JEN SEMLER   jensemlerphilosophy@gmail.com ǀ www.jensemler.com

RESEARCH AREAS

SPECIALIZATION   Philosophy of AI, practical ethics, normative ethics

COMPETENCE   Philosophy of mind, philosophy of action, experimental philosophy

AFFILIATIONS   Oxford Institute for Ethics in AI
Oxford Philosophical Moral Psychology Lab
ANU Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory Lab

EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Associate ǀ Cornell Tech   from August 2025
Digital Life Initiative (PI: Helen Nissenbaum)

EDUCATION

DPhil in Philosophy ǀ University of Oxford   2025
Dissertation: *On Artificial Moral Agency*
Supervisors: Carissa Véliz and Alison Hills
Examiners: Roger Crisp and David Shoemaker

MPhil in Philosophy ǀ University of Cambridge   2021
Thesis: *The Right to Create Future Generations*

MA in Medieval Icelandic Studies ǀ University of Iceland   2020
Thesis: *Is Njáll a Compatibilist? Aristotelian Voluntary Action
in Njáls Saga*

BA in Philosophy and Public Policyǀ Duke University   2019
Magna cum laude; economics minor

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES[†]

Moral Agency Without Consciousness
forthcoming at *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*

[†] I am a co-first author on all coauthored papers. Asterisks designate my co-first authors.

	Recent Experimental Work on 'Ought' Implies 'Can'	2019
	with P. Henne*	
	Philosophy Compass	

Against Some Recent Arguments for 'Ought' Implies 'Can' 2019
with P. Henne*, V. Chituc, F. de Brigard, and W. Sinnott-Armstrong)
Philosophia

TEXTBOOK CONTRIBUTIONS	**Corporate Human Rights Obligations**	Under Contract
	case study for the "Human Rights" chapter in	
	Issues in Political Theory (edited by R. Jubb and P. Tomlin)	
	Oxford University Press	

Lockdowns Under Contract
case study for the "Liberty" chapter in
Issues in Political Theory (edited by R. Jubb and P. Tomlin)
Oxford University Press

AWARDS

Oxford-Reuben Graduate Scholarship (full fees and living 2021-25
expenses for the DPhil)

Global Priorities Fellowship (£5,000) | *Forethought Foundation* 2022
in conjunction with the Early Career Conference Programme at
the Global Priorities Institute (Oxford)

Kate Bertram Prize (£100) | *Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge* 2021
for passing with distinction in the MPhil

American Friends of Cambridge University Studentship (£2,500) | 2020
Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge

Phi Beta Kappa Society | *Duke University* 2019

TALKS (* indicates invited)

Moral Agents Unlike Us
– Workshop on Partiality, Relationships, and AI | *Ludwig* 2024
   Maximilian University of Munich (LMU)

Two Types of Moral Agency
– Open Minds XVII | *University of Manchester* 2024

Minimal Artificial Moral Agency
– Agency and Intentions in AI Conference | *University* 2024
   of Göttingen

Artificial Moral Behavior
–   Ethics and Computing Colloquium*| *Cornell University*   2024
–   Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory Lab | *Australian*   2024
     National University

Locating Consciousness in Moral Agency
–   Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory Lab | *Australian*   2023
     National University

AI and Moral Agency Attributions
–   European Experimental Philosophy Conference | *University*   2023
     of Zurich
–   Moral Psychology of AI Conference | *University of Kent*   2023
–   Oxford BioXPhi Lab | *University of Oxford*   2023

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

Can AI be a Genuine Source of Moral Action?
–   Oxford AI Society Mini-Conference* | *University of Oxford*   2024

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

People Infer Temporal Order and Causal Structure from
Causal Judgments
–   European Experimental Philosophy Conference | *University*   2022
     of Granada
–   Society for Philosophy and Psychology & European   2022
     Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP & ESPP)
     Joint Conference | *University of Milan*

Against the Epistemic Response to Moral Luck
–   Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Graduate   2021
     Conference | *Florida State University*

