

LUKE ELSON

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EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

2014– Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Reading.

2014 PhD in Philosophy. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dissertation: ‘Vagueness in Action’. Committee: Geoffrey Sayre-McCord (chair), Keith Simmons, Ram Neta, Simon Blackburn, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong.

2009 MA in Philosophy. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2005 BA Mathematics and Philosophy. Exeter College, Oxford.

PUBLICATIONS

All published pieces (except *Ratio* special edition) are available on my website.

Journal articles and reviews

1. (Forthcoming) Probabilistic Promotion and Ability
Ergo
2. (Forthcoming) Review of ‘Companions in Guilt Arguments in Metaethics’ by Christopher Cowie and Richard Rowland
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews
3. (2019) Can Streumer simply avoid Supervenience?
Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy 16(3), doi:10.26556/jesp.v16i3.508
4. (2018) Review of ‘From Valuing to Value: A Defense of Subjectivism’ by David Sobel
Analysis 78(3), 583–586.
5. (2017) Incommensurability as Vagueness: a Burden-Shifting Argument
Theoria 83(4), 341–363.
6. (2016) Tenenbaum and Raffman on Vague Projects, the Self-Torturer, and the Sorites
Ethics 126(2), 474–488. doi:10.1086/683533
7. (2014) Heaps and Chains: is the Chaining Argument for Parity a Sorites?
Ethics 124(3), 557–571.
8. (2014) Borderline Cases and the Collapsing Principle
Utilitas 26, 51–60.

Other pieces

1. (2018) ‘How a moral philosopher justifies his carbon footprint’: a general audience piece on carbon offsetting for *The Conversation*.
2. (2016) Edited special edition of *Ratio* (with introduction) on Ethics and Indeterminacy.

TEACHING

Undergraduate (at Reading)

Third-year mediaeval philosophy (PP3MED) in Autumn 2018 and 2019.

Third-year ethics: Reason, Value, and Knowledge (PP3RVK) in Autumn 2018, co-taught with Philip Stratton-Lake.

Second-year ethics: Moral Philosophy (PP2MP) in Autumn 2014, Autumn 2015; Ethical Argument (PP2EA) in Spring 2019 and 2020.

Second-year logic: Introductory Logic (PP2IL) in Spring 2015.

Second-year epistemology: Theory of Knowledge (PP2TK) in Autumn 2015 (justification half only).

First-year ethics: Values and Virtues (PP1VV) in Spring 2015, Spring 2016; Meaning of Life (PP1ML) in Spring 2019 and 2020.

First-year logic: Elementary Logic (PP1EL) in Summer 2017.

BA dissertation supervisor. 2014–

Undergraduate (at UNC Chapel Hill)

Introduction to Philosophy, for Carolina Courses Online. Summer 2014.

Introduction to Mathematical Logic. Fall 2013; also as Teaching Assistant for Thomas Hofweber, Spring 2013.

Introduction to Medieval Philosophy. Summer 2013.

Experience and Reality (Metaphysics). Summer 2012.

Making Sense of Ourselves. Summer 2011, Summer 2009. Also as Teaching Assistant for C.D.C. Reeve in Fall 2008.

Introduction to Ethics. Spring 2010.

Introduction to Bioethics, for Carolina Courses Online. Summer 2010.

Teaching Assistant for Philosophy of Science with Marc Lange. Spring 2009.

Postgraduate (at Reading)

I am co-supervisor of 8 PhD students.

Supervisor for MRes Dissertations. 2015–

Topics include: Presentism and Truthmaker Theory, The Justification of War.

Supervisor for MRes Essays. 2014–

Topics include: Psychological Egoism, Moral Overridingness, Anarchism, Nudge (2015), Sceptical Theism (2016), the Problem of Evil (2016).

Convenor, Graduate Class for PhD students. Spring 2016. Topic: Recent work on Incommensurability and Reasons.

Convenor, Graduate Research Seminar for PhD students. Summer 2015, and Autumn 2019 onwards.

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

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Journal 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 & Social Philosophy*, *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, and *Utilitas*.

Reviewer for Horizon 2020 Fellowship proposals for the European Union.

Book manuscript reviewer for Routledge.

PhD examining:

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

UK Higher Education Academy: Fellow, since September 2016.

Member: Mind Association, British Society for Ethical Theory, American Philosophical Association.

Conferences and workshops organised:

1. (Forthcoming May 2020) Workshop in honour of Brad Hooker, with Charlotte Newey. Reading.
2. (2018 March) Southern Normativity Group annual Conference, Reading.
<https://philevents.org/event/show/37926>
3. (2017 October) Moral and Rational Uncertainty one-day workshop, with Society for Applied Philosophy funding, Reading (with Patrick Tomlin).
4. (2015 April) Indeterminacy in Ethics annual *Ratio* conference, Reading.

At Reading

Directory of Postgraduate Research Studies. 2019-

Internal panelist for Periodic Review of Department of Computer Science. March 2019.

Philosophy department representative and core group member for School of Humanities Athena SWAN application. Implemented diagnostic survey of school members and conducted focus group. 2018-

Part (year) 3 co-ordinator. 2019-

Part (year) 2 co-ordinator. 2018-19

Philosophy Admissions Tutor. 2018-19

Welcome (freshers) week co-ordinator. 2018-19

Website, blog, and social media administrator. 2014-

Reading representative at the UK-China Philosophy Programme meetings at Queen's College, Oxford and King's College, London. Spring and Summer 2016.

