# 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, Philosophy of Technology

## Academic Employment

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| 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) |
| | *New Frontiers of Speech: Linguistic Meaning and Communication in the Information Age* |
| 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 and Roles

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| 2023-Present | Associate Dean (Postgraduate), Faculty of Arts, University of Hong Kong |
| 2022-Present | Chairperson, Department of Philosophy, School of Humanities, University of Hong Kong |
| 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

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| 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: *Generics in Context: Generalization, Context and Communication* |
| 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.

2. _Communicating with AI: Philosophical Perspectives_ (co-edited with H. Cappelen), Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

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. Editorial Board (Section: Philosophy of Argument), *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy*, Springer, 2023-Present.

2. Executive Editor, *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*, Taylor & Francis, 2022-Present.

3. *Genericity in Philosophy and Linguistics*, co-edited with B. Nickel, special issue of *Inquiry*, 2018.

4. 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. "Alignment and Value in AI Communication" (with J. Pepp and E. Michaelson) in H. Cappelen and R. Sterken (eds.) *Communicating with AI: Philosophical Perspectives*.

3. "Giving Generic Language Another Thought" (with A. Bosse, G. Del Pinal and E. Neufeld) *WIREs Cognitive Science*.

4. 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

2024    Knowledge and Conceptual Engineering Conference, Barcelona, COGITO Epistemology Research Centre, University of Glasgow.

2023    Philosophy Department Seminar, Lingnan University.

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    Jowett Society Seminar, Oxford University.

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), Univsersity 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 <u>Between Logic and the World</u>*.

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<br>Harvard University and University of Oslo (with B. Nickel) |
| Workshop Organization | Communicating with AI<br>The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with H. Cappelen) |
| | Speech Act Engineering<br>The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp) |
| | Difficulties with Communicating Online<br>The Concept Lab, University of Oslo (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp) |
| | Meaning Innovation and Meaning Change<br>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<br>University of Uppsala (with E. Michaelson and J. Pepp) |
| | California Philosophy Workshop<br>La Kretz Center for Conservation Science, UCLA (with J. Armstrong, A. Burgess and D. Plunkett) |
| | 2nd California Philosophy Workshop<br>La Kretz Center for Conservation Science, UCLA (with J. Armstrong, A. Burgess, D. Locke and D. Plunkett) |
| | A Generic Workshop<br>CSLI, Departments of Psychology, Stanford University (with M.H. Tessler) |

| Refereeing | *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, Law and Philosophy, Linguistics and Philosophy, Journal of Semantics, Journal of Social Theory and Practice, Metaphilosophy, Mind, Mind and Language, Neuroethics, Nous, Organon, Oxford University Press, Philosopher's Imprint, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Psychological Review, SSHRC, Synthese, Thought, FWF Austrian Science Fund, Macquarie University Fellowship Scheme, Melbourne University Fellowship Scheme.* |
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| 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) |
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| 2020-2023 | Swedish Research Council, Humanities Project, Researcher, 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 and Ethics of Information (masters), University of Hong Kong (2024)
Ethics: AI, Data and Algorithms (masters), University of Hong Kong (2023)
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/University Service

Associate Dean (Postgraduate), Faculty of Arts, University of Hong Kong (2023-Present)

Chairperson, Department of Philosophy, School of Humanities, University of Hong Kong (2022-Present)

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

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)