

Matthew Simpson

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Areas of specialisation

Metaethics, philosophy of language, metaphysics

Areas of competence

Philosophical and formal logic, philosophy of mind, epistemology, ethics, philosophy skills

Career

- 2024- Assistant Professor (Unestablished), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge
Fellow and Director of Studies for Philosophy, Robinson College, Cambridge
- 2023-24 Visiting Professor, Department of Philosophy, Central European University, Vienna
- 2020-23 Isaac Newton Junior Research Fellow, Robinson College, Cambridge
- 2023 Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University
- 2017-20 Teaching Fellow in Philosophy, University College London

Education

- 2013-17 PhD Philosophy, Robinson College, Cambridge. Thesis: 'Non-Representationalism and Metaphysics'. Supervisors: Tim Crane, Huw Price, Tim Button. Examiners: Michael Williams (Johns Hopkins), Richard Holton (Cambridge).
- 2012-13 MPhil Philosophy, Robinson College, Cambridge
- 2009-12 BA (Hons) Philosophy, Robinson College, Cambridge

Publications

- 2023 'Should expressivists go global?' *Philosophical Studies* 180(8), 2275-2289
- 2021 'Deflationism and Truthmaking', *Synthese* 198, 3157-3181
- 2020 'Creeping Minimalism and Subject Matter', *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 50, 750-766
- 2020 'What is Global Expressivism?' *Philosophical Quarterly* 70(278), 140-161. (Included on OUP's 'Best of Philosophy' list 2020)
- 2018 'Solving the Problem of Creeping Minimalism', *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 48, 510-531. (Reprinted in Bedke, M. and Sciaraffa, S. (eds), *Normativity and the Problem of Representation*, Routledge, 2019.)
- 2016 'MacBride on Truth in Truthmaking', *Analysis* 76, 19-26
- 2014 'Defending Truthmaker Non-Maximalism', *Thought* 3, 288-291

Other writing

- 2021 Review of Cheryl Misak, *Frank Ramsey: A Sheer Excess of Powers*. *Journal of the History of Analytic Philosophy* 9(2), 28-32
- 2020 'Distinguishing Descriptions', commissioned online article for Huw Price's *Flickering Shadows* series at *3:16am*
- 2019 Review of Quassim Cassam, *Vices of the Mind*. *The Times Literary Supplement*, May 17 2019

Awards and Scholarships

Teaching

- 2019-20 Nominated for *Inspiring Teaching Delivery* (twice: 2019 and 2020) and *Excellent Personal Tutoring* (2020) awards, UCL Students' Union Student Choice Awards
- 2015 Special Mention, Cambridge University Students' Union Student-Led Teaching Awards. (for "engaging and encouraging" one-to-one teaching)

Other

- 2016-17 Crausaz-Wordsworth Fund scholarship, University of Cambridge
- 2013-16 Arts and Humanities Research Council PhD Studentship, University of Cambridge
- 2011-12 Scholarship and College Prizes, Robinson College, Cambridge (exam achievement)

Talks (invited or refereed)

Invited

- 2024 Talks at Frankfurt Business School; University of Vienna; Uppsala University
- 2022 Talks at University of Nottingham; *Virtual International Consortium for Truth Research* (VICTR); *Expressivist Approaches to Meaning* conference, Amsterdam; *Truth and Objectivity: 30 Years*, Bologna (anniversary conference on Crispin Wright's book)
- 2021 *Propositions, Predication, and Carroll's Tortoise*, LOGOS Colloquium, Barcelona
Predication and Logically Complex Representation, Zürich Theoretical Philosophy Colloquium
- 2018 *Believing Generalisations* – London Mind Group
- 2016 *Pragmatism and the No Exit Objection* – Moral Sciences Club, University of Cambridge
- 2014 *How to believe a conditional* (with D.H. Mellor) – Institute of Philosophy, London

Refereed

- 2023 *Generalisations for Non-Representationalists: A Ramseyan Account* – REWE2023 New Work on Non-Representationalism, University of Bonn
- 2021 *Structured Propositions and Universal Generalisations* – Joint Session
- 2015 *Pragmatism and the No Exit Objection* – Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University College Dublin
- 2014 *Why quasi-realists don't need minimalism about truth* – Ca' Foscari University of Venice Graduate Conference in Philosophy
- 2014 *Reply to Asay on truthmaking and creeping minimalism* – Joint Session

Teaching ([full dossier with evaluations available at this link](#))

University of Cambridge (PhD candidate 2013-17, Research Fellow 2020-23, Assistant Professor 2024-)

- Lectures: *Nature of Logic, Metaethics; Ethics of Knowing* (third-year), *Metaphysics of Modality; Knowledge and Doubt; Moral Psychology; Contractualism* (second-year), *Causal Theory of Names; Normative Ethics* (first-year).
- Undergraduate one-to-one tutorials in ethics, metaphysics, logic, epistemology, language; undergraduate and MPhil dissertation supervision
- Discussion group leader and philosophy skills lectures, *Philosophy and Public Affairs* Module, MPhil Public Policy (Politics department; course leader Tom Dougherty, in 2015-16 and 2016-17)

Central European University (Visiting Professor, 2023-2024)

- Undergraduate: *What is Morality? Theories in Metaethics; Meaning and Understanding*
- Graduate: *Representation and Reality; Truth, Facts, and Properties; Doctoral Work in Progress Seminar*

University College London (Teaching Fellow, 2017-2020):

- Course leader and examiner: 2nd year undergraduate: *Knowledge, Truth, Facts, and Properties; Philosophy of Language*; 3rd year undergraduate & graduate: *Representation and Reality; Metaethics*.
- Master's level: *Research Preparation* (MA), *Practical Criticism* (MPhil)
- Supervision for third-year and MA dissertations; interim supervisor for two PhD students.

Administrative and Pastoral Experience (* indicates current roles)

University of Cambridge

- Robinson College: *Director of Studies for philosophy, *undergraduate tutor (welfare), College Council (College Trustee), Widening Participation and Admissions Committee, Wine Committee.
- Philosophy Faculty: *Faculty Board member, MPhil examiner, Equality Working Group.
- Co-secretary of *Moral Sciences Club* (2014-15); convenor of the *Serious Metaphysics Group* (2013-14)

Central European University

- MA Admissions Committee; Undergraduate admissions interviews; internal PhD examiner

Department of Philosophy, University College London (Teaching Fellow, 2017-2020)

- MA Tutor (2019-2020): Overseeing the MA philosophy programme, MA student welfare, admissions, arranging dissertation supervision, social events. Personal tutor for undergraduate and MA students

Service

- 2022 External PhD examiner, University of Sydney
- 2017- Reviewer: *American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Ergo, Inquiry, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Oxford University Press, Philosophical Studies, Synthese, Thought.*

Referees

Prof. Tim Crane cranetim@mac.com (Central European University)

Prof. Andrew Egan andyegan@philosophy.rutgers.edu (Rutgers University)

Prof. Michael Williams, michaelwilliams47@icloud.com. (The Johns Hopkins University)

Prof. Simon Blackburn, swb24@cam.ac.uk. (University of Cambridge)