Supervisor of Undergraduate Research Opportunity Projects: 'Climate Change and Rational Choice' in Summer 2015; 'Ought implies Can – history and arguments' in Summer 2017.

Convenor, Visiting Speaker series and liaison with undergraduate Philosophy Society. 2014–2017

Member, Interview Panel for Graduate Teaching Assistant. July 2015.

At UNC Chapel Hill

Organiser, UNC Philosophy Work in Progress Series. 2008–09 and 2013–14.

External Advisor, Southern Alamance County High School Ethics Bowl Team. 2011–13.

Graduate Assistant, UNC Philosophy Colloquium. 2008–09 and 2011.

Philosophy Representative, UNC Graduate and Professional Student Federation. 2011–12.

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. Autumn 2015 and Spring 2016.

Travel Awards from University of Reading:

£450 for presentation at SWIP-Ireland. April 2019.

£500 for presentation at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME). August 2015

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.

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

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

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTARIES

[*] means selected after anonymous review.

- 1) ‘Indeterminacy and Agency’ at the ‘Incommensurability: Vagueness, Parity and other Non-Conventional Comparative Relations’ workshop in Stockholm. December 2019.
- 2) Comments on Farbod Akhlaghi-Ghaffarokh’s *An Argument for the Metaphysical Necessity of Moral Principles* at the Second Metaethics Workshop. University of Groningen. November 2019.
- 3) ‘Nihilistic Despair’:
 - a) Moral Philosophy Seminar, Oxford. January 2019.
 - b) University of Groningen. June 2018.
 - c) Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Metaethics Colloquium. November 2017.
 - d) Trinity College, Dublin. November 2017.
- 4) Comments on Rachel Handley’s *Quasi-Realism, Disagreement, and Fundamental Error* at the Conference by Women in Philosophy. Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. July 2018.
- 5) ‘A New Maximising Rule for Unsharp Credences and Preferences’:

- a) University of York. May 2018.
- b) Hard Cases and Rational Choice conference in Bern. November 2017. [*]
- 6) 'Ought implies Can implies Moral Rationalism':
 - a) Morality and Rationality Revisited conference, University of Leeds. September 2018. [*]
 - b) OZSW conference in Groningen. December 2016. [*]
- 7) 'A Pessimistic Note on Climate Rationality':
 - a) APA Eastern Division Meeting, Savannah, USA. January 2018. [*]
 - b) Climate Science, Values and Politics workshop, Durham University, May 2015.
- 8) 'Ability and Promotion' at Lund University. December 2017.
- 9) 'The Size of the Universe and Nihilism':
 - a) OZSW conference in Groningen. December 2016. [*]
 - b) Southern Normativity Group meeting at the University of Sussex. September 2016. [*]
- 10) 'How Implausible is Satisficing Utilitarianism?' at the 14th International Society for Utilitarian Studies Conference at Lille Catholic University. July 2016. [*]
- 11) 'Indeterminacy and Permissibility' at the Choice Group, London School of Economics. October 2015.
- 12) 'A Satisficing Response to Gratuitous Harm' at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME). University of Colorado, Boulder. August 2015. [*]
- 13) 'Satisficing, Arbitrariness, and Indeterminacy' at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME). University of Colorado, Boulder. August 2013. Commenter: Preston Werner. [*]
- 14) Comments on Anne Meylan, 'Reasons-Responsiveness and the Basing Relation', at 'Epistemic and Practical Normativity: Meta-Normative Problems and Proposals', Southampton, June 2015.
- 15) 'Tenenbaum and Raffaman on Vague Projects, the Self-Torturer, and the Sorites' at the University of York. October 2014.
- 16) Comments on Stewart Eskew, 'Moral Supervenience and Moral Knowledge: How Not to Defend Moral Perception' at APA Eastern Division. Baltimore, MD. December 2013.
- 17) Comments on Shane George, 'Why Hard Cases are Incommensurable' at Central States Philosophical Association. Oklahoma State University, Tulsa. October 2013.
- 18) Comments on Carl Posy, 'Kantian Discipline and the Paradoxes of Knowledge' at UNC/Hebrew University Workshop. Jerusalem. May 2013. (My comments were delivered by proxy.)
- 19) 'Self-Torture as Practical Sorites':
 - a) Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference. Cambridge, MA. April 2013. Commenter: Ryan Doody. (This conference was canceled due to the Boston bombings.) [*]
 - b) North Carolina Philosophical Society. East Carolina University. February 2013. [*]
- 20) Comments on Ayca Boylu, 'Thick Concepts and Intrinsic Goodness Attributions' at APA Pacific Division. San Francisco, CA. March 2013.

21)'Incommensurability as Comparative Borderlineness'

- a) South Carolina Society for Philosophy. College of Charleston. March 2013 (*)
- b) Fourth Dutch Conference on Practical Philosophy. TU/Eindhoven. Nov. 2012. [*]

SELECTED INTERNAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COURSES AT READING

Engaging with Policymakers. 14 November 2018.

T&L for All: Technology as a Springboard to Inclusive Practice. 12 July 2018.

Periodic Review Training. 24 May 2018.

Supervising Research Students. 9 November 2017

Academic Practice Programme modules EDMAP1 and EDMAP2. Completed July 2016.

Engaging with End Users of your Research. 29 October 2014.

Website Management. 13 and 17 October 2014.

Freedom of Information and Data Protection. Autumn 2014.