

ALEXANDER (ALEX) LIAM WORSNIP

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Areas of specialization Epistemology, metaethics, theory of rationality
Areas of competence Philosophy of language, philosophical psychology, normative ethics, political philosophy, history of modern philosophy

Employment & higher education

2016- Assistant Professor of Philosophy (tenure-track), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
2015-2016 Faculty Fellow in Philosophy (postdoctoral position), New York University
2010-2015 PhD in Philosophy, Yale University
2008-2010 BPhil in Philosophy, University of Oxford
2005-2008 BA (with First Class Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University of Oxford

Publications

Original Articles

- “The metaethics of coherence,” forthcoming in *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, vol. 13
- “What to believe about your belief that you’re in the good case,” forthcoming in *Oxford Studies in Epistemology*, vol. 6
- “Isolating correct reasoning,” forthcoming in Magdalena Balcerak Jackson & Brendan Balcerak Jackson (eds.), *Reasoning: New Essays on Theoretical and Practical Thinking*, Oxford University Press
- “The conflict of evidence and coherence,” forthcoming in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (published Online Early Access)
- “Cryptonormative judgments,” *European Journal of Philosophy*, 25(1), 2017
- “Metanormative contextualism and normative uncertainty” (with John Pittard), *Mind*, 126(501), 2017
- “Belief, credence, and the preface paradox,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 94(3), 2016
- “Moral reasons, epistemic reasons and rationality,” *Philosophical Quarterly*, 66(263), 2016
- “IIA, rationality, and the individuation of options” (with Tina Rulli), *Philosophical Studies*, 173(1), 2016
- “Hobbes and normative egoism,” *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 97(4), 2015
- “Narrow-scoping for wide-scopers,” *Synthese*, 192(8), 2015
- “Possibly false knowledge,” *Journal of Philosophy*, 112(5), 2015
- “Two kinds of stakes,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 96(3), 2015

“Disagreement about disagreement? What disagreement about disagreement?”
Philosophers’ Imprint, 14(18), 2014

**Literature Review/
Overview Articles** “Contextualism and knowledge norms,” in Jonathan Jenkins Ichikawa (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Epistemic Contextualism*, Routledge, 2017

**Discussion Notes
And Book Reviews** “Explanatory indispensability and deliberative indispensability: against Enoch’s analogy,” *Thought*, 5(4), 2016
Review of Daniel Star’s *Knowing Better*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, January 2016

Conferences, Workshops & Other Talks

Papers Title TBC

Workshop on Varieties of Normativity, Uppsala University, December 2017
New Trends in Epistemology Workshop, University of Hamburg, October 2017
Workshop on the work of John Broome, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), September 2017

“Incoherence and the wrong kind of reason”
UNC-KCL Workshop on Reasons, UNC-Chapel Hill, June 2017

“The metaethics of coherence”/“What is (in)coherence?”
Fordham Ethics and Epistemology Workshop, February 2017
Chapel Hill Metaethics Workshop, September 2016
Corridor Discussion Group, March 2016

“Eliminating prudential reasons”
Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics, January 2017
NYU Lunchtime Talk, December 2015

“Evidential parity and anti-skeptical assumptions”
Society for Skeptical Studies session at the Eastern APA, January 2017

“Explanatory indispensability and deliberative indispensability: against Enoch’s analogy”
Realism in Ethics Early Career Workshop, University of Sheffield, July 2016

“Metanormative contextualism and normative uncertainty”
New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, February 2016

“Evidence, coherence, and anti-skeptical assumptions”
Union College Workshop on Critical Reflection and Belief, May 2015

“Cryptonormative judgments”
University of Notre Dame, February 2015
British Society for Ethical Theory, University of Cambridge, July 2014
Northwestern Univ. Society for Theory of Ethics & Politics (NUSTEP), March 2014

“Believing at will as a failure of coherence”
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, February 2015

University of Pittsburgh, January 2015

University of California, San Diego, January 2015

“IIA, rationality, and the individuation of options” (with Tina Rulli)

London School of Economics and Political Science, January 2015

“Belief, credence, and the preface paradox”

Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society & the Mind Association, July 2014

“The conflict of evidence and coherence”

St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality (SLACRR), May 2014

London School of Economics and Political Science, January 2014

“Against commitment”

Understanding Value conference at the University of Sheffield, July 2013

“Steadfastness and self-defeat”

Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society & the Mind Association, July 2013

“Disagreement about disagreement? What disagreement about disagreement?”