TEACHING

PRIMARY   Practical Ethics   2024

INSTRUCTOR[‡]	Moral Agency in Nonhumans (with Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert)	2024
	Ethics of AI and Digital Technology	2022-24
	Ethical Computing in Practice	2023
	AI Ethics and Public Health	2023
	AI Ethics and Warfare	2023
	Ethics	2023
THESIS SUPERVISION	Undergraduate thesis on AI and responsibility	2025
SEMINARS	Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics	2023-24
	Exeter College Summer Programme, University of Oxford	
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics	2022-23
	Michael Hannon, Exeter College Summer Programme, University of Oxford	
	Ethics (upper-level); Moral Philosophy (lower-level)	2022-23
	Jean Baccelli, University of Oxford	
	Ethical Computing in Practice	2022
	Milo Phillips-Brown, University of Oxford	
OTHER TEACHING	Moral Philosophy Seminar Facilitator | *Weidenfeld-Hoffman Trust Leadership Programme, University of Oxford*	2023-25
	Oxford PPE UNIQ Summer School Teacher | *University of Oxford*	2023
	Paradoxes: An Exploration of Problems in Philosophy and Beyond | *Duke University*	2018-2019
	Volunteer high school tutor | *Durham, NC*	2015-19
	Freelance philosophy tutor | *virtual*	2017
	K-12 academic tutor | *Turning Point Tutoring, NY*	2013-16

BROADER ENGAGEMENT

PRESENTATIONS	Invited Talks and Panels	
	– Outsourcing to AI | *University of Oxford Department of Continuing Education, "Thinking Machines and the Ethics of AI"*	2025
	– Can AI Be Moral? | *Magdalen College School, Oxford*	2024

[‡] These courses were taught as Oxford-style tutorials: weekly, hour-long teaching sessions consisting of a tutor and 1-2 students. Tutors set a syllabus with readings and essay questions for each session. One exception: "Moral Agency in Nonhumans" was taught as a lecture series.

	– AI Safety and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: A FemTech Perspective	*Oxford FemTech Society*	2024
	– Making Moral Machines	*Oxford University Computer Society and Hertford Politics and Economics Society*	2022

Other Talks, Panels, and Exhibitions

– Moral Responsibility and AI	*London Academy of Excellence, Tottenham*	2025
– What Even Is Philosophy Research?	*Reuben College*	2024
– The Moral Mind	*Oxford Museum of Natural History Brain Awareness Week, Art and Science Exhibition*	2023
– What Does the Future Hold for Humanity?	*Reuben College*	2022
– AI and the Moral Community	*Reuben College*	2022
– Experimental Philosophy	*Reuben College*	2022
– Jen Semler on AI, Icelandic Studies, Women in Philosophy, and Publishing	*The Philosopher's Nest* podcast	listen here	2022

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS	Milo Phillips-Brown (ethics of technology)	*University of Oxford, University of Edinburgh*	2022-24
	Project Vox	*Duke University*	2018-19
	Moral Attitudes and Decision-Making Lab	*Duke University*	2016-19
EMPLOYMENT	Philosophy Undergraduate Admissions Interviewer	*Jesus College, University of Oxford*	2021-23
	Research Programs Intern	*National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C.*	2018

SERVICE

CONFERENCES	Organizing Committee Member	
	– Oxford Women and Gender Minorities in Philosophy Internal Workshop	2022
	– Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference	2022
	– Háskóli Íslands Student Conference on the Medieval North (cancelled due to COVID-19)	2020
	Session Chair and/or Assistant	
	– Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference	2023
	– Responsibility and Autonomy in Artificial Intelligence Conference (Oxford)	2022

	– Cambridge Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic	2021
REPRESENTATION	Women and Gender Minorities Graduate Philosophy Student Representative | *University of Oxford*	2023-24
	Graduate Director for Ethics and Values Theme | *Reuben College*	2022-24
REVIEWER	Journals: *Philosophical Psychology; Philosophy & Technology*	
	Conferences: *Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference; Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency Conference (ACM FAccT)*	
MISCELLANEOUS	Judge | *"Philosothon" at Magdalen College School, Oxford*	2025
	Consent Workshop Facilitator | *Reuben College*	2023-24
	Judge | *Ethics Cup (formerly JS Mill Cup), held online*	2021

REFERENCES

Carissa Véliz
Associate Professor of Philosophy | University of Oxford
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Professor of Philosophy | University of Oxford
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