ROBERT MARK SIMPSON

✉ robert.simpson@ucl.ac.uk
▢ c/- UCL Philosophy Department
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

robertmarksimpson.com

CAREER AND EDUCATION

University College London, Lecturer in Philosophy 2018-
Monash University, Lecturer in Philosophy 2013-17
University of Chicago, Visiting Assistant Professor 2015
University of Oxford, D.Phil 2009-13
Monash University, MA 2007-08, BA Honours 2006, BSc 2000-03

Updated 04.10.19

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

"The relation between academic freedom and free speech", forthcoming in *Ethics*

"The conversational character of oppression", forthcoming in *Australasian Philosophical Review*

"The Big Shill", forthcoming in *Ratio*.
// with Eliot Michaelson

"Language and legitimation", forthcoming in Rachel Sterken and Justin Khoo (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language* (London: Routledge)

"Reconciling regulation with scientific autonomy in dual-use research", forthcoming in *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* // with Nicholas G. Evans and Michael J. Selgelid

"Won't somebody please think of the children? Hate speech, harm, and childhood", *Law and Philosophy* 38/1 (2019): 79-108

"Political correctness gone viral", in Carl Fox and Joe Saunders (Eds.), *Media Ethics, Free Speech, and the Requirements of Democracy* (New York: Routledge, 2019) // with Waleed Aly

"Search engines and free speech coverage", in Susan J. Brison and Katharine Gelber (Eds.), *Free Speech in the Digital Age* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019) // with Heather M. Whitney

"Regulating offense, nurturing offense", *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics* 17/3 (2018): 235-56

"No platforming", in Jennifer Lackey (Ed.), *Academic Freedom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018) // with Amia Srinivasan

"Permissivism and the arbitrariness objection", *Episteme* 14/4 (2017): 519-38

"Tolerating hate in the name of democracy", *Modern Law Review* 80/4 (2017): 746-65 // with Amanda R. Greene

"Indirect epistemic reasons and religious belief", *Religious Studies* 53/2 (2017): 151-69 // with Kirk Lougheed

"Defining 'speech': subtraction, addition, and division", *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence* 29/2 (2016): 457-94

"Indoctrination anxiety and the etiology of belief", *Synthese* 193/10 (2016): 3079-98 // with Josh DiPaolo

"Climate change, cooperation, and moral bioenhancement", *Journal of Medical Ethics* 42 (2016): 742-47 // with Toby Handfield and Pei-hua Huang

"Dehumanization: its operations and origins", *Journal of Law and Biosciences* 3/1 (2015): 178-84

"Super soldiers and technological asymmetry", in Jai Galliott and Mianna Lotz (Eds.), *Super Soldiers: Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications* (Farnum: Ashgate, 2015)

"Life in overabundance: Agar on life-extension and the fear of death", *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 17/2 (2014): 223-36 // with Aveek Bhattacharya

"Nanotechnologically enhanced combat systems: the downside of invulnerability", in Bert Gordijn and Anthony Mark Cutter (Eds.), *In Pursuit of Nanoethics* (Dordrecht: Springer Science and Business Media, 2014) // with Robert Sparrow

"Intellectual agency and responsibility for belief in free speech theory", *Legal Theory* 19/3 (2013): 307-30

"Unringing the bell: McGowan on oppressive speech and the asymmetric pliability of conversation", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 91/3 (2013): 555-75

"Dignity, harm, and hate speech", *Law and Philosophy* 32/6 (2013): 701-28

"Epistemic peerhood and the epistemology of disagreement", *Philosophical Studies* 164/2 (2013): 561-77

"Moral antitheodicy: prospects and problems", *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 65/1 (2009): 153-69

"Some moral critique of theodicy is misplaced, but not all", *Religious Studies* 45/3 (2009): 339-46

"Avoiding the afterlife: victims of suffering and the argument from usefulness", *Forum Philosophicum* 13/2 (2008): 437-55

BOOK PROJECT

I am currently working on a book. Its working title is *Individuation: The Arts, Free Speech, and Experiments in Living*. This work will examine the position of the arts in free speech. I will argue that we need to appeal to a relatively neglected ideal from the liberal tradition – namely, the ideal of 'experiments in living' – in order to account for the central position that the arts have occupied in the law and politics of free speech. I am happy to provide a copy of the book proposal on request.

