Luke Elson

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**Area of Specialization:** Moral Philosophy.

**Areas of Competence:** Epistemology, Logic, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science.

# Employment

September 2014–: Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Reading.

# Education

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.

# Personal

One child, born December 2015.

# Publications

1. Sobel review
2. Theoria paper
3. Edited Special Edition of *Ratio* with Introduction on Ethics and Indeterminacy, with papers from Ratio Conference 2015.
4. Tenenbaum and Raffman on Vague Projects, the Self-Torturer, and the Sorites. *Ethics*, *126*(2), 474–488. doi:10.1086/683533
5. Heaps and Chains: is the Chaining Argument for Parity a Sorites?' in *Ethics*: Vol. 124, No. 3 (April 2014), pp. 557–571.
6. ‘Borderline Cases and the Collapsing Principle’ in *Utilitas* (2014): volume 26, pp. 51–60.

# Presentations and Commentaries

2018 January 2018, on climate change at the APA Eastern in Savannah, USA. (\*)

2017 ‘Ability and Promotion’ and Lund University. December.

‘Nihilistic Despair’ at Trinity College, Dublin. November.

‘A New Maximising Rule for Unsharp Credences and Preferences’ at the Hard Cases and Rational Choice conference in Bern. November. (\*)

2016 ‘The Size of the Universe and Nihilism’ and ‘Ought implies Can' implies Moral Rationalism’ at the OZSW conference in Groningen. December 2016. (\*)

'The Size of the Universe and Nihilism' at the Southern Normativity Group meeting at the University of Sussex. 21 September, 2016. (\*)

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

2015 'Indeterminacy and Permissibility' at the Choice Group, London School of Economics. October 2015.

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

Comments on Anne Meylan, 'Reasons-Responsiveness and the Basing Relation', at 'Epistemic and Practical Normativity: Meta-Normative Problems and Proposals', Southampton, June 2015.

'Climate Rationality and Vagueness' Climate Science, Values and Politics workshop, Durham University, May 2015.

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

2013 Comments on Stewart Eskew, ‘Moral Supervenience and Moral Knowledge: How Not to Defend Moral Perception’ at APA Eastern Division. Baltimore, MD. December 2013.

Comments on Shane George, ‘Why Hard Cases are Incommensurable’ at Central States Philosophical Association. Oklahoma State University, Tulsa. October 2013.

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

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.)

‘Satisficing, Arbitrariness, and Indeterminacy’ at Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference. Cambridge, MA. April 2013. Commenter: Ryan Doody. (This conference was canceled due to the Boston bombings.) (\*)

Comments on Ayca Boylu, ‘Thick Concepts and Intrinsic Goodness Attributions’ at APA Pacific Division. San Francisco, CA. March 2013.

‘Incommensurability as Comparative Borderlineness’ at South Carolina Society for Philosophy. College of Charleston. March 2013 (\*)

‘Satisficing, Arbitrariness, and Indeterminacy’ at North Carolina Philosophical Society. East Carolina University. February 2013. (\*)

2012 ‘Incommensurability as Comparative Borderlineness’ at Fourth Dutch Conference on Practical Philosophy. TU/Eindhoven. Nov. 2012. (\*)

'(\*)' Denotes refereed submission.

# Teaching

## Postgraduate (at Reading)

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.

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

## Undergraduate (at Reading)

BA dissertation supervisor. 2014–  
Topics include: Personal Identity, Evolutionary Ethics, Pornography and Free Speech (2015-16), Women and Rationality (2015-16).

Moral Philosophy (PP2MP): Autumn 2014 (metaethics half only), Autumn 2015.

Theory of Knowledge (PP2TK): Autumn 2015 (justification half only).

Values and Virtues (PP1VV). Spring 2015 and Spring 2016.

Introductory Logic (PP2IL). Spring 2015.

Elementary Logic (PP1EL). Summer 2017.

## 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. 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.

# Professional Activities and Service

Journal reviewer for: *Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Economics and Philosophy, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Ethics*, *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy,* *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, *Utilitas*.

Book manuscript reviewer for Routledge.

Editor, ‘Incommensurability of Value’ category on PhilPapers.org. 2012–present.

UK Higher Education Academy:  
Fellow, September 2016-  
Associate Fellow, 2015-2016

## At Reading

Organiser (with Patrick Tomlin) of ‘Moral and Rational Uncertainty’ one-day workshop, with Society for Applied Philosophy funding. 9 October 2017.

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

Supervisor, ‘Climate Change and Rational Choice’ Undergraduate Research Opportunity Project. Summer 2015.

Organiser, 'Indeterminacy in Ethics' conference, University of Reading, 25 April 2015.

Website, blog, and social media administrator. Autumn 2014–

Convenor, Visiting Speaker series. Autumn 2014–

Liaison with undergraduate Philosophy Society. Autumn 2014–

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

MSCA qz

2020 Research Fellowship (2 terms of teaching relief and £500 travel fund), University of Reading. Autumn 2015 and Spring 2016.

Travel Award from University of Reading (£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.

# Selected Internal Training and Development Courses at Reading

‘Supervising Research Students’ led by Professor Bob Rastall, 9th 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.