Generic Testimony and the Bootstrapping Hypothesis. The Semantics and Pragmatics of Indirect Speech Reports. Linguistic and Epistemological Perspectives on Testimony project. Stockholm University. 21st Aug. 2024

Manipulating Generic Agreement. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 13th Aug. 2024

Do Generalisations Lead to Entrenched Prejudices? Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 23th Apr. 2024

Generic Testimony. CONCEPT Brown Bag Seminar. University of Cologne. 10th Jan 2024

Testing the Generic Bootstrapping Hypothesis. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 6th Dec. 2023

Experimental Work on Generic Generalisations. Generics Reading Group. Online. 20th Oct. 2023

Experimental Work on Generic Generalisations. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 11th Oct. 2023

Do We Need a Theory of Reference? Philosophy of Language and Linguistics, Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik. 4th Sep. 2023

From Observation to Generalisation: An Experimental Study. ACEPS Work-in-Progress Workshop. African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science, University of Johannesburg. 21st July 2023

From Observation to Generalisation, or There and Back Again. CogSci Seminar. Lund University. 9th May 2023

From Evidence to Prejudice. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 28th Mar. 2023

Generalisations about Social Groups. Podcast appearance, *Five Minute Philosophy*. 18th Nov. 2022. <https://anchor.fm/fiveminutephilosophy>

Edgelording: Provoking Criticism by Causing Offence. Public Talk. Lund Philosophical Society. 7th Dec. 2022

Inferential Asymmetry and Social Kinds. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 6th Sep. 2022

The Edenic Theory of Reference: A Serpent in the Garden? The Iceland Reference Workshop. University of Iceland. 2nd June 2022

A New Problem for Generic Generalisations in Scientific Communication. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 10th May 2022

The Generic Bootstrapping Hypothesis. Cognitive Science Research Group (CSRG). New College of the Humanities, London. 13th Oct. 2021

A Cognitive Approach to Generics Generalisations. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 28th July 2021

Edgelords: Provoking Criticism Through Offence. Language Online Workshop. Online. 26th July 2021

Cognitive Context Sensitivity. (Mis)Communication and Context. University of Tartu. Online. 1st July 2021

Edgelords: Inviting Criticism. Boğaziçi University. Online. 17th May 2021

Edgelording. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. Online. 13th May 2021

Generics for Edgelords. Language in Progress Workshop. Online. 13th April 2021

Generics, Dogwhistles, and Edgelords. St Andrews Diaspora Seminar. 2nd April 2021

Current Studies. NYU, Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 28th Jan. 2021

The Generic Bootstrapping Hypothesis. Cognitive Development Lab. New York University. 21st Jan. 2021

'Fake News', Expertise, and 'Conspiracy Theories'. St Andrews Diaspora Seminar. 6th Nov. 2020

Generics Fast and Slow. The Edinburgh philosophy of language group (EPLG). The University of Edinburgh. 10th Feb. 2020

Sterken on Generics. Philosophy of Language Group. University of Vienna. 30th Jan. 2020

Generics, Propositions, and Cognitive Structure. Indeterminacy and Underdetermination. University College Dublin. 25th Jan. 2020

The A-Quantifier Test. Arché 20th Anniversary Conference. University of St Andrews. 20th June 2019

How Do We Know What People Mean by the Words They Use? Interview presentation. St Leonards School, St Andrews. 28th Nov. 2013

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

The Plausible Weakening of Generic Stereotypes. Generics and Stereotypes in Discourse: A Cross-Disciplinary Perspective. Leiden University. 5th June 2025. With Mirela Fus-Holmedal, Olivier Lemeire & Ravi Thakral

Generic Generalisations as a Source of Entrenched Prejudice. XXV World Congress of Philosophy. Sapienza University of Rome. August 2024

Generic Bootstrapping as a Source of Prejudice. Symposium on The Language of Prejudice. 11th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy. University of Vienna. 22nd August 2023

Edgelords. 14th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy. University of Messina. 22nd Sep. 2021

Edgelording: Provoking Criticism Through Offence. Prudence and Politics. MANCEPT, University of Manchester. 10th Sep. 2021

The Generic Bootstrapping Hypothesis. CEPDISC Conference on Discrimination. 20th Aug. 2021

The Context-Sensitivity of Generic Generalisations. 2021 Workshop on Context: Semantics, Pragmatics and Cognition. DAFIST, University of Genoa, Italy. Online. 22nd June 2021

The Generic Bootstrapping Hypothesis. XPhi Europe 2021. Charles University, Prague. Poster presentation. Online. 18th June 2021

The Cognitive Context-Sensitivity of Generic Generalisations. PhiLang 2021. Online. 15th May 2021

Expressive Generics in Scientific Communication. Philosophical Perspectives on Covid-19. The Institute for the Future of Knowledge, University of Johannesburg. Online. 12th May 2021

