Matthew Simpson

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Areas of specialisation: Philosophy of language, metaethics, metaphysics

Areas of competence: Logic, philosophy of mind, epistemology, ethics, philosophy skills

Career

2026-	Lecturer in Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, King's College London. Director of Studies for Philosophy, Robinson College, Cambridge
2024-26	Teaching Associate (2025-)/Assistant Professor (2024-2025), 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

2026	with Corine Besson – 'The Adoption Problem and The Nature of General Belief', *Topoi*
Fth	'Against the standard semantics for 'all' and 'every'' forthcoming in *Analysis*
2024	'Representation, Meaning, and C-Synonymy' invited contribution to symposium on Jose Zalabardo's *Pragmatist Semantics*, *Teorema* 43(3) 97-108
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

2025 *Inferences and Dispositions*, Functions and the Functional Role of Concepts, Lisbon

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

- Lectures: Third-year: *Nature of Logic; Metaethics; Ethics of Knowing.* Second-year: *Metaphysics of Modality; Knowledge and Doubt; Moral Reasons; Moral Motivation; Contractualism.* First-year: *Causal Theory of Names*; *Normative Ethics.*

- Seminars: MPhil work in progress seminar; *Better Futures Programme* seminar October 2025; discussion group leader and philosophy skills lectures, *Philosophy and Public Affairs* Module, MPhil Public Policy
- Undergraduate (all levels) one-to-one tutorials in metaphysics, logic, epistemology, language, ethics; undergraduate dissertation and MPhil supervision. MPhil advisor.

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

- Philosophy Faculty: *MPhil Director (January-July 2026), *undergraduate and MPhil examiner, *PhD and MPhil admissions
- Robinson College: *Director of Studies for philosophy, *undergraduate tutor (welfare; 40 students), College Council (College Trustee), Widening Participation and Admissions Committee

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 (welfare) tutor for undergraduate and MA students.

Service

2022	External PhD examiner, University of Sydney
2017-	Reviewer: *Acta Analytica, American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Ergo, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Inquiry, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Metaphysics, Mind, Oxford University Press, Philosophical Studies, Review of Metaphysics, Synthese, Thought.*

Referees

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

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

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