OTHER WRITING

EDITORIAL: "Weaponisation", forthcoming in *The New Statesman*

BOOK REVIEW: *Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights*, Eds. R. Cruft, S. M. Liao, and M. Renzo, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 16/4 (2019): 517-20 [*link*]

BLOG POST: "Universities and democratic legitimacy", *Justice Everywhere*, 10th/12th June 2019 [*link*]

BOOK REVIEW: Review of *Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech*, by Keith E. Whittington, *Times Literary Supplement*, 14th May 2019 [*link*]

LONG-READ ARTICLE: "C. S. Lewis's demons", *ABC Religion & Ethics*, 1st May 2018 [*link*]

EDITORIAL: "Free speech is a blunt instrument; let's break it up", *Aeon*, Friday 31st March 2017 [*link*]

BLOG: "The origin of belief", *The Forum*, 15th August 2016; Republished in *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 78 (3rd Quarter, 2017) as "The Origins of Our Beliefs" // with Josh DiPaolo [*link*]

BLOG: "Making humans morally better won't fix climate change", *JME Blog*, 25th August 2016 [*link*]

BOOK REVIEW: "Moral renegades, Review of Strangers Drowning by Larissa MacFarquhar, and Doing Good Better by William MacAskill"; *The New Rambler Review*, 12th July 2016 [*link*]

BOOK REVIEW: Review of Speech Matters: Lying, Morality, and the Law by Seana Shiffrin, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 28th April 2015 [*link*]

BLOG: "Prevent harm, allow offence?", *The Free Speech Debate*, 8th January 2013 [*link*]

GRANTS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

Australian Research Council; Discovery Project Grant, on "Governing the Knowledge Commons", International Partner Investigator (administering institution: Monash University), 2019-21

Society for Applied Philosophy; Conference Grant Scheme, 2017

The Spencer Foundation; Research Grant on Hate Speech and Education, 2015-16

St. Louis University / Templeton Foundation; Research Cluster Group Grant for Project on the Philosophy and Theology of Intellectual Humility, 2014-2015

Monash University Faculty of Arts; Emerging Research Excellence Fellowship, 2014

Monash University, School of Philosophy and History; Research Grant on 'Intrinsic Valuation', 2013-14

Princeton University Center for Human Values; Postdoctoral fellowship in Public Policy, 2013-16, declined position in order to take up continuing lectureship at Monash University

Monash University Faculty of Arts; New Appointees Research Grant, 2013

Oxford University Faculty of Philosophy; Faculty Doctoral Scholarship, 2009-12

Somerville College, Oxford; Graduate Doctoral Scholarship in Philosophy, 2009-12

Monash University Faculty of Arts; Postgraduate Publications Award, 2008-09

Australian Department of Education and Training; Australian Postgraduate Award, 2007-08

Monash University Faculty of Arts; Honours Merit Scholarship, 2006

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

University of Lyon, Conference on "Freedom of Expression: An Equal Right for All?", November 2019, "Free Speech, Heckling, and Silencing" // with Emily McTernan

University of Oxford, Nuffield Political Theory Workshop, November 2019, "Minimalism, Determinacy, and Human Rights"

Australian Catholic University, Workshop on "Building Better Epistemic Networks", September 2019, "The Expertise Problem and Higher Education Governance"

University College London, Workshop on "Philosophical Approaches to Hate Speech", June 2019, "The Impact of Public Hate Speech on Children"

University College London, Yale / UCL Legal Symposium, June 2019, "The Relation Between Free Speech and Academic Freedom"

University of Oxford, Conference on The Ethics and Politics of Online Interaction, May 2019, "Freedom of Thought and the Regulation of Speech on Social Media" // with Erin Nash

Durham University, Keynote Talk at Graduate Conference on Human Rights, May 2019, "Minimalism and Determinacy in Human Rights"

University College London, Philosophy Departmental Symposium, March 2019, "Language and Normalisation"

University of Oxford, Moral Philosophy Seminar, February 2019; "What is Legitimation?"

Queen Mary University, Conference on Free Speech and Democracy, February 2019; "Universities and Democratic Legitimacy"

University of Oxford, Jurisprudence Discussion Group, November 2018; "The Relation Between Free Speech and Academic Freedom"

University of Tartu, Keynote Talk at Graduate Conference on "The Ethics of Conduct in Debate", October 2018; "Silencing Milo: On the Mission and Culture of a University"

University of Warwick, CELPA Workshop, October 2018; "The Relation between Academic Freedom and Free Speech"

San Raffaele University, Milan, Department of Philosophy, February 2018; "Scorekeeping and Social Theory"

University of Melbourne, Moral and Political Philosophy Seminar, August 2017; "The Concept of Hate Speech"

University of Cambridge, Workshop on Truth and Truthfulness, June 2017; "A Third Concept of Intrinsic Valuation"

Durham University, Department of Philosophy Seminar Series, June 2017; "The Streisand Effect and the Pragmatics of Oppressive Speech"

National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Department of Philosophy Seminar Series, June 2017; "A Third Concept of Intrinsic Valuation"

University of Warwick, Centre for Ethics, Law & Public Affairs Workshop, May 2017; "What is Legitimation?"

