Milan Mossé

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mmosse19.github.io

Education

2026 (expected)	**Ph.D.**, Philosophy, UC Berkeley Committee: Johann Frick (co-chair), R. Jay Wallace (co-chair), Anna Stilz
2024	**M.S.**, Computer Science, Stanford Research supervisors: Thomas Icard, Omer Reingold, Li-Yang Tan
2020	**B.A.** Philosophy (Honors), **B.S.** Math, Stanford Thesis advisors: Michael Bratman, Barry Maguire

Areas

Specialization: ethics and political philosophy

Competence: action, language, logic, science

Dissertation: What We Can Ask of Each Other

Requesters seem to have what is, on reflection, a remarkable power: to create reasons at will. My dissertation explores this central but overlooked dimension of our normative lives. How can requesters give us reasons to do what they want, even when they stand in no relation of authority over us? And what would be lost if we saw requests as devices for communicating the existence of pre-existing reasons, rather than creating new ones? I explain how requests create reasons and how the values served by the power to request constrain its permissible use. In characterizing the valuable relationships sustained by requests, my dissertation develops a view of reciprocity that sheds new light on a wide range of further issues, including the morality of markets, duties of fairness, distributive justice, and our reasons to care about future generations.

Under review

- Modeling Discrimination with Causal Abstraction
  R&R, *Noûs* // Milan Mossé, Kara Schechtman, Frederick Eberhardt, Thomas Icard

- How Requests Create Reasons

- Why not Ask?

- Two Kinds of Reciprocity

- Stable Voting and the Splitting of Cycles
  Wesley H. Holliday, Chase Norman, Milan Mossé, Eric Pacuit, Cynthia Wang

Peer-reviewed publications

2025 How to Count Sore Throats
Analysis // Léa Bourguignon, Milan Mossé

2024 On Probabilistic and Causal Reasoning with Summation Operators
Journal of Logic and Computation // Duligur Ibeling, Thomas Icard, Milan Mossé

2024 Social Choice for AI Alignment: Dealing with Diverse Human Feedback
International Conference on Machine Learning // Vincent Conitzer, Rachel Freedman, Jobst Heitzig, Wesley Holliday, Bob Jacobs, Nathan Lambert, Milan Mossé, Eric Pacuit, Stuart Russell, Hailey Schoelkopf, Emanuel Tewolde, William Zwicker

2023 Probing the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide in Probabilistic Reasoning
Annals of Pure and Applied Logic // Duligur Ibeling, Thomas Icard, Krzysztof Mierzewski, Milan Mossé

2023 Multiplicative Metric Fairness Under Composition
Foundations of Responsible Computing // Milan Mossé

2022 Is Causal Reasoning Harder than Probabilistic Reasoning?
Review of Symbolic Logic // Milan Mossé, Duligur Ibeling, Thomas Icard

2022 A Generalization of the Satisfiability Coding Lemma and Its Applications
International Conference on Theory and Applications of Satisfiability Testing // Milan Mossé, Harry Sha, Li-Yang Tan (Best Theory Paper Award)

2021 Conditional Negative Sampling for Contrastive Learning of Visual Representations
International Conference on Machine Learning // Mike Wu, Milan Mossé, Chengxu Zhuang, Daniel Yamins, Noah Goodman

2019 Zero Shot Learning for Code Education: Rubric Sampling with Deep Learning Inference
Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence // Mike Wu, Milan Mossé, Noah Goodman, Chris Piech (Oustanding Student Paper Award)

Graduate coursework

University of California, Berkeley

Fall 2025	Philosophy of Language, with Seth Yalcin
Spr 2025	Ethics and Time,* with Johann Frick
Fall 2024	Disagreement,* with Joshua Cohen & Véronique Munoz-Dardé
2022-23	*Qualifying Exams:*
	Hume's Sentimentalism, with Olivia Bailey
	Contractualism, with R. Jay Wallace
	Question-Sensitivity, with Seth Yalcin
Spr 2022	Individual, Social, and Ethical Choice, with Wesley Holliday
Spr 2022	Thought, Character, and Action in Aristotle, with Tim Clarke
Fall 2021	Ethical Theories, with R. Jay Wallace
Fall 2021	The Common Ground, with John MacFarlane & Seth Yalcin

Spr 2021	Hume, with Olivia Bailey
Spr 2021	Pragmatism, with Shamik Dasgupta
Fall 2020	Feminist Epistemology, with Andreja Novakovic
Fall 2020	Evolutionary & Developmental Perspectives on Morality, with Jan Engelmann & R. Jay Wallace
Fall 2020	Property, with Joshua Cohen & Desmond Jagmohan
Fall 2020	Proseminar, with John Campbell & Hannah Ginsborg

