David Luke John Elson

Philosophy Department, Caldwell Hall, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3125, United States of America sites.google.com/site/lukeelson elson@unc.edu (919) 339–1115 British Citizen, U.S. Permanent Resident

Area of Specialisation: Value theory, especially Metaethics.

Areas of Competence: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science, Medieval Philosophy, Logic.

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. PhD in Philosophy, 2014 (expected).

Oxford University, Exeter College. BA in Mathematics and Philosophy, 2005.

DISSERTATION

Title: 'Indeterminacy, Deliberation, Procrastination'

Committee: Geoffrey Sayre-McCord (chair), Keith Simmons, Simon Blackburn, Ram Neta.

Abstract. What ought we to do when it is indeterminate what we ought to do? How could such a question even be coherent? Indeterminacy is pervasive, but its application to the normative realm has not been widely studied. I argue that indeterminacy is as widespread in the evaluative as it is in the nonevaluative. This gives rise to several questions: how is normative indeterminacy manifested? How ought we act or deliberate in the face of indeterminacy? I discuss these questions, and their application to puzzles such as that of Warren Quinn's self-torturer.

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS

'(*)' denotes refereed.

'Self-torture as practical Sorites'

Harvard-MIT graduate conference. Cambridge, MA, April 2013. (*) Accepted for presentation, but conference cancelled due to Boston bombings and 'lockdown'.

UNC Work in Progress series. April 2013.

North Carolina Philosophical Society, Greenville, NC. February 2013. (*)

'Indeterminacy and incommensurability'

Swedish Congress of Philosophy. Stockholm, June 2013. (*)

South Carolina Society for Philosophy, Charleston, SC. March 2013. (*)

UNC Dissertation Seminar. November 2012.

'Chang on Incomparability as Vagueness'

Fourth Dutch Conference on Practical Philosophy, Eindhoven. November 2012. (*) UNC Work in Progress series. May 2012.

'Oughts and Indeterminacy'

UNC Dissertation Seminar. April 2013.

'Killing Your Uncle for Money: Williams on Demandingness'.

UNC/King's College London Workshop. London, May 2010. With comments by Jonathan Dancy.

Comments

Comments on Carl Posy, 'On the Finite: Kant and the Paradoxes of Knowledge'. UNC/Hebrew University Workshop, Jerusalem, May 2013.

Comments on Ayca Boylu, 'Thick concepts and intrinsic goodness attributions'. APA Pacific Division, San Francisco, March 2013.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Best paper by a graduate student submitted to annual conference (cash prize). North Carolina Philosophical Society, February 2013.

Departmental Research Fellowship. UNC Philosophy Department, Fall 2012.

Henry Horace Williams Fellowship. UNC Philosophy Department, 2007-2008.

Richard Brooke Fellowship. University of North Carolina, 2008-2010 and 2010-2011.

Graduate school travel award. May 2013.

Departmental travel awards for professional presentations (x4).

UNC Philosophy Department, 2012-2013.

TEACHING

Primary instructor, with full responsibility:

Philosophy 112 (Making Sense of Ourselves).

Philosophy 155 (Introduction to Mathematical Logic).

Philosophy 160 (Introduction to Ethics).

Philosophy 165 (Introduction to Bioethics) online.

Philosophy 215 (Introduction to Medieval Philosophy).

Philosophy 230 (Experience and Reality).

Teaching Assistant:

Philosophy 112 (Making Sense of Ourselves) for C.D.C. Reeve.

Philosophy 150 (Philosophy of Science) for Marc Lange.

Philosophy 155, (Mathematical Logic) for Thomas Hofweber.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

UNC Advisor, Southern Alamance High School Ethics Bowl Team. 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Colloquium Assistant, UNC Philosophy Colloquium. 2008-09 and 2011.

Organiser, Work in Progress series. UNC Philosophy Department, 2008-09.

Philosophy Department Senator. UNC Graduate and Professional Student Federation, 2011-12.

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

'(*)' denotes audit.

Value theory

Simon Blackburn and Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, Metaethics (*)

Simon Blackburn, Representationalism and Pragmatism

Matthew Kotzen and Ram Neta, Epistemic Normativity

Ryan Preston-Roedder, Contemporary Moral Theories

Thomas E. Hill, Jr., Value Theory – Contemporary Kantian Ethics

Metaphysics and philosophy of science

Marc Lange, Philosophy of Science

Marc Lange, Dispositions

John Roberts, Laws of Nature

William G. Lycan, Metaphysics – Existence

Robert M. Adams, Advanced Studies in Metaphysics

John Roberts, Research Group on Fine-tuning

Philosophy of language and logic

Dorit Bar-On, Philosophy of Language Keith Simmons, Truth Thomas Hofweber, Mathematical Logic Thomas Hofweber, Philosophy of Logic Keith Simmons, Modal Logic (*) Keith Simmons, Godel's Incompleteness Theorems (*)

History of philosophy

C.D.C. Reeve, Plato Marilyn McCord-Adams, Medieval Philosophy Alan Nelson, Kant