CV — Luke Elson

December 2022

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University of Reading
Philosophy Department

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

2022–	Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Reading.
2014–22	Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Reading.
2014	PhD Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (MA 2009).
2005	BA Mathematics and Philosophy, Exeter College, Oxford.

RESEARCH

Published journal articles and book chapters

2021   'What does incommensurability tell us about agency?' in *Value Incommensurability: Ethics, Risk, and Decision-Making*, edited by Henrik Andersson and Anders Herlitz. Routledge. doi:10.4324/9781003148012-13

2019   'Probabilistic Promotion and Ability', *Ergo* vol. 6, no. 34. doi:10.3998/ergo.12405314.0006.034

2019   'Can Streumer simply avoid Supervenience?', *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy* vol. 16, no. 3 (2019). doi:10.26556/jesp.v16i3.508

2017   'Incommensurability as Vagueness: a Burden-Shifting Argument', *Theoria* 83: 341-363. doi: 10.1111/theo.12129

2016   'Tenenbaum and Raffaman on Vague Projects, the Self-Torturer, and the Sorites', *Ethics* Vol. 126, No. 2, pp. 474-488. doi:10.1086/683533.

2014   'Heaps and Chains: is the Chaining Argument for Parity a Sorites?', *Ethics* Vol. 124, No. 3, pp. 557-571. doi:10.1086/674844

2014   'Borderline Cases and the Collapsing Principle', *Utilitas* volume 26, issue 01, pp. 51-60. doi:10.1017/S095382081300023X

Edited volumes, book reviews and other pieces

2022   Edited special edition of *Ratio* in celebration of Brad Hooker's work, with Charlotte Newey.

2021   Review of *Companions in Guilt Arguments in Metaethics* edited by Christopher Cowie and Richard Rowland, at Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews.

2018   'How a moral philosopher justifies his carbon footprint': a general audience piece on carbon offsetting for *The Conversation*.

2018   Review of David Sobel's *From Valuing to Value*, *Analysis*, Volume 78, Issue 3, pp. 583-586. doi:10.1093/analys/any045.

2016   Edited special edition of *Ratio* (with introduction) on Ethics and Indeterminacy.

Unpublished papers (some titles obfuscated for anonymous review)

1.   A short paper arguing that if incommensurability is vagueness, then the 'means-end' or

'instrumental' structural requirement of rationality quickly follows, fixing a lacuna in existing accounts of rationality.

2. A paper arguing that the size, age, and emptiness of the universe may after all support Global Normative Nihilism.

3. A paper arguing that such Nihilism is depressing and exploring why, but also arguing that true Internalism about Reasons is even *more* depressing.

4. A paper arguing (*pace* Brad Hooker) that moral virtue is—or would be—a prudential benefit to agents.

5. A paper arguing that 'ought-implies-can' principles support Moral Rationalism, which is the claim that moral obligations necessarily provide normative reasons for action.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Mediaeval philosophy. Autumn 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018. Chapel Hill: Summer 2013.

Intermediate (second-year) moral philosophy. Spring 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019; Autumn 2015, 2014.

Introductory (first-year) ethics. Spring 2021, 2020, 2019, 2016, 2015. Chapel Hill: Spring 2010.

Third-year advanced ethics module on reasons. Autumn 2018 (with Philip Stratton-Lake).

Logic (up to predicate calculus). Summer 2017, Spring 2015. Chapel Hill: Fall 2013, and as Teaching Assistant for Thomas Hofweber in Spring 2013.

Epistemology. Autumn 2015 (justification half only).

Introduction to Philosophy (online) at Chapel Hill: Summer 2014.

Introduction to metaphysics at Chapel Hill: Summer 2012.

A literary introduction to philosophy at Chapel Hill: Summer 2011, 2009. Also as Teaching Assistant for C.D.C. Reeve in Fall 2008.

Introduction to Bioethics (online) at Chapel Hill: Summer 2010.

Philosophy of Science at Chapel Hill: Teaching Assistant for Marc Lange. Spring 2009.

