

ASSOCIATE 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, Philosophy of Technology, Social Epistemology

Academic Employment

2020-Present	Associate Professor Department of Philosophy, School of Humanities, University of Hong Kong
2020-2024	Principal Investigator Norwegian Research Council SAMKUL Project (w E. Michaelson and J. Pepp) <i>New Frontiers of Speech: Linguistic Meaning and Communication in the Information Age</i>
2017-2020	Associate Professor Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo
2013-2017	Fixed Term Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo

Affiliations

2022-Present	Musketeers Foundation Institute of Data Science, University of Hong Kong
2022-Present	AI & Humanity Lab, University of Hong Kong
2020-Present	Concept Lab Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong

Education

2013	PhD in Philosophy University of St Andrews and University of Oslo (double-badge) Member of Arché Philosophical Research Centre, St Andrews and the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, Oslo. Thesis: <i>Generics in Context: Generalization, Context and Communication</i>
2008	MSc in Logic and Mathematics University of Amsterdam Member of the Institute of Logic, Language and Computation
2005	Honors BSc Mathematics and Philosophy (with Distinction) University of Toronto

Publications

Books

1. *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language* (co-edited with J. Khoo), Routledge, 2021.

Articles

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. "The Meaning of Generics". *Philosophy Compass*, 12(8), 2017.
6. "The Structures of Social Structural Explanation". *Disputatio*, special issue on the work of S. Haslanger *Doing Justice to the Social*, 2018.
7. "What's New About Fake News?" (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp), *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, 2019.
8. "Why We Should Keep Talking About Fake News" (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp), *Inquiry*, 2019.
9. "Linguistic Intervention and Transformative Communicative Disruptions" in A. Burgess, H. Cappelen and D. Plunkett (eds.), *Conceptual Engineering and Conceptual Ethics*, Oxford University Press, 2020.
10. "Social and Political Aspects of Generic Language and Speech" (with M. McKeever) in J. Khoo and R.K. Sterken (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*, 2021.
11. "Introduction: Social and Political Philosophy of Language" (with J. Khoo), *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*, 2021.
12. "Language Signalling High-Proportions, Not Just Generics, Leads to Generalizing and Essentializing". (with E. Hoicka and J. Saul), *Cognitive Science*, 2021.
13. "Generics and the Metaphysics of Kinds" (with D. Liebesman), *Philosophy Compass*, 2021.
14. "Manipulative Machines" (with J. Pepp, E. Michaelson and M. McKeever) in F. Jongepier and M. Klenk (eds.) *The Philosophy of Online Manipulation*, Routledge, 2022.
15. "Relevance-Based Knowledge Resistance in Public Conversations" (with J. Pepp and E. Michaelson) in J. Strömbäck, Å. Wikforss, K. Glüer, T. Lindholm, and H. Oscarsson (eds.) *Knowledge Resistance in High-Choice Information Environments*, Routledge, 2022.
16. "On Retweeting" (w J. Pepp and E. Michaelson) in L. Anderson and E. Lepore (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Applied Philosophy of Language*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
17. "Generics and Metalinguistic Negotiations" (with D. Plunkett and T. Sundell) *Synthese*, 2023.
18. "Fake News and Fictional News" (with J. Pepp and E. Michaelson) in A. James, F. Lavocat, and A. Kubo (eds.), *Handbook of Fiction and Belief*, Routledge, forthcoming.

19. "On Amplification" (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp) in P. Connolly, S. Goldberg and J. Saul (eds.) *Conversations Online*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Editorial Work

1. Executive Editor, *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*, 2022-Present.
2. *Genericity in Philosophy and Linguistics*, co-edited with B. Nickel, special issue of *Inquiry*, 2018.
3. Semantics and Epistemology in the Digital Age, co-edited volume with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp, special issue of *Inquiry*, 2020.

Reviews

1. "Nickel's Between Logic and the World: An Integrated Theory of Generics". *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2016.

Under Review and In Preparation

1. "Meaning Change and Technological Communicative Assistance" (with J. Pepp) in F. Mallory and E. Michaelson (eds.) *Philosophy*, special issue.
2. *Communicating with AI: Philosophical Perspectives* (co-edited with H. Cappelen), Oxford University Press.
3. "Alignment and Value in AI Communication" (with J. Pepp and E. Michaelson) in H. Cappelen and R. Sterken (eds.) *Communicating with AI: Philosophical Perspectives*.
4. "On Generics and Cognition" (with A. Bosse, G. Del Pinal and E. Neufeld) *WIREs Cognitive Science*.
5. Book proposal on generics.

Popular Philosophy

1. 'Online Communication' (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp), in *The Philosophers' Magazine*.
2. 'What Fake News Is and Why It Matters' (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp), on *Public Ethics* blog.
3. 'Manipulative Machines' (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp).

