**Jen Semler** [jensemlerphilosophy@gmail.com](mailto:jen.semler@philosophy.ox.ac.uk) | [www.jensemler.com](http://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** | Cornell Tech from August 2025  
 Digital Life Initiative (PI: Helen Nissenbaum)

**EDUCATION**

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

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

**MA in Medieval Icelandic Studies** | University of Iceland 2020

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

**BA in Philosophy and Public Policy|** Duke University 2019

Magna cum laude; economics minor

**PUBLICATIONS**

journal articles[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Moral Agency Without Consciousness**

forthcoming at *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*

**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 **Corporate Human Rights Obligations** Under Contract

contributions 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[[2]](#footnote-2) 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 Why Be Good? An Introduction to Ethics 2022-23

assistant *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* 2023-25

*Trust Leadership Programme, University of Oxford*

Oxford PPE UNIQ Summer School Teacher | *University of Oxford*  2023

Paradoxes: An Exploration of Problems in Philosophy 2018-2019

and Beyond | *Duke University*

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*  2025

*Continuing Education, “Thinking Machines and the Ethics of AI”*

* Can AI Be Moral? | *Magdalen College School, Oxford* 2024
* AI Safety and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: A FemTech 2024

Perspective | *Oxford FemTech Society*

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

Other Talks, Panels, and Exhibitions

* Moral Responsibility and AI | *London Academy of Excellence,* 2025 *Tottenham*
* What Even Is Philosophy Research? | *Reuben College* 2024
* The Moral Mind | *Oxford Museum of Natural History Brain* 2023

*Awareness Week, Art and Science Exhibition*

* 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, 2022  
  and Publishing | *The Philosopher’s Nest* podcast| [listen here](https://open.spotify.com/episode/1LaSRYScuImjwOXJDA0BBL?si=7d48b218a6714a1a)

**RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

research Milo Phillips-Brown (ethics of technology) | *University of*  2022-24

assistantships *Oxford, University of Edinburgh*

Project Vox | *Duke University*  2018-19

Moral Attitudes and Decision-Making Lab | *Duke University* 2016-19

employment Philosophy Undergraduate Admissions Interviewer | *Jesus*  2021-23

*College, University of Oxford*

Research Programs Intern | *National Endowment for the Humanities,* 2018

*Washington, D.C.*

**SERVICE**

conferences Organizing Committee Member

* Oxford Women and Gender Minorities in Philosophy 2022  
  Internal Workshop
* Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference 2022
* Háskóli Íslands Student Conference on the Medieval 2020  
  North (cancelled due to COVID-19)

Session Chair and/or Assistant

* Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference 2023
* Responsibility and Autonomy in Artificial Intelligence 2022  
  Conference (Oxford)
* Cambridge Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of 2021  
  Mathematics and Logic

representation Women and Gender Minorities Graduate Philosophy Student 2023-24

Representative | *University of Oxford*

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  
[carissa.veliz@philosophy.ox.ac.uk](mailto:carissa.veliz@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)

**Alison Hills**

Professor of Philosophy | University of Oxford

[alison.hills@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alison.hills@sjc.ox.ac.uk)

**David Shoemaker**

Wyn and William Y. Hutchinson Professor of Ethics and Public Life | Cornell University

[dws267@cornell.edu](mailto:dws267@cornell.edu)

**Roger Crisp**

Professor of Moral Philosophy | University of Oxford

[roger.crisp@uehiro.ox.ac.uk](mailto:roger.crisp@uehiro.ox.ac.uk)

**Joanna Demaree-Cotton**

Research Fellow in Moral Psychology | University of Oxford

[joanna.demaree-cotton@uehiro.ox.ac.uk](mailto:joanna.demaree-cotton@uehiro.ox.ac.uk)

**Milo Phillips-Brown**

Lecturer in Philosophy | University of Edinburgh

[milopb@ed.ac.uk](mailto:milopb@ed.ac.uk)

**Michael Hannon (teaching)**

Associate Professor of Philosophy | University of Nottingham

[michael.hannon@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:michael.hannon@nottingham.ac.uk)

1. I am a co-first author on all coauthored papers. Asterisks designate my co-first authors. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)