Stanford University

Spr 2024	Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Techniques, with Nima Anari, Moses Charikar, and Sanmi Koyejo
Spr 2024	The Ethical Analyst, with Dale Nesbitt
Spr 2023	Decision Theory and Planning Agency,* with Thomas Icard & Michael Bratman
Fall 2020	Research Seminar in Complexity Theory, with Li-Yang Tan
Spr 2020	Complexity Theory II, with Li-Yang Tan
Win 2020	Complexity Theory, with Li-Yang Tan
Win 2020	Optimization and Algorithmic Paradigms, with Moses Charikar
Win 2020	Theory of Probability II (Statistics PhD Sequence), with Amir Dembo
Fall 2019	Theory of Probability I (Statistics PhD Sequence), with Andrea Montanari
Fall 2019	Research Seminar on Logic and Formal Philosophy, with Thomas Icard
Spr 2019	Topics in Logic, Information, and Agency, with Johan van Benthem & Thomas Icard
Spr 2019	Topics in Aesthetics, with Kendall Walton
Spr 2019	Topics in Combinatorics, with Jacob Fox
Win 2019	Algebraic Error Correcting Codes, with Mary Wootters
Spr 2018	Planning, Time, and Rationality, with Michael Bratman

*audited; all others for credit

Awards & fellowships

2024-25	Fellowship from the Kavli Center for Ethics, Science, and the Public, UC Berkeley
2025	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2023	Outstanding GSI Award (awarded to fewer than 10% of TAs), UC Berkeley
2020	Cota Robles Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2019	Major Grant, Stanford
2017-19	Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, Stanford
2017	Chappell-Lougee Scholarship, Stanford

Selected presentations

Modeling Teleology (with Seth Yalcin)
2026   Eastern APA

How Requests Create Reasons
2026   Eastern APA Symposium

Individualism and Its Limits
2025   MANCEPT Workshop on Moral Aggregation

Equality and Alienation
2025   Berkeley Political Philosophy Workshop

Treating Others Merely as Ends
2025   Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference

Reasoning about Confirmation
2025   Probability Logic Workshop, CMU

Why not Ask? (formerly "The Requesting-Offering Asymmetry")
2025   Central APA Symposium
2024   Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress

Modeling Discrimination with Causal Abstraction
2025   Departmental Talk, Emory*
2024   CEPDISC
2024   Stanford Logic Seminar*

Care as Respecting a Sensibility
2024   Harvard Workshop on Care and Love

Conditional Intention Ascriptions
2024   Agency and Intentions in Language

Modeling Structural Injustice
2023   Stanford Logic Seminar*

How to Count Sore Throats
2023   LSE Choice Group*

*invited; all others refereed

Teaching

University of California, Berkeley

Fall 2025	TA, Philosophy of Science, with Ezra Rubenstein
Fall 2024	TA, Political Philosophy: Equality and Identity, with Véronique Munoz-Dardé
Sum 2024	Co-Instructor, Individual Morality and Social Justice, with Russell McIntosh
Fall 2023	TA, Political Philosophy, with Véronique Munoz-Dardé
Sum 2023	TA, Contemporary Ethical Issues, with Tim Crockett
Fall 2022	TA, Bioethics, with Johann Frick
Sum 2022	TA, Philosophy of Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship, with Tim Crockett
Spr 2022	TA, Individual Morality and Social Justice, with Johann Frick
Fall 2021	TA, Nature of Mind, with John Campbell

Stanford University

Spr 2024	TA, Incentives in Computer Science, with Aviad Rubenstein

Sum 2020	TA, Design and Analysis of Algorithms, with Karey Shi
Win 2020	TA, Design and Analysis of Algorithms, with Mary Wootters
Win 2018	TA, Programming Abstractions, with Marty Stepp
Fall 2018	TA, Programming Methodology, with Mehran Sahami

Service

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

AY 2021-22, 2024-25	Graduate Representative, Equity Task Force; Focus on Trans Inclusion
AY 2021-22, 2023-24	Co-Organizer, Minorities and Philosophy
Fall 2022	Co-Organizer, COMPASS Workshop
Spr 2021	Un-Naming Proposal Co-Author, Moses Hall Name Review Committee

Other organizing, chairing, and refereeing

Fall 2025	Co-Organizer, MANCEPT Limited Aggregation Workshop
Spr 2022, 2023, 2025	Founder, Co-Organizer, & Mentor, Directed Reading Program
AY 2020-21, 2023-2024	Organizer, Graduate Work-in-Progress Talks
Spr 2023	Grad Organizer, Social Choice for AI Ethics & Safety Workshop
AY 2022-23	Grad Organizer, Department Colloquia
Spr 2021/2023, AY 2023-24	Organizer, Faculty Work-in-Progress Talks
Spr 2022	Organizer, Latin American Philosophy Reading Group
AY 2021-22	Organizer, Feminism and Masculinity Reading Group
Chair (selected)	Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (2024); Central APA (2025); Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics (invitation by submitted abstract)
Referee	Computational Complexity Conference (CCC); Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS; ×5); International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML; ×5), International Colloquium on Automata, Languages and Programming (ICALP); International Symposium on Algorithms and Computation (ISAAC); Journal of Moral Philosophy (×4); Logic Journal of the IGPL (×3); Philosophical Studies (×2); Utilitas

Skills

Languages: German (reading) and Spanish (professional proficiency)
Coding: C, C++, Python

References

Thomas F. Icard
C. I. Lewis Professor of Philosophy and (by courtesy) Professor of Computer Science
Stanford University

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Johann Frick
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Berkeley
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Véronique Munoz-Dardé (teaching reference)
Professor of Philosophy
University College London
Mills Adjunct Professor of Philosophy
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R. Jay Wallace
William and Trudy Ausfahl Chair in Philosophy
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Seth Yalcin
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