Selected Recent and Upcoming Presentations

2023 Knowledge and Conceptual Engineering Conference, Barcelona, COGITO Epistemology Research Centre, University of Glasgow.

Workshop on Public Philosophy and Social Change, ERC Moral Progress Project, Utrecht University.

The Problems of Philosophy in Virtual Reality Conference, Stockholm University.

- Banff Monograph Workshop, University of Calgary, *Comments on D. Liebesman and O. Magidor monograph*.
- Linguistic and Epistemological Perspectives on Testimony Conference, Stockholm University.
- Ethical and Societal Implications of AI: East Asia and Beyond, Hong Kong Baptist University.
- 13th Annual Auburn Philosophy Conference, Language and Value, Auburn University.
- 2022 2nd GCCRC International Conference, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea.
- Workshop for OUP volume *Conversations Online*, Universities of Waterloo/Northwestern/Sheffield.
- Philosophy of Language Workshop, MIT.
- Summer School: Conceptual Engineering, Experimental Methods, and Politically Correct Language, University of Zurich.
- Conference: Dual-Character Concepts, Normative Generics and Evaluative Language, University of Zurich.
- APA Pacific, Language and Social Roles symposium.
- Workshop on Conceptual Engineering and Socially Disruptive Technologies, Ethics of Socially Disruptive Technology Network.
- 2021 Oxford University, Jowett Society Seminar.
- Undergraduate guest lecture, Dartmouth University, Mind and Language Seminar.
- Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) Annual Meeting Pre-Conference, *Essentialism: What is it and do the cognitive sciences need it?*, Princeton University.
- Online Disinformation Workshop, Department of Philosophy and Communication Studies, University of Bologna.
- Workshop on Manipulation Online, Delft University of Technology.
- Workshop on The Implementation Challenge for Conceptual Engineering, University of St Andrews.
- Society of Fellows in the Humanities, University of Hong Kong, *Comment's on S. Haslanger on social change*.
- 2020 Cambridge Moral Sciences Club, Department of Philosophy, Cambridge University.
- Generics Workshop, Department of Philosophy, Cambridge University.
- Dublin Conference on Underdetermination (keynote), Department of Philosophy, University College Dublin.
- 2019 Vienna Workshop on Conceptual Engineering (invited), Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna.
- Inaugural APHIL Lecture, Graduate Program, University of Barcelona.
- Ontario Meaning Workshop, Departments of Philosophy, CUNY and Toronto, *Comments on M. Hyska 'On the value of communication'*.

Constructing Social Hierarchy, Department of Philosophy, University of Melbourne.

Workshop on Progress in Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of Tokyo and Concept Lab, *Comments on S. Goldberg 'Philosophical Championing'*.

Swedish Congress of Philosophy (keynote), University of Umea.

British Postgraduate Philosophical Association Masterclass on Conceptual Engineering, University of St Andrews.

Uppsala Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy, Uppsala University.

Workshop New Frontiers of Speech: Philosophy of Online Speech and Communication, University of Uppsala.

2018 2nd California Philosophy Workshop, La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science, UCLA, *Comments on G. Johnson's 'The Structure of Bias'*.

Stockholm and Uppsala Workshop on Direct and Indirect Speech, Uppsala University.

New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, NYU.

Sherbrooke Workshop on Generics and Social Practices (refereed), University of Sherbrooke.

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

Department of Philosophy Colloquium, University of Hong Kong.

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

2017 Bergen Women in Philosophy Workshop, University of Bergen.

A Generic Workshop, CSLI and Department of Psychology, Stanford University.

California Philosophy Workshop, La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science, UCLA.

Semantics and Communicative Effects of Slurs Conference, Arche, University of St Andrews.

Author-Meets-Critics Session, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, *Nickel's Between Logic and the World*.

Ranch Metaphysics Workshop, Tucson, Arizona.

2016 Departments of Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Rutgers University, What is Cognitive Science Series.

NOMOS Network Meeting, University of Pompeu Fabra, Symposia on Haslanger's Doing Justice to the Social.

Arche, University of St Andrews, Meaning and Language Seminar.

King's College London and Institute of Philosophy, Workshop on Deception.

- 2015 University of Warwick (refereed), Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society.
 Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Philosophy of Language Workshop.
 CSMN Colloquium, CSMN, University of Oslo.
- 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, Departments of Philosophy and Linguistics Colloquium.
 University of Umea, Philosophical Society, *Generics and Prejudice*
 École Normale Supérieure, Institut Jean-Nicod Colloquium.

