

PROFESSOR RACHEL KATHARINE STERKEN

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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.

Under Commission

10. "Generics Aren't Special: Language Signaling High-Proportions Leads to Generalizing and Essentializing". (with E. Hoicka and J. Saul), funded by the CSMN.

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)

Selected Recent Presentations

- 2018 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, *Troubling Aspects of Generic Thought and Talk*
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
- 2012 University of St Andrews, Arché / CSMN Reading Party
Generics, Covert Structure and Logical Form
- 2011 Harvard University (invited), Workshop on Philosophy of Language
Generics, Pragmatics and Blindness
- 2010 Cambridge University (refereed), Workshop on Minimalism and Contextualism
Generics, Covert Structure and Logical Form
- 2009 University of Oslo, Workshop on Linguistic Intuitions
Response to Michael Devitt 'Linguistic Intuitions Revisited'
- École Normale Supérieure (refereed), GENIUS Genericity Conference
Existential Generics and Information Structure
- University of Alberta (refereed), Society for Exact Philosophy
Generics, Pragmatics and Blindness
- Harvard University (refereed), Harvard / MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference
Generics, Pragmatics and Blindness
- Yale University (refereed), Yale / UConn Graduate Philosophy Conference
Generics, Pragmatics and Blindness
- Princeton University (refereed), Princeton / Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference
Generics, Pragmatics and Blindness

Professional Service

- Conference Organization Genericity in Philosophy and Linguistics Conference
Inquiry, Harvard University and University of Oslo
- Arché / CSMN Graduate Conference 2011
University of St Andrews and University of Oslo
- Arché / CSMN Graduate Conference 2009

University of St Andrews and University of Oslo

Workshop Organization Meaning Innovation and Meaning Change
ConceptLab, University of Oslo

 The Practical Implications of Defective Communication
ConceptLab, University of Oslo

 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.*

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

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)

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)

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

Tutor and Demonstrator, *Logic for Science and Humanities* (undergraduate), Liberal Arts Degree Program, University of Amsterdam. (2006)

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