

# JEN SEMLER

[jen.semler@philosophy.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jen.semler@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)

[www.jensemler.com](http://www.jensemler.com)

## RESEARCH

**AOS** AI ethics; practical ethics; normative ethics

**AOC** Experimental philosophy; philosophy of mind

## EDUCATION

2024 (exp.)

**DPhil in Philosophy** | University of Oxford

Dissertation: *Artificial (non-sentient) Moral Agency*

Supervisors: Carissa Véliz, Alison Hills

Affiliated student at the Institute for Ethics in AI

Affiliated student at the Oxford BioXPhi Lab

2021

**MPhil in Philosophy** | University of Cambridge

Grade: pass with distinction

Thesis: *The Right to Create Future Generations*

Supervisor: Alex McLaughlin

2020

**MA in Medieval Icelandic Studies** | University of Iceland

Grade: first class

Thesis: *Is Njáll a Compatibilist? Aristotelian Voluntary Action in Njáls Saga*

Supervisor: Jan Alexander van Nahl

2019

**BA in Philosophy, Public Policy, Economics (minor)** | Duke University

GPA: 3.94/4.00 (magna cum laude); highest distinction in philosophy

Thesis: *Moral Luck and Responsibility*

Supervisor: David Wong

Committee: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Gopal Sreenivasan

2017

**Visiting Student** | University of Oxford

2016

**Summer Program Student** | Duke in Geneva

## PUBLICATIONS

Under Contract

**Case Study: Lockdowns**

part of the "Liberty" chapter in *Issues in Political Theory* (edited by R. Jubb & P. Tomlin), Oxford University Press

2019

**Recent Experimental Work on 'Ought' Implies 'Can'** (with P. Henne), *Philosophy Compass*, available [here](#)

2019                      **Against some Recent Arguments for ‘Ought’ Implies ‘Can’: Reasons, Deliberation, Trying, and Furniture** (with P. Henne, V. Chituc, F. De Brigard, & W. Sinnott-Armstrong), *Philosophia*, available [here](#)

## TALKS

**Types of Artificial Moral Agency**  
2023                      Philosophy, AI, and Society Doctoral Colloquium | *Oxford*

**Can AI be a Genuine Source of Moral Action?**  
2023                      DPhil Seminar | *Oxford*

**Artificial Non-sentient Moral Agency**  
2022                      AAAI/ACM Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society (AIES) Student Track Program | *Oxford*

2022                      DPhil Seminar | *Oxford*

**People Infer Temporal Order and Causal Structure from Causal Judgments**  
2022                      European Experimental Philosophy Conference | *Granada*

2022                      Society for Philosophy and Psychology & European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP & ESPP) Joint Conference | *Milan*

2021                      Postgraduate Seminar | *Cambridge*

**Against the epistemic response to moral luck**  
2021                      Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Graduate Conference | *Florida State University (virtual)*

## TEACHING

**Tutorials at Oxford**

2023                      Ethical Computing in Practice

2022-23                      Ethics of AI and Digital Technology

2023                      AI Ethics | *Oxford Study Abroad Programme*

2023                      AI Ethics and Warfare | *Oxford Study Abroad Programme*

2023                      Ethics | *Exeter Online Tutorial Programme*

2022                      Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics | *Exeter Summer Programme*

**Teaching Assistantships at Oxford**

2022-23                      Ethics (Jean Baccelli)

2022-23                      Moral Philosophy (Jean Baccelli)

2022                      Ethical Computing in Practice (Milo Phillips-Brown) | *CS Department*

**Other Teaching**

2018-19	Paradoxes: An Exploration of Problems in Philosophy and Beyond   <i>Duke</i>
2015-19	Volunteer high school tutor   <i>CHANCE Tutoring</i>   <i>Durham, NC</i>
2017	Freelance philosophy tutor (metaphysics, political philosophy)   <i>virtual</i>
2013-16	K-12 academic tutor   <i>Turning Point Tutoring</i>   <i>Chappaqua, NY</i>

## PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

2023	<b>The Moral Mind</b> Art & Science Exhibition for Brain Awareness Week   <i>Oxford Museum of Natural History</i>
2022	<b>Making Moral Machines</b> Oxford University Computer Society & Hertford Politics and Economics Society   <i>Oxford</i>
2022	<b>Sci-Fi and Philosophy (discussion leader)</b> Oxford University Speculative Fiction Group   <i>Oxford</i>
2022	<b>What Does the Future Hold for Humanity? (panelist)</b> Reuben College Insights Festival   <i>Reuben College, Oxford</i>
2022	<b>AI in the Moral Community</b> Student Talks at the Museum of Natural History   <i>Reuben College, Oxford</i>
2022	<b>Experimental Philosophy</b> Student Talks at the Museum of Natural History   <i>Reuben College, Oxford</i>
2022	<b>The Philosopher's Nest (podcast interview)</b>
2019	<b>Project Vox</b> Bass Connections Symposium   <i>Duke</i>
2019	<b>An Undergraduate's Perspective on Project Vox (blog post)</b> Revealing Voices Blog Series   <i>Project Vox</i>

## AWARDS

2022	Global Priorities Fellowship (£5,000)   <i>Forethought Foundation</i>
2022	Early Career Conference Program   <i>Global Priorities Institute, Oxford</i>
2021-24	Oxford-Reuben Graduate Scholarship (full fees and living expenses for the DPhil   <i>Reuben College, Oxford</i>
2021	Kate Bertram Prize (£100)   <i>Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge</i>
2020	American Friends of Cambridge University Award (£2,500)   <i>Cambridge</i>

2019                      Phi Beta Kappa Society | *Duke*

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Research Assistantships

2022                      Algorithmic Bias (Milo Phillips-Brown) | *Oxford*  
2018-19                  Project Vox (PI: Andrew Janiak & Liz Milewicz) | *Duke*  
2016-19                  Moral Attitudes and Decision-Making Lab (PI: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong) | *Duke*

### Internships

2018                      Research Programs Intern | *National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C.*

## SERVICE

2022-23                  Graduate Director for Ethics and Values | *Reuben College, Oxford*  
2021-22                  Philosophy Undergraduate Admissions Interviewer | *Jesus College, Oxford*  
2022                      Organizing Committee Member | *Oxford Graduate Student Conference*  
2022                      Assistant | *Responsibility and Autonomy in Artificial Intelligence Conference*  
2021                      Session Chair | *Cambridge Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic*  
2021                      Judge | *Ethics Cup (formerly John Stuart Mill Cup)*  
2021                      Organizing Committee Member | *Háskóli Íslands Student Conference on the Medieval North (cancelled due to COVID-19)*

## OTHER

Interests: stand-up comedy, classic novels, basketball, travel  
Basic proficiency in HTML and CSS