University of Miami Graduate Epistemology Conference, January 2013

“Ethical theory and the narrative of political realism” (with Jonathan Leader Maynard)

UPenn conference on The Correspondence and Independence of Moral Philosophy and Political Philosophy, November 2012

“Two kinds of stakes”

Edinburgh Graduate Epistemology Conference, June 2012

“How to have pragmatic reasons for belief”

Pittsburgh-CMU Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2012

“Hobbes and normative egoism”

Princeton-Penn-Columbia Graduate Conference in History of Philosophy, April 2011

Comments

On Mark Schroeder (USC), “Expressivism to the Rescue: Graded Belief and the Basicness of Objective Reasons”, Ranch Metaphysics Conference, January 2016

On Joshua Schechter (Brown), “Small Steps and Great Leaps in Thought: The Epistemology of Basic Deductive Rules,” Konstanz Reasoning Conference, July 2014

On Matthew McGrath (Missouri), “Pragmatic Encroachment: Its Problems are Your Problems,” Southampton Workshop on Epistemic and Practical Normativity, June 2014

On Jesse Summers (Duke), “Post Ergo Propter Hoc: Two Roles for Rationalization,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2013

On Michael Hannon (Cambridge/Fordham), “Stabilizing ‘Knowledge,’” Midsummer Philosophy Workshop, Edinburgh, UK, June 2013

Other

Commentator-at-large, Harvard Workshop on the Ethics of Belief, March 2018

Invited participant, 42nd Annual Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy, May 2017

Commentator-at-large, Penn Reasons and Foundations of Epistemology Conference (PeRFECT), University of Pennsylvania, November 2016

Awards & honors

- 2015** Distinction for PhD dissertation (*awarded unanimously by the five readers*)
- 2013** Selected for the Associates in Teaching program at Yale
(*one of less than 20 doctoral selected for program allowing a graduate student to partner with a senior faculty member to design, develop and deliver a new undergraduate class*)
- 2011** Yale Philosophy Department Summer Language Fellowship for German study in Berlin
(tuition + travel expenses)
- 2010-2015** University Fellowship (tuition + stipend), Yale University (2010-2015)
(*2012-14: John A. Farvell Fellowship; 2014-15: Hall-Mercer Fellowship*)
- 2010** Distinction and highest mark in graduating class for the Oxford BPhil thesis
- 2006-2008** College Scholarship, St Anne's College, Oxford

Courses taught as Primary Instructor

At UNC

- Spring 2018** Proto-Seminar (with Susan Wolf) (*for all first-year PhD students*)
Knowledge and Society (*introductory undergraduate, honors college*)
- Fall 2017** Advanced Studies in Value Theory: Practical Reasons and Rationality (*graduate*)
Contemporary Ethical Theory: Metaethics (*intermediate undergraduate*)
- Spring 2017** Dissertation Research Seminar (with Mariska Leunissen) (*graduate*)
Philosophy of Psychology: Irrationality (*advanced undergraduate/graduate*)
- Fall 2016** Theory of Knowledge (*intermediate undergraduate*)
Introduction to Philosophy: Great Works (*introductory undergraduate, honors college*)

At NYU

- Spring 2016** Great Works in Philosophy (*introductory undergraduate*)
- Fall 2015** The Nature of Values (*intermediate undergraduate*)

At Yale

- Fall 2013** Rationality (with Stephen Darwall) (*intermediate undergraduate*)

Professional service and other academic activities

(*All committee work is at UNC*)

- Administrative** Graduate Placement Committee, 2017-18
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2016-18
Organizing Committee, 51st Chapel Hill Colloquium in Philosophy, 2017
Search Committee, Fixed-Term Hire in PPE, 2017
Search Committee, Senior Hire in PPE, 2017
Search Committee, Senior Hire in Ethics, 2016-17

- Advising** PhD Dissertation Committee Member: Amy Glaser; Keshav Singh
 MA Thesis Committee Member: Sylvie Ramirez; Alex Campbell
 First-Year Graduate Advisor: Miriam Johnson
 Undergraduate Thesis Advisor: Yiran Hua
- Examining** PhD Dissertation Examination Committee: Lindsay Brainard
 Dissertation Proposal Examination Committee: Lauren Townsend
 Graduate Area Exam Committee for Philosophy of Mind, 2017
 Graduate Area Exam Committee for Epistemology, 2017
- Editorial** Co-Managing Editor, *Oxford Studies in Epistemology*, 2011-15
- Refereeing** Book manuscripts: *Oxford University Press*
Journal articles (*=multiple times): *American Philosophical Quarterly*; *Analysis*;
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy**; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy**; *Dialectica**; *Episteme*;
Ergo; *Erkenntnis**; *Ethics*; *European Journal of Political Theory*; *Grazer Philosophische Studien*;
Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy; *Mind**; *Noûs*; *Oxford Studies in Epistemology**; *Oxford*
Studies in Experimental Philosophy; *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophers' Imprint**;
*Philosophical Quarterly**; *Philosophical Review*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Philosophy and*
Phenomenological Research; *Synthese**
Conferences: *Madison Metaethics Workshop*; *Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual*
Meeting
- Translation** Research Assistant for Prof. Susanne Bobzien, translating her “Die Kategorien der Freiheit bei Kant” (“Kant’s Categories of Freedom”) from German to English, 2013

Publications for a general audience (selection)

- 2014** Review of John D. Caputo, *Truth*, *Prospect Magazine*
- 2013** “Not for anything,” *The Point*
 Review of David Miller, *Justice For Earthlings*, *Prospect Magazine*
- 2012** “Against pragmatism,” *Prospect Magazine*
 “Moral rethink” (essay on Jonathan Haidt’s *The Righteous Mind*), *Prospect Magazine*