

## PROFESSOR RACHEL KATHARINE STERKEN

Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo  
Blindern, Georg Morgenstiernes Hus, Room 436, Oslo, Norway  
racheste@ifikk.uio.no, rachel.sterken@gmail.com

www.rachelsterken.org, www.hf.uio.no/ifikk/english/people/aca/philosophy/tenured/racheste/

### Research Areas

Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Linguistics (Semantics and Pragmatics), Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Social/Political Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Social Science, some areas of Developmental and Social Psychology

### Employment

- 2018-Present      Co-Director and Researcher  
The Concept Lab  
Norwegian Research Council *Toppforsk* Project  
Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo
- 2017-Present      Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo
- 2013-2017        Senior Lecturer/Fixed Term Associate Professor/Visiting Researcher  
Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo

### Education

- 2013              University of St Andrews and University of Oslo  
PhD in Philosophy (double-badge)  
Thesis: *Generics in Context: Generalization, Context and Communication*  
Supervisors: Ephraim Glick, Olav Gjelsvik and Brian Weatherson  
Committee: Sarah-Jane Leslie and Jeff Pelletier
- 2011              University of California – Berkeley  
Visiting Research Student
- 2008              University of Amsterdam  
MSc in Logic and Mathematics  
Thesis: *Concatenation as a Basis for Q and the Intuitionistic Variant of Nelson's Result*  
Supervisor: Albert Visser
- 2005              University of Toronto  
Honors BSc in Mathematics and Philosophy (*with Distinction*)

### Publications

1. "Generics in Context". *Philosopher's Imprint*, 15(21), 2015.
2. "Leslie on Generics". *Philosophical Studies*, 172(9), 2015.
3. "Generics, Content and Cognitive Bias". *Analytic Philosophy*, 56(1), 2015.
4. "Generics, Covert Structure and Logical Form". *Mind and Language*, 31(5), 2016.
5. "Nickel's Between Logic and the World: An Integrated Theory of Generics". *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2016.
6. "The Meaning of Generics". *Philosophy Compass*, 12(8), 2017.

7. **Genericity in Philosophy and Linguistics**, co-edited volume with Bernhard Nickel, special issue of the journal *Inquiry*, 2017.

8. "The Structures of Structural Explanation". *Disputatio*, forthcoming.

9. "Amelioration and Meaning Change: Transformative Communicative Disruptions" in Burgess, Cappelen and Plunkett (eds.), *Conceptual Engineering and Conceptual Ethics*, forthcoming.

## In Preparation

10. "Language Signaling High Proportions, not Just Generics, Leads to Essentializing for Novel Social Kinds" (with E. Hoicka and J. Saul), under review.

11. "Generics and the Metaphysics of Kinds" (commissioned by *Philosophy Compass*)

12. "The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language" (commissioned by **Routledge**, with J. Khoo)

13. "What's New About Fake News?" (with Eliot Michaelson and Jessica Pepp), under review

14. "Generics and Essentialising" (for *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*).

15. "Introduction" (with Justin Khoo, for *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*).

## Selected Recent Presentations

2019

Swedish Congress of Philosophy (invited keynote), *Speaking Authentically*

British Postgraduate Philosophical Association Masterclass, *TBD*

Uppsala Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy (invited), *Speaking Authentically*

Workshop New Frontiers of Speech: Philosophy of Online Speech and Communication, University of Uppsala, *Norms for Speech Acts and the Division of Epistemic Responsibilities between Senders and Receivers* (with G. Björnsson, J. Pepp and E. Michaelson)

2018

California Philosophy Workshop, *Comments on G. Johnson's 'The Structure of Bias'*

Stockholm and Uppsala Workshop on Direct and Indirect Speech (invited), *Amelioration and Meaning Change*

New York Philosophy of Language Workshop (invited), NYU, *Transformative Communicative Disruptions*

Sherbrooke Workshop on Generics and Social Practices (refereed), Sherbrooke, *Troubling Aspects of Generic Thought and Talk*

The Iceland Meaning Workshop (invited), University of Iceland, *Comments on R. McKinney 'Narrative, Ritual and Social Construction'*,

Department of Philosophy colloquium (invited), University of Hong Kong, *Troubling Aspects of Generic Thought and Talk*

Concept Lab Working Group Meeting, University of Oslo, Comments on Thomasson's *A Pragmatic Method for Conceptual Ethic*

2017 Bergen Women in Philosophy Workshop (invited), University of Bergen, *Troubling Aspects of Generic Thought and Talk*

A Generic Workshop, CSLI and Department of Psychology (invited), Stanford University, *Generics in Context*