Professional Service

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| Conference Organization | Genericity in Philosophy and Linguistics Conference
Harvard University and University of Oslo (with B. Nickel) |
| Workshop Organization | Communicating with AI
The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with H. Cappelen) |
| | Speech Act Engineering
The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp) |
| | Difficulties with Communicating Online
The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp) |
| | Meaning Innovation and Meaning Change
The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with J. Armstrong) |
| | The Practical Implications of Defective Communication The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with A. Peet) |
| | New Frontiers of Speech: Philosophy of Online Speech and Communication
University of Uppsala (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp) |
| | California Philosophy Workshop
La Kretz Center for Conservation Science, UCLA (with J. Armstrong, A. Burgess and D. Plunkett) |
| | 2nd California Philosophy Workshop
La Kretz Center for Conservation Science, UCLA (with J. Armstrong, A. Burgess, D. Locke and D. Plunkett) |
| | A Generic Workshop
CSLI, Departments of Psychology, Stanford University (with M.H. Tessler) |
| Refereeing | <i>Analysis, Analytic Philosophy, Brill, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, ECAP, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Ethics, Hypatia, Inquiry, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Journal of Psycholinguistic Research, Linguistics and Philosophy, Journal of Semantics, Journal of Social Theory and Practice,</i> |

Metaphilosophy, Mind, Mind and Language, Neuroethics, Nous, Organon, Oxford University Press, Philosopher's Imprint, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, SSHRC, Synthese, Thought, FWF Austrian Science Fund, Macquarie University Fellowship Scheme, Melbourne University Fellowship Scheme.

Advisory Scientific Advisory Board member, ERC Starting Grant, *The Developing Communicator: Pragmatics, Sense Conventions and Non-Literal Uses of Language*, Dr. Ingrid Falkum.

Expert Panel, Icelandic Research Fund, *Insincerity for Fragmented Minds*, Dr. Elmar Unnsteinsson.

Grants and Awards

- 2020-2024 Norwegian Research Council SAMKUL Project, New Frontiers of Speech: Linguistic Meaning and Communication in the Information Age, Principle Investigator (9.1 million nok)
- 2020-2023 Swedish Research Council, Humanities Project, Researcher (25%), with J. Pepp and E. Michaelson (4 million nok)
- 2019-2024 Faculty of Humanities Strategic Priority Areas, Center for Philosophy and the Sciences, Area 3 Researcher (10 million nok).
- 2018-2023 Norwegian Research Council *Toppforsk* Project, The Concept Lab, co-Director, with H. Cappelen, C. Serck-Hanssen, Ø. Linnebo (32 million nok).
- 2018-2019 Peder Sather Grant, with S. Yalcin (Berkeley), University of California-Berkeley (\$20,000).
- 2018-2019 Norwegian Research Council *SAMKUL* Network Grant, with J. Pepp (Uppsala) and E. Michaelson (KCL) (320,000 nok).

Teaching

As Lecturer:

- Philosophy of Gender and Race (undergraduate), University of Hong Kong (2023)
- Critical Thinking (undergraduate), Common Core Programme, University of Hong Kong (2020, 2021)
- Tool for Philosophers (undergraduate), University of Hong Kong (2021)
- Gender and Philosophy (undergraduate), University of Oslo (2020)
- Philosophical Method and Practice (masters), University of Oslo (2019)
- Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics (masters), University of Oslo. (2017)
- Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics (advanced undergraduate), University of Oslo. (2015, 2016, 2018)
- Philosophy of Language (advanced undergraduate), University of Oslo. (2013, 2017, 2019)
- Ethics (undergraduate), University of Oslo. (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)
- History of Philosophy and Science (undergraduate), University of Oslo. (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)

As Seminar Leader:

- Logic (undergraduate), University of Oslo. (2015, 2016)
- Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics (undergraduate), University of Oslo. (2017, 2018)

Supervision and Departmental Service

- Chairperson, Department of Philosophy, University of Hong Kong (2022-Present)
- Faculty Teaching and Learning Quality Committee, Faculty of Arts, University of Hong Kong (2022-Present)

MA Taught Postgraduate submissions, Department of Philosophy, University of Hong Kong
Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, University of Hong Kong (2021-22)
Undergraduate External Review Committee, Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University (2021)
PhD Director, Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo. (2019-20)
MA Supervision: I. Dale, M. Strøm-Natvig, M. Hurstad, Y. Du, H. Ainscough, G. Zhixuan Li
PhD Evaluation Committee: S. Kasin-Viksdal (Oslo, 2018), A. Bosse (Cambridge, 2021), P.M. Catapang-Podosky (Melbourne, 2021)
MA Evaluation Committee: L. Faehn (2018), S. Nygaard (2016), E. Oygarden (2019), G. Trapp (2020)
PhD Job Market and Postdoctoral Mentoring: S. Kasin-Viksdal (2019), J. Vecht (2019), J. Pollock (2018-2020), K. Pedersen (2019)
Teaching Mentor: L. Townsend (2017), S. Kasin-Viksdal (2019)
Hiring Committees for PhD and Postdoctoral Positions (2017, 2018, 2021, 2022)
External for Hiring Committee for Associate Professor Position (2019)
Internal for Hiring Committee for Assistant/Associate/Professor Position (2021, 2023)