Supervised BA dissertations and 'mini-dissertations' each year since 2014.

Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity Projects: 'Nihilism and the emotions' (2021); 'Ought implies can – history and arguments' (2017); 'Climate change and rational choice' (2015).

GRADUATE TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Primary supervisor of Tommaso Soriani, on ethics and personites. 2022–

Completed co-supervision:

1. Lanell Mason, 'Moral Agents in a Moral World: A New Account of Moral Realism and Moral Perception', with David Oderberg. Viva passed July 2021.
2. Adam Pearce on the criminalisation of climate change, with Rob Jubb (politics). Viva passed May 2021.
3. Livia Luzzatto on the scope of climate justice, with Rob Jubb (politics). Viva passed April 2021.
4. Bradley Hillier-Smith on the ethics of responses to refugees, with Brad Hooker. Viva passed

January 2021.

Seminars and classes for graduate students

Convenor, Graduate Research Seminar (workshop). Autumn 2019-Spring 2022, Summer 2015.

Convenor, Graduate Class (seminar) for PhD students:

- Summer term 2021: on my book manuscript 'unsharp choices' and related material.
- Spring 2016: Recent work on Incommensurability and Reasons.

Leader, Reading Researcher Development Programme session, 'you and your supervisor', 2022 and 2023 (scheduled).

Staff-Student Reading Group. Spring 2015 on L.A. Paul, *Transformative Experience*.

Supervisor for multiple MRes Essays and Dissertations per year since 2015. Topics include: Presentism and Truthmaker Theory, The Justification of War, Psychological Egoism, Moral Overridingness, Anarchism, Nudge, Sceptical Theism, the Problem of Evil.

PhD examining:

- Externally at University College, London. 2019.
- Internally at Reading, several times since 2015.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Reviewer for: *Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Economics and Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Ethics, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Journal of Ethics, Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy, Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Value Inquiry, Mind, Noûs, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Quarterly, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Routledge, Synthese, Theoria, Utilitas.*

Professional Memberships: UK Higher Education Academy (Fellow since September 2016), Mind Association, British Society for Ethical Theory, American Philosophical Association.

Conferences and workshops organised

2021 April   Workshop in honour of Brad Hooker, with Charlotte Newey. Reading.

2018 March   Southern Normativity Group annual Conference, Reading.

2017 Oct.   Moral and Rational Uncertainty one-day workshop, Reading (with Patrick Tomlin).

2015 April   Indeterminacy in Ethics annual Ratio conference, Reading.

Main administrative roles outside home university

2022–   External examiner for taught postgraduate programmes, School of Philosophy, Theology & Religion at the University of Birmingham.

2021–   Equalities Officer, British Society for Ethical Theory.

2019–   Reviewer for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe MSCA Fellowship proposals for the European Union.

2019–   Moderator for AHRC SWW doctoral training partnership selection process.

Main administrative roles at Reading

2022–   Research Division Leader for Philosophy.

2018–	Philosophy department representative and core group member for School of Humanities Athena SWAN application. Implemented diagnostic survey of school members and conducted focus group.
2021–2022	Chair of scrutiny panels for BSc Biovetinerary Sciences (2022) and MSc Climate Change and Artificial Intelligence (2021-2).
2019–2022	Director of Postgraduate Research Studies.
2019–2022	Part (year) 3 co-ordinator.
2021-2022	PPE co-ordinator.
2014–2021	Website, blog, and social media administrator.
March 2019	Internal panellist for Periodic Review of Department of Computer Science.
2018–19	Part (year) 2 co-ordinator.
2018-19	Philosophy Admissions Tutor and welcome (freshers) week co-ordinator.
2014–2017	Convenor, Visiting Speaker series and liaison with undergraduate Philosophy Society.
2016	Reading representative at the UK-China Philosophy Programme meetings at Queen's College, Oxford and King's College, London.
July 2015	Member, Interview Panel for Graduate Teaching Assistant.

Impact and outreach

Panel member, public discussion on carbon offsetting. City Conversations, London. November 2019.