The Aesthetic Experience of Fictional Truth. American Society of Aesthetics Rocky Mountain Division Meeting. Santa Fe. 12th July 2019

Generics as Hedges. Annual Conference of the Israeli Philosophical Association. Bar Ilan University. 13th Feb. 2019

Generics Without Truth-Conditions. The 2nd Context, Cognition and Communication Conference: Contexts, Concepts, Objects. University of Warsaw. 16th June 2018

Semantic Restrictivism. Fourth Philosophy of Language and Mind Conference (PLM4). Ruhr-Universität Bochum. 22nd Sep. 2017

Reviving Semantic Descriptivism. Ninth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP 9). LMU. 25th Aug. 2017

Denying Semantic Content. Situations, Information, and Semantic Content. MCMP, LMU. 16th Dec. 2016

Rich Situated Propositions: The ‘Right’ Objects for the Content of Propositional Attitudes. Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics (LENLS13). 8th JSAI International Symposium on AI. Keio University, Tokyo. 15th Nov. 2016

Saying Nothing. Semantics and Pragmatics at Manchester. University of Manchester. 29th July 2015

Propositional Equivalence and the Referential/Attributive Distinction. Eighth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP 8). University of Bucharest. 1st Sep. 2014

Against Syntactic and Semantic Determinacy. Annual conference of the Israel Philosophy Society. Tel Aviv University. 5th Feb. 2014

Context and Content. 9th National Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA). University of Padua. 23rd-25th Sep. 2010

Frege’s Objections to Mill’s Theory of Arithmetic. British Undergraduate Philosophy Society Summer Conference. The University of Warwick. 1st-2nd May 2010

Kaplan’s Framework for Indexicals and Explanations of Communication. British Undergraduate Philosophy Society Summer Conference. University of St Andrews. July 2009

Internal Presentations

Are Philosophers Linguistic Prescriptivists? Bielefeld Philosophical Club. 19th Nov. 2025

Minimal Propositions. Theoretical Philosophy Seminar. Bielefeld University. 6th May 2025

Provocative Offence. Theoretical Philosophy Seminar. Bielefeld University. 28th Feb 2025

Experimental Work on Generic Generalisations. Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy. Lund University. 10th Oct. 2023

Edgelording: Provoking Criticism by Causing Offence. Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy. Lund University. 28th Feb. 2023

Prejudice: Source and Propagation. Department of Philosophy. Lund University. 13th Sep. 2022

Expressive Generics. Work in Progress Seminar. University College Dublin. 14th May 2020

Truth and Paradoxes of Self-Reference. Work in Progress Seminar. University College Dublin. 25th March 2020

Expressive Generics. Work in Progress Seminar. University College Dublin. 14th Nov. 2019

Fictional Characters in the Actual World. Work in Progress Seminar. University College Dublin. 21st Jan. 2019

Generics as Hedges. Work in Progress Seminar. University College Dublin. 17th Oct. 2018

Generic Disagreement. Arché Language & Mind Seminar. University of St Andrews. 15th May 2018

Sainsbury and Tye, ‘Seven Puzzles’. Arché Language & Mind Seminar. University of St Andrews. 17th April 2018

Language Without Content. Work-In-Progress Seminar. MCMP, LMU. 18th May 2017

Towards a Rich Situated Account of Semantic Underdetermination. Colloquium in Philosophy, Logic, and Philosophy of Science. MCMP, LMU. 26th Oct. 2016

Contrary Linguistic Theories. Arché Language & Mind Seminar. University of St Andrews. 6th Oct. 2015

Underdetermination. Arché PITT Seminar. University of St Andrews. 27th May 2015

Propositional Equivalence and the Referential/Attributive Distinction. Friday Seminar. University of St Andrews. 3rd Oct. 2014

Yablo's Aboutness. Arché PITT Seminar. University of St Andrews. 24th Sep. 2014

Lackey's Lessons from Lies and Bullshit. Arché Evidence, Justification, and Knowledge Seminar. University of St Andrews. 13th June 2014

Syntactic and Semantic Determinacy. Arché PITT Seminar. University of St Andrews. 19th Nov. 2013

"That's What He Said!" Friday Seminar. University of St Andrews. 25th Oct. 2013

Semantics and Metasemantics. Arché PITT Seminar. University of St Andrews. 1st Oct. 2013

Against the Two-Step Theory. Arché PITT Seminar. University of St Andrews. 4th June 2013

In Defence of the Standard View. Friday Seminar. University of St Andrews. 12th April 2013

On What is Said. Arché PITT Seminar. University of St Andrews. 9th Oct. 2012

The Two-Step Theory. Arché Reading Party. Ardtornish. 28th Sep. 2012

Positional Representation of Context. Arché Contextualism and Relativism Seminar. University of St Andrews. 21st May 2012

What is or Would Be Said. Supervision Seminar. University of St Andrews. 27th March 2012

Papineau on the Poverty of Analysis. Arché Methodology Seminar. University of St Andrews. Nov. 2011