California Philosophy Workshop, UCLA, *The Structures of Structural Explanation*

- Semantics and Communicative Effects of Slurs Conference (invited), Arche, University of St Andrews  
*Transformative Communicative Disruptions*
- Author-Meets-Critics Session (invited), American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland,  
*Nickel's Between Logic and the World*
- Ranch Metaphysics Workshop (invited), Tucson, Arizona, *Transformative Communicative Disruptions*
- 2016 Departments of Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Rutgers University (invited)  
What is Cognitive Science Series, *Generics, Quantified Generalizations and Social Prejudice*
- NOMOS Network Meeting, University of Pompeu Fabra (invited)  
Symposia on Haslanger's Doing Justice to the Social, *The Structures of Structural Explanation*
- Arche, University of St Andrews (invited), Meaning and Language Seminar, *Amelioration, Meaning Change and Deception*
- King's College London and Institute of Philosophy (invited), Workshop on Deception  
*Amelioration, Meaning Change and Deception*
- 2015 University of Warwick (refereed), Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society, *Generics, Kind-Predication and Context*
- Dartmouth College (invited), Dartmouth Philosophy of Language Workshop, *Generics in Context*
- CSMN Colloquium, CSMN, University of Oslo, *Generics and Social Prejudice*
- 2014 Philosophy of Language and Mind Network, Indexicality in Language and Thought  
*Comments on Corazza's 'The Essentiality of Indexical Thoughts'*
- 2013 University of Umea (invited), Departments of Philosophy and Linguistics Colloquium  
*Generics, Context-Sensitivity and Logical Form*
- University of Umea (invited), Philosophical Society  
*Generics and Prejudice*
- École Normale Supérieure (invited), Institut Jean-Nicod Colloquium  
*Generics, Context-Sensitivity and Logical Form*

## Professional Service

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|-------------------------|---|
| Conference Organization | Genericity in Philosophy and Linguistics Conference<br>Inquiry, Harvard University and University of Oslo   |
| Workshop Organization   | Workshop New Frontiers of Speech: Philosophy of Online Speech and Communication,<br>University of Uppsala (with J. Pepp and E. Michelson)<br>2nd California Philosophy Workshop, UCLA (organised with Josh Armstrong, Alexis Burgess,<br>Dustin Locke and David Plunkett).<br>Meaning Innovation and Meaning Change<br>ConceptLab, University of Oslo |
|                         | The Practical Implications of Defective Communication   |

ConceptLab, University of Oslo  
1st California Philosophy Workshop, UCLA (organised with Josh Armstrong, Alexis Burgess, Dustin Locke and David Plunkett)  
Workshop on Generics  
CSMN, University of Oslo (2009)

Refereeing *Philosophical Review, Social Theory and Practice, Nous, Philosopher's Imprint, Journal of Semantics, Ergo, Philosophical Quarterly, Synthese, Thought, Analysis, Inquiry, Mind and Language, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Neuroethics. Oxford University Press, Brill Publishing*

## Selected Scholarships and Awards

2018-2019 Peder Sather Grant, with Seth Yalcin (Berkeley), University of California-Berkeley.  
2018-2019 NFR SAMKUL Network Grant, with Jessica Pepp (Uppsala) and Eliot Michaelson (KCL).  
2018-2021 NFR Toppforsk project, co-investigator, with Herman Cappelen, Camilla Serck-Hanssen, Øystein Linnebo.  
2016 Finalist as co-investigator for a Norwegian Research Council Centre of Excellence  
2009-2013 CSMN PhD Fellowship, University of Oslo  
2008-2011 Overseas Research Award, University of St Andrews

## Teaching, Supervising, and Mentoring

Lecturer, *Philosophy of Mind / Metaphysics* (masters), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2017)

Lecturer, *Philosophy of Mind / Metaphysics* (advanced undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2015, 2016, 2018)

Lecturer, *Ethics* (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

Lecturer, *History of Philosophy and Science* (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)

Seminar Leader, *Logic* (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2015, 2016)

Seminar Leader, *Philosophy of Mind / Metaphysics* (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2017, 2018)

Lecturer, *Philosophy of Language* (advanced undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2013, 2017, 2019)

Tutor and Demonstrator, *Mind and Reality* (undergraduate), Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews. (2008)

Teaching Mentor, Leo Townsend, Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2017)

PhD Coordinator (2019)

MA supervision: I. Dale, M. Strøm-Natvig, M. Hurstad

PhD and Postdoctoral Mentoring: S. Kasin-Viksdal, J. Vecht, J. Pollock

PhD Evaluation Committee: S. Kasin-Viksdal

MA Evaluation Committee: L. Faehn, S. Nygaard