Macquarie University, Department of Philosophy Seminar Series, May 2017; "Hate Speech, Harm, and Childhood"

Monash University, Conference on Social Norms in Epistemic Communities May 2017; "Recent Work on Epistemic Injustice"

University of Sydney, Department of Philosophy Seminar, May 2017; "What is Legitimation?"

University of Wisconsin, Madison, Philosophy Brownbag Seminar, April 2017; "What is Legitimation?"

Kansas State University, Department of Philosophy Seminar, April 2017; "What is Legitimation?"

University of Massachussetts, Boston, Department of Philosophy Seminar, March 2017; "What is Legitimation?"

University of Auckland, Department of Philosophy Seminar, March 2017; "What is Legitimation?"

Victoria University Wellington, Department of Philosophy Seminar, March 2017; "What is Legitimation?",

University of Waikato, Department of Philosophy Seminar Series, March 2017; "Hate Speech, Harm, and Childhood"

Monash University, Department of Philosophy Seminar Series, March 2017; "What is Legitimation?"

University of Melbourne, Australian Political Philosophy Conference, February 2017; "Regulating Offense, Nurturing Offense"

Leeds Interdisciplinary Centre for Applied Ethics, Conference on Free Speech and Democracy, August 2016; "Political Correctness Gone Viral"

Melbourne University Law School, Australasian Society for Legal Philosophy Conference, July 2016; "Search Engines and Free Speech Coverage"

Monash University, Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, July 2016; "Minimalism and Determinacy in Human Rights"

Yale University Law School, Yale Free Speech Scholar's Conference, April 2016; "Search Engines and Free Speech Coverage"

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Symposium on Human Rights, San Francisco, April 2016; "Minimalism and Determinacy in Human Rights"

Monash Philosophy Students' Society, Monash University, April 2016; "Contingency, Credulity, and the Etiological Challenge"

LaTrobe University, Department of Philosophy Seminar, March 2016; "The Streisand Effect & Pragmatics of Oppressive Speech"

The Institute of Philosophy, London, Lunchtime Public Speaker Series, January 2016; "Hate Speech, Harm, and Childhood"

University of Leeds, Department of Philosophy Seminar, January 2016; "The Streisand Effect & Pragmatics of Oppressive Speech"

Leeds Interdisciplinary Centre for Applied Ethics, Visiting Speaker Series, January 2016; "Hate Speech, Harm, and Childhood"

University of Melbourne Law School, Legal Philosophy Workshop, October 2015; "Defining 'Speech': The Subtractive v. Additive Approach"

University of Melbourne, Department of Philosophy Seminar, October 2015; "Contingency, Credulity, and the Etiological Challenge"

Macquarie University, Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, July 2015; "Contingency, Credulity, and the Etiological Challenge"

Dartmouth College, Workshop on Global Expressive Rights, April 2015; "Defining Speech: The Subtractive v. Additive Approach"

The University of Chicago, Law and Philosophy Workshop, April 2015; "Defining Speech: The Subtractive v. Additive Approach"

Northwestern University, Philosophy Department, Brownbag Seminar, April 2015; "Permissivism and the Arbitrariness Objection"

Northwestern University, Practical Philosophy Workshop, April 2015; "Defining Speech: The Subtractive v. Additive Approach"

St. Louis University, Workshop on Intellectual Humility, March 2015; "Permissivism and the Arbitrariness Objection"

Australian National University, Ethics and Political Philosophy Seminar, December 2014; "Regulating Offense, Nurturing Offense"

University of Wollongong, Workshop on Philosophy and Emotion, October 2014; "Hatred and Political Inequality"

LaTrobe University, Department of Philosophy Seminar, October 2014; "Permissivism and the Arbitrariness Objection"

University of Tasmania, Department of Philosophy Seminar, August 2014; "Permissivism and the Arbitrariness Objection"

Joint Session of Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, University of Cambridge, July 2014; "A Third Concept of Intrinsic Valuation"

Charles Sturt University; Department of Philosophy Seminar, June 2014; "A Third Concept of Intrinsic Valuation"

Australian National University, Department of Philosophy Seminar, April 2014; "A Third Concept of Intrinsic Valuation"

University of Queensland, Workshop on Hate Speech, March 2014; "Regulating Offense, Nurturing Offense"

Centre for Applied Philosophy & Public Ethics, Visiting Speaker Series, March 2014; "Regulating Offense, Nurturing Offense"

University of Wollongong, Workshop on Hate Speech, February 2014; "What is Legitimation?"