Numerous webinars for Ethical Reading, on e.g. moral luck and moral dilemmas.

Recorded 'A' Level revision videos for Massolit.

Administrative roles at UNC Chapel Hill

2008–09 & 2013–14	Organiser, UNC Philosophy Work in Progress series.
2011–13	External Advisor, Southern Alamance County High School Ethics Bowl Team.
2011–12	Philosophy Representative, Graduate and Professional Student Federation.
2008–09 & 2011	Graduate Assistant, UNC Philosophy Colloquium.

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND PRIZES

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, 'Austere Reasons.' Held at the University of Reading, July 2017 to August 2018. Value: €114,015.30

2020 Research Fellowship (2 terms of teaching relief and £500 travel fund), University of Reading. 2015-16.

Several Travel Awards from University of Reading.

Mind Association Conference Grant (£500) for Indeterminacy in Ethics conference, April 2015.

Prize for best graduate student paper. North Carolina Philosophical Society. February 2013.

Non-teaching Fellowships UNC Philosophy Department. 2007–2008, Fall 2012, Spring 2014.

UNC Richard Brooke Scholarship. 2008–2010 and 2011–2012.

Travel Award (x9). UNC Department of Philosophy and graduate school. 2012–13.

PRESENTATIONS

A paper on value incommensurability (title TBC) at Lund University, May 2023.

'Inefficacy and Democracy':

- Debunking Inefficacy workshop, VU Amsterdam, December 2022.
- Value and Agent Relativity workshop at Grandhotel Giessbach, Switzerland, April 2022.
- APA Eastern Division Meeting, Savannah, USA. January 2018.
- Climate Science, Values and Politics workshop, Durham University, May 2015.

'Structural Rationality Avoids Determinate Substantive Irrationality' at the German Analytic Philosophy congress (GAP.11), Berlin. September 2022.

'Another Vagueness Solution to Spectrum Arguments' at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. August 2022.

'Kahane's Wager' at the Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association. Summer 2021.

'Indeterminacy and Agency':

- Oakland University, USA. 2021.
- Incommensurability: Vagueness, Parity and other Non-Conventional Comparative Relations workshop in Stockholm. 2019.

'Nihilistic Despair':

- Moral Philosophy Seminar, Oxford. 2019.
- University of Groningen. 2018.
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Metaethics Colloquium. 2017.
- Trinity College, Dublin. 2017.

'Choice Under Indeterminacy':

- University of York. May 2018.
- Hard Cases and Rational Choice conference in Bern. November 2017.
- Choice Group, London School of Economics. October 2015.

'Ought implies Can implies Moral Rationalism':

- Morality and Rationality Revisited conference, University of Leeds. September 2018.
- OZSW conference in Groningen. December 2016.

'Ability and Promotion' at Lund University. December 2017.

'The Size of the Universe and Nihilism':

- OZSW conference in Groningen. December 2016.
- Southern Normativity Group meeting at the University of Sussex. September 2016.

'How Implausible is Satisficing Utilitarianism?' at the 14th International Society for Utilitarian Studies Conference at Lille Catholic University. July 2016.

'A Satisficing Response to Gratuitous Harm' at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME). University of Colorado, Boulder. August 2015.

'Satisficing, Arbitrariness, and Indeterminacy' at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME). University of Colorado, Boulder. August 2013. Commenter: Preston Werner.

'Tenenbaum and Raffaman on Vague Projects, the Self-Torturer, and the Sorites' at University of York. October 2014.

'Self-Torture as Practical Sorites':

- Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference. Cambridge, MA. April 2013. Commenter: Ryan Doody. (This conference was canceled due to the Boston bombings.)
- North Carolina Philosophical Society. East Carolina University. February 2013.

'Incommensurability as Comparative Borderlineness':

- South Carolina Society for Philosophy. College of Charleston. March 2013.
- Fourth Dutch Conference on Practical Philosophy. TU/Eindhoven. Nov. 2012.