

# JEN SEMLER

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## 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: [Institute for Ethics in AI](#) (Oxford)

Student researcher: [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

### **Moral Agency Attributions**

- 2023 European Experimental Philosophy Conference | *Zurich (September)*  
2023 Moral Psychology of AI Conference | *University of Kent*  
2023 Oxford BioXPhi Lab | *Oxford*

### **Types of Artificial Moral Agency**

- 2023 Philosophy, AI, and Society (PAIS) 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

### **Seminar Teaching**

- 2023 Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics | *Exeter Summer Programme*

### **Tutorials at Oxford**

- 2023 Ethical Computing in Practice | *Worcester Visiting Students Programme*  
2023 AI Ethics and Public Health | *Worcester Visiting Students Programme*  
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*  
2022-23 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 | *Duke*

2015-19 Volunteer high school tutor | *CHANCE Tutoring* | *Durham, NC*  
2017 Freelance philosophy tutor (metaphysics, political philosophy) | *virtual*  
2013-16 K-12 academic tutor | *Turning Point Tutoring* | *Chappaqua, NY*

## PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

2023 **The Moral Mind**  
Art & Science Exhibition for Brain Awareness Week | *Oxford Museum of Natural History*

2022 **Making Moral Machines**  
Oxford University Computer Society & Hertford Politics and Economics Society | *Oxford*

2022 **Sci-Fi and Philosophy (discussion leader)**  
Oxford University Speculative Fiction Group | *Oxford*

2022 **What Does the Future Hold for Humanity? (panelist)**  
Reuben College Insights Festival | *Reuben College, Oxford*

2022 **AI in the Moral Community**  
Student Talks at the Museum of Natural History | *Reuben College, Oxford*

2022 **Experimental Philosophy**  
Student Talks at the Museum of Natural History | *Reuben College, Oxford*

2022 **The Philosopher's Nest ([podcast interview](#))**

2019 **Project Vox**  
Bass Connections Symposium | *Duke*

2019 **An Undergraduate's Perspective on Project Vox ([blog post](#))**  
Revealing Voices Blog Series | *Project Vox*

## AWARDS

2022 Global Priorities Fellowship (£5,000) | *Forethought Foundation*

2022 Early Career Conference Program | *Global Priorities Institute, Oxford*

2021-24 Oxford-Reuben Graduate Scholarship (full fees and living expenses for the DPhil) | *Reuben College, Oxford*

2021 Kate Bertram Prize (£100) | *Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge*

2020 American Friends of Cambridge University Award (£2,500) | *Cambridge*

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**

2023-24 Women's Graduate Philosophy Representative | *Oxford*

2022-23 Graduate Director for Ethics and Values | *Reuben College, Oxford*

2023 Tutorial Teacher | PPE UNIQ Summer School

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, literature, basketball, travel  
Basic proficiency in HTML and CSS