New Zealand Philosophy Conference, University of Auckland, December 2013; "A Third Concept of Intrinsic Valuation"

Monash University, Department of Philosophy Seminar, August 2013; "Regulating Offense, Nurturing Offense"

Schmilosophy Seminar Series, All Souls College, Oxford, May 2013; "Sontag, Barthes, and Critical Theory Lite"

University of Sheffield, Graduate Conference in Value, July 2012; "Dual Axiological Character"

Central European University, Graduate Philosophy Conference on Agency, March 2012; "Autonomy and Doxastic Involuntarism in Free Speech"

The Ockham Society, University of Oxford, Graduate Philosophy Seminar, February 2012; "Unringing the Bell: McGowan on Oppressive Speech"

University of Warwick, Graduate Conference in Political Theory, February 2012; "Liberty, Democracy, and Freedom of Expression"

Australasian Philosophy of Religion Conference, Charles Sturt University, September 2008; "Do Religious Arguments Beg the Doxastic Question?"

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

FREE SPEECH AND THEORIES OF AUTONOMY
University College London
Advanced political philosophy module
Lecturer and Coordinator
2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20

OBSCENITY, CENSORSHIP, AND THE ARTS
University College London
Intermediate aesthetics/social philosophy module
Lecturer and Coordinator: 2018-19

ETHICS
Monash University
Intermediate moral philosophy module
Lecturer and Coordinator: 2016, 2017

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS THEORY
Monash University
Introductory political philosophy module
Lecturer and Coordinator
2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

THE ETHICS OF GLOBAL CONFLICT
Monash University
Advanced political philosophy module
Lecturer and Coordinator: 2014, 2015

LANGUAGE, TRUTH, AND POWER
Monash University
Advanced philosophy of language module
Secondary Lecturer: 2013, 2014

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW
University of Chicago
Advanced *Juris Doctor* Module
Guest Lecturer: 2015

THE PHILOSOPHY OF DIGNITY
University of Chicago
Advanced Philosophy Module
Guest Lecturer: 2015

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY
Somerville College, Oxford
Graduate Tutorial Assistant: 2011, 2012

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
Somerville College, Oxford
Graduate Tutorial Assistant: 2011

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
Wadham College, Oxford
Graduate Tutorial Assistant: 2011

LIFE, DEATH, AND MORALITY
Monash University
Introductory Moral Philosophy Module
Graduate Tutorial Assistant: 2009

TIME, SELF, AND FREEDOM
Monash University
Introductory Metaphysics Module
Graduate Tutorial Assistant: 2008

GRADUATE LEVEL TEACHING

RESEARCH SEMINAR IN LEGAL PHILOSOPHY
  University College London
  Lecturer and Coordinator, 2017-18, 2018-19

SUMMER SCHOOL IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
  Wuhan University, China
  Visiting Lecturer, 2018

FREE SPEECH AND HATE SPEECH
  Monash University
  Honours Level Philosophy Module
  Lecturer and Coordinator, 2016

LEGAL PHILOSOPHY WORKSHOP: FREE SPEECH
  University of Chicago
  Workshop / Graduate Coursework Module
  Co-convenor, 2015

HUMAN RIGHTS AND R2P
  University of Chicago
  Graduate Level Humanities Module
  Lecturer and Coordinator, 2015

CURRENT ISSUES IN SOCIAL EPISTEMOLOGY
  Monash University
  Honours Level Philosophy Module
  Lecturer and Coordinator, 2014

EDUCATION CREDENTIALS

Graduate Certificate of Academic Practice, Formal Qualification in Higher Education Practice, equivalent to one year's part-time study, Monash University, Completed December 2015

Outstanding Teaching Award, Faculty of Arts, Monash University Student Association, 2015; Student-voted award: one award given in the year for all teaching staff in the Monash Arts Faculty

Dean's Commendation for Teaching Excellence; Team award for teaching work as a tutorial assistant in "The Ethics of Global Conflict", Monash University, 2009

RESEARCH SUPERVISION AND EXAMINATION

I have been the primary supervisor for three PhD students at Monash and UCL.

I have been the primary supervisor for four students completing a two-year research-based masters thesis, in the UCL MPhil program (30,000 words), and in the Monash MA Program (40,000 words).

I have supervised 24 students on single-year research projects (10,000 words), in the UCL MA in Philosophy, the UCL Philosophy Undergraduate Dissertation Module, and the Monash Honours Philosophy program. I've supervised on a wide range of topics at this level, in ethics, political philosophy, social theory, feminist philosophy, philosophy of religion, epistemology, and philosophy of language.

I have assessed three PhD dissertations, each of them involving a *viva voce* examination.

REFEREEING

American Philosophical Quarterly (2014), Analysis (2017), Australasian Journal of Philosophy (2014); British Journal of Political Science (2018); Canadian Journal of Philosophy (2018, 2017); Eidos: Revista de Filosofía Universidad del Norte (2014); Episteme (2019, 2016, 2014, 2014); Erkenntis (2019); Ethical Theory and Moral Practice (2018); Ethics (2019); European Journal for Philosophy of Religion (2016); Hypatia (2015); Journal of Applied Philosophy (2018, 2017, 2014); Journal of Ethics (2019); Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy (2019); Journal of Moral Philosophy (2017); Journal of Political Philosophy (2016); Journal of Social Philosophy (2018, 2015); Kriterion (2017); Language Sciences (2014); Law and Philosophy (2017); Legal Theory (2019); Mind (2018, 2015); MIT Press – Full Manuscript Review (2017); The Monist (2019); Oxford Journal of Legal Studies (2019); Pacific Philosophical Quarterly (2017); Philosophical Quarterly (2018); Political Studies (2017); Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (2017); Ratio Juris (2018); Res Publica (2018); Routledge – Book Proposal Review (2017, 2016); Routledge – Referee for paper in an Edited Volume (2016); Southern Cross Law Review (2016); Springer – Full Manuscript Review (2016); Synthese (2018).

SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Organiser, UCL Philosophy Department "Widening Participation Summer School", August 2019
- Organiser, Workshop on "Philosophical Approaches to Hate Speech", UCL Philosophy, June 2019
- Departmental Tutor, University College London Philosophy Department, 2018-
- Widening Participation Officer, University College London Philosophy Department, 2018-
- Philosophy Society Liaison, University College London Philosophy Department, 2018-
- Co-organiser, Institute of Philosophy Seminar Series on 'The Practical, the Ethical, and Political', 2019
- Organiser, "Just Words": Workshop in Applied Philosophy of Language, UCL, June 2018
- Co-organiser, Conference on Democracy and Hate Speech, Queen Mary Law School, June 2017
- Co-organiser, Wellesley Workshop on Law and Language, Wellesley College, March 2017
- Australian Research Council Reviewer, Discovery Projects and DECRA Fellowships, 2014-17
- Convener of the Human Rights Major, Monash University Faculty of Arts, 2016-17
- Co-organiser, APA Society for the Philosophy of Human Rights Meeting, 2016
- Philosophy Graduate Program Coordinator, Monash University, 2015
- Philosophy Honours Program Coordinator, Monash University, 2013-14
- International Studies Committee, Monash University, 2013-14
- Admissions interviews for PPE Degree, Somerville College Oxford, 2012
- 15th Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference, organising committee member, 2011

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Visiting Speaker at the North London Collegiate School Philosophical Society, March 2019
- Guest on the Philosopher's Zone, ABC Radio, 10th March 2019 [*link*]
- Guest Presenter at the Stuart Low Trust Philosophy Forum, London, February 2019
- Interview with Alexander Davies in *Sirp* (an Estonian cultural newspaper), 26 October 2018
- Leeds Philosophy and Film Society, speaker at a screening of *Life is Sweet* (UK, 1990), October 2018
- Guest with Scott Stephens and Waleed Aly on *The Minefield*, ABC Radio National, September 2017
- Guest / Interviewee on *Ethics Matters*, ABC Television Australia [*link*]
- Guest with Scott Stephens, Waleed Aly on *The Minefield*, ABC Radio National, November 2016
- *Elucidations* podcast on 'Indoctrination Anxiety', May 2016 [*link*]
- Judge for Victorian Association for Philosophy in School's 2015 *Philosothon*, September 2015
- *Humanities 21* presentation on free speech to Holding Redlich Law Firm, May 2014
- Interview with Richard King and Waleed Aly on the *Drawing Room*, ABC